



84th Year

TRAILWALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE — MAINTAINING OVER 1,600 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004

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TC Sets \$2.5 M Goal for Trails

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has announced an ambitious \$2.5 million capital campaign, "Connecting People with Nature." The campaign aims to raise funds to meet two major challenges: protecting and improving the connectivity of our region's trail system, and increasing the Conference's capacity to recruit and train trail crews who can build and maintain trails.

Specific projects have been identified: land acquisition and stewardship along existing and potential trail corridors in New York and New Jersey; major trail rehabilitation on Bear Mountain, including the historically important first section of the Appalachian Trail; and developing vitally important Geographic Information System resources.

At the time of the announcement at its Annual Meeting on October 31, the Conference was in the happy position of being more than halfway toward its goal. Development Director Jim Davis reported that by the end of September, \$1,498,400 had been received through 69 gifts. Further, the Conference already could point to a number of important achievements in its target areas made possible by this early fundraising success. These include acquisition of trail corridor lands on the Shawangunk Ridge and in the Catskills, preliminary planning for Bear Mountain trail work, and the hiring of a

staff GIS specialist.

The campaign theme "Connecting People with Nature" is a reference to the Conference's mission of "connecting people with nature" by

- Protecting public open space through grass-roots advocacy and land acquisition;
- Providing access to nature by developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails; and
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

"This is an exciting time for the Trail Conference," says Jane Daniels, chair of the TC board of directors. "We want to ensure that people in this rapidly developing region always have access to good trails and open space. We know how important these are to our quality of life. The Trail Conference has long been a dynamic and important organization in helping people connect with nature, and we hope this campaign will fuel that commitment as we undertake major projects over the next decade."

ELEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

Land Acquisition and Stewardship

By far the biggest goal of the campaign—\$2 million—is to capitalize a Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund. This revolving fund

supports the Trail Conference work of protecting corridors that link public open space and making them accessible to the public by building and maintaining a network of hiking trails. Protecting threatened corridors requires assembling many small parcels, a labor-intensive and expensive job

Acquisition and Stewardship Fund will evolve into an endowment that will sustain the Conference's stewardship mission.

Trails on Bear Mountain

Volunteers from the NY-NJ Trail Conference built the first section of the



JOSH ERDSNEKER

The campaign will support the Trail Conference mission: "connecting people with nature."

that falls outside the mission of most government agencies and nonprofit land trusts.

The Trail Conference, however, has the mission of protecting trails and long experience of working with multiple owners of small holdings to develop trails. Funds contributed to the campaign have already protected portions of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and the Long Path in the Catskills. Other corridor lands in need of protection have been identified in New Jersey and elsewhere in New York. As trail corridors are fully assembled, the Land

Appalachian Trail in 1923. Eighty-one years, countless maintenance trips, and millions of visitors later, the AT and the two other major trails on Bear Mountain (Major Welch and Suffern-Bear Mountain) need significant renovation.

With an estimated 500,000 people reaching the summit of Bear Mountain each year, and more than 100,000 hiking on the AT there (it is the most heavily traveled section of the trail), the treadways on Bear Mountain have become significant

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Trail Conference Volunteer Awards



LARRY WHELOCK

Each year, the board of directors of the Trail Conference honors those who have shown extraordinary dedication to the cause of trail preservation. This year, eleven individuals were recognized in five award categories. Board members are not eligible for any Trail Conference awards.

The Raymond Torrey Award is the Conference's most prestigious award, given for significant and lasting contributions that protect our hiking trails and the land upon which they rest. This year the award goes to **H. Neil Zimmerman**. Neil, who was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the Trail Conference in 2002, served as president of the Trail Conference from 1987-1999. With then Executive Director JoAnn Dolan, Neil played a crucial role in the preservation of Sterling Forest as a state park. He oversaw a large growth spurt in both membership and recognition for the Conference, as well as greatly expanded publication efforts. After his stint as president, Neil was instrumen-

H. Neil Zimmerman gets TC's top award.

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Trail Conference Qualifies for \$500,000 New Jersey Green Acres Matching Grant

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Garden State Preservation Trust recently approved the Trail Conference's application for a Green Acres Matching Grant to the tune of \$500,000. The availability of these funds will assist us at this important time in protecting hiking trail corridors throughout New Jersey. As a matching grant, these monies must be matched with other non-Green Acres funding in order to be spent on preservation efforts throughout the

state. This funding is contingent upon the passage of a legislative appropriation.

Included in the \$500,000 is an additional \$100,000 above the standard nonprofit award. This is due to the fact that many, if not all, of our trail projects are located in the New Jersey Highlands, an environmentally sensitive area that provides water to millions of our fellow New Jersey residents.

Please turn to page 3 for more Advocacy & Conservation news.



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NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

Mission Statement

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, founded in 1920, is a federation of member clubs and individuals dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community. The Conference is a volunteer-directed public service organization committed to:

- Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails.
- Protecting hiking trail lands through support and advocacy.
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is a federation of 85 hiking and outdoor groups, and 10,000 individuals.

FROM THE CHAIR

Trail University at Bear Mountain

A significant goal of the capital campaign announced by the Trail Conference is to raise funds to support major repairs on the trails on Bear Mountain (see campaign story). This high-visibility project will not only repair the trails, but will serve as a valuable recruiting tool and training school for new trail volunteers, a goal equally important for our continued effectiveness in the New York-New Jersey region. At Bear Mountain, experienced TC hands will be giving instruction to newcomers in how to construct a trail, build erosion controls and steps, harden treadway surfaces, etc. It is an ambitious project that will require coordination of lots of people over at least two seasons. I like to think of it as Trail University, Trail U. for short.

Our volunteer-driven Trail Conference is well prepared to take on this perhaps intimidating project. That our volunteer goals for the project are realistic is borne out by the history of many of our current volunteers.

Bob Marshall, now a volunteer trail consultant, remembers that he began his trail career helping to relocate the Appalachian Trail in Putnam County. He quickly became hooked. "Laying out and building trails that others could enjoy gave me a sense of creative satisfaction," Bob says. Well designed switchbacks and side hills are a trademark of the trails Bob has designed.

Another of our current crew leaders, Chris Ezzo, joined Bob's West Hudson Trail Crew and moved into the post of crew chief when Bob stepped down. "Crew became like family," Chris says, "and their

dedication really inspires me."

David Day and Monica Resor are also products of the West Hudson Trail Crew. They now lead the West Jersey Trail Crew, building steps and relationships equally well. David reports that he "loves to hike, spend time in the woods, and cares about wild places." He finds that "trail work is a fusion of all that, plus the bonus of having great people to share it with."

Although Monica found that the challenging location of her first work trip did not offer much opportunity for an inexperienced person to contribute, the project nevertheless drew her in on three levels.

"Laying out and building trails that others could enjoy gave me a sense of creative satisfaction..."

"The six feet of side hilling that I did that day was a physical challenge—digging, moving the rocks, leveling the tread. It was a creative challenge—I alone was responsible for creating that section of trail. It was part of a larger whole, as I was part of the team that was building this trail." Monica went back the next weekend, and the next, and the next. More than 10 years later, she says the attraction hasn't faded.

Sandy Parr, now Chief of the North Jersey Crew, got his training under the wing of Dick Warner, retired North Jersey Trails Chair. Sandy likes to provide an opportunity for others to get interested in

the natural world so they become a constituency of voters who act to save more land in the "natural" state. He says he "stays involved to ensure that after we have saved the land we protect it against ourselves so it does not get loved to death, and, hopefully, to minimize our impact on the surrounding (biological) community."

Our newest crew chief, Denise Vitale, who this past summer agreed to organize the new West Hudson North Trail Crew, got a big shot of creative inspiration while working on the Twin Fords Trail under the Bear Mountain Bridge during the summer of 2003. In that project, a team of volunteers coordinated and instructed by Ed Walsh learned some heavy-duty trail-building skills, including how to safely move one-ton rocks using high-lines. Ed's enthusiasm and expertise helped the team build a long, steep set of steps according to plan; unplanned was that the project resulted in Denise's readiness to create and head up a new trail crew. (The quality of work by Trail Conference volunteers at Twin Fords also was a wow factor that helped further cement the relationship between the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and the Trail Conference, which have always been joined at the hip, so to speak.)

As you can tell from these experts, a trail project is not just about giving something to the trail community in return for trail pleasures enjoyed, and it is more than just moving rocks and getting dirty. It is about learning, challenges, creativity, and friendship. So think seriously of joining us in the spring at Trail U. There will be something for everyone as we embark on this big new project at Bear Mountain.

—Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors



Crew chiefs, past and present, from left to right: Bob Marshall, Chris Ezzo, Monica Resor & David Day, Sandy Parr, Denise Vitale

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Letters

Thanks for TC Help

In 1989, a complete environmental impact study was done for a project called Pierson Lakes on the New York-New Jersey border in western Rockland County, adjacent to large parkland areas. At the time an extremely comprehensive findings statement was issued which provided clear guidelines for development of the area with respect for its unique environment. In May of this year, I became aware of an application to develop the property in a way that completely disregarded the standing low-impact measures and put the natural beauty, wetlands, and existing archeological sites at risk. I wrote a letter to the Town of Ramapo outlining many of the reasons that I opposed the proposal. I was concerned,

however, that my opinion would not have a strong enough impact, so I asked the NYNJTC for advice.

When I walked into the TC office for the first time, I had absolutely no idea where to turn or what to do after I had written my initial letter. Thank you to the TC staff for all of your guidance and support. In particular, your knowledge and expertise has helped me and others who have become active on this issue understand the SEQRA process and its application to this project. I have truly appreciated your interest, input, references, and letters on behalf of our efforts. Thank you for giving me hope and focus, and for leading me to the right people.

—Deborah Kurtzman, Ramapo, New York

Ms. Kurtzman is overly modest. She walks in a proud Trail Conference tradition of individual open space advocacy for the benefit of all. It is inspiration for the rest of us. —Ed Goodell

From the
Executive Director

From Marking Trails to Acquiring Trail Lands



What is the difference between building a long-distance trail and creating a greenway? The difference is a couple of decades. Let me explain.

Trail Conference volunteers and member clubs have been doing both since 1920 when the Palisades Interstate Park manager, Major Welch, asked hiking clubs to jointly mark a system of hiking trails in the newly created Harriman-Bear Mountain Park. Major Welch knew then what many current land managers are discovering—hiking trails are the least expensive and most environmentally benign way to provide access to public lands.

Three years later, inspired by Benton MacKaye's vision for an Appalachian Trail, we began our first long-distance trail project: constructing the first section of the Appalachian Trail, from Bear Mountain to Tuxedo, NY. By 1930, the AT was completed all the way across both New York and New Jersey.

In those days, finding a backwoods route on which to construct a trail was not a problem. Rural populations were declining and lands were reforesting. All one had to do was mark a route along high ground with as few river and road crossings as possible. Permissions were readily obtained from private landowners to cross these "worthless" lands. "In the good old days," we did not have to create the greenway, just plot the most scenic route through a sea of green. Building and blazing were the hard parts.

