



83rd Year

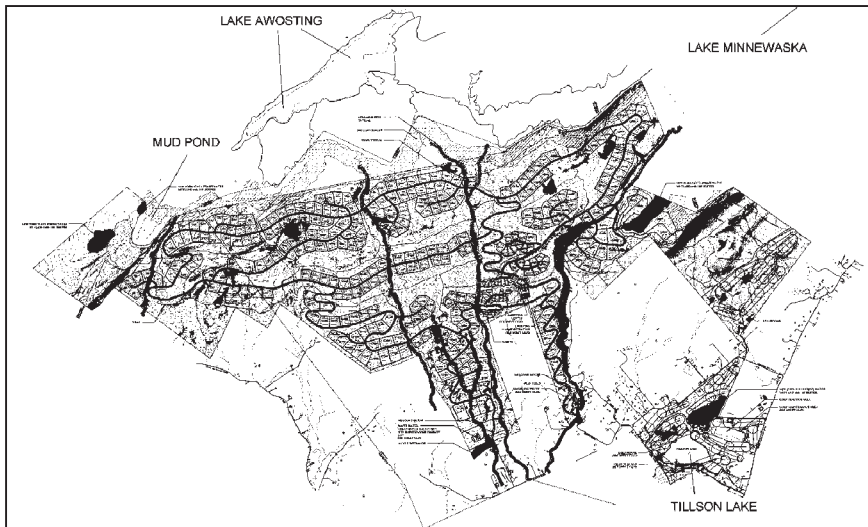
TRAILWALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE...MAINTAINING OVER 1500 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS

MARCH/APRIL 2003

A Battle Brews in the Gunks

Proposed Development Threatens Northern Shawangunk Ridge



The small boxes in this plan for the Awosting Reserve housing development (gray area) represent house lots. They snake across thousands of acres and testify to the scope of the project. Dark lines indicate roads; the thickest lines are streams.

By Amy Little

Local residents, hikers, organizations, elected and appointed officials, and other lovers of the Shawangunk Ridge are mobilizing to protect one of this region's favorite places, which faces the prospect of becoming the site of a massive development.

Landowner John Atwater Bradley and developers Chaffin/Light Associates have submitted a plan for a development on 2,660 acres of pristine land bordering Minnewaska State Park, Sam's Point Preserve, and very close to Mohonk Preserve. This land, known as the Awosting Reserve, would be carved into lots to accommodate 349 luxury housing units, a 296-acre private championship golf course, a 12,500-square-foot clubhouse, an 8,000-square-foot wastewater and site maintenance facility, and a 3,000-square foot sales building. Access to the land would be restricted exclusively to residents of the development.

The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, a project funded by the Trail Conference, is assisting grassroots organizing efforts and local coalition activities.

The Development

The proposed development comes very close to the cliffs around Gertrude's Nose, Castle Point, Hamilton Point, and the Long

Path that runs along Margaret Cliff and Ice Caves Mountain. Coming within a mere half mile (2,625 feet) of Lake Awosting, and surrounding Mud Pond, the

most remote of the ridge's sky lakes, the development crosses Beaver Brook, Dwaar Kill, and goes up the Palmaghatt Ravine.

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New Trail Conference Publications To Be Available This Spring

■ CIRCUIT HIKES IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

Bruce Scofield's complete guide, fully revised and expanded; 25 hikes in Northern New Jersey that can be walked without the need for a car shuttle or significant retracing of steps. 2003, 5th edition, 176 pages. Includes sketch maps for each hike. Price: \$11.95; Members: \$9.55; Postage: \$2.00

■ EAST HUDSON TRAILS

Putnam County New York's Hudson Highlands and Fahnestock State Parks; Sugarloaf Mountain; Breakneck Ridge; Canopus Lake; Anthony's Nose; Appalachian Trail; Beacon Mountain Park, and other open space land boundaries. Includes viewpoints, parking, 50-foot contours, historical notes, as well as multi-use trails (horses, mountain bikes). Part of the new series of updated digitally produced hiking trail maps published by the Trail Con-

ference with UTM grid lines for GPS users and color, elevation-coded, shaded relief. 2003, 6th edition, three maps. Price: \$9.95; Members: \$7.50; Postage: \$.95

■ HUDSON PALISADES TRAILS

The Palisades of the Hudson from the George Washington Bridge in Ft. Lee to High Tor near Mt. Ivy. Highlights the Long Path and the Shore Trail, Hook and Tallman Mountains. The latest in the series of updated digitally produced hiking trail maps published by the Trail Conference with UTM grid lines for GPS users and color, elevation-coded, shaded relief; 50-foot contours, viewpoints. It features increased coverage south of the GWB and a more convenient single-page format to the entire map set. 2003, 2nd edition., two maps. Price: \$7.95; Members: \$5.95; Postage: \$.80

To order books and maps, see page 9 or visit www.nynjtc.org.

Annual Trail Maintenance Workshop Set

Saturday, May 10, Sterling Forest

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference will conduct its annual trail maintenance and construction workshop Saturday, May 10, at the Visitors Center in Sterling Forest State Park, from 9 am to 4 pm.

Conference club and individual members, as well as non-members, who are interested in acquiring or upgrading a working knowledge of trail construction/maintenance, are welcome. There will be lectures indoors and field work on hiking trails in Sterling Forest. Advance registration is required and class size is limited. Non-members of the Trail Conference must include a \$4 per person registration fee, which will be credited toward first year membership dues if you join the Conference at the workshop. Take-home materials and a participant certificate will be provided.

The day will begin with bagels and coffee/tea at 8:30 am. Lectures will begin at 9 am, to be followed by discussions and fieldwork. At 3:30 pm, all participants will return for group socializing and certificate distribution. The workshop will be held rain or shine.

Participants may register for one of two courses:

Maintenance 101: This session will provide training in basic techniques, maintenance standards, the types of problems you may encounter on the trail, and how to solve them. Sign up for this session if you are interested in becoming a maintainer or want to enhance your knowledge of the subject.

Construction/Restoration: Hiking trails are built with switchbacks, side hilling, steps, and water bars; erosion repair and stream bridging may also be needed. Workshop participants will restore a section of trail by using these techniques. If you have ever wanted to learn about heavy trail repairs or to help on a trail crew, this is the session for you.

To register, complete the Registration Form on page 4 and send it to the Conference office by April 15, 2003. An information packet will be sent to all registrants.

Sign-up is on a first come, first served

continued on page 4

Georgette Weir *Editor*
Nora Porter *Managing Editor*

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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.

Board of Directors

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Amy Little *Coordinator, Shawangunk Ridge Coalition*
John Myers *Land Acquisition Director*
Neil Woodworth *Counsel, Trail Conference/ADK Partnership*

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 president's notepad...

Building Bonds with Our Hiking Clubs

The Trail Conference is an 83-year-old hiking organization. Instead of arranging a regular, ambitious schedule of hikes as one might expect, it has always served those that do.

