

Wapack Trail Race Report

September 2, 2012

Clear skies, temperatures in the 60s, and low humidity greeted the record field of runners this year. Views of Mt. Monadnock were once again spectacular and the trail was generally very dry, although a few dark clouds and even a quick hard rain appeared during the race. While a logging operation along the trail had threatened to cause a detour of an extra 2 miles and 600 feet of elevation, it was unexpectedly cleared up just before the race.

The highlight of the day was a lowering of the women's course record set just last year by Amy Rusiecki (Lane). Kelsey Allen, 29, of Colrain, MA brought the record down by over a minute to 3:05:58. Amy, 33, was the second woman to finish, in a time of 3:16:59, and led the 30-39 age group. On the men's side, Brian Rusiecki, 33, of South Deerfield, MA led at the turnaround and continued to set the pace, finishing in an excellent time of 2:31:17.

In the 40-49 and 50-59 women's age groups, Elaine Allen, 44, of Hamden, CT and Michele Hammond, 53, of Killingworth, CT both put in strong performances, finishing in 3:42:50 and 3:54:03, respectively. In the 20-29 men's age group, newcomer Ben Thompson, 21, of Cambridge, MA led the pack with a time of 2:59:58. For the 40-49 men's age group, Dave Herr, 47, of Canaan, VT took the top spot and came in second overall to Brian with a time of 2:34:49. In the 50-59 and 60-69 men's age groups, Ted Cowles, 53, of West Granby, CT and Paul Funch, 62, of Groton, MA took the top spots with times of 3:15:29 and 3:28:20, respectively.

The Wapack Trail goes from Greenfield, NH to Ashburnham, MA and the race is run out and back over the 9 mile section from New Ipswich, NH to Ashburnham. There are four peaks the runners go over in each direction and the total elevation climb for the 18 miles is 4,000 feet or more (with an equal amount of descent).

The Wapack Trail Race in 2013 will be held on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.