

Wally Wood Award, 2011

The annual award named after our founder, Wallace Wood, is reserved for a volunteer whose special contributions to the overall wellbeing of the Finger Lakes Trail have been major, continuous, and over a long period of time. This year your Recognitions Committee and the FLTC Board of Managers are happy to honor Jo Taylor.

For nine years now you've been enjoying our really good organization magazine, the Finger Lakes Trail News, perhaps without ever noticing the name of the editor, Jo Taylor. But she's like that, too, quiet and happy to remain relatively anonymous, even when she's volunteering to lead a subgroup of one of the county series hikes, for instance.

Tom Reimers was our previous editor for ten long years, and brought our newsletter into the age of desktop publishing, with better layout, graphics, and photo reproduction. Many of us went into a cold panic when he announced his retirement from that long job, but sent out a request for a new volunteer with timid hope. Jo was one of those who raised a hand, and we are all immensely glad she undertook this job! Since her tenure began, our magazine has grown in size and quality, now including color pages and cover. As its popularity and appeal grows, so, too, has the volume of contributions, so that she now often has articles in the hopper, waiting for future space! That's the happy result of an improving magazine, that the more readers like it, the more they want to contribute.

Now that I am deeply involved in magazine production myself for the North Country Trail Association, I can appreciate more than ever Jo's contribution to our own News. "All" I have to do is turn sometimes awkward or frigid prose into readable text, and then turn over everything—articles, pictures, and captions—to the paid contract layout lady, who turns it into something pretty. In our case, Jo does all that layout work herself, too, including trying to shuffle things around so that the absolutely necessary pictures land on the pages where color is available, a reality dictated by the printing process, not aesthetics.

One of her nomination letters said, "I have had the incredible pleasure of working with Jo to edit articles I've written for the FLT News, and every time I have been freshly astonished at how patient, kind, and professional she is. Getting others to rewrite to improve clarity and brevity ... encouraging others to rethink the approach to make it more interesting ... all of this is tricky business that requires both a sharp mind and great diplomatic skills, and Jo has proven that she has both."

Jo, nearly two thousand addresses— FLTC members, agency partners, and landowners—receive every three months the benefit of your great contribution to our very best ambassador to the world, our enviable magazine. Thank you for undertaking such a big task, and, yes, we know that you are approaching your tenth year, too. That sure went fast.



Jo in audience at award presentation smiling because Irene said Jo, the cruel editor, snipped some of her passages that she deemed "inappropriate."

Thank You! The Wally Wood award belongs at least equally to all of you who have contributed the content, which is what makes the News lively and informative. Whether it was articles, photos, letters to the editor, cartoons, haiku, or a crossword puzzle, I thank you! I would especially like to thank my predecessor Tom Reimers who set the standard. He served as editor for ten years and challenged me to do the same. I also thank my friend and editorial assistant Sharon Galbraith who has pruned and edited some of the most tangled pieces, and Irene Szabo who has contributed more words than anyone else, has proofread every issue, and is always on the lookout for material for the News. I look forward to more suggestions and contributions. Keep them coming! — Jo Taylor