The Trail Conference was created in 1920 to help regional hiking clubs lay out, build, and maintain trails in Harriman State Park. In 1937 a number of hiking clubs were arguing among themselves. These "trail wars" pitted one hiking club against another as each moved trails and removed blazes that the other had carefully done. Raymond Torrey was asked to negotiate among the "war lords" and smooth ruffled feathers. Thus the Trail Conference became a forum in which these clubs could make decisions jointly (with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission); it also became an umbrella organization for coordinating the regional hiking clubs' trail protection and trail maintenance efforts within the Highlands. Until the late 1960s, membership in the Trail Conference was limited strictly to clubs, which had prime responsibility for trail maintenance. Eventually, Conference membership was opened to individuals as well and, as the miles of trails maintained in our region increased, more and more individuals began to maintain trails.

Today, 85 clubs/organizations in New York and New Jersey, with a combined membership of nearly 100,000 individuals, belong to the Trail Conference. It's a diverse group. Some clubs are quite large with membership in the thousands and a broad outings and environmental agenda (Sierra Club chapters are examples). Others have a more specialized existence and focus their energies on a particular region (the Westchester Trails Association) or even on a specific trail (the Long Path North Hiking Club). Others may not even be primarily hiking-oriented—Country Dance New York or New Jersey Search and Rescue, for instance. Other organizations such as Morris County Park Commission or Teatown Lake Reservation manage lands with trails open to the public and offer occasional guided walks in their schedule of varied activities.

What all these groups have in common is an interest in protecting and maintaining our region's footpaths and open space. Their membership in the Trail Conference supports that interest by providing resources—both financial and human—that are combined with those of others to coordinate and promote trail and open space protection, trail maintenance, and to spread the word to the public about the benefits and attractions of hiking.

In addition to leveraging their influence through membership in the Trail Conference, clubs are also entitled to some ben-

efits, one of which is enhanced visibility. For those clubs interested, the TC will link our website to yours. For those clubs not able to host a website, the Trail Conference will do it for you (up to a page or two). Also for those clubs interested, TC will feature a selection of your hikes in each issue of the *Trail Walker* on a space available basis. Another benefit for clubs that maintain a trail is a reduced membership fee; and they can get help, if they need it, with major problems on the trail(s) they maintain.

What has been true from the beginning of the Trail Conference is still true today. Clubs have a say in the development and protection of our region's networks of footpaths. They helped save Sterling Forest, Minnewaska, and Storm King. In July 2002, some clubs sent representatives to the hearing about reopening Storm King. Their testimony helped reopen the trails there, closed for three years because of unexploded ordnance.

The Trail Conference has grown large enough that today's forum is the Trail Council, which handles trails issues and approves trail additions and changes. This

council of peers, meeting six times a year, comprises trails chairs and supervisors. Club trails chairs are not only invited, but also encouraged to attend. Recently, a request from one member club has moved us to rethink situations where a long distance trail is co-aligned along the full length of another trail. Should the shorter trail give up its identity? If so, what do you do when the small trail is named in memory of a long-ago trail worker? Or should there be no mention of a long distance trail when it is superimposed on an existing trail?

The answers to these questions have implications for trail maintenance. The more we know about our member clubs, the more we can benefit them. Possibilities include connecting potential new members to the appropriate club, designing venues that raise the club's visibility, developing programs that provide useful information or services. Let us know what ideas you have that would be useful to your group.

Please send your suggestions to me at info@nynjtc.org.

—Jane Daniels

TRAIL CONFERENCE MEMBER CLUBS

- | | |
|--|--|
| Adirondack Mountain Club | Mohawk Valley Hiking Club |
| Albany Chapter | Mohonk Preserve |
| Knickerbocker Chapter | Monmouth County Park System |
| Long Island | Morris County Park Commission |
| Mid-Hudson Chapter | Morris Trails Conservancy |
| Mohican Chapter | Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Mountain Club |
| New York Chapter | Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy |
| North Jersey Chapter | Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club |
| Ramapo Chapter | Nelsonville Greenway Committee |
| Schenectady Chapter | New Jersey Search & Rescue Inc. |
| Adventures for Women | New York Alpine Club |
| Appalachian Mountain Club | New York Hiking Club |
| Mohawk Hudson Chapter | New York Ramblers |
| Mohican Outdoor Center | Outdoor Bound, Inc. |
| New York-North Jersey Chapter | Outdoor Club of South Jersey |
| At Your Own Risk Hiking Club | Paddling Bares |
| Audubon New York | Palisades Nature Association |
| Boy Scouts of America | Passaic H.S. Hiking Club |
| laopogh Camp Maintenance Committee | Protectors of Pine Oak Woods |
| Northern NJ Council | Ramapo Mountain Ski Club |
| Troop 21 - Hudson Valley Council | Ramsey Outdoorsman Hiking Club/Women of Ramsey Outdoor |
| Troop 8, Brooklyn | Rip Van Winkle Hikers |
| Bruderhof Communities-Catskill | Rock Lodge Club |
| Camp Wyonokie Commission | Sierra Club |
| Campmor Environmental Team | Atlantic Chapter Outings Committee |
| Catskill 3500 Club | Lower Hudson Group |
| Chinese Mountain Club of New York | Mid-Hudson Group |
| Country Dance New York | NJ Chapter |
| Cragsmoor Association | Ramapo-Catskill Group |
| East Hampton Trails Preservation Society, Inc. | Somerset County Hikers |
| Eastern Mountain Sports-Woodbridge | St. Benedicts Backpacking Project |
| Finger Lakes Trail Conference | Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society |
| Flat Rock Brook Nature Association | Teatown Lake Reservation |
| Folk Music Society of New York | The Outdoors Club, Inc. |
| Friends of the Shawangunks | Thendara Mountain Club |
| Frost Valley YMCA Trailwalkers | Torrey Botanical Society |
| German-American Hiking Club | Union County Hiking Club |
| Horace Mann School Outing Club | University Outing Club |
| Hunterdon Hiking Club | Valley Stream Hiking Club |
| Interstate Hiking Club | Vroman's Nose Preservation Corp. |
| Jackson Pathfinders | Weis Ecology Center / NJ Audubon |
| Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference | Westchester Trails Association |
| Long Path North Hiking Club | Woodland Trail Walkers |
| Miramar Ski Club | |



Jim Davis and Ed Goodell

from the Executive Director

More Green for the Trails

A little more than a year ago, Trail Conference members responded overwhelmingly to an appeal for funds to support our efforts to permanently protect the Shawangunk Ridge. In the coming months, we expect to be able to report tangible progress on the land acquisition front. And in this issue, we introduce Amy Little who is helping to organize the grass roots support for protecting the entire ridge. (See article, page 6.)

This is great work but it costs money. No matter how efficient we strive to be, our work ultimately requires funds to be successful. When we commit to protecting a greenway along the entire ridge, we are committing to raising the necessary funds to complete the work.

In a weak economy, those with strong ambitions must find the resources they need to sustain their success or they must reduce their ambitions. I believe that the Trail Conference must exert a strong public presence in the days ahead or hikers and others who seek nature may find favorite trails under pavement, increasing views of subdivisions, and refuges degraded by motorized off-road vehicles.

If the Conference is to meet these challenges it must have sufficient dollars to fund the work that is required; it must also have a membership big enough to make a difference. Such was the inspiration that led to donations from two Conference board members to fund the new position of Development Director.

