

## **Wapack Race Story - 2022**

What a difference a day (or two) makes. After we all enjoyed two cooler days before race day, the heat came back for Wapack Trail Race 2022. Plus there were no clouds. Plus there was no breeze. It made for a tough slog for most all runners. Only 2 of 13 runners who ran both this year and in 2021 ending up with finishing times that were 7 to 30 minute faster, while the other 11 ran 1 to 28 minutes slower (average of 14 minutes). Of the 51 starters, only 45 finished the race.

No age-group finishing time records were lowered this year. However, a notable record was achieved by 16-year old Xander Murray of Townsend, MA, as he was the youngest person to complete this race. In addition, his time of 3:32:18 put him in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall this year.

Taking 1<sup>st</sup> place for the men was Peter Bonito, 37, of Westmoreland, NH, in a solid time of 2:48:25. He didn't have much company as Brian Rusiecki, 43, of South Deerfield, MA, took second place 17 minutes behind in 3:05:33. And since Brian finished 27 minutes ahead of Xander, it was a solitary run back for him as well, once he passed the last runner on the out-and-back course.

On the women's side, 1<sup>st</sup> place honors went to Carolyn Wisnowski, 37, of Shirley, MA, who finished in a 3:44:57. Second place went to Elaine Allen, 54, of Hamden, CT, who finished in 4:29:01.

The Wapack Trail Race in 2023 will be held on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, as usual.