



January
2010
Volume 7, Issue 1

Lake Effect Trailbreaker's SNOWMOBILE CLUB NEWSLETTER

Trails were awesome in early January. Thank you to our hard-working club members for all the signing and superb grooming!

Important Trail Advisory:

Logging on Trail #1 - three different logging operations are occurring in late January / early February on our main North/South corridor trail. So, when you see a "caution logging ahead" sign on the trail, please know to immediately take it very slow and look for log skidder machines, ruts, low snow, etc. on the trail. Logging will be occurring:

- 1) just off West Hill Road (Gerry-Ellington Road)
- 2) between the Rod & Gun Club and Hagerdon Roads in Ellington
- 3) between Bates and Thornton (CR 66) Roads, near Cockcaine

Many thanks to Z&M Ag and Turf for donating the use of a mini-excavator. Chris Risley and Brad Griffith installed culverts, etc. to finish a new trail into the Village of Sinclairville, so that sleds will now have access to fuel at the Sinclairville Superette during their hours of operation. A reminder, the Village of Sinclairville does not allow snowmobiles on their sidewalks.

The club received a letter recently that we wanted to re-print here, so that all can read it: "After nearly 40 years in existence, the remaining members of the Highlanders Snowmobile Club of Frewsburg, NY have decided to disband the club. They have decided to donate the remaining \$183.00 in their treasury to the Lake Effect Trailbreakers to use as they see fit."

Our club would like to thank these folks, who are all now members of Lake Effect, for their many years of dedication to snowmobiling and the improvement of trails in our county.

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Federation News: NEW –Snowmobile Economic Impact Survey

We are requesting that everyone who rides snowmobiles in Chautauqua County to fill-out a paper survey or can you take the survey on-line at our website. It's quick and easy! The paper survey can be found in over 25 restaurants, hotels, motels and taverns. Why take the survey? There are several prizes which will be awarded to lucky participants! Any questions, please call the Chautauqua County Visitors Bbureau at 866-908-4569. Many thanks to the Visitor's Bureau for creating this electronic survey for us.

We have heard that law enforcement is writing tickets for registration stickers placed on tunnels of sleds this season, so here is some information on where and how the stickers should be placed.

Snowmobile stickers and registration number placement

Snowmobile registration numbers are permanently assigned to the snowmobile when it is first registered. If you have a snowmobile that was first registered before August 1995, you must supply the numbers that attach to your snowmobile. You must display those numbers on each side of the snowmobile cowling or hood. The numbers must be: 1) made from a reflective material, 2) block style and 3 inches high or taller, 3) a color different from the hood and easy to see. 4) Be sure to include a hyphen or a space between the last number and the capital letters. 5) Displayed on a vertical plane of the cowling or hood so it is easy to view from either side of the snowmobile.

New snowmobile registrations receive a Registration Decal set. Attach the decals to each side of the cowling or hood. If you need new snowmobile registration stickers, please contact the NYS DMV, they will mail them to you.

Validation stickers are issued annually. Put the colored validation stickers on the upper left-hand corner of the Registration decal. Put the annual validation stickers to the left of the numbers on snowmobiles registered before 1995.

DMV Commissioner's Regulation section 107.11 requires that any registration decal issued on or after **December 24, 2008** must be displayed on a vertical plane of the snowmobile's cowling or hood, so it is easily viewed from either side of the snowmobile.

You can be subject to a minimum \$200 fine, plus court costs, if you do not display your registration decal in compliance with this regulation.

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Events Calendar 2010

Club and Federation meetings are open to all who are interested in attending.

Sunday, January 31, 2010 - Cherry Creek Sno-Goers Annual Poker Run and Sled Raffle Drawing. Poker Run registration at 10:00am at the Cherry Creek, VFW - Drawing for raffle sled will be held at 4:00pm

Wednesday, February 3rd - Club Meeting - Backyard Bar & Grill at 7:30PM

February 12-14, 2010 - The ICE Festival will be held at Lakeside Park in Mayville. The winter event will also have a new name beginning with the 2010 festival - the President's Day Weekend ICE Festival - This is a name change only to reflect the weekend it always takes place each February. The Festival will still include all of the great winter events and activities that have been held for over 20 years, with plans to include even more for 2010.