In January, Jim Davis, a long-time fundraiser who worked most recently as director of planned giving of United Way in New York City, joined the Trail Conference staff as its first Development Director. His job will have two primary goals: increase the number of members and enhance the Conference's fund-raising success.

The Trail Conference members have been very generous over the years. Jim's assignment is to help organize our fundraising work, to build on what is already being done, and to make it more effective. We'll be looking both within and outside the Trail Conference membership for support. Already, 55 percent of our members make gifts beyond their dues; this is a great base to work from. But we need to look beyond that to foundations, government funding, and also to the future in terms of planned and deferred gifts from individuals.

The other important part of his job is to work with the membership, to increase it and retain it. Though our numbers are

stable, there is considerable turnover. We need to find out how to find and retain more members. Part of Jim's research will include traveling our region, getting to know our current members—why they joined, why they renew, what they look for from the Conference, what their interests and skills may be.

Jim was hired after a rigorous search process that included attendance at a day-long, pre-holiday strategic-planning retreat with Conference staff, directors, and volunteers. (See article, page 7.) He begins his work well informed about our mission, traditions, and needs.

His own words say it best: "One of the real strengths I see in the Trail Conference is the incredible amount of volunteer service—more than 37,000 hours contributed last year. We need some people, a handful of people, to put that kind of energy to work in getting the financial resources we need to support the mission. That's something I'll be doing early on—identifying those people. Not just to ask them for money, but to be aware of our needs and to be able to match people up with resources that we know about—members

SHAWANGUNK RIDGE SAVE THE SHAWANGUNK RIDGE!

The Shawangunk Ridge and its contiguous slopes are being threatened by development. Negative effects of these developments could:

- Encroach on our magnificent Shawangunk trails
- Spoil valuable and irreplaceable viewsheds
- Threaten significant water supplies, forest ecosystems, and wildlife habitats

Get involved with the *Shawangunk Ridge Coalition*, a project of the Trail Conference. The Coalition is an alliance of more than 20 local, regional, and national organizations working to protect the entire Shawangunk Ridge.

What You Can Do to Help Save the Ridge

GET INVOLVED!


- Become informed on the issues
- Attend public hearings
- Write letters to elected officials
- **Support** organizing efforts by making a *financial contribution* now. Please make checks payable to: the NY-NJ Trail Conference with *Shawangunk Ridge Coalition* in the memo field. Mail or call 156 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430; 201-512-9348

For more information about the **Shawangunk Ridge Coalition**, please visit: www.shawangunkridge.org or contact Amy Little 845-255-3786; amylittle@shawangunkridge.org or Josh Erdsneker at josh@nynjtc.org; 201-512-9348

SHAWANGUNK RIDGE Your efforts helped protect Sterling Forest, now help us protect the Ridge!

who may know people at foundations, who can take our proposal in to them. It helps a great deal if there is a connection between the people making decisions and the Trail Conference."

Jim's work is an integral part of trail

maintenance and protection. It's a matter of providing the necessary resources. He certainly echoes my thoughts when he says, "We're building a legacy for people who hike in our footsteps." I hope you will join me in welcoming Jim to the team. 

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

Shawangunk Land Buy Update

Public acquisition of land along the Shawangunk Ridge is an important tool in the Trail Conference's goal of preserving this rare and beautiful environment. The Conference recently obtained an option to buy 45 acres from Orange County that contain one of the only two remaining fire lookout towers along the Shawangunk Ridge (TC already has the other fire tower, further north, under option). The Conference also expects to finally close on 13 other parcels from Orange County we have under contract, totaling about 190 acres. The Conference continues to work closely with DEC and the Open Space Institute to acquire parcels in the Wurtsboro area and obtain bridge-financing from the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), which will enable TC to protect another 1,000 acres already under option further south along the ridge.

Town Land Buy Protects LP

The Town of Clarkstown in Rockland, NY, has purchased West Hook, 35 acres atop

a portion of Hook Mountain along the shore of the Hudson River in Valley Cottage. The town paid \$1.7 million to preserve the land, which will enable more of the Long Path in this area to extend through woods and off of Route 9W.

NJ Governor Makes Highlands Protection a Priority

In his January State of the State address, Gov. James E. McGreevey vowed to make preservation of the Highlands a priority of his administration, promising millions in state aid for land preservation. The next day, state Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley Campbell announced that \$50 million of a promised \$100 million for open space preservation over the next three years would be earmarked for the Highlands, which contains the vast watersheds of Newark and Jersey City.

A U.S. Forest Service draft report, released last year, said 5,200 acres a year have been lost to development in the Highlands through the late 1990s, threatening the water system for millions in New Jer-

sey and New York, endangering wildlife and hemming in recreational spaces.

Hamburg Mountain in Vernon Back in State Hands

A contract for New Jersey's \$7.1 million acquisition of Hamburg Mountain in Vernon to spare it from a large-scale ski resort development was signed in January.

Under the deal, the state's Green Acres program is acquiring 1,849 acres of mountaintop from Intrawest Corp. The land had been approved by Vernon for condos, townhouses, and a golf course as part of the firm's plans to convert its Mountain Creek ski resort into a world-class tourist destination. The state is buying 451 acres from Intrawest, and the resort is donating to the state an adjacent 1,398 acres, most of which was previously owned by the state and sold to a prior resort owner in 1986 with deed restrictions to keep the land undeveloped. The land will be managed by the state Division of Parks and Forestry.

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TRAIL NEWS

Old Mine Road Closed in Delaware Water Gap

Old Mine Road in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area from the Depew Recreation area south to the Worthington State Forest boundary will be closed until at least June for road repairs. This means that the Coppermine and Kaiser trailheads on that road are closed until the work is completed. Access to these trails can only be made from the AT, the closest access point being from Camp Road on the eastern side of the ridge. To get to the trail heads south of the closed section you will need to detour down to I-80 and up Old Mine Road through Worthington S. F.

Car Break-ins at Harriman

After subsiding for a while, car break-ins at Harriman State Park resumed in November. They have been reported to date at the following locations: Reeves Meadow, Rt. 106 (old Rt. 210) lots at the White Bar and RD crossings, and Sebago Boat Launch. Break-ins have occurred mid-week as well as on weekends. Park

MAINTAINER'S TOOL KIT

If you have created an efficient gizmo to move heavy objects, an easy whadayacallit to carry paint, or can list the pros and cons you have encountered in using relevant, name-brand handtools, please send your thoughts along to tw@nynjtc.org and share them with other maintainers. A photo or illustration of your thingamajig will be helpful. We will run this as an occasional feature—more often if we get enough submissions.

police remind hikers to leave no valuables in cars, especially credit cards, or anything that might appear potentially valuable.

Please report anything suspicious, or any break-ins, to park police at 845-786-2781.

Hiker Courtesy Lacking?

Harriman Park management reported a confrontation this winter between some hikers and a cross-country skier on a trail designated for skiing only. One of the hikers is alleged to have threatened to strike the skier when confronted about being on the ski trail and damaging the ski track.

Postholes (footsteps deep into snow) can be dangerous to skiers. If hikers need to use a trail that is designated for skiing, they should stay out of ski treads; if on a multiuse trail, courtesy indicates staying out of the ski treads. In other seasons, the protocol is bikers yield to hikers and horses, hikers yield to horses. Of course, as one TC member observes, "We would all be better off if everyone yielded to everyone else and stopped and chatted a bit."

TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES



For the latest schedules, check <http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trvlop.html#crew>

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

Crew Chief: Chris Ezzo: 516-431-1148
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563, email brian@grandrenovation.com
Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324, email clganz@earthlink.net

Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792, email rmmarshall@webtv.net
Monica Resor: 732-937-9098, email adamant@trailstobuild.com

- April 12: Leader, Chris Ezzo - Menomine Trail
- April 13: Leader, Claudia Ganz - Menomine Trail
- April 24: Leader, Bob Marshall - T.B.A. in Harriman S.P.
- April 26: Leader, Claudia Ganz - Twin Forts Trail
- April 27: Leader, Chris Ezzo - Twin Forts Trail
- May 3: Bob Marshall - RD Trail in Harriman S.P.
- May 4: Bob Marshall - RD Trail in Harriman S.P.
- May 8: Leader, Bob Marshall - T.B.A. in Harriman S.P.

NORTH JERSEY

Leaders: Sandy Parr, 732-469-5109
Dick Warner, 201-327-4945
Second Sunday of each month. Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in northern New Jersey.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

continued from page 1

basis; past workshops have been over-subscribed, so be sure to send in your registration early.

Remember to dress for outside work in clothes that you do not mind getting wet or dirty; bring lunch, water, and any other drink or snack you fancy. If you have them,

bring any tools appropriate for the workshop for which you register. Basic maintenance tools are hand clippers, loppers (long-handled branch cutters), and small bow or pruning saws. For the construction/restoration session, the tools are grubs and pick mattocks, pry bars, and shovels.

REGISTRATION FORM

Trail Maintenance Workshop *Saturday, May 10, 2003*

Please check the session you want to attend:

Maintenance "101" Construction and Restoration

I am a Trail Conference Member.

I am not a Trail Conference Member and I enclose a check for \$4.00.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Eve. Phone (____) _____

Do you currently maintain a trail? Yes No

If yes, do you work As an individual or with a club?

Name of club, if applicable: _____

Name of trail you maintain: _____

Check here if you have questions and would like someone to call you.

Return by April 15th with a check payable to: NY-NJ Trail Conference, Trail Maintenance Workshop, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

Trail Initiative in Westchester Depends on Recruiting New Maintainers

Westchester County in New York has about 500 miles of trails, many of which are within county parks. Although not known as a hiking destination, opportunities to enjoy the outdoors abound here. So do opportunities for trail maintenance.

In November, Trail Conference representatives met with Dave DeLucia, Director of Park Facilities for Westchester County Parks, to discuss the feasibility of the Trail Conference maintaining some of these county trails. The proposal is for the East Hudson Trail Committee to maintain trails in George's Island Park, Montrose Point, and Kitchawan Park Preserve, conditional on finding a supervisor and maintainers and not impacting the current volunteers in the East Hudson Trail Committee. The possibility of taking on more trails later depends upon the Trail Conference fulfilling the agreed responsibilities and expanding our volunteer base further. The Trail Conference Board and Trails Council approved the initiative, and the next step is to find people willing to help.

Trail Descriptions

George's Island Park is along the Hudson, south of Peekskill. It has 3.5 miles of trails, most of which are badly in need of maintenance. There is a potential Eagle Scout candidate project of refurbishing trails and building small bridges. The park connects to Montrose Point Park via a short walk along a dead-end street. There are views of and access to the river.

Montrose Point is just north of George's Island Park, also along the Hudson River and south of Peekskill. The property is owned by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and is to be maintained by Westchester County Parks. There are about 1.5 miles of already blazed trails, built by ADK and prison crews. A short connector trail on an easement needs to be built so that hikers can connect with George's Island via a dead-end street.

Kitchawan Park Preserve is on the south side of the Croton Reservoir, adjacent to the North County Trailway. There are about 6 miles of trails that need blazes, side hilling, and water bars. Disused trails need to be revived. One trail connects to the North County Trailway, which as a paved bikepath would not be part of our responsibility. Some, but not all, of the trails are open to horses, but hikers are by far the dominate user group. There is no evidence of horse damage to trails.

Maintainers are required to go out twice a year to work on their trail to make sure it is passable and to report back to their supervisor on work accomplished. Trail Conference supervisors are responsible for providing support to maintainers and interacting with park managers. If you have questions or are interested in joining this new initiative as a supervisor, maintainer, or trail crew member, please contact us by phone at 914-245-1250 or email us at info@nynjtc.org.

—Walt and Jane Daniels,
East Hudson Trails Chairs



Life in the Leaf Litter

By Liz Johnson

As hikers, many of us spend a fair amount of time looking at the ground, searching for secure footing or perhaps marveling at the beauty of the wildflowers that emerge each spring. But how many of us have ever stopped to consider the forest floor in its own right?

The forests we love to hike through are made up of many layers: the canopy above, the midstory trees and shorter shrubs around us, and the smaller plants on the forest floor. The forest floor itself is also made up of layers. There is a surface layer of leaf litter consisting of fallen leaves, small twigs, seeds, and other woody debris that accumulates each year. This natural litter affords hiding places for smaller animals such as woodland mice and salamanders; serves as refugia for seeds, protecting them from predation; and provides nesting ma-



Sowbug

terial for birds and squirrels. A thick layer of litter also helps protect the soil beneath from eroding away and serves to conserve soil moisture.

The soil, in turn is made up of weathered rock, decaying leaves, sticks, roots and other organic matter, moisture, and small pockets of air. It is the soil that pro-



Garden slug

vides both nutrients and support for plants and their network of roots.

Within these layers of the forest floor—the litter and soil—live an amazing community of creatures: the bacteria, fungi, and minute invertebrates. Most of us are familiar with the plants of our forests and the larger animals we might see, such as squirrels, chipmunks, deer, and turkeys. It is the life in the leaf litter and soil of the forest that often remains unknown, yet this community of living creatures is incredibly abundant and diverse. Scientists estimate, for example, that there can be 40,000 to 50,000 individual springtails (one group of invertebrate) representing 40 different species, several hundred thousand individual mites, and several miles of fungal strands in a square meter of woodland soil. Biologist M. B. Usher has even described the leaf litter and soil communities as the

“poor man’s tropical rainforest” because of the incredible diversity of organisms found there: more than a million different species of fungi and a similar number of species of nematodes, plus several tens of thousands of kinds of mites. There is as much—or more—to learn about diversity in the soil here at home as there is in distant (and expensive to travel to) tropical rainforests.

An important function of this community of bacteria, fungi, and invertebrates is the recycling of forest nutrients. The “larger” soil animals such as slugs, snails, and millipedes feed directly on the leaf litter, breaking it into smaller pieces. These smaller pieces are broken down even further by other grazers and detritivores such as sowbugs, mites, diplura, and springtails. Once fragmented, leaf litter is easier for bacteria and fungi to decompose or chemically convert into soluble chemicals and minerals. In fact, 80-to-90 percent of the dead plant and animal matter in forests is broken down and recycled by bacteria and fungi, enabling the nutrients to

be reused by trees and other plants.