That, however, has changed over the years, most markedly so in the last decade. The experience of building our two most recent long-distance trails—the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and the Highlands Trail—illustrates the point. In the case of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail begun in 1991, a brand new, end-to-end trail was completed in five years, mostly by obtaining revocable permissions from landowners. The Highlands Trail, begun in 1999, is still a work in progress; gaps large and small interrupt the trail and roadwalks connect parks and conservation areas.

The difference that emerged in a decade is that sprawling development in the Hudson Valley and New Jersey Highlands fragmented open space and made development of ridge lands a viable and profitable proposition. In this century, we cannot complete a long-distance trail without first creating a greenway by filling in the gaps between existing parks. Revocable permissions are a good first step in greenway creation, but are not a final solution in the face of increasing development pressure.

Acquiring land or trail easements are the only ways to permanently protect long-distance trail corridors. However, it must be done now, while the connecting tracts are still available and affordable. We are at a decisive moment—an open space endgame where our collective actions over the next decade will determine the pattern and connectivity of regional hiking opportunities for decades, if not centuries, to come.

As hikers, with our focus on access to nature, scenic views, and open space connectivity, we have a unique role and mandate. It is not a role we sought, any more than we sought to mark and maintain trails in 1920, but it is a role we are uniquely able to fill.

It is for this reason, to protect current and future trail corridors, that I am urging every hiker to make as generous a gift as possible to our Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund. Your contribution will be put immediately to work protecting trail lands. I believe we owe it to all those who have come before us and all those who will follow.

— Ed Goodell
goodell@nynjtc.org

Click, Shop, and Donate

Do you shop online? As the holiday-season nears, and you begin shopping for those you love, why not let your purchases benefit the Trail Conference, at no extra cost to you!

How does it work? By entering the Trail Conference's Commercial Zone and then connecting to select online retailers through a special link on the Trail Conference's web page, up to 15 percent of everything you buy benefits the New York - New Jersey Trail Conference!

When you are ready to shop, visit our web page at <http://www.nynjtc.org/commerce/index.html>. From this page, you will see a

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GEORGETTE WEIR

More towers to rise on scenic mountains?

Statewide Wireless Network Threatens Wild Lands in NY

The New York State Office for Technology (OFT) is currently working on a plan for a statewide wireless network (SWN). The rationale behind the project is to implement a reliable two-way radio system for use by all police officers, rangers and other emergency workers. The Trail Conference /ADK Partnership understands the need for such a system, but has serious concerns about the impact of the SWN on the wild and scenic lands of New York. The partnership submitted detailed testimony and written comments to OFT voicing the opinion that the construction of communication towers and appurtenances on these lands is incompatible with their wild character and is a likely violation of the Forever Wild clause of the New York State constitution. The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the plan was scheduled to be released this fall.

NJ Legislature Takes Aim at Green Acres

On September 13, the New Jersey Assembly Agriculture Committee approved A-2923, legislation that "limits certain State and nonprofit open space acquisitions in municipalities." This bill is a major threat to Trail Conference efforts to protect hiking trail corridors in New Jersey and comes hot on the heels of the Fast-Track legislation (see Sept./Oct. *TW*), approved by the legislature in August. This bill would cripple Green Acres and nonprofit land preservation efforts. It is based on the false premise that preserved lands are an economic liability, and the best use of township property is land developed as tax ratables. A loud outcry directed toward Assembly representatives may prevent the bill from moving forward. For additional information and updates, visit <http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/greenacres>.

Roadless Rule Repeal Threatens AT

Nearly 50 segments of the 2,100-mile-long Appalachian Trail (AT) are endangered by the Bush administration's controversial proposal to repeal the federal roadless rule in order to exploit national forests for clear-cut logging and other commercial uses, according to a detailed mapping analysis undertaken by the nonprofit Campaign to Protect America's Lands (CPAL).

The total of 47 AT trail segments in or near 401,405 acres of at-risk national forest areas include some of the best known and most scenic sections of the trail, including Springer Mountain in Georgia, White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire, and views from some of the

highest peaks along the trail, including the Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina and the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee. The USDA Forest Service has extended until November 15 the deadline for the public to comment on its proposed changes. Additional information is available from the Appalachian Trail Conference (www.appalachiantrail.org). The NY-NJ TC is a maintaining club of the ATC.

Shawangunk Ridge Qualifies for Federal Forest Legacy Funding

At a meeting of New York's Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Legacy advisory committee, the Shawangunk Ridge was approved for addition to the state's land acquisition areas that qualify for federal Forest Legacy Funding. The USDA and the Forest Service have become the major sources of federal funding for land acquisition matching grants from Washington. These funds may be used to match other local funding grants to preserve the Shawangunk Ridge—a dramatic rocky escarpment that extends from Rosendale, New York, to High Point, New Jersey. The ridge features rare and exemplary ecological communities, including over 25 known rare plant and animal species, and is priceless in terms of watershed value, scenic resources, and recreational value. Although most of the northern portion of the Shawangunk Ridge has been protected, much of the southern part of the ridge—the route of the 40-mile Shawangunk Ridge Trail, which extends from High Point, New Jersey, to Sam's Point in New York—remains in private hands. The Trail Conference looks forward to using these funds to preserve and save the ridge.

NYS Budget Passes with Intact Environmental Protection Fund

In early August, the New York State Legislature adopted a state budget for 2004-2005. The Trail Conference/Adirondack Mountain Club Partnership is happy to report that the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is fully funded at \$125 million.

The governor's budget proposal appropriated \$29.9 million for land acquisition. The Trail Conference-Adirondack Mountain (ADK) partnership strongly advocated that additional funds were necessary, and in the end, the legislature increased the land acquisition line item from \$29.9 million to \$32 million. The list of projects eligible for this funding include ones connected with Fahnestock State Park, Schunemunk Mountain, Sterling Forest, Shawangunk Ridge, Catskill Mountains and Delaware River region, Beaverkill/Willowemoc, and the Long Path.

The partnership is also proud to report that \$5.75 million has been allocated for stewardship. Stewardship funding is critical for the preparation and maintenance of state land for public use. Hiking trail maintenance work is funded from this pot of money.

Contributors to this column include Neil Woodworth, counsel to the TC/ADK partnership, and Richard Benning, TC land protection specialist.

TRAIL NEWS

Stillman Trail Relo Ends 9W Hazard for Hikers at Storm King S.P.

The Stillman Trail relocation in Storm King State Park is open for hiking. The relocation work was completed at the end of September. The new route eliminates the hazard of crossing 9W. If part of what you enjoy about hiking this trail is the thrill of avoiding becoming road kill, that challenge is no longer part of the experience of hiking this trail. Sorry!

Hikers heading north into Storm King State Park from Black Rock Forest (BRF) now traverse the summit of Whitehorse Mountain and venture down a rocky northern flank to the Duggan parking lot in BRF. This parking lot now serves as the trailhead parking for both the Stillman Trail relocation and eastern BRF trails. The relocated trail (blazed yellow) follows Mountain Road north under 9W through the tunnel and up to the crest of the hill and the Headmaster's House at Storm King School. There it turns east and leads up the western side of Butter Hill. This section of the trail winds up to the saddle west of Butter Hill. There it rejoins the existing route of the Stillman Trail. The old trail's blazes on Whitehorse Mountain have been blacked out.

The section of the former Stillman Trail that connects this trail relocation to the parking lot on the east side of 9W's crest remains part of the park's trail system. This orphaned section of trail currently retains the familiar yellow and blue blazes. It will be getting a new color and name before long. Parking along 9W allows access to the northern trails of the Park via this section of trail.

—Greg Robie
Trail Supervisor
Storm King State Park

Ivan KOs Dunnfield Creek Trail, Old Mine Road, Camping at Worthington State Forest

The Dunnfield Creek Trail and upper glen in Worthington State Forest were devastated by heavy rains from the remnants of Hurricane Ivan. Trail crew members inspecting the trail deemed it impassable and, as of the deadline for this issue, plans for dealing with the altered landscape were in initial stages. Above where the trail diverges from the AT, only the bridge nearest the Dunnfield parking remains and it is largely missing its supports on one end. Nothing remains of any of the other bridges on the Dunnfield Creek Trail. In addition, a section of the valley wall and trail—above where the Blue Dot goes off but before the next stream crossing beyond there—is just gone. Old Mine Road is closed indefinitely due to flood damage and trails in the park can be accessed only via the Dunnfield parking area off of route I-80. The park is closed for camping.

Parker Cabin Hollow Trail Is Reestablished

The Parker Cabin Hollow Trail in Harriman S.P. has been reestablished with orange reflective blazes supplied by PIPC staff. The western trailhead begins on the south side of Rt. 106, diagonally across the road from the second (most easterly) parking area after the NY Thruway overpass, and runs 1.2 miles east to a junction with the White Bar Trail. The trail is accessible via public bus and train service. Daniel Chazin, editor of many Conference guidebooks, notes, "This trail is a wonderful addition to our Harriman trail system, as it makes it possible to take a continuous hike on marked trails (with one short roadwalk) from the Harriman railroad station to the Tuxedo railroad station, both of which are now accessible from Penn Station, New York, via the Secaucus Junction station." See page 300 of Bill Myles' *Harriman Trails* for a more detailed description of the trail.

Section of Hasenclever Iron Trail Closed

The section of the Hasenclever Iron Trail that goes past Peter's Mine has been closed. Corroded drums were found 60 feet from the trail, which recently opened in Ringwood State Park. The Environmental Protection Agency and Ford Motor Co. are evaluating dump sites in the area for a possible clean-up. The company once used the 500-acre site as a dumping ground; the drums were apparently missed in a cleanup of the area in the 1990s. As of the deadline for this issue, Trail Conference staff and volunteers and park officials were investigating options for detouring around or relocating the trail.

Crew Notes

A Passing Question

By David Day

Since most of the work the trail crews do in this region is on – or closely adjacent to – existing trails, it is not uncommon for hikers to pass by where one of our projects is underway. Some just pick their way silently past us and say nothing. Many carefully walk around the work site with a brief "Hello" and move on. Some even say "Thank you for doing this," which is certainly gratifying.

But then there are the people who ask "What are you doing?"...

I usually start out by identifying the crew as volunteers from the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and that we are "working on the trail." While the details may be obvious to us, they may not be to them. So I go on to explain that the lopsided ditch I'm sticking rocks into is a "waterbar," and that its purpose is to help redirect water off the trail, thus avoiding erosion of the treadway. Or, that we are re-routing that particular piece of the trail with a staircase or switchbacks to avoid a difficult or dangerous scramble. Or, that we are placing step-stones so that when the floods come, they won't need knee-boots to hike there.