Sunday, February 14, 2010 - Annual All County Ride-In at the Stockton Firemen's Grounds - Starts at 11:00AM - Free Food and Groomer Rides courtesy of the Snowmobiles Clubs of Chautauqua County

Wednesday, February 17th - Club Meeting - Backyard Bar & Grill at 7:30PM

Saturday, February 20, 2010 - Ellery Sno-Cruisers Annual Groomer Support Party, starts at 7:00pm at Tom's Tavern, on the trail, in Maple Springs

February 13-20, 2010 - Take a Friend Snowmobiling Week

Wednesday, March 3rd - Club Meeting - Backyard Bar & Grill at 7:30PM

March 27-28, 2010 - Rock Maple Racing Sno-X at Peek n Peak

Wednesday, April 7th - Club Meeting - Backyard Bar & Grill at 7:30PM

April 16-18 NYSSA Annual Meeting & Forum - Holiday Inn - Syracuse (Liverpool - Exit 37)

Wednesday, May 5th - Club Meeting - Backyard Bar & Grill at 7:30PM

Saturday, September 18th - The Lake Effect Trailbreakers Second Annual Groomer Support Golf Tournament at the Breezewood Golf Links on Dean Road (between Falconer and Ellington) - Four Person Scramble - Shot Gun Start at 10:00am (Registration at 9:00am) - \$50.00 per person or \$200.00 per four person team, price includes golf cart and dinner at 4pm. Hot dogs, refreshments, etc. will be served during the tournament. \$10.00 per person for Pig Roast only, please contact; Dianne Cornell or any club member to make your dinner-only reservation. Raffle drawing will be held during dinner. Sponsor a hole at the Groomer Support Golf Tournament - only \$50.00 Please contact Dianne Cornell for more information at: dcornell@windstream.net

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Club Members/Groomer Operators: Warren Kinney and Jason Greene in action, grooming the trail above Kennedy (from a recent photo posted on TrailConditions.com)

NY closing on 3 land deals despite moratorium plan

POSTED: January 22, 2010 - MICHAEL VIRTANEN, Associated Press Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The Paterson administration is completing deals to buy the last two undeveloped Finger Lakes, 1,220 acres in the Catskills and conservation rights to 89,000 acres of Adirondack timberlands while halting other purchases of wilderness and open space in New York.

The Department of Environmental Conservation said Thursday current dedicated funds will be used to buy 3-mile long Canadice Lake and 7-mile-long Hemlock Lake, which provide Rochester with water. The state will also close on the Big Indian parcel by Belleayre Ski Center in the Catskills and an easement on former Finch Pruyn timberlands mainly in the central Adirondacks.

"These projects have been in the works for years," DEC spokesman Yancey Roy said. Prices were not disclosed.

Gov. David Paterson has proposed a moratorium on land buys in his budget plan for the fiscal year starting April 1. That applies to the other projects in the pipeline, Roy said.

"During this time the DEC will not make commitments to acquire, enter into purchase agreements, or close any transactions using (Environmental Protection Fund) funding," Roy said. "There is no end date for the moratorium, but we expect that when state finances permit, the open space conservation program will resume."

Affected acquisitions include the Nature Conservancy's highlands along the Hudson River Gorge in the central Adirondacks, as well as Follensby Pond, site of Ralph Waldo Emerson's storied 1858 "Philosopher's Camp." Many others are smaller parcels scattered around the state held by dozens of conservation groups.

"It leaves a lot of us high and dry," Joe Martens of the Open Space Institute said. The group has spent \$11 million on some 4,000 acres in 20 parcels bought from 2005 to 2008 with approvals by the DEC to take them.

"We did not sign contracts. Until September of '08, we felt we didn't need contracts," Martens said.

With a recession looming and growing state budget deficits, Paterson in 2008 began requiring extra Budget Division approvals before writing checks. In the current fiscal year, the administration has spent only \$6.3 million of \$58.9 million appropriated for land acquisition, according to the Budget Division.

For the 2010-2011 fiscal year, Paterson proposed cutting the EPF appropriation from \$212 million to \$143 million and imposing the moratorium on buying land.

Governors have "swept" more than \$500 million from the fund, which is replenished by a real estate transfer tax, since it was established in 1993. Environmentalists say the troubling aspect now is Paterson removing more money from the start and budgeting it elsewhere.

"I assume with a zero budget for land acquisition in '10-11 they won't be buying any of those properties for the foreseeable future," Martens said. "That means we have to hold them, we have to manage them, take carrying costs on them, review whether there's another alternative."

Budget Division spokeswoman Jessica Bassett said pending projects were being reviewed, as well as prior Pataki and Spitzer administration commitments in light of the moratorium.

Paul Hartman, Nature Conservancy director of government relations, said it's apparently an administrative procedure, not a statutory moratorium. "It's at the discretion of the executive when that would be lifted. It could be one fiscal year. It could be multiples depending on the fiscal situation."