Surprisingly, earthworms are not naturally found in the litter and soil of our deciduous forests as native earthworms were eliminated from the northeast by the Pleistocene glaciations. Any earthworms we find today in our yards, gardens, and agricultural lands are recent immigrants from Europe and Asia, brought here inadvertently in ship ballast or the soil of potted plants, or intentionally as garden amendments. Due in part to the proximity of suburban homes and gardens to our forests, and to the popular use of worms as fish bait (that are released if unused), these exotic earthworms are now spreading into our forest ecosystems with potentially harmful consequences for the native leaf litter and soil community, and ultimately the plants.

Life on the forest floor is not just a feast for leaf-eating millipedes, snails, and other herbivores and detritivores. These animals are themselves a food source to a host of predators (spiders, pseudoscorpions, centipedes, and rove and ground beetles, to name a few). And all of these small invertebrates, predator and prey alike, are in turn fed upon by larger forest animals such as birds, snakes, and turtles. Together with



Rove beetle

plants, all are part of the forest food web, eating and being eaten, thus cycling energy and nutrients through the forest ecosystem. The health of our forests depends on decomposition and nutrient cycling, and the integrity of our soil and litter animal community is essential to this process!

On your next hike, take a moment to consider the hidden diversity of the forest. You’ll be amazed at what you discover when you take a closer look at the earth beneath your feet.

■ Liz Johnson is Manager of the Metropolitan Biodiversity Program at the American Museum of Natural History’s Center for Biodiversity and Conservation and serves on the Science Advisory Committee of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. For more information about the Center or to download a pdf of Life in the Leaf Litter, visit their website: <http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/>



Survey Vernal Pools

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection seeks volunteers to assist the Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) in collecting important data on critical habitats for reptiles and amphibians. Volunteers will conduct salamander and frog surveys at vernal pools. Training is scheduled for the first two Saturdays in March.

Capacity is limited; you must be willing to devote at least 40 volunteer hours towards surveying this spring. To register and learn more go to www.njfishandwildlife.com.

ECOLOGY NOTES



Beetle Find Results in Tree Cuttings

Hundreds of trees in Jersey City were to be chopped down this winter because of an infestation by Asian longhorned beetles, which have caused serious tree losses in New York and Chicago.

The state Department of Agriculture planned to cut about 150 trees in a nine-acre area in January, and more than 300 others before spring. The trees will be replaced using federal funds secured through the state Department of Environmental Protection. The one- to two-inch beetles are shiny black with distinctive white spots and long antennae and pose a significant threat to forests. They are thought to have first arrived in this country via wood pallets in overseas shipments.



Acid Rain, Deer Impact Forests

In January, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported on a study issued by Dr. William Sharpe, a Penn State professor and noted authority on acid deposition and its impact on forests, soils, and streams. The paper reports Dr. Sharpe’s conclusion that Pennsylvania’s ailing forests—in particular, their inability to regenerate following timber harvest—are victims of “multiple environmental stresses acting simultaneously.” Sharpe’s research points to acid rain as a key culprit. Sharpe contends that, in addition to deer browsing, changes in soil chemistry caused by acid rain have curtailed the successful regeneration of acid-sensitive tree species after harvest, especially northern red oak. Responsible forest management, he said, should include liming of harvested tracts to encourage better regeneration.

Meanwhile, the Associated Press reported on a study by U.S. Forest Service researchers in northwestern Pennsylvania that showed that forests might be impacted by too many deer. As reported by *Newsday* in January, the study, published in February in the journal *Ecological Applications*, shows larger deer populations may lead to shorter trees and fewer species. Deer change the makeup of forests with their appetites. They prefer certain saplings—such as the sugar maple, pin cherry, and black and yellow birch—leaving other species largely untouched.



West Nile Affects Wildlife

Reports in several newspapers have recently chronicled the widening ecological impact of the West Nile virus. In December, the *Washington Post* reported that in just three years, the virus had spread to nearly every state in the nation, affecting nearly 200 species of birds, reptiles, and mammals. The paper reported Robert G. McLean of the Agriculture Department’s National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, CO, saying: “In my years of working, I’ve never seen a mosquito-borne virus spread so quickly.” Scientists expect the disease to push all the way to the West Coast this spring and likely also begin to spread to tropical regions of our hemisphere. Scientists expect that most populations will eventually adapt to the virus and develop immunity. But much remains uncertain. At present, raptors—including owls and hawks—crows, ravens, and jays have proved to be especially susceptible. A New Jersey report noted that the Mercer County Wildlife Center treated 14 hawks and 20 owls, most for West Nile, in the last six months of 2002; most died. Throughout the state, 798 dead crows tested positive for the disease in 2002.

From the Trail Conference ARCHIVES



Dedication of the Raymond F. Torrey Plaque top of Long Mountain, Oct. 30, 1938.

500 AT DEDICATION OF TORREY MEMORIAL was the headline of the news article in the New York Times on October 30, 1938. Photo courtesy Torrey grandson Warren Millett.

TC Hires Coordinator for Ridge Coalition

In December, the Trail Conference hired Amy Little of New Paltz, NY, to serve as part-time Coordinator for the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition. Ms. Little brings extensive experience in grassroots organizing and coalition building to the new position. From 1993 to 2001 she was Executive Director of the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, which she also founded. Before that she served on the national staff of Citizen Labor Energy Coalition and, in the 1980s, as a regional director for National Citizen Action and National Clean Water Action. She can be reached via amylittle@shawangunkridge.org or at 845-255-3786.

TC Partners with Retired Seniors

The NY-NJ Trail Conference and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) have formed a partnership that will benefit both organizations as well as current TC volunteers.

The Trail Conference will benefit when RSVP volunteers come to help with projects; RSVP can benefit by attracting new volunteers to its organization; and current TC volunteers who join RSVP—whether they are working on trails or helping in the office—become eligible for supplemental accident and liability insurance, travel reimbursement, and the RSVP annual volunteer recognition event. Anyone 55 years of age or over is eligible for

RSVP. When NY-NJ Trail Conference volunteers join RSVP, it can mean added state and national recognition for both groups and attract new sources of support.

RSVP is part of a network of national service programs that provide older Americans the opportunity to apply their life experience to meeting community needs. If you are interested in being part of this program, please call Joshua Erdsneker at the Trail Conference (201-512-9348) or Mary Stuart, RSVP Coordinator (845-291-2176) for more information and an enrollment form. Visit www.seniorservice.org.



Who's who in the office: left to right are office assistants Gary Willick and Laura Semonik, administrative assistant Ramon McMillan, and membership/sales coordinator Nayarid Barahona.

New Faces at the Conference Office

Two dedicated hikers joined the TC office staff in January.

Ramon McMillan is the new Administrative Assistant. Ramon graduated from Berea College in Berea, KY, in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and received an associate's degree in forest technology from SUNY Ranger School in 1996. He is an avid hiker throughout our region and has thru-hiked Vermont's Long Trail and the Adirondack's Northville-Lake Placid Trail. He also has extensive customer service experience and product knowledge in the outdoor gear business, having worked for such retailers as REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc.) and American Terrain.