Generally, that is about the end of the interaction; the passer-by offers a "well thanks for all the work" and moves on. Some have stayed and visited longer, discussing what may need to be done on this trail or that. A couple of times, however,

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Trail Crew Schedules

For the latest schedules, go to nynjtc.org and click on "Trail crews/ Work trips." TBD = To Be Determined

For all trips bring work gloves, water, lunch, insect repellent. In some cases, tools are provided. Contact leaders in advance for meeting times and places. Volunteers must become members of the Conference to participate in these projects. A one-time "guest" participation is allowed, so bring your friends.

WEST HUDSON SOUTH CREW Leaders

Chris Ezzo: 516-431-1148,
musicbnumbers59@yahoo.com
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563,
brian@grandrenovation.com
Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324,
clganz@earthlink.net
Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792,
rfmarshall@webtv.net
Monica Resor: 732-937-9098,
adamant@trailstobuild.com

Trips on the following dates are TBD.

Nov. 4 (Thursday) Bob Marshall

Nov. 6 (Saturday) Chris Ezzo

Nov. 7 (Sunday) Bob Marshall

Nov. 13 (Saturday) Brian Buchbinder

Nov. 18 (Thursday) Bob Marshall

EAST HUDSON CREW

We make a special effort to arrange pickups at the nearest Hudson Line train station; call to make arrangements. No special skills are required; the crew leader and other experienced crew members will teach newcomers.

Leaders

Walt Daniels: 914-245-1250
Jack Seirup: 914-232-4871

Weekdays: Walt Daniels

Call to indicate your availability and learn project details.

Nov. 13-14 (Saturday, Sunday) Tentative

Leader: Walt Daniels
Massive bridge and puncheon workshop at Georges Island.
Meet: 9 am at Cortlandt train station.

NORTH JERSEY CREW

Leader

Sandy Parr: 732-469-5109

Second Sunday of each month.

Trips start at 9:30 am; call for location and details during the week before the scheduled trip day. Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in northern New Jersey.

HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW

Contact the leader for details, no more than one week before the scheduled work date. All projects are TBD.

Leader

Bob Moss: 973-743-5203

Nov. 14 (Sunday)

WEST JERSEY TRAIL CREW

Leaders

David Day and Monica Resor:
732-937-9098,
westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
Heavy morning rain cancels.

Note: Due to the heavy damage to several trails in western New Jersey, our schedule is very likely to be altered as more assessments come in. There may also be additional trips scheduled. Please contact the leaders or check the schedules on the websites (www.nynjtc.org or www.trailstobuild.com).

Nov. 6 (Saturday)

Jenny Jump S. F. Erosion control, Tread repair. Meet: 9 am, location TBD

Nov. 20 (Saturday)

We will spend the day clearing blow-downs and trimming back some of the remaining damage from the huge ice storms a couple years back. If you are a certified sawyer in New Jersey, please consider joining us for the day.

Flurry of Bridge Building In Harriman/Bear Mountain



Footbridge on 1777-79 Trail in Harriman S.P.

Over the past year, Harriman/Bear Mountain State Park has truly been fortunate to have benefited from an extraordinary amount of bridge building:

- Redecking of the Nurian Trail bridge over the Ramapo River in Southfields by park staff.

- Two bridges built as Eagle Scout projects at the Nurian Trail crossing of Stahahe Brook.

- Two fiberglass bridges built by the West Hudson Trail Crew, one (65') carrying the 1777W, 1779, and the Timp Torne trails over Popolopen Creek, and the other (15') on the new Twin Forts Trail, between Forts Clinton and Montgomery.

- The Hudson River Bridge Authority's professionally built suspension bridge, spanning the mouth of Popolopen Creek between Forts Clinton and Montgomery.

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SCIENCE & ECOLOGY

Deer: A Native Challenge to Our Natural Heritage

By Edwin McGowan, Science Director, PhD

At first glance, the old deer bones, picked clean by scavengers and strewn about the forest floor, looked like any others. As a matter of routine, I paused from my hike to look them over and to see if I could locate the skull, a quick key to the animal that had been. Sure enough, the nearly intact skull was just a few feet away—no antler pedicles—a doe skull, but from a remarkably old doe. This particular animal appeared to be at least 11 years old at the time of its death, based on the extensive tooth wear. Tooth wear is rather constant and predictable in deer, and this deer had precious little tooth enamel left.

No doubt this doe had survived so long because she resided in central Harriman Park, an area lacking both hunters and significant road traffic. Our two most competent deer predators—the gray wolf and eastern cougar—had been eliminated from the area, along with white-tailed deer, centuries earlier. Deer had returned by the 1930s. A return of these predators, however, does not appear likely, for both political and biological reasons.



GEORGETTE WEIR

Over the course of her lifetime—comparable to a centenarian in human years—she may have given birth to two

dozen fawns and eaten literally tons of twigs and foliage. Each spring, her discarded winter fur provided nesting material for rodents and birds alike; her copious droppings offered a meal to microscopic



JIM DAVIS

An old doe's jaw bone and teeth give hints to her life story.

decomposers and later nutrients to hungry plant roots. As an older doe, she would have been a leader among the other deer, always at the front when traveling and ever vigilant for signs of danger. Her choice of paths in the surrounding hills may even have blazed the way for one of our trails, as our trail planners often co-opt deer trails as hiking routes.

Her death offered yet more: life-saving food for an emaciated coyote in the lean winter woods; scraps for crows, ravens, woodpeckers, and an adventurous gray fox. Perhaps a wintering bald eagle took

part in the feast. Finally, invertebrates, microorganisms, and fungi stripped the bones of any remaining soft tissue. By the time I arrived on the scene months after her death, the bleached bones were supplying calcium to gnawing rodents and a source of interest to me, a passing hiker.

Unfortunately, the positive ecosystem functions of this graceful native mammal are being overshadowed by the negative consequences of its exploding population. No longer controlled by predators or hunters in most areas, deer numbers often




EDWIN MCGOWAN

Deer fence in Highlands showing contrast between vegetation in browsed (right) and un browsed (left) forest.

of alien invasive species, disliked by the hungry deer. So, like the growing national deficit, out-of-control deer herds are creating deferred costs, in this case ecological ones, for future generations.

The solution to this problem is not an easy one. First, one must adopt the philosophical position that deer impacts are a problem and not just some new natural equilibrium. If we embrace the stance that our natural heritage—that being the full complement of local flora, fauna, and natural communities—is worth conserving, then deer cannot be ignored. Whether by traditional means such as hunting and selective culling, or new innovative methods such as immuno-contraceptives, the deer problem must be addressed.

According to legend, Native Americans understood the role of the wolf in keeping deer strong. Absent the wolf, conservationists must find new ways to maintain healthy forests and healthy deer.

Note: Please keep an eye out for our new TC Volunteer Science webpage at www.nynjtc.org, due out this fall. The page will feature current and upcoming science opportunities for members. Get involved! 

ECOLOGY Q&A

By Edwin McGowan

Periodically, I receive emails from hikers with questions about trailside wildlife, including deer. This past winter Ed Goldstein, a TC member and AMC hike leader, wrote describing a rather eventful and gruesome March 15 day hike on the Long Path in Harriman State Park.

Q: About 200 yards from the Denning, we encountered a deer carcass on the side of the trail. There was still some meat on the bones, and the legs with fur were still attached, but almost all had been eaten. What was left had some odor, but it was not overly strong. The animal seemed to have been dead for two-three days.

After another 300 yards or so, we encountered a dying deer just off the trail. The deer was lying on its side, and its legs were all moving—perhaps twitching would be a better word. The rest of the deer was motionless, including, conspicuously, its head. There was no sign of trauma—no blood, and the legs appeared unbroken—yet the animal was clearly helpless and dying.

Another 200 yards or so, just at the height of land for this trail segment, another deer carcass lay about 10 feet off the trail.

This was apparently a freshly dead animal. The carcass was intact except for a portion of the butt, which I understand is considered a delicacy by coyotes and other scavengers. No vultures circled the area. Again, no visible sign of trauma was evident.

What is going on here? We've all seen an occasional dead deer in the woods, but three? On a single short trail segment? Right ON the trail? In good weather after a relatively mild month? And one still alive, apparently not having crawled off to die? And no sign of trauma?

Now, the dilemma. What should we have done, and what would you do, when we encountered the dying deer?

A: March is a tough time for deer. By late winter they have used up most of their fat reserves but have little new forage available to them. Starvation is not uncommon, especially after a long winter with consistent snow cover and low temperatures, like last year's. Harriman, being badly over-browsed, offers very little in the way of winter forage beyond acorns, which were spotty last year and would have been hard to reach under the snow.

Finding several starved deer together in one area is also not uncommon. Back in 2000, I did winter survey work in Harriman and found dead deer clusters in several locations off trail. Could I be certain they starved and didn't die by some other

means? No. Still, it was a tough winter and the live deer I saw during the survey looked to be in very bad shape—as the deer looked



EDWIN MCGOWAN


this past winter. If one is really interested in determining the condition of dead deer, a long bone can be cut cross-wise to examine the bone marrow. Fat in the marrow will appear white—a sign of a deer in good condition. A starved deer's marrow will look like red gelatin—indicating this last reserve of body fat has been consumed.

As far as intervening in this natural process: Although the impulse to end the deer's misery is quite understandable (I have faced a similar dilemma before), this is how nature works, and mostly in our absence. Park rules also prohibit direct interaction with wildlife, including collecting, killing, or possessing park wildlife.

\$17,780 Award to TC for AT Work

A grant for \$17,780 to the Trail Conference will pay for the materials to replace approximately 800 feet of puncheon and build an addition to an existing footbridge on the Appalachian Trail in Vernon, NJ. The grant was announced by the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) and is funded by the National Recreational Trails Program, part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, which provides money to states for developing trails and trail facilities. These funds, which are the only federal ones that are completely devoted to trail projects, are generated by federal gas taxes.

Work will begin shortly on the puncheon west of Route 94 in Vernon (south-bound on the AT), which has been deteriorating for some years, and a bridge across a tributary of the Wawayanda Creek, which can no longer handle the current level of frequent flooding. Work will continue over the next two years.

Thanks go to DEP's Office of Natural Lands Management and the State Trails Council, under whose advisement these funds are distributed, and to the management of Wawayanda S.P. for their encouragement and help in acquiring these funds and assisting with the project. 

Do you know who keeps your favorite trails open for you?

By Josh Erdsneker

I love the challenge of hiking the rugged Devil's Path in the Catskills, the amazing views you earn atop Breakneck Ridge in the Hudson Highlands, and the stunning rock formations known as the Megaliths on the Jessup Trail on Schunemunk Mountain. Until I completed my south-bound thru hike of the Appalachian Trail in December 2001, I never gave any consideration to how the trails I hiked were maintained. I never bothered to consider the individuals, not to mention the volunteers, who provided me with the opportunity to hike the AT. I just assumed that the park managers, and state and federal governments took care of the trails. I was wrong.

It's concerned hikers and leaders like Pete Senterman in the spectacular mountains of the Catskill Forest Preserve, Larry Braun leading the West Hudson North Trail Committee, MaryAnn Massey in the Hudson Highlands, and hundreds of other dedicated volunteers who work to keep the trails you enjoy so much, open and accessible.