That makes it harder to figure out how to approach large-scale conservation projects, and the conservancy is trying to reduce its interest payments and expenses, Hartman said. One state estimate last year had indicated \$300 million in acquisitions pending over the next two to three years, he said.

In 2007, the conservancy bought 161,000 acres long held by Finch, Pruyn & Co. for \$110 million, including riverfront along the whitewater Hudson River. The state later agreed to buy 65,000 acres, though that's now affected by the moratorium.

The group later sold 92,000 acres of the timberland to ATP, the Danish pension fund committed to environmentally responsible forestry, for \$32.8 million. The DEC said it will soon acquire the conservation easement, which will provide some public recreation rights and prevent development.

In 2008, the conservancy also bought 14,600 acres for \$16 million, including Follensby Pond near Tupper Lake, another project affected by Paterson's cost-cutting move.

State officials said 11 smaller EPF purchases under way to expand state parks, mainly in the Palisades and Finger Lakes regions, also will be completed. Paterson proposed cutting \$60 million from the coming year's budget for the Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, with budget officials acknowledging it will further reduce operations and access to some of New York's 179 state parks and 35 historic sites.

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Parks In Trouble

Gov. Paterson Budget Puts State Recreation Areas On The Lookout

By Nicholas L. Dean ndean@post-journal.com

Some state parks will have no option but to close if Gov. David Paterson's proposed budget is enacted without change.

According to Parks & Trails New York, the not-for profit advocate for New York's parks system, the passage of Paterson's budget proposal will mean a total cut in funding of 40 percent by the governor in the last two years.

As explained by Robin Dropkin, Parks & Trails New York's executive director, the decision as to how many parks will close and which ones will shut down is up to the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Regardless, Dropkin said, a cut in funding of the magnitude proposed by Paterson will certainly result in "significant" closings.

In December, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation warned that it had already suffered about 25 percent in cuts and that any additional serious cuts would force them to close parks. (continued on page 7)

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(article continued from page 6)

"Historically, the legislature is a little bit more forgiving than the governor," said Shawn McConnell, Campaign for Parks director, about the likelihood of changes to Paterson's proposal. "They, in the last few years, have been good about at least partially putting some money back in. But, if they put just a little bit of money back in, the parks will still suffer. We still will likely see some parks closing.

Park closings will exacerbate New York state's economic woes, according to McConnell.

Citing a 2009 report, McConnell explained that the state's parks system generates \$1.9 billion for private businesses and supports 20,000 jobs. As a result of the parks system, the state receives \$5 in benefits for every \$1 it invests in its parks. To enhance New York's economic recovery, McConnell suggested the governor should be committing to state parks - not cutting from them.

"Especially for Upstate New York, we need to protect and invest in these parks," McConnell said. "In just your region, the Allegany region brings in about \$62 million to the state parks system alone. That also accounts for helping provide 860 jobs. And these, unlike a lot of job prospects in the region right now, these jobs will be here for as long as we put money into our state parks. These aren't state park jobs, but jobs created because the tourists come in and spend money at restaurants, wineries and whatever they do around the parks. These are long-term jobs. These are jobs that will go away unless we stop funding them, which we're looking at as a reality for this year."

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees 214 state parks and historic sites, which encompass 325,000 acres of lands and waters and are visited by over 55 million people each year. Last year, the agency received \$263 million - accounting for less than one-quarter of one percent of the overall state budget. The 2010-2011 proposal allocates \$230 million to the agency, reducing funds by \$33 million.

"It will be tragic if any parks are forced to close this year," said Dropkin. "They provide New Yorkers with affordable, nearby recreation, and they provide our communities with sustainable, long-lasting jobs. New York absolutely cannot afford to lose any of its state parks." She noted also that the cost of reopening a park, once closed, is substantial - meaning it is likely that at least some of the coming closings will be permanent, not temporary.

"What needs to happen is the legislators need to hear from their constituents," McConnell said. "They need to hear from people around Jamestown and around the Allegany region. They need to hear from these people and hear about what the state parks bring to their community and let them know that they do not want any parks closed or even the services to be set back because of the budget. They need to fund these parks. They need to invest in state parks. It's in their interest."

Parks & Trails New York is a statewide advocacy organization that works to expand, protect and promote a network of parks, trails and open spaces throughout the state for use and enjoyment by all. For more information, visit www.ptny.org.

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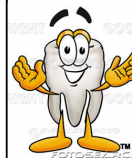
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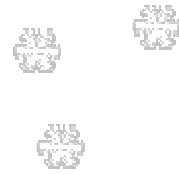
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