Nayarid Barahona is now Membership/Orders Coordinator. Nayarid, too, is a hiker and loves to camp. She graduated from Unity College in Maine with an environmental science degree in 2002, and has previously worked at the Wilderness Conservation Society, animal shelters, and refuge parks.

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS

The Trail Conference offers varied opportunities for volunteers to support trails and hiking. Below are some current possibilities. If you want to volunteer with the TC and don't see an opportunity that suits you, please contact Volunteer Projects Director Joshua Erdsneker at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 and he will find a way to get you involved.

Trail Maintainers

What would happen if the trail blazes disappeared? Remember the hike you took last weekend: a dedicated volunteer made your journey through the woods possible. To maintain the hiking trails in good order and protect them from misuse, we need your help. There are more than 60 openings for trail maintainers in New York and New Jersey that need to be filled. Join up now and be apart of the team that makes a difference!

Membership Renewals and Communications Officer

Size does matter! The continued growth and retention of our membership greatly impacts the success of our organization's ability to accomplish its mission. Mailings are an essential communications tool used to contact our members. As a result of this work, the Trail Conference will continue to be a strong advocate for land preservation and a regional force for trail development and maintenance. Come join

the fun and prepare renewal notices and other bulk mailing projects. All you need is a great attitude and be willing to roll up your sleeves to stick and stuff envelopes.

Database Rescue Worker

The Trail Conference's database has become an essential tool for accomplishing our mission. Help develop and maintain this tool so that we operate more efficiently. Responsibilities include assisting the database administrator with routine database maintenance, importing and exporting data sets, creating scripts, developing new views and data entry screens, and developing and designing new database modules. Experience working with flat-file and relational databases is essential. Knowledge of File Maker is not required but would be very useful; knowledge of Ebase is not required but would be very useful.

Goodwill Ambassador

Ambassadors will help members of our hiking family know that they are not alone in good times or bad. Persons in this position will represent the Trail Conference to its members in times of death, illness, celebrations of new births, and other such events. The Goodwill Ambassadors will coordinate visits, writing and sending of condolence cards, and other notes of sentiment to members of the Trail Conference community. Individuals should have neat

handwriting, social graces, and be comfortable making or sending condolence calls and cards.

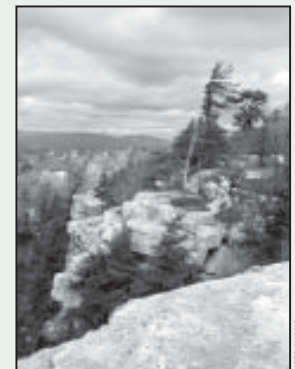
Volunteer Recruitment Specialist

The Trail Conference is a volunteer-powered organization. The ability to recruit and place volunteers in positions of need is essential to the organization's ability to survive. Recruitment Specialists will collect and record potential volunteer interests. Applicants should be able to navigate a computer using a mouse and be comfortable performing basic electronic data entry. While helping out, you will meet people with like interests, help the Trail Conference meet its needs, discover the diversity of the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and cultivate new interests in the fields of land preservation, nature conservancy, hiking, publications, etc.

Public Outreach Representative

Do you remember how excited you felt when you bought your first map and planned your first hike? Empower others to experience the very same feelings by spreading the word to our communities about the Trail Conference and the joys of hiking. Join other TC members at tabling events and share your passion for hiking. While spending three to four hours with fellow Conference members, you'll find new hiking partners and introduce people to the Trail Conference.

COLOR NOTE CARDS



The perfect gift for yourself or a friend. Limited Edition (only 750). Eight photo note cards by Herb Chong; \$12 nonmembers; \$9.60 members (plus \$2 shipping/tax). Fall Color Series. Color photos can be seen on our website: www.nynjtc.org. Only available at the NYNJTC. Order at www.nynjtc.org or use the order form on page 9.

TC Shapes New Strategic Plan

In December, 35 Trail Conference stalwarts—staff and volunteer leaders—gathered to begin work on a new strategic plan. Professional facilitator Jay Vogt led the group through a process that analyzed the Trail Conference's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and solicited the participant's best experiences and visions for the organization's future. Then we ranked a set of strategic priorities for the Trail Conference. Work groups were assigned to fully develop these priorities and project the amount and types of resources that would be needed to implement them. This research is ongoing and will form the basis of TC's next strategic plan and be incorporated into our 2004 plan and budget. Below is a report on the preliminary results of the work in progress.

STRENGTHS

Our primary strength can be summed up in one word—volunteers. The Trail Conference's positive reputation and good will stems from a long history of volunteer accomplishment in trail development, land protection, and hiking publications. Our on-the-ground volunteer presence allows us to have face-to-face relationships with landowners and agency partners. Our volunteers and staff are backed up by stable and generous membership and member clubs.

WEAKNESSES

Our greatest weakness is probably a lack of visibility, which results in a small membership base and an over-utilization of the small pool of volunteers, members, and donors. Participants felt that there is a far larger group of people who would become involved in and supportive of Trail Conference activities if they only knew we existed. Some also felt that our sole focus on hikers to the exclusion of other trail users limits our ability to forge potentially fruitful alliances.

OPPORTUNITIES

Participants felt that there was a huge potential for membership growth, greater synergies with member clubs, and possibilities for corporate partnerships. The flood of new public lands resulting from open space initiatives at the state and local level creates vast opportunities to develop new trails and trail networks both within and between protected open space. The challenge that public agencies face in managing these open space areas with ever shrinking staff will place new demands on the Trail Conference's on-the-ground presence and expertise in the area of stewardship and environmental monitoring. Our successful professional counsel and ad hoc grass roots advocacy ef-

forts could be better coordinated to influence smart growth. There are huge knowledge gaps in the field of recreation ecology that are unlikely to be filled without initiative from the Trail Conference. Our marked and maintained trails represent a huge environmental education opportunity for outreach to K-12 education and other informal learning situations. GIS technology could improve and integrate a number of key Trail Conference functions, including mapping, land acquisition, trail land advocacy, trail maintenance, and environmental monitoring.

THREATS

The biggest threats are the cumulative environmental impacts associated with urbanization and sprawl: reduction and fragmentation of open space, invasive exotics, motorized vehicle use, and habitat destruction. Also, in what is seen as over-reaction, land managers sometimes unreasonably restrict hikers' access to the very lands they have worked so hard to preserve. And finally, to accomplish all of our important work, we constantly struggle to recruit new volunteers and to move them into positions of leadership.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

At the end of the day, strategies were shaped that will be further refined by designated work groups. What follows is a categorization of some of the most popular ideas.

■ **Growth:** It was clearly agreed that the Trail Conference should broaden its membership base and work to create greater synergies with member clubs. Greater visibility is important for growth.

■ **Access:** Our signature work is volunteer trail development and maintenance and everyone agreed that our first priority is to fully support this enterprise. Further, there was a consensus that our maps and hiking books are an important part of providing access to the outdoors. And finally, there was an acknowledgement that improved trailhead parking, signage, and kiosks could make the trail systems more visible and accessible.

■ **Protection:** The Trail Conference has a proven record of leading public efforts to protect open space, and its work to provide connecting corridors between open space areas is unique among conservation organizations. We must continue to focus on protecting these connections within a broader effort to support smart growth initiatives.