Help keep someone's favorite hiking trail open. Volunteer to adopt a section of trail in the Catskills or Black Rock Forest, join the trail crew in the East Hudson region to rebuild a damaged bog bridge or prevent a trail from being washed away, or help lead the efforts of our dedicated volunteers in these regions. All it takes is a few days a year to make a difference. You will meet great people and be giving back to the community that has provided so much for you.

Imagine arriving at your favorite trailhead and finding the trail overgrown and the blazes worn away or even worse, closed because it was damaged from erosion and a lack of proper maintenance. Make sure that doesn't happen to you or any other hiker. Get involved today. Call Josh at the Trail Conference office to find out how you can get involved. You can also pick a work trip; schedules are on page 4; find a trail that you've hiked and help repair it.

Now more than ever, we need volunteers to maintain and protect the trails that we have come to appreciate and often take for granted. Tell Josh, josh@nynjtc.org, that you want to make a difference and volunteer.

Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

Are you looking for new challenges and opportunities to get involved with Trail Conference activities? Please review the *TC Volunteer Classifieds* for exciting and interesting ways for members to become involved with the Conference's efforts. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. Become an active part of our family and get more involved. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and do not see an opportunity that suits you, contact Volunteer Projects Director Joshua Erdsneker, either by email josh@nynjtc.org or call the office 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

Catskill Assistant Trail Chairs

With more than 100 maintainers and 200 miles of hiking trails, our Catskills Trail Committee is one of the largest trail committees in the Trail Conference. To improve our communications with our volunteers and land managers, we are seeking two assistant chairs to help coordinate the efforts of our volunteers. Help preserve and protect the Catskill wilderness by getting involved now. For information, please contact Josh Erdsneker, josh@nynjtc.org, at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348.

Catskills Hike of the Week

The Trail Conference is expanding its popular Hike of the Week series to newspapers in Ulster, Greene, and Sullivan counties. We are looking for hike writers and a project manager to facilitate the success of our efforts. For information, please contact Josh Erdsneker, josh@nynjtc.org, at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348.

Bear Mountain Charrette and Design Coordinator

The NY-NJ Trail Conference, along with several other agency partners, has begun the process of redesigning the trails over Bear Mountain. The cornerstone of this project is the relocation and rehabilitation of the Appalachian Trail. We are looking for a project manager whose responsibilities would include project coordination, event arrangements, writing, and keeping our teams on schedule. The project manager will begin ASAP and work to December. On average, the project manager will work one day per week spread over the week as necessary. If you are interested in this opportunity or want to learn more about it, please contact Larry Wheelock at wheelock@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

Catskill MOU Translator

We are seeking a volunteer who is comfortable reading and transposing legal documents. The Trail Conference will be converting its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of New York and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) into a new format called Adopt a Natural Resource. This is a great opportunity for a detail oriented individual with an interest in helping to strengthen our relationship with the land managers in the Catskills. For information, please contact Larry Wheelock, wheelock@nynjtc.org or at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348.

Other Opportunities:

- Outreach Events Coordinator
- Tabling Event Representatives
- Book Reviewers
- Office Volunteers
- Catskill Forest Preserve Trail Maintainers
- West Hudson North Trail Committee Trail Maintainers (Minnewaska SP, Black Rock Forest, Schunemunk SP, Storm King SP)

Volunteer Policy Handbook

The Trail Conference has created a new Volunteer Policy Handbook. This handbook has been designed to detail the policies that have been put into place to protect our volunteers. The handbook covers: harassment policies, liability and accident insurance, eligibility requirements, and much more. All Trail Conference volunteers in leadership positions such as board of directors, committee chairs, project managers, trail crew chiefs, and trail supervisors will be given a copy of the policies. Any volunteer who would like to have his/her own copy of the policies can obtain a copy online at www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/vresource.html#trails or by calling the office at 201-512-9348. If you have any questions about these policies, please feel free to contact Josh Erdsneker, Volunteer Projects Director at the Trail Conference office or via email at josh@nynjtc.org.



Join the Water Bar Party at Norvin Green State Forest

The Norvin Green State Forest trail supervisors are putting together an ad hoc group of workers to build water bars in the forest. We plan to meet on a monthly basis anytime that the ground isn't frozen. Although we will concentrate on building water bars, we will occasionally do reroutes or any other job that requires attention. We invite our regular trail maintainers to join us as well as any other willing workers, regardless of their experience or lack thereof. The work will entail digging narrow ditches and placing either rocks or logs in a position to catch or direct the flow of water off the trail. We make a point of having fun while we work to stem trail erosion. If interested please contact Bob Jonas, 908-232-7059, ynoke@aol.com.

CREW NOTES

continued from page 4

something special has happened – the passer-by has pulled off his or her pack and pitched in for a while. (One dog-walker up on Schunemunk tied his pooch to a tree and spent the afternoon building steps with us near the top of the Sweet Clover relo!)

I'd like to say that some of these people have joined the crews, but I don't believe any have. One or two may have become maintainers; a couple are on our prospecting list for future participants. All of them, however – whether they stayed and worked, or just said "hello" and moved on – have been exposed to the reality that trails don't just happen.

This level of consciousness-raising is becoming more important all the time. As more and more wild land is being lost to development, showing that there are people caring for the trails and the trails' environs, will help to re-enforce the value of these places as they are. Maybe they will think more about the value they got from that day on the trail.

By the time you read this, the West Jersey crew's fall trail work season will only have a couple trips left, but it is never too late to check it out. (At least one crew – the North Jersey Crew – goes out year-round, so there is almost always something going on.) There are many more miles of trails development in New Jersey, so the spring season is already being planned. Come on out and join the fun!

David co-leads the West Jersey Crew with Monica Resor and works with the West Hudson Crew on a regular basis.



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Are You Covered? A Review of Volunteer Insurance Coverage

The Trail Conference is concerned about the safety and welfare of the individuals who volunteer on the trails. Volunteers are responsible for maintaining their own health and liability insurance. In the event that a volunteer's personal policy coverage is insufficient, the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and/or certain public agencies on whose lands Trail Conference volunteers operate, may provide additional liability and accident coverage for the benefit of volunteers who may be injured or sued in the course of performing their assigned tasks on behalf of the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

The Trail Conference provides liability insurance coverage to protect volunteers who are performing their assigned tasks on behalf of the Trail Conference. Volunteers protected by this coverage include individual members of the Trail Conference and individuals belonging to member clubs.

Certain public agencies on whose lands Trail Conference volunteers operate provide insurance coverage to volunteers who may be injured in the course of performing their assigned tasks on behalf of the Trail Conference on these lands. The extent of insurance coverage provided varies, depending on the particular provisions of the public agency involved. In general, workers' compensation benefits are provided. In most cases, volunteers are reimbursed for the cost of necessary medical care. In some instances, they are also reimbursed for lost wages incurred as a result of the injury. Pain and suffering arising from an injury is not compensated. Volunteers who operate in more than one park may be subject to varying insurance coverage policies, depending upon the particular location where the accident or injury takes place.

In order to receive the benefits of insurance coverage provided by a public agency, volunteers must comply with the terms specified by that agency. Volunteers who wish to maintain a trail or serve as a member of a trail crew on land managed by a public entity are required to comply with these terms.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and Palisades Interstate Park Commission

Volunteers who perform assigned tasks on behalf of the Trail Conference on lands administered by OPRHP, including parks

in New York administered by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, are required annually to sign the OPRHP Volunteer Service Agreement and to comply with its terms. Such volunteers are provided with New York State workers' compensation coverage in the event of an accident.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Volunteers who perform assigned tasks on behalf of the Trail Conference on lands administered by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) are required annually to sign the DEC Volunteer Service Agreement and to comply with its terms. Such volunteers are provided with New York State workers' compensation coverage in the event of an accident.

National Park Service (includes Appalachian Trail lands)

Volunteers who perform assigned tasks on behalf of the Trail Conference on lands administered by the National Park Service (NPS) are required to comply with the terms of the NPS Volunteers in the Parks program. Such volunteers are provided with secondary insurance coverage in the event of an accident.

Other Lands

Volunteers who perform assigned tasks on behalf of the Trail Conference in New Jersey state parks and forests, on county or municipal lands, or on privately owned lands, may be eligible for limited, secondary insurance coverage in the event of an accident or injury.

The Trail Conference's volunteer accident insurance provides accidental death and dismemberment benefits, as well as excess medical expense coverage. For volunteers who have their own health insurance, their coverage is primary, but the Trail Conference's policy will cover any deductibles, co-payments, etc. For volunteers who do not have their own health insurance, the Trail Conference's policy provides medical expense benefits on a primary basis, up to a pre-determined limit.

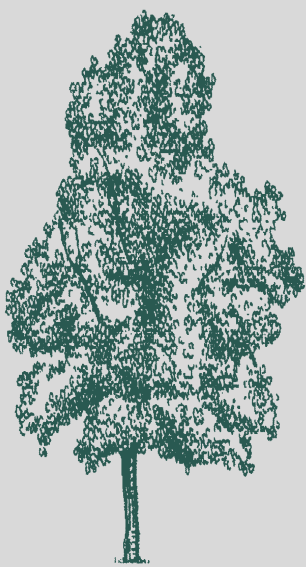
Questions?

Any questions regarding the extent of insurance coverage provided should be referred to Joshua Erdsneker, the Volunteer Projects Director at the Trail Conference office. Trails supervisors and trail crew leaders, while very knowledgeable on matters of trail maintenance and construction, may not be knowledgeable on matters relating to insurance coverage.

Where there's a Will, there's a Trail

When we build them, you hike them. We've been building and protecting trails for at least four generations of hikers since 1920. That's 1,600 miles in New York and New Jersey to date. Help us keep building for the next generation by naming the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in your will. A bequest makes a wonderful gift, and it lasts beyond one lifetime.

For confidential information and legal language, contact the Trail Conference at 201-512-9348, or by email; info@nynjtc.org.



Hunting Seasons

Hunting Schedules

New York and New Jersey have announced their hunting schedules for large game and times when firearms are permitted. Hikers are strongly urged to wear safety orange clothing during these times. Dates listed are inclusive.

NEW YORK: Southern Zone (including Catskills)

Deer Season

Regular: Nov. 22-Dec. 14
Archery: Oct. 15-Nov. 21; Dec. 15-19
Archery (Westchester Co. only):
Nov. 1-Dec. 31
Muzzleloader: Dec. 15-21

Black Bear, Catskills

Regular: Nov. 27-Dec. 14
Muzzleloading: Dec. 15-Dec. 19
Archery: Oct. 15-Nov. 21, Dec. 15-Dec. 19

Special regulations apply on Long Island. For more details, go to: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wma/lihunt.htm>

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park.

However, it is allowed in parts of Minnewaska, Sterling Forest and Storm King State Parks. Call 845-786-2701 for more details about hunting in these parks.

Black Rock Forest closes to all hikers from Nov. 22-Dec. 14, inclusive. For details, call 845-534-4517.

