

## Trail Preparations Begin

**Welcome Back!** The fall season is approaching quickly. With a few weeks open before hunting season begins, a number of projects will hopefully be completed. This next few weeks will be very important for trail projects. Please be ready to volunteer if a project can use you. Watch for email notices, Remind alerts, and FaceBook postings. With the DEC adding to the end of hunting season, much trail work will be delayed until after the snow has begun falling. This will be another hurdle snowmobile clubs have to clear in order to produce the best riding conditions in the northeast.

## Wells: Adirondack towns get frozen out

This is a story that should have had a happy ending. A story of five Adirondack towns working with state government and environmental nonprofits on an agreement to expand the taxpayer-owned Forest Preserve, improve public recreation and bring new economic growth to the area.



The Community Connector Trails agreement would have helped turn the page on decades of Adirondack Region job losses brought on by industry disinvestment and Forest Preserve expansion, and established a model for the type of common-sense, compromise solutions needed for many problems confronting the Adirondack Park.

Instead, it's a sad story of misplaced trust and lost opportunity, ending with the towns and the people who live there getting left out in the cold.

In 2012, the town boards of Indian Lake, Long Lake, Minerva, Newcomb and North Hudson were asked to approve the state's plan to buy nearly 70,000 acres of private timberlands, stretching across the five towns. A land deal of that scale has huge implications for the future of any community, so state law rightfully gives the affected towns veto power.



*How soon before this trail disappears?*

As the supervisor of one of those towns, I can tell you none of us liked the idea of losing more private land, but we saw an opportunity to get something back for the hard-working residents we serve. Together with the state Department of Environmental Conservation and two of the environmental groups championing the purchase — the Adirondack Council and Adirondack Mountain

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# Trail Log



Club Membership stands at **406** as of 4-1-2021

## C7B Trail Closure

Due to a landowner request, C7B is closed where the trail crosses Webster Rd in the Town of Wright. As of this date no alternate route has been found. If you are a landowner in this area or know someone who would allow the trail to connect, please contact Trail Boss Joel Church at 518-859-2790.

## C7E Trail Closure

Due to new houses being built at and near the intersection of Schoharie Tpk and Chadwick Roads, C7E will need to find a new route through to connect with C7B. If you know anyone who can help find a reroute in this area, please contact Trail Boss Tom Rulison at 518-875-9229.



*Tracks on  
JD 825i  
groomer.  
See page 4  
for more.*

## GENERAL CARPENTRY

Home Improvements

- Pole Barns
- Sheds
- Decks
- Roofs

• Structural Repairs of Buildings, etc. • Back Hoe Work

— FREE ESTIMATES —

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## Northern Area

**Burtonsville/Charleston C7E** - Yancey Zimmer -

**Mariaville C7B** - Mark VanWoeart - A new culvert has been installed on Lake Connection trail due to trucks collapsing old culvert. Some trails have been patrolled and trees have been cleared. Once it dries out brush hogging will start

**Sloansville C7F** - Laudy Hoyenga - Formal trail will be open to Stockyard in Charleston Four Corners. Have started bushing hogging trails, plan to be done before bow season. Working on frame restoration on 95' Jeep Wrangler given to club by Yancey, could be used by club for groomer in the future.

## Central Area

**Esperance/Delanson C7E** - Tom Rulison - The east end of C7E, Schoharie Tpk and Chadwick Rd is closed and needs a reroute.

**Duanesburg C7B/S70** - Open -

**Wright C7B** - Joel Church - Trail C7B to be widened and straightened north of Westfall Rd.

## Southern Area

**Township S70** - Skip Murrell - Meeting with new landowner. Trail maintenance to start next couple weeks. Tom delivered Knox bridge materials, waiting for ground to dry out so installation can start.

**Knox C7B** - Orvil Bates - Work party plan in the works for Knox ballpark bridge.

**Maple Inn S73** - Don Bauer - Nothing to report at this time.

**East Berne C7B/S72** - Brian Buchardt - 2 trail re-routes planned, Main St East Berne, other one between Simons and Turner Rd. Heavy brush hogging and trail clearing planned due to wet summer. Fix various culverts that may have washed out.





## 2021 Club Election Results

President	Gerry Lenseth
VicePresident	MaryAnn Nickloy
Treasurer	Tammy Saddlemire
Secretary	-Open-
Director '24	Laudy Hoyenga Donnie Bauer
Trustee '24	Christine Rulison Tom Rulison

The Club extends a big thank you to Travis Costello and Ryan McCann for their service on the Trustee half of the board.

## Trail Boss Movement

Zach Simeon has taken over for Orvil Bates in the Knox area. Dominick Friello has stepped down in the Duanesburg area. A big thank you to Orvil and Dom for their service. The Duanesburg area has need of a Trail Boss. Casey LeClair will be available to assist the new Trail Boss. Please volunteer if you are able. Trail Boss is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and grooming for an area of trails. This requires working closely with landowners. Local knowledge of trails very desirable.