■ **Stewardship:** There is a clear need for all trail design and maintenance to incorporate environmental considerations and the Trail Conference is in a good position to expand its established network of

volunteers into the realm of environmental monitoring. Additionally, there are huge knowledge gaps regarding the environmental factors affecting trail lands that the Trail Conference could help fill.

■ **Education:** The concept of using trails and trail lands as outdoor classrooms drew much support. Many felt a corps of trail docents could help educate the public, particularly grades K-12, about the responsible use of the environment.

■ **Volunteer/Technology:** While the Trail Conference may move in new directions, it needs to maintain and improve the volunteer basis of its efforts. If a volunteer wants to and can fill a need, that

should always be the first choice. Additionally, these efforts can be enhanced by the appropriate use of technology, such as geographic information systems. 🌿

—Edward Goodell

Individual and club members are invited to contribute to the strategic planning process by contacting Ed Goodell at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348 or goodell@nynjtc.org.

The expenses associated with this strategic planning process were funded by a grant from two Conference board members. The Andrus-on-Hudson Long Term Care Facility provided the meeting space.

■ VOLUNTEER PROFILE ■

For Walt Daniels TC Volunteering Is a Second Career

Computer guru, trails master in the East Hudson region, supervisor of the AT in Putnam County, webmaster—the list of Walt Daniels' volunteer roles for the Trail Conference goes on and on. Some folks might mistakenly assume that he is, in fact, on the staff.

If he were, here's what he might cost the Conference, according to Volunteer Projects Director Joshua Erdsneker. "Last year, Walt's non-trail contribution was worth an estimated \$76,416. This is calculated using Bureau of Labor Statistics for mean, white-collar, hourly wages in New York, northern New Jersey, and Long Island for a computer systems occupation. Walter worked 1,920 hours at \$39.80 per hour. These figures do not include his trail and publications hours." Sounds like he is really the equivalent of two people.

"We call Walt when the computers break. We call Walt to update the web. We call Walt when we need help. Unfortunately, we don't call Walt enough to say thanks!" Erdsneker says.

Walt rarely stops to look back—he's busy dealing with the present—but when asked, his wife Jane recalls highlights from his more than 20 years of contributions.

Walt first joined the Trail Conference in 1974 and began volunteering with Litter Day in 1979. Over the years the number and variety of his activities has grown. He saw to it that the Trail Conference was using PCs soon after their inception and then made sure they were kept humming. He served as registrar for the AT Biennial Conference in New Paltz in 1983, introducing PCs as the means of registration. When the Appalachian Trail in Putnam County needed to be built on National Park Service lands, Walt learned trail construction and organized trail crews. He helped



with the *New York Walk Book*, 6th edition, and the *New Jersey Walk Book*, 1st edition, checking trails and making sure that information was presented in a consistent manner.

Once Walt retired, in January 1998, from his job doing programming research at IBM's T. J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights (he is a physicist by training, and has worked with computers since 1956), he became a "professional volunteer." He evaluated databases and, with the Technology Committee, decided on a database to manage information about trails, members, and volunteers. When the Trail Conference moved to Mahwah, his weekly trips helped new staff learn about TC culture.

Amazingly, Walt has time for other activities. He serves on the Appalachian Trail Conference Board of Managers and the Town of Yorktown (NY) Conservation Advisory Committee. He makes time to travel. Since 1992, he and Jane have hiked 1,366 miles out of 2,170 miles of the Appalachian Trail. "He is extremely supportive of me as president, behind the scenes as well as in the public forum" says Jane, who is the current president of the Conference. He is, she adds, "passionate about the environment, both from the open space preservation standpoint and for the integrity of the ecology."

Years ago, Walt's many contributions were formally recognized when in 1992 the Conference gave him the William Hoeflerlin Award and in 1997 when, with Jane, he received the American Hiking Society's Volunteer of Year Award for New York State. Clearly, those awards did not mark the ending of Walt's volunteer career. His ongoing value to the Conference is captured in the words of Josh Erdsneker: "Can we clone Walt?" 🌿

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JoAnn & Paul Dolan

In Memory of Beatrice and Rudolf Tilgner

Suzan Gordon, Peter Tilgner

In Honor of Raf Colloido

Naomi & David Sutter

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members: **Richard Brause, Marilyn Katz, Karen G. Krueger, Joshua S. Parkhurst, George R. Petty Jr., George Blair Scribner, Manny J. Silberberg, and James F. Slovik.**

A Life Membership in the New York-

New Jersey Trail Conference is a wonderful gift to yourself or a loved one, and to the Trail Conference. An individual life membership is just \$500; a joint life membership (two adults at the same address) is \$750. The next time you renew, please consider becoming a Trail Conference "lifer."



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 bikers since 1920. That's 1,500 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.

IN MEMORIAM

New City lawyer **J. Martin Cornell**, who worked more than 40 years to improve the life of Rocklanders and fought public interest battles all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, died in December of leukemia. He was 69. Martin was, recalls former TC President Neil Zimmerman, "a truly great friend to hikers and park lovers and a dedicated PIPC commissioner."

David A. Richie, a former National Park Service official who had a significant role in protecting the Appalachian Trail from commercial development, highway building, and other potential threats, died on December 20 at his home in Hampstead, NC. He was 70. An obituary in the *New York Times* noted that Ritchie "set a tone of cooperative management between the volunteer workers, the Park Service and other government agencies."

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

continued from page 3

Meadowlands Park Proposed

A 13-square-mile zone along the Hackensack River would remain undeveloped under a plan to create a Meadowlands preserve for the largest open space left in northern New Jersey. Rep. Steven R. Rothman, an advocate of the plan, calls the 8,400 acres from Little Ferry to Kearny "the last contiguous parcel of open space in the most densely populated part of the most densely populated state that is largely undeveloped." Of that, the river comprises 1,600 acres and its tributaries, 200 acres. For the park to become reality, thousands of acres must be acquired and polluted areas cleaned or capped; the price tag has been estimated at up to \$300 million. In late January, federal and state officials kicked off a \$5 million wetlands restoration study.

HIKER'S MARKETPLACE

You can also order at our web site: www.nynjtc.org

NY-NJ TC member? YES NO JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price

	Retail	Member	P/H	Total
Official Conference Maps				
NEW!! Sterling Forest Trails (2003)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.80	_____
North Jersey Trails (2002)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.95	_____
Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails (2002)	\$8.95	\$6.75	+.95	_____
NEW!! East Hudson Trails (available Spring 2003)	\$9.95	\$7.75	+.95	_____
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Catskill Trails (2003) & see combo	\$13.95	\$10.45	+\$1.10	_____
Kittatinny Trails (2000)	\$12.95	\$9.75	+\$1.10	_____
Shawangunk Trails (2000) & see combo	\$9.95	\$7.75	+.95	_____
South Taconic Trails (1988, rev. 1998)	\$4.95	\$3.75	+.65	_____
Hudson Palisades (1991)	\$5.95	\$4.75	+.80	_____