More information about New York's hunting schedules is available from the Department of Environmental Conservation at www.dec.state.ny.us.

NEW JERSEY

No hunting anywhere on Sundays.

New Jersey has very complicated hunting seasons that vary depending on location and kind of weapon permit. There is, however, no hunting permitted on Sundays. It is recommended that hikers verify the hunting dates for the location in which they are interested. Call 609-292-2965, Monday through Friday, or 908-637-4125 (the Pequest Trout Hatchery, open seven days a week) or visit www.njfishandwildlife.com. The following dates for deer season apply in many zones.

Deer Season

Firearms (statewide): Dec. 6-11; Dec. 15 is a permit shotgun day. There are additional muzzleloader and permit shotgun days in many zones.

Archery: Sept. 11-Nov.27 and Jan. 1-31 in most zones, excluding Sundays.

Youths Get Project Support from Lever Fund

The Elizabeth Levers Fund is a matching grant fund that supports youth trail projects. Managed by the Trail Conference, it honors a long time supporter of hiking trails. Three projects recently were granted support from the fund.

- The Youth Resources Development Corporation of Poughkeepsie will be constructing three kiosks along the Appalachian Trail in Dutchess County, with the support and under the oversight of the Dutchess-Putnam AT Management Committee. They were awarded a grant of \$930, which represents half the cost of this project.

- Mark Jordy plans to install three additional kiosks along the AT in Dutchess County as an Eagle Scout project, and was awarded a grant of \$800 towards the \$1,800 cost of his project.

- Another Eagle Scout project, by Ben Andrews, involves construction of a new bridge (and a bench) on a trail in the Ramapo Valley County Reservation, under the supervision of John Moran, North Jersey Trails Chair. His grant of \$300 represents half the cost of his project.

Hike the Path of Asset Protection with a Charitable Gift Annuity to the Trail Conference.

For information, contact Jim Davis at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.



New Edition of Hiking Long Island Out in January

The second edition of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference publication *Hiking Long Island* will be available in January. The book, authored by Lee McAllister, is a comprehensive guide to parks and trails from western Nassau County to the eastern tips of Long Island.

Lee McAllister is a well-known naturalist and hiker from Long Island who co-authored the successful NY-NJ TC book *Hiking the Catskills*, published in 1989.

The first edition of *Hiking Long Island*, published in 2001, had steady sales. The new edition adds two new hikes, with maps and photos, and rewrites a section to take account of frequent changes to a nature trail in Theodore Roosevelt County Park near Montauk Point. The new hike in Nassau County is the Wantagh Nature Trail, which links the Nassau County Mill Pond Park with the Town of Hempstead's Twin Lakes Preserve. In Suffolk County, the added hike is on the Paumanok Path from Laurel Valley County Park to the Long Pond Greenbelt.

Publications Committee Chair George Petty, who was project manager for this edition, notes, "The first edition was well received, which made the preparation of this revision much easier."

The new edition is a large format book like the first edition, with 365 pages including an extended introduction on history, geology, plants, animals, and tips for hikers. The book also has a new index and new front and back covers. Price: \$19.95; \$15.95 for TC members. For ordering information, please turn to page 12.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

Trail Walker is a bi-monthly paper published by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, New Jersey 07430. The editor and managing editor is Georgette Weir, at the same address. The annual subscription price is \$15; contact person is Maureen Walsh; telephone number is 201-512-9348. The tax status of the organization has not changed during the preceding 12 months.

As of the filing date of October 1, 2004, the average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months was 9,500; the actual number of copies of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 9,500. The paper has a total paid and/or requested circulation of 7,400 (average) and 7,468 (actual, most recent issue). The average free distribution for the 12 months preceding the filing date was 1,980 (average) and 1,980 (actual, most recent issue). The total average distribution was 9,380; the actual distribution of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 9,448.

This information is reported on U. S. Postal Service Form 3526 and here as required by 39 USC 3685.

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SPECIAL GIFTS

In honor of the marriage of Lisa Weiss and Kenneth Zadeck

Beth Adler, Joshua and Jessica Auerbach, Rocky Bernstein, Joe Borzetta, David Edelson, Felicia Gross, Kathryn Hochstetler, Myra Oltsik, Sony Music Entertainment, Inc.*, Rosemary Stanton, Angela Tielen, Mark Wegman

In honor of Chris and Laurie's wedding
Raymond L. Greenberg

For Stilman Tool Fund
Anonymous*, Lydia and Noah Zakim

To Shawangunk Ridge Coalition
James Brown III, Robert J. Carinci, Raymond L. Greenberg, Shawangunk Valley Conservancy

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Paul Leikin
Thomas J. Joyce, Manny J. Silberberg

In memory of Leopold "Many" Frank
Coralyn Gorlicki & Abraham Gorlicki

In memory of Harry Zakim
Lydia and Noah Zakim

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TC VOLUNTEER AWARDS continued from page 1

tal in the preservation of Stony Kill Falls in the Shawangunks and remained active as chair of the TC conservation and advocacy committee.

The **William Hoefflerlin Award** recognizes TC volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection. There are three award honorees this year.

Roland Breault is honored for his service to West Hudson trails. He has been an active member of both the West Hudson Trail Crew and the West Hudson Chainsaw Crew for several years and has worked countless hours on dozens of trail work trips. He was a major contributor in building the Popolopen Gorge Bridge and the Twin Forts Trail, and he has always been willing to make an extra effort to insure that a job is well done. In addition he is a maintainer of the Hillburn-Torne-Sebago Trail in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Parks and has made many improvements to his section.

Gary Haugland, retiring board member after 12 years of service, has demonstrated over many years that trails are his passion. Gary's breadth of service includes being president of the Trail Conference Board of Directors from 1999-2001 and serving as Long Path South chair. He is currently chair of the Trails Council.

Pete Heckler, retiring from the board of directors after nine years, has also worked long and hard in the field. His long-term service to the Trail Conference includes serving as chair of West Hudson Trails South. In that capacity he has worked tirelessly with the Palisades Interstate Park on trail issues. Winner of American Hiking Society's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2002, Pete also has been instrumental in establishing trails in Sterling Forest State Park.

The **Ken Lloyd Award** honors individuals who have given exemplary service to their club. This year the award goes to two individuals: **Suzan Gordon** and **Peter Tilgner**. This wonderful team has been tireless in giving their time and effort for both the Ramapo Chapter of ADK and the

hiking community at large. Over the past and present Suzan has served zealously as the chapter's programs and special events chair and as secretary, while Peter has served as president and is currently hike schedule chair. In addition, they serve admirably as co-supervisors for Sterling Forest State Park for the Trail Conference.

The **Major Welch Trail Partner Award** is given to government or private TC partners who have provided long and/or significant help to the hiking community. This year, the award goes to **Congresswoman Sue Kelly** in recognition of her persistent political intervention that resulted in action by the Corps of U.S. Army Engineers and \$5-7 million in federal funding to clear Storm King State Park of explosives. It is largely owing to her efforts that the project to remove these hazards is currently nearing completion and the area is being made safe for hiking once again.

The **Extra Mile Award** recognizes those volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to projects such as a book, map, or advocacy. This year, the

award recognizes four individuals.

Ed Goldstein and **Terry Murphy** have both collected GPS data for the Trail Conference maps and in doing so have individually logged many hours and miles. As TC life member Herb Chong points out, without their efforts we would not have collected the data we needed.

John Mack is recognized for his outstanding efforts to help get the Highlands Water Protection Act approved. Jane Daniels, chair of the board of directors, commented that the hours John spent organizing the effort, copying letters, and forwarding them to Trenton made a difference.

Don Pachner is honored for his efforts in creating insurance policies that are both useable and affordable by hiking organizations. In the words of TC life member Irene Szabo, "He has labored long in an arena that most mortals shun for its complexity and crashing tedium, to the benefit of all of us and our hard-won little budgets."



\$2.5 M FOR TRAILS continued from page 1

cantly degraded. Reconstructing the Appalachian Trail and other trails on Bear Mountain is the perfect opportunity to undertake a high profile, multiyear trail project that can serve as a focus for the Conference's recruiting and training programs.

The Trail Conference aims to raise at least \$250,000 to initiate the:

- Design and building of permanent, sustainable routes for the AT and other Bear Mountain trails consistent with Appalachian National Scenic Trail standards and that will accommodate heavy trail use;
- Recruitment and training of new trail volunteers; and
- Demonstration and interpretation of trail building, the AT experience, including leave-no-trace philosophy, and the significance of partnership efforts to conserve and protect public access to open space.

Bear Mountain offers challenges and opportunities above and beyond typical trail building projects. The project will be highly visible to the public, and the scale of the work will rival other major building projects we have tackled in recent years. The project offers a great opportunity not only to build trails, but also to build our teams of volunteer trail workers.

The Conference expects the Bear Mountain project to attract new volunteers who will learn the techniques and skills of trail building and trail maintenance. These new people, added to an already sizable corps of volunteers, will allow the Trail Conference to take care of an ever-growing system of hiking trails. These expectations are based on recent experience with projects such as the building of the Howell Trail in Storm King State Park, the relocation of the Popolopen Bridge in Bear Mountain State Park, and the building of the Pochuck boardwalk and suspension bridge on the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey. In each instance, Trail Conference volunteers successfully completed technically challenging projects demanding much skill and hard labor. The crews worked and

learned together, and have since been applying their knowledge and skills elsewhere in our trail system.

Increased trail access for people with disabilities and improved links among key natural, historic, and cultural features are additional goals for the Bear Mountain project, which is now in the design stage with a target of beginning work in 2005.

Geographic Information System

GIS is an advanced mapping tool for combining maps and data. It is a technology that can be applied to virtually every Trail Conference program: trail land protection, protecting view sheds, planning construction of new trails, tracking trail maintenance needs, monitoring species and the environment, and mapping trails and other recreational and cultural assets. GIS technology will greatly enhance the quality and effectiveness of Trail Conference work.

The cost of computer hardware and software and the employment of an experienced GIS operator for a period of three to five years will be a minimum of \$250,000.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

"Connecting people to nature," says Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell, "means having enough high quality, natural areas to connect with and hike through. As avid outdoor enthusiasts, Trail Conference members have long been on the forefront of conservation efforts in the region. The vision that prompts this capital campaign is in that tradition."

Your financial support is essential. All Trail Conference members will be invited to participate in this ambitious campaign. Together we can preserve and expand responsible public access to a regional network of hiking trails and open spaces for now and the future.

For information on how to give, contact Development Director Jim Davis at jfdavis@nynjtc.org or by calling the office at 201-512-9348.