### Trail Marshal says...

Please remember to always get permission from each landowner prior to doing any trail work. Be sure to advise them when you will be out there, and if you can use ATV/UTV for support vehicle. Landowners are our most important asset. Without them we are a club with no trails!



dreamstime.com

**Club Meeting !  
On The Hill (Township)  
Wed September 8, 7pm  
Rt 146, west of Altamont**

## Grant Report

Thanks to Gerry for his help in the quick turn-around for the phase 2 paperwork in support of our 4 county sponsor funding for the trail grants through NYS parks department. All paperwork has been entered to our county sponsors. We should have all of our 30% checks with Schenectady county check expected shortly- hopefully Tammy can confirm this deposit at our first meeting of the season.

Enjoy the rest of summer and think snow!  
Christine

## GPS/GIS Coordinator Welcomed

Matt Lord has volunteered to take over the collection and processing of GPS trail data! Welcome aboard!

## Automated Trails Grant Program

Automated Trails Grant Program (ATGP) was terminated abruptly in the spring of 2021 by New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Orders were given to cease using the ATGP immediately. No explanation was given for the shutdown and all trail work is to be recorded and saved until a replacement program is up and running.

As part of the Post Project Submission (Phase III) for the snowmobile trail grants, documentation that the funds awarded for trail maintenance and development were expended in accordance with the Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, and Laws governing the allocation of NYS funds to localities.

This shutdown will likely cause a huge amount of work to be completed when the new program is finally revealed.

## Secretary Office Is Open

Please, if you or someone you know would step up and volunteer to fill the Secretary position, it would really help out our club.



## Offer Made On Groomer

At our final meeting in April we discussed the need to search for an additional utilitarian SxS unit for the coming season as the Bombi had been sold. In addition we discussed building two 6'x10" drags with trip plates as well.

On August 9<sup>th</sup> a 2012 JD Gator 825i was located south of Oneonta. It has been advertised by the original owner for \$22k since July. The heated cab machine has Mattracks that were added in 2016 as well as JD power steering kit and comes with original wheels/tires and hitch winch. It has ~300 hrs and 876 miles and serviced by the Oneonta JD dealer.

President Lenseth reached out to the individual selling the Gator and made a FSR Board approved offer that was accepted.

Reasons for considering this unit:

We already have a JD 825i. Staying within brand will be helpful.

This machine is very low miles compared to other machines we have looked at.

Driving the machine was very smooth and easy. The enclosed cab is very well built.

The price is extremely fair for the market.

We have other types of groomers we could look at, but we do have experience with this type of machine. From many reports this past season, the 2011 JD 825i side by side has worked very well in Mariaville.

Details of the purchase will be released at the club meeting.



## Groomer Locations 2021

Charleston/Burtonsville  
*Skandics (2)*

Mariaville  
*Gator 825i and Skandic*

Sloansville  
*Jeep*

Duanesburg/Wright  
*Skandics (2)*

Esperance/Delanson  
*Pisten Bully 70*

Knox/Township  
*Pisten Bully 100*

East Berne/Thacher Park  
*Skandic*

Note: many locations will overlap coverage.



*Club Pres Gerry Lenseth, VP MaryAnn Nickloy, Trail Bosses Skip Murrell and Joel Church get a first hand look at the JD 825i side by side groomer.*







*Is the sun setting on trails in the Adirondacks?*

Club — we came up with an agreement we could all live with.

The towns would go along with the state's plan to take these working forests out of production and close nearly 50 miles of existing trails in the heart of the Forest Preserve to motorized use. In exchange, we were promised a network of Class II Community Connector trails — 27 miles of new routes for snowmobilers, horseback riders, hikers, bikers and skiers, designed to tie our communities together and bring much-needed tourism business to the shops, restaurants and hotels now at the center of our rural economy. Not only would this benefit the towns, it would benefit the Forest Preserve by relocating the trail network to the periphery of the preserve, closer to developed areas and out of more remote environs.

Enter the antagonists of our story. With the Finch lands securely in state ownership, and work on the trails underway, the advocacy group Protect the Adirondacks brought a lawsuit to kill the project. This was no big surprise, coming from a group whose mission seems to be to



*New growth cannot be cut...*

undermine the economic viability of Adirondack communities and keep the public off publicly-owned lands. The real gut punch, though, came when we saw who else was pushing the lawsuit — the very same Adirondack Council that had looked us in the eye and said we had a deal.

