

For immediate release:

“I Love My Section of the Trail!” Linda Parlato Honored by Finger lakes Trail Conference

"I love my section of trail"! says Linda Parlato of Collins, NY. For ten years Linda has maintained ten miles of the Finger Lakes Trail from Routes 353 to 242. The Finger Lakes Trail Conference recognized her with the Clar – Willis Distinguished Trail Volunteer Award at the Fall Campout in Bath, NY on October 6.

The award citation notes that Linda deals with matters in a professional way, and always keeps her cool. She has dealt with logging and pond construction which required many re-routes, always on top of things with new blazes so that no one got lost.

Linda grew up near Chicago and attended Milwaukee-Downer College, majoring in Art and following up with a MFA from University of Buffalo. She has a studio at home and has showed paintings in venues from the Adirondacks to Louisiana and Texas. Linda combines her art and hiking by gaining inspiration from the natural world for her paintings. The forest provides arrangements and patterns of leaves, found objects such as bones, and colors that she can work into her art.

She says her greatest joy is to get out and do trail work with her dog. She works on her trail at least three times per year, but each “time” may be several days. Last year, she spent 58 hours.

Linda did not grow up with a hiking background, but one day she saw an ad in the newspaper about a hike in Letchworth State Park. While it was only a mile walk, it got her interested. In 1992 she learned about the Foothills Hiking Club, and, she says, “That was that”! When the trail maintainers for that area moved away she asked for the “job” (no pay) and got it.

Linda met her husband George while both were students. George was from Buffalo and in the 1970’s they moved to western New York where they raised four children, all grown now.

Harry Clar and Edward Willis are two outstanding examples of great dedication and long time service in building and maintaining many miles of the Finger Lakes Trail System. The award is made to an individual or pair of individuals who have made a significant contribution over a period of time as trail workers.

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference, headquartered in Mt. Morris, coordinates the maintenance and mapping of over 880 miles of hiking trails in New York State. More information about the Finger Lakes Trail may be obtained by visiting their website: www.fingerlakestrail.org or by calling 585-658-9320.

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