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mary Smart, Co-chair
John Gunzler, Co-chair
George L. Becker, Jr.
Lisa Cargill
Chris Connolly
Jane Daniels
James Davis
Edward Goodell
Herbert Hochberg
Peter Kennard
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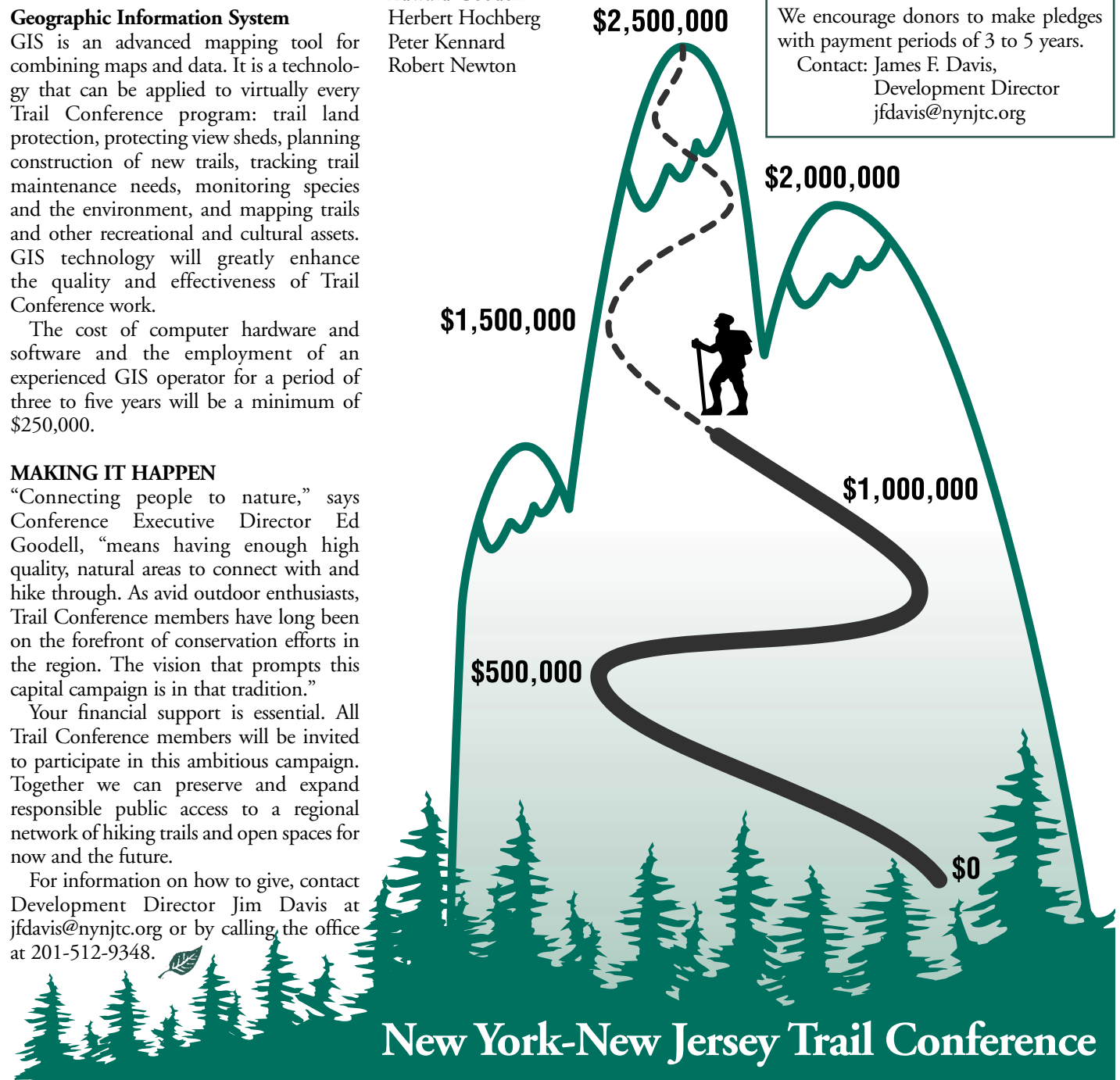
Make Your Gift to the Campaign

The Trail Conference accepts gifts in many forms, but the most common forms are:

- Cash or check
- Appreciated securities
- Planned Gifts including charitable annuities, trusts, and bequests
- Real estate
- Life insurance

We encourage donors to make pledges with payment periods of 3 to 5 years.

Contact: James F. Davis,
Development Director
jfdavis@nynjtc.org



New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

FAVORITE HIKE



By Georgette Weir

Schunemunk Mountain State Park



GEORGETTE WEIR

Hiker/photographer Herb Chong zeroes in on the beautiful pink and white conglomerate of Schunemunk Ridge.

Location: Salisbury Mills, Orange County

Length: 8+ miles

Rating: Strenuous

Features: At nearly 1700 feet, Schunemunk, one of New York's newest state parks, is the highest point in Orange County. An 8-mile long open ridge offers expansive views of the Hudson Highlands, Shawangunks, Catskills, Hudson River, and everything in between. Underfoot on the ridgetop is an unusual pink conglomerate, pebbly with white quartz stones up to 6 inches in diameter.

Terrain: steep slopes, rocky footpaths

How to get there: From Route 9W, take Quaker Ave. exit; turn left at end of exit; then right at Rt. 32 light, then left immediately after bridge (there is a sign for Storm King Art Center) onto Orrs Mills Road. In about 2 miles, look for left turn onto Otterkill Road; after crossing Moodna Creek, turn left onto Taylor Road. Look for hikers' parking area on left in about one mile.

Watch out for: Deer ticks, rattlesnakes, copperheads, trains, unmarked trails, getting lost. Is it worth it? Yes, see Features, above.

Hike Description: This loop will take you on several (more if you get lost; a map, #8 from the Trail Conference, is highly recommended) of the more than 25 miles of trails that criss-cross Schunemunk. From the parking area, cross Taylor Road and follow paved road past a barn, meadows, and caretaker's cottage, where pavement ends at a gate. Where road turns left, look for yellow blazes of Jessup Trail going west. Follow yellow through woods, meadow, along a woods road that parallels railroad for half a mile, then cross tracks (look and listen first), and turn onto red-blazed Otterkill Trail for 150 feet. Yellow leaves red to follow the course of the Baby Brook up the mountain. At about 1.8 miles from parking area, you meet the Barton Swamp Trail (red). Follow this 1.5 miles to where the Western Ridge Trail (blue dot on white) joins on left. This short trail takes you quickly and steeply up to the western ridge and the yellow blazes of the Jessup Trail. Turn left on yellow, enjoying the views and the ridge rocks (short side trail marked by cairns takes you to the Megaliths), and follow it back to where you will retrace your steps.

This hike was featured as a NY-NJ Trail Conference Hike of the Week in the Poughkeepsie Journal, September 16, 2004

BOOKNOTES



Green Enchantments: A Catskill Outdoor Guide and Collected Essays

Catskill Press, an Imprint of Ruder Finn Press, 2004

By Michael Boyajian

Reviewed by Georgette Weir

Author Michael Boyajian is a New York City-based attorney who, with his wife, has a second home in the Catskills, and he clearly loves and has extensively explored the region. His approach to his subject is meandering and personal; the book seems part vacation journal, part regional advertisement. Boyajian describes hikes, cultural attractions, favorite campsites, a horseback ride, the nirvana of pancakes at Sweet Sue's in Phoenicia (a heavenly experience familiar to many Catskill hikers to which Boyajian dedicates two full pages). His recommended destinations include some not commonly found on visitor itineraries and many of his hikes are of the non-peak-bagging variety, a benefit for those looking to enjoy Catskills' woods-walking without the rigor of a strenuous climb. Bluestone Wild Forest just outside of Kingston, is one such place cited by the author.

Haiku (or haiku-like) lines appear on nearly every page; random Catskill-related facts are presented in boxes; and photos by the author are printed as full-page, four-color images, unfortunately often lacking clarity and vibrancy. Photo subjects are not identified.

Boyajian's writing style is informal, a bit labored, occasionally repetitive, and inconsistently informative (sometimes he gives specific road directions to destinations, sometimes not, for example). You will need to get trail maps and detailed road maps to follow up on many of his hiking suggestions. Back pages include useful lists of festivals, relevant organizations (no mention of NY-NJ TC, however), public and private campgrounds, outdoor activities in the various regions, and three pages of out-

door guide services. This book is probably most useful to folks looking to get to know the variety the Catskills has to offer rather than to those seeking a singularly or ruggedly outdoors adventure.

A Guide to Green New Jersey: Nature Walks in the Garden State

Lucy D. Rosenfeld and Marina Harrison Rutgers University Press, 2003

Reviewed by Alice L. Tufel

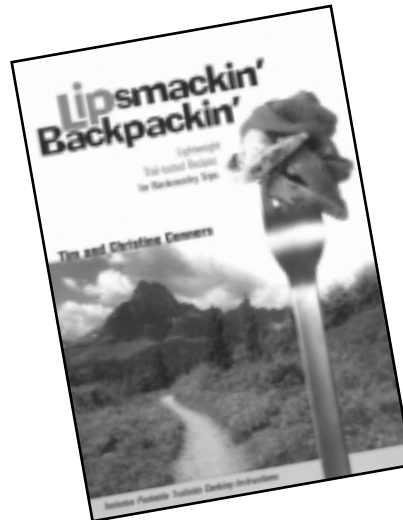
Two elements made this book stand out for me: It is nicely written, and it made me want to get out and try the walks. The authors of this attractively produced guidebook have written six previous guidebooks together, and their writing and editing experience is evident.

The authors divide the state into 40 regions (more in central and northern New Jersey than in the south), and provide several hikes for each region. While their focus is not on rigorous hiking (although some strenuous hikes are noted), the authors have chosen a good variety of trails and terrain in quiet areas that provide an escape from civilization for "hikers, bikers, beachcombers, gardeners, power walkers, and strollers of all kind." Outings are described in federal/state parks, gardens and arboreta, mountains, forests, nature centers and preserves, rail-trails, vineyards, orchards, and corn mazes.

Step-by-step trail descriptions are not given, but more than enough information is here to whet your hiking appetite and get you started, including descriptions of the vegetation, wildlife, and views you can expect to find along the way, interesting historical details, good precautionary tips, and seasonal guidance. They also give an indication of solitariness versus popularity of a given area, as well as relative difficulty and whether an outing is good for children. The descriptions include directions for getting to each area by car (those reliant on

public transport must find their own info), hours for public parks, and telephone numbers for up-to-date information about fees, hours, trail maps, and so forth. All that seems to be missing is a better indication of hiking mileage.

Helpful ancillary material includes black-and-white photographs, a good introduction with sensible hiking tips, a useful index, and the authors' guide for choosing an outing according to tastes and interests. Recommended for both beginning hikers and veterans of all levels who want to do more exploring in New Jersey.



Lipsmackin' Backpackin' Lightweight Trail-tested Vegetarian Recipes for Backcountry Trips

by Christine and Tim Conners Globe Pequot Press, 2004

Reviewed by Josh Erdsneker

Cold oatmeal, Ramen noodles, hot cocoa from a packet, and if I'm lucky, a few Snickers bars; that's what I usually pack when I'm on a backpacking trip. I never complained, I thought it was a rite of passage that backpackers suffer and eat like college kids. However, armed with the straight forward recipes from *Lipsmackin' Backpackin' Lightweight Trail-tested Vegetarian Recipes for Backcountry Trips*, by Christine and Tim Conners, you can now call me Emeril of the Woods!