*Continued on page 6*

## Club Folks



## Club Officers

President	Gerry Lenseth	872-9374
Vice Pres	Mary Ann Nickloy	895-2595
Treasurer	Tammy Saddlemire	872-2125
Secretary		

## Board of Trustees

Christine Rulison  
Tom Rulison  
Wes Ostrander  
Michael Riek  
Bob Meyer  
Brian Schoenherr

## Board of Directors

Don Bauer  
Laudy Hoyenga  
Chris Bukowski  
Karl Pritchard  
Joel Church  
Zach Simeon

## Trail Boss Contacts

Brian Buchardt	East Berne	872-1878
Don Bauer	Warner Lake	337-1985
Zach Simeon	Knox	860-2325
Skip Murrell	Township	867-1235
Joel Church	Wright	895-5451
	Duanesburg	
Casey LeClair	Duanesburg	
Tom Rulison	Esperance	728-9551
Laudy Hoyenga	Sloansville	868-2092
Mark VanWoeart	Mariaville	376-0063
Scott Claus	Burtonsville	848-0524
Yancey Zimmer	Charleston	657-9588

## Support Staff

Equipment Boss	Tom Rulison
Membership Administrator	Gerry Lenseth
Grant Administrator	Christine Rulison
Trail GPS/GIS	Matt Lord
Safety & Education	MaryAnn Nickloy
Website	Randy Stein
FaceBook	Chris Bukowski
Remind	Mary Ann Nickloy
Newsletter Editor	Joel Church





*The trail is shrinking.*

The groups argued that the project was unconstitutional because it required the removal of too much timber from the Forest Preserve. They said the state's century-old definition of "timber" as trees measuring at least three inches in diameter at breast height should be disregarded and trees of any size, including newly emerged seedlings, should be

counted.

Flash forward to May 2021. After a roller-coaster ride of lower court decisions, the Court of Appeals, by a vote of 4-2, ruled in favor of Protect the Adirondacks on constitutional grounds — pulling the plug on a project the court itself acknowledged would have provided a net benefit to the preserve.

I tell this story knowing full well that we can't undo the court's decision. But I hope it will spur some reflection from those who care about the future of the Adirondacks.



*A trail, but for how much longer?*

Ask yourself:

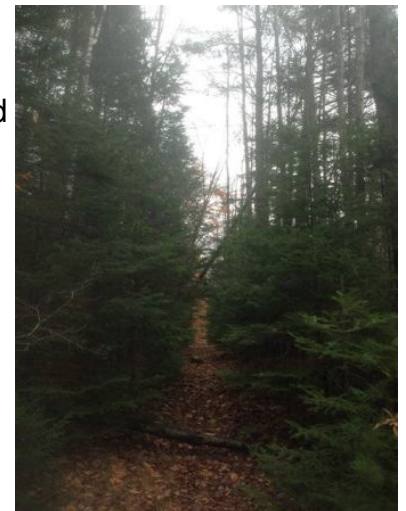
Who wins when self-professed environmental groups sabotage a plan that would have provided a net benefit to the Forest Preserve, the people who come to enjoy it, and those of us who live and work here?

Who benefits when a group tears up a good-faith agreement, but only after they got everything they wanted?

Why should towns allow the creation of new "wilderness" areas within their borders when it means giving up any future hope of economic activity on those lands?

It's hard to believe that the people who support Protect the Adirondacks and the Adirondack Council truly want their hard-earned dollars used in this divisive and punitive way.

As for the five towns, we kept our word and got the short end of the stick. But we thank DEC for negotiating in good faith and aggressively defending the project in court. We also thank the Adirondack Mountain Club for honorably standing by our agreement.



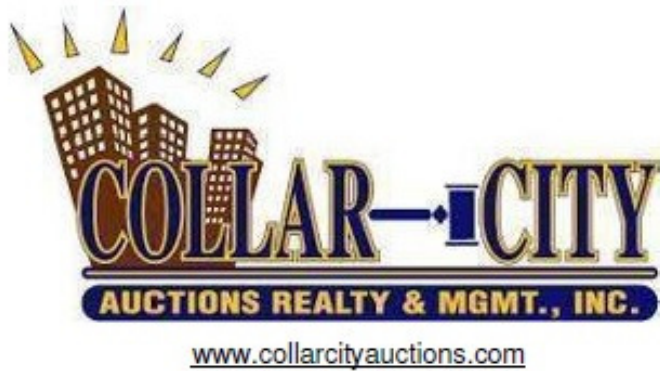
*Only the deer shall pass.*

Going forward, we'll pick ourselves up and get back to doing all we can to build viable, prosperous communities for our year-round residents, seasonal residents and visitors. That's what people who truly care about protecting the Adirondacks do.

*Brian Wells - Supervisor of the Town of Indian Lake  
(Opinion reprint from Albany Times Union, July 31 2021)*







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# Think Snow!

Always a good motto!



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**Club Meeting  
On The Hill (Township)  
Wed September 8  
7pm**



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