

## **Groton Town Forest Trail Races**

**October 24, 2010**

Weather was cool mid-40s, overcast, and a few showers - perfect running weather! The course record and numerous age group records were shattered during this 13th annual event. The weather also did not keep runners at home, as a total of 235 finishers established a new record, last set in 2002 when there were 217 finishers.

In the 9.5 mile race, Steve O'Brien smashed Dave Hinga's course record of 57:14, set in 1999 with a time of 55:40. In the women's 60-69 age group, Kathleen Furlani of Broad Brook, CT bested the record by 16 minutes, with a time of 1:32:25. Marshall Randolph of Wellesley, MA beat his own age group (60-69) record by 7 seconds with a time of 1:11:10. In the men's 80-89 age group, the always amazing Richard Busa of Marlboro, MA established the first record in a time of 2:00:26. Richard's record is likely to stay on the books for a very long time. The first female was Erica LaBella of Sugar Hill, NH, in a time of 1:12:19. Erica is establishing herself as a leading trail runner this year with several first place finishes.

In the 3.4 mile race, Ray Johnson of Littleton, MA won in a time of 22:20. Paul Funch of Groton, MA came in third and lowered the 60-69 age group record from 27:19 to 23:41. The most impressive runner of the day, however, was Katie Schmitt of Durham, NH. Her father and uncle are consistently among the top trail runners in New England and others in her family are top-notch runners. But Katie, while only 11 years old, was the 8th finisher and was the first female to cross the line in a time of 25:07. With her time, she lowered the previous record for her age group of 26:19 that was set in 2002, and also bested the records for the 15-19, 30-39, and 50+ age groups! And she did it very comfortably and with a big grin on her face. Finally, Olivia Box of Groton, MA lowered the 15-19 age group record from 29:57 to 28:10.