This cookbook convinced me there was a better way to eat in a one-pot environment in the backcountry. The book is laid out in an easy-to-follow format, with the At Home work and On The Trail directions separated to help the skilled or unskilled chef with their preparations.

My cold oatmeal has been replaced by either a zesty serving of Crimson Skies Oatmeal, (page 27) or with a few tasty Niagara Bars (page 37), which took me less than 45 minutes to bake. The dinner and drink recipes, for the most part, are easy to prepare at home and easy to complete after a long day of hiking.

One word of caution for those hungry trail-going chefs: to successfully follow many of the recipes in this book, you will need to plan ahead and spend a few hours in your kitchen before heading out. Also, owning a dehydrator will make more of the recipes a reality.

FLURRY OF BRIDGE BUILDING

continued from page 4

- Park staff's rebuilding of the third bridge over Pine Meadow Brook, which carries the 7 Hills, Kakiat, and Pine Meadow Trails.

- A bridge built on the Hillburn-Torne-Sebago (HTS) Trail between the Ramapo Torne and the Russian Bear by West Hudson Trail Crew member and HTS trail maintainer Roland Breault.

- Last, but by no means least, another Eagle Scout bridge project is proposed by Scoutmaster and AMC NY-NJ Trails Chair George Cartamil for the southern end of the 1777 Trail, near its Rt. 9W trailhead.

So, every time you pass over one of the noted structures, stop and think of the time, effort, and money that has been dedicated toward that purpose. Then consider volunteering some of your time to this cause, as a payback for all you derive from the combined efforts of so many others. Call Volunteer Projects Director Josh Erdsneker at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348 and sign on as a trail maintainer or trail crew member. We will train you.

—Pete Heckler

HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs



The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikers are welcome subject to club regulations and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Wear hiking boots or strong, low-heeled shoes. Bring food, water, rain gear, first aid kit, and a flashlight in a backpack. Leaders have the right and responsibility to refuse anyone whom they believe cannot complete the hike or is not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are relative terms; call leader if in doubt.

More than 85 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers' Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Club Codes

Only those clubs with hikes offered in this issue are listed below. Please call numbers listed to confirm.

ADK-MH	ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter	NYR	New York Ramblers
ADK-R	ADK Ramapo Chapter	PMNHA	Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area
GAC	German-American Hiking Club	SCS	Sierra Club NJ Singles
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	UCHC	Union County Hiking Club
NYHC	New York Hiking Club	UOC	University Outing Club
		WTW	Woodland Trail Walkers

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference Office. The deadline for the January/February issue is November 15, 2004.

NOVEMBER

MONDAY, NOV. 1

UCHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Easy, pretty 3-mile hike to Birchwood and Crystal Lakes.

TUESDAY, NOV. 2

NYHC. Great Kills Park, Staten Island, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 10:45 am at Staten Island Ferry waiting room, Battery Park. Easy 5 miles on this part of the Gateway National Recreation Area, including Great Kills Harbor and the Crooke's Point beach area.

UCHC. Wyanokie Circular, NJ. Leader: MaryDell Morrison, 908-684-5175. Meet: 10 am at Weis Ecology Center. Variety of trails, up to 5 hours; for experienced hikers.

THURSDAY, NOV. 4

UCHC. Schunemunk Mountain, NY. Leaders: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderately strenuous hike up to the Megaliths and along the ridge. Up to 5 hours; for experienced hikers. Steady rain cancels.

SATURDAY, NOV. 6

UCHC. Watchung Trail Maintenance, NJ. Call Trailside Nature & Science Center at 908-789-3670 to pre-register. Meet: 9:30 am. No experience necessary. Pruning, removing blow-downs, removing invasives - have fun while giving back a little something to the trails.

UCHC. Cheesequake Park, Matawan, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate hike with some hills and wet spots; pine barrens, freshwater swamp, and sandy soils. Steady rain cancels.

NYHC. Long Path to Closter Dock Road, Palisades. Leader: Judy Levine, 718-482-9659; call 8:30 - 10:30 pm. Meet: George Washington Bridge bus station; call leader for time. Moderate 8 miles on the upper trail along the Palisades, some ups and downs. Return by bus. Rain cancels.

WTW. Farny Highlands, NJ. Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 973-252-8122; call leader to confirm and for directions. Meet: 9:30 am. Moderately strenuous 6 miles on the Beaver Brook Trail. Rain date: Nov. 7.

ADK-MH. Bear Mountain, NY. Leader: Sue Mackson, 845-471-9892 or susiem6@juno.com. Meet: Home Depot Plaza, Wappingers Falls, 9:30 am. Moderately strenuous 5-mile hike with 1,100' elevation gain. From Route 9D we will cross Bear Mountain Bridge and go up the Appalachian Trail to Perkins Memorial Tower with great views of the Hudson. This is the oldest section of the Appalachian Trail. Return and possible climb up to viewpoint at Anthony's Nose and beyond; approximately 600' elevation gain in 2.5 miles.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. About 3 miles at a moderate pace. Unusual Hemlock Falls circular; some steep trails.

SUNDAY, NOV. 7

IHC. Popolopen Torne, Harriman State Park, NY. Leaders: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9 am at parking area on Rt. 9W north, Fort Montgomery, NY. Strenuous 8-mile hike. The bridge has been replaced, thanks to Trail Conference volunteers, so we can again enjoy the steep, rocky climb to summit of Popolopen Torne with its 360-degree view. End with a walk through historic Fort Montgomery.

NYHC. Lost Brook Preserve, NJ. Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-9457; call 7-8 am. Meet: 10:15 am at upper level ticket booths, George Washington Bridge bus station. Easy 6-mile hike in this lovely preserve close to the city.

SCS. Singles Hike at Pyramid Mountain, NJ. Leader: David Ogens, bandit29@aol.com. Meet: 9:45 am at Pyramid Mt. Visitor Center. 5-6 miles at moderate pace to see beautiful views, streams, a waterfall, and Tripod Rock. All are welcome; must sign liability waiver. Non-members \$3. Rain cancels.

UCHC. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, NJ. Leader: Phyllis Brown, 908-753-8812. Meet: 10 am at Saffin Pond. Full day, moderately paced hike to the highest point in Morris County (1,395'). Some trails shared with bikes/horses. Expect to finish by 3 pm. Rain cancels.

TUESDAY, NOV. 9

UCHC. Delaware Water Gap. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Up a very steep trail for a spectacular view, then across the bridge for a gradual descent. 7 miles; slow going up but fast on the level. Up to 5 hours; for experienced hikers.

THURSDAY, NOV. 11

NYHC. Tappan to Nyack, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 11 am at commuter statue, Port Authority Bus Terminal. 6 easy miles along a rail trail (abandoned railway with tracks removed).

UCHC. Paradise Rock, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Dave & Naomi Sutter, dsutter@aol.com. Meet: 10 am at Tiorati Circle, Harriman. Strenuous hike; up to five hours - no beginners. Steady rain cancels.

SATURDAY, NOV. 13

IHC. Highlands Trail, NJ. Leader: Jim McKay, 973-583-0756. Meet: 9:30 am at Byram Plaza shopping center, Rt. 206 and Lackawana Ave, Byram, NJ. Moderate 8.5 mile hike from Rt. 206 to Waterloo Rd.

ADK-R. Diamond Mountain Educational Adventure. Leader: call 845-354-0738 to register. Easy 2 miles.

ADK-R. From Lake to Pond. Leader: call 845-354-9165 to register. Moderate 8.5 miles.

PMNHA. Singles Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Moderate hike designed for those who are unattached, but all are welcome.

WTW. Hacklebarney State Park, Chester, NJ. Leader: Hermann & Marlene Memmer, 973-267-0539; call leader to confirm and for directions. Meet: 10 am. Moderate hike of 6 miles.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832; call before 9 pm. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove Parking, corner Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 5-mile hike with steep up at beginning; no beginners. Rocky ups and downs. Steady rain cancels.

SUNDAY, NOV. 14

UOC. Cattus Island County Park, NJ. Leader: Coralyn Gorlicki, 732-548-2315. Meet: call leader. Easy 3-4 miles just north of Toms River, with views of salt marshes and forest trails on Barnegat Bay.

SCS. Singles Hike at South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Ron Pate, 973-364-7573 (option #2). Meet: 9:45 am at Turtleback Rock entrance off Walker Rd. in W. Orange. 4-5 leisurely miles; beautiful waterfall and some very inviting woods in the heart of suburbia. All are welcome; must sign liability waiver. Non-members \$3. Rain cancels.

ADK-R. Ramapo Reservation Circular, NJ. Leader: call 845-362-8470 to register. Moderate 7 miles.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Eck Khoon Goh, 908-790-0939. Meet: 10 am at Coles Ave., intersection with New Providence Rd. Brisk 4-5 miles with some rocky trails. Rain cancels.

TUESDAY, NOV. 16

UCHC. High Point to Sunrise Mt. on the AT, NJ. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 9:30 am at Sunrise Mt. for shuttle; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 10 miles. Up to 5 hours; for experienced hikers.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 17

PMNHA. Pyramid Mountain, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 to register. Meet: 10 am; must pre-register. Moderate hike for adults only.

THURSDAY, NOV. 18

UCHC. Ramapo Circular, NJ. Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 am at Ramapo Valley County Reservation, Darlington; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 8-9 miles on variety of trails, including some new ones in Camp Glen Gray area. Up to 5 hours; for experienced hikers. Steady rain cancels.

SATURDAY, NOV. 20

WTW. Patriots' Path, Mendham, NJ. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194; call leader to confirm and for directions. Meet: 10 am. Easy 4-mile hike.

ADK-R. Green Pond and Surebridge Mountain Circular, NJ. Leader: call 201-816-9465 to register. Moderately strenuous 9.5 miles.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 am at visitors center; call for directions. Enjoy a casual 4-mile hike. \$4 fee for those without park passes. Steady rain cancels.

ADK-MH. Storm King Mountain, NY. Leader: Bob Ellsworth, 845-435-5072 or eggbert@us.ibm.com. Register by Nov. 18. Meet: 8 am, McDonalds parking lot in Wappingers Falls on Route 9. Moderately strenuous hike from near Cornwall Landing. We will also hike over Butter Hill on our way to the top. You will need good boots, plenty of water, snack, and a lunch.

SUNDAY, NOV. 21

GAC. Tuxedo Circular, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Mathias Wuethrich, 908-253-9042. Meet: 10 am at RR station in Tuxedo. Moderate and easy hikes.

IHC. Ringwood Ramble, NY. Leader: Susan Clark, 973-962-0926. Meet: 9 am at Skylands Manor parking lot A, Ringwood. Moderate hike on variety of trails and woods roads to Bear Swamp Lake.

NYR. Jaynes Hill, Long Island's Highest Point (401'). Leader: Kurt Ramig, 212-924-8020. Meet: 7:20 am at Penn. Station LIRR information booth for 7:39 train to Huntington, NY; will return from Massapequa. Follow Walt Whitman Trail from his birthplace, then Nassau Greenbelt Trail to its end, passing through Bethpage State Park.

PMNHA. Limestone Quarry Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Easy hike to the old quarry on Turkey Mt., where dolomitic marble was mined.

ADK-MH. Appalachian Trail, MA. Leader: Russ Faller, 845-297-5126 before 9:30 pm. Please call to confirm. Meet: 8 am at Arlington High School parking lot, Rt. 55 Freedom Plains, NY. Strenuous 12.9-mile hike with 800' ascent on Appalachian Trail south of Great Barrington in Massachusetts. The hike offers a scenic ridge walk through Ice Gulch. The last third is mostly flat and easy. Bring food and water. Rain cancels.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24

UCHC. Hacklebarney State Park, Long Valley, NJ. Leader: Mickey Siegel, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. About 5 miles; 2 hours. A gorgeous gorge along the Black River.

FRIDAY, NOV. 26

UCHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10 am at visitors center; call for directions. Brisk, scenic hike of 4-5 miles. \$4 fee for those without park passes. Rain cancels.

SATURDAY, NOV. 27

PMNHA. Home for the Holidays, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Moderate hike to burn off those extra calories from all the homemade delicacies.

WTW. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, NJ. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194; call leader to confirm and for directions. Meet: 10:15 am. Moderately easy hike of 6+ miles in attractive surroundings.

SUNDAY, NOV. 28

ADK-R. Nice and Easy. Leader: call 845-729-4046 to register. Moderate 6-7 miles.

IHC. AT Connection, NJ. Leader: Steve Rikon, 973-962-4149. Meet: 9 am at A&P/Hewitt Post Office shopping center, Warwick Tpk., Hewitt. Strenuous 8 miles. Work off that turkey as we connect Wawayanda State Park to Bearfort Ridge on the AT; great views over Greenwood Lake to Sterling Ridge. Shuttle to start.

NYHC. Richmond Town Circular, NY. Leader: Steve & Betty Soffer, 718-720-1593; call 7-9 pm. Meet: Take 10:30 am Staten Island Ferry and meet leaders at SIRT station in rear of ferry terminal. Moderate 8 miles with ups and downs. Tour around the Greenbelt, with a stop at new nature center. Heavy snow or rain cancels.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Carol McNichol, 201-795-2094. Meet: 10 am at Coles Ave., intersection with New Providence Rd.; call for directions. Brisk 4-5 miles with many rough trails. Steady rain cancels.

TUESDAY, NOV. 30

UCHC. Sterling Forest, NY. Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 am at Sterling Lake Visitor Center; call for directions. 6-7 miles from Sterling Lake to Blue Lake; short road walk. For experienced hikers.

DECEMBER

THURSDAY, DEC. 2

UCHC. Harriman State Park, Arden. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 am at Elk Pen parking lot; call for directions. Moderately strenuous hike, with mines, the Lemon Squeezer, Times Square. Up to 5 hours; for experienced hikers. Steady rain cancels.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

ADK-R. Schuber Trail, NJ. Leader: call 201-816-9465 to register. Moderate 6.7 miles.

IHC. Reeves Meadow, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Joel McKenzie, 973-694-3056. Meet: 9 am at Reeves Meadow visitor center, Seven Lakes Dr., Sloatsburg, NY. Strenuous 10+ miles through several valleys and along a few ridges; to Pine Meadow Lake or Ramapo Torne or both.

NYHC. Blue Trail on Staten Island, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 9:15 am at Staten Island Ferry waiting room, Battery Park. Moderate 8 miles, mostly flat. Hike through Staten Island Greenbelt, starting at Clove Lakes Park; good and varied scenery.

WTW. Dingman's Falls, Poconos, PA. Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 973-252-8122; call leader to confirm and for directions. Meet: 9:30 am. Moderately easy 5-mile hike.

ADK-MH. Fahnestock State Park, NY. Leader: Bob Ellsworth, 845-435-5072 or eggbert@us.ibm.com. Register by Dec. 2. Meet: 8 am at McDonald's parking lot in Wappingers Falls on Route 9. Moderate hike along railroad bed built in 1862 to carry ore from the mines in the area. You will need good boots, plenty of water, snack, and a lunch.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

ADK-R. Doodletown Circular, NY. Leader: call 845-359-2465 to register. Easy 5 miles.

IHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Eck Khoon Goh, 908-790-0939. Meet: 9 am at Locust Grove parking lot, South Mt. Reservation, Millburn. Easy but brisk 5-mile hike on wooded trails, with views of falls and millponds.

SCS. Singles Hike at Eagle Rock Reservation, NJ. Leader: David Ogens, bandit29@aol.com. Meet: 9:45 am at Highlawn Pavilion parking off Eagle Rock Ave. in W. Orange. 4-5 moderate miles. All are welcome; must sign liability waiver. Non-members \$3. Rain cancels.

GAC. Downtown Discovery, New York City. Leader: Wolfgang Hahn, 212-423-9295. Meet: 10 am at 195 Broadway, corner of Fulton St. Easy hike.

PMNHA. Life is Green Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Moderate hike on Turkey Mt. to look for signs of green life.

TUESDAY, DEC. 7

UCHC. Culvers Lake to Blue Mt. Lake Rd. on the AT, NJ. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 9:30 am at Blue Mt. Lake for shuttle; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 11 miles. Up to 5 hours; for experienced hikers.

THURSDAY, DEC. 9

UCHC. Ramapo Mountain State Forest, NJ. Leader: Al Leigh, 973-471-7528. Meet: 10 am at Ramapo Mt. upper parking lot; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 8 miles, with lunch at Cannonball Lake in Yaw Paw. Up to 5 hours; for experienced hikers. Bad weather cancels.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

ADK-R. North Hill Education Adventure. Leader: call 845-354-0738 to register. Easy 2 miles.

PMNHA. Fire and Ice Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Strenuous 4-6 miles, kicking up our internal fires as we hike through the icy cold forests.

Continued on back

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WTW. South Mountain Reservation, W. Orange, NJ. Leader: Hermann & Marlene Memmer, 973-267-5939; call leader to confirm and for directions. Meet: 10 am. Moderate 5-6 mile hike.

UHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate 2-hour hike through beautiful park with a stream, lake, and other natural beauties. Steady rain cancels.

ADK-MH. Dry Brook Ridge Trail, NY. Leader: Dawn Hamilton, 845-926-6208 before 10 pm or DawnLH333@yahoo.com. Meet: call leader for info. Moderately strenuous 8-mile hike in the Catskills with 1,700' of ascent on the Dry Brook Ridge Trail to Penguin Rocks. On the way back we will take the Huckleberry Loop Trail to provide some different scenery. This will require spotting cars. There are alternatives if participants do not wish to spot cars. Heavy precipitation cancels.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12

ADK-R. East Hudson Ramble, NY. Leader: call 914-337-6612 to register. Moderate 8 miles.

UHC. Echo Lake Park, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Partly hilly and woody walk and partly level paths, returning by lunch time. Steady rain cancels.

ADK-MH. South Taconic Mountains, NY. Leader: Russ Fallor, 845-297-5126 before 9:30 pm. Meet: call leader for info. Strenuous 8-mile hike with 1,500' ascent in the South Taconic Mountains. We will start on the Robert Brook Trail and climb to the South Taconic Trail, which we will follow over Brace and South Brace Mountains to wild Riga Lake. Crampons and/or snowshoes may be required. Heavy rain or bad driving conditions cancel.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14

PMNHA. Silas Condict Park, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 to register. Meet: 10 am; must pre-register. Moderate hike for adults only.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16

UHC. Kittatinny Valley State Park, NJ. Leader: Pat Gaburo, 973-367-4074. Meet: 10 am; call for directions and to register. This newest NJ State Park is headquarters for recently acquired rails-to-trails of the Paulinskil and Sussex railroads. Park has 4 miles of dirt roads and abandoned RR beds, many fishing lakes, a mansion, and an operating airport.

SATURDAY, DEC. 18

ADK-R. Allis and the AT. Leader: call 201-871-3531 to register. Moderate 6 miles.

PMNHA. Get Ready Resolution Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Moderate. I'll get in shape, eat healthy, and hike at Pyramid Mountain - at least today!

WTW. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194; call leader to confirm and for directions. Meet: 9:30 am at Sloatsburg RR station. Moderately easy hike.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 am at visitors center. \$4 fee for those without park passes. Casual 4-mile hike. Steady rain, ice, or snow cancels.

ADK-MH. North and South Lakes, NY. Leader: Mary "Trish" Cina, 845-339-7170 or Trishmary37@aol.com. Meet: call leader for info. An easy snowshoe/hike along the footpath around North/South Lakes in Haines Falls. A great snowshoe for beginners and suitable for children. Please bring a snack and plenty of water. Heavy rain and/or bad road conditions cancels.

SUNDAY, DEC. 19

IHC. Fanny Highlands, NJ. Leader: Peter Beck, 201-274-4471. Meet: 10 am at Fisherman's parking lot, Split Rock Rd., Rockaway, NJ. Moderately strenuous 6 miles with moderate ups and downs; conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

PMNHA. Winter Solstice Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 to register. Meet: 3 pm; must pre-register. Take a break from the holiday hustle and join us for a moderate hike up to Tripod Rock. \$3 fee.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10 am at Coles Ave., intersection with New Providence Rd. Brisk 4-5 miles; hiking boots mandatory. Rain or falling snow cancels.

TUESDAY, DEC. 21

UHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Pleasant walk up, down, and over trails; possibility of one steep uphill.

THURSDAY, DEC. 23

UHC. Fanny Highlands, NJ. Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 9:30 am at Split Rock Rd. parking; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 9 miles from Timberbrook Rd., around north end of Split Rock Reservoir, then back. Shuttle required. Bad weather cancels.

SATURDAY, DEC. 25

IHC. Christmas at Skannataki, NY. Leader: Larry Spinner, 845-356-5219; call 8-10 pm only. Meet: 9:30 am at Lake Skannataki parking area, Seven Lakes Dr., Harriman State Park. Join us as we celebrate the season; will it be white? Moderately strenuous hike; conditions may require crampons or snowshoes (those without proper gear may be turned away). If in doubt due to inclement weather, call after 7 am morning of hike.

TUESDAY, DEC. 28

UHC. Hasenclever Iron Trail, NJ. Leaders: Carolyn & Jim Canfield. Meet: 9:30 am at Ringwood Manor, first parking lot; call for directions. About 6 miles through Sterling Forest; new trail connecting Ringwood with Long Pond Iron Works passes various historic sites and ruins. Up to five hours; for experienced hikers.

THURSDAY, DEC. 30

UHC. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 am at Anthony Wayne parking; call for directions. Moderately strenuous hike with a choice of many interesting trails. Up to five hours; for experienced hikers. Bad weather cancels.

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