Books

NEW!! A.T. Guide for NY & NJ (2002) w/6 maps	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.00	_____
NEW!! Long Path Guide to NY/NJ (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.00	_____
NEW!! Day Walker (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
NEW!! Hiking Long Island (2002)	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.50	_____
NEW!! Circuit Hikes in New Jersey (available Spring '03)	\$11.95	\$9.55	+\$2.00	_____
New York Walk Book (2001) & see combo	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.50	_____
New Jersey Walk Book (1998) & see combo	\$15.95	\$12.75	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman Trails Guide (1999) & see combo	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
Iron Mine Trails: NY-NJ Highlands (1996, rev. 1999)	\$8.95	\$7.15	+\$2.00	_____
Health Hints for Hikers (1994)	\$5.95	\$4.75	+\$2.00	_____
Doodletown-Hiking Through History in a Vanishing Hamlet on the Hudson (1996)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.00	_____
Catskill Trails: A Ranger's Guide to the High Peaks				
Book One: The Northern Catskills (2000)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$2.00	_____
Book Two: The Central Catskills (2000)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$2.00	_____
Scenes & Walks in the Northern				
Shawangunks (1999) & see combo	\$10.95	\$8.85	+\$2.00	_____
Scenes & Walks in the				
Northern Shawangunks (1999) Hardcover	\$11.45	\$9.75	+\$2.00	_____
Nature Walks in New Jersey (1998)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.50	_____
50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
50 Hikes in New Jersey (1997, rev. 1999)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$2.00	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills & Hudson River Valley (2002)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$2.00	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in New Jersey (1992)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.00	_____
ADK Guide to Catskill Trails (1994, repr. 1998)	\$17.95	\$14.40	+\$2.00	_____
Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years (2001)	\$27.50	\$22.00	+\$3.00	_____

Combo-Packs

Catskill (5-map set & ADK book)	\$27.80	\$21.60	+\$2.00	_____
Harriman (2-map set & book)	\$22.40	\$17.55	+\$2.50	_____
NY & NJ Walk Books	\$32.35	\$25.85	+\$3.50	_____
Shawangunk Combo (4-map set & book)	\$17.90	\$13.95	+\$2.00	_____

The Personal Touch

NEW!! Note Cards (2002)	\$12.00	\$9.60	+\$2.00	_____
Hiking Cap	\$12.90	\$10.50	+\$1.75	_____
Long-sleeve Denim Shirt Circle: S M L XL	\$29.90	\$22.90	+\$4.00	_____
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NY-NJTC T-Shirt Circle: L XL	\$13.95	\$13.95	+\$3.50	_____
Harriman Map Bandanna	\$6.95	\$5.95	+\$1.50	_____
Conference Logo Patch	\$2.50	\$2.50	postpaid	_____
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For non-clothing items, New Jersey residents add 6% tax* _____

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Make check or money order payable to NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. For a full descriptive catalog, please write or call 201-512-9348.

*Tax must be paid by NJ residents on books, maps, misc., but not on clothing. Thank you!

A BATTLE BREWS IN THE GUNKS

continued from page 1

"This is an overwhelming development proposal. One could stand on the cliffs of Hamilton Point and drop a pebble onto someone's roof. It would be devastating to ridge hikers," said Neil Zimmerman, former Trail Conference President and current Chair of the Trail Conference Conservation Committee.

Of the three towns in Ulster County, Gardiner hosts the largest area with 2,237 acres, Shawangunk with 282 acres, and Wawarsing with 141 acres. Plans submitted to the Town of Gardiner on December 23, 2002, propose construction of a gated subdivision community consisting of 269 "retreat" homes, each measuring 4,500 square feet on 2.5-acre lots; 52 3,000-square-foot "cottages" on one-acre lots; and 28 2,000-square-foot "cabins" on half-acre lots.

The developers suggest that 1,499 acres of the site will be covered by a conservation easement—about 60 percent of the land, including the golf course—to be administered by an entity to be named the Awosting Reserve Trust. The map shows, however, that these protected areas are for the most part merely gaps between homes and development loops that wind through the entire site and do little, if anything, to preserve the ecological integrity of the area.

Principal owner, Bradley, a self-proclaimed conservationist, has made claims that this project would be a better use of the land than leaving it to nature. "Anyone can call themselves a conservationist," Zimmerman commented, "but it doesn't mean that they are."

The Environmental Assessment Form that was submitted for the proposal shows potential impacts to the physical land, surface water (including streams, ponds, and lakes), ground water and the surrounding regional watershed, wetlands, wildlife, and the critical habitats of threatened or endangered species, plants, historic and archaeological resources, open space, and recreational land use throughout the entire site. There are also potential impacts to critical environmental areas containing unique and fragile resources, such as timber rattlesnake habitat, trout spawning acres, ice caves, and spring-fed lakes. Other impacts to lands and wildlife on the property are still undergoing survey. The parcel contains unique and unusual landforms, including distinctive Shawangunk cliffs and crags. Views from Gertrude's Nose in Minnewaska State Park and from most of the cliff walks in the three surrounding preserves would be severely impacted.

Opposition Mounts

Opposition is building as local, regional, and national groups mobilize forces at each point in the decision-making process. The development's future is dependent on a number of processes. The

SPREADING THE WORD

The Trail Conference will be recruiting new members and extolling the joys and benefits of hiking at several upcoming events. If you can help represent us at any of these events, contact Joshua Erdsneker, Volunteer Projects Director, at 201-512-9348 or josh@nynjtc.org. Stop by and say hi if you are in the area.

■ **"Get Out More,"** at Campmor, March 1, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, sponsored by *Backpacker* magazine and Campmor

■ **Banff Mountain Film Festival**, March 5 & 6, 7:30 pm at the New York Society for Ethical Culture Auditorium

■ **Banff Mountain Film Festival**, March 11, 7:00 pm, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack, NJ

■ **Small Press Fair**, March 29 & 30 in NYC, times TBA

■ **ABC Earth Day Event** on April 22, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at ABC's NYC corporate headquarters

■ **Club Day at EMS in Paramus, NJ**, April 26, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

■ **Earth Day in Van Cortlandt Park**, Bronx, NY, April 26, 12:00 to 5:00 pm

NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will be the lead agency reviewing the environmental impacts. "DEC has far greater resources and expertise for a comprehensive environmental review than the towns," noted Neil Woodworth, counsel to the NY-NJ Trail Conference and Adirondack Mountain Club partnership. "DEC tends to keep the regional impact of a project in mind as well." The DEC and the affected towns will be involved in the extensive permitting process. The towns of Shawangunk and Gardiner were already reviewing their land-use master plans and zoning laws, which allows them to hold off on the approval process of large development projects until such review is near completion.

Local residents have formed a grassroots group called "Save the Ridge." Working with the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, and other ridge organizations, Save the Ridge members are very concerned about drinking water resources, their rural economy, destruction of forest and wetland habitats, pollution of surface water, decrease in property values, increased traffic, and runoff of lawn chemicals, salt, sewage, and golf course chemicals.

This fragile and special land on the Shawangunk Ridge needs to be protected. Everyone has an interest in protecting it and the best way to do that is by choosing preservation over development. There are resources to purchase it and keep it preserved in perpetuity.

To keep up with the latest news on this issue and to get involved, visit www.ShawangunkRidge.org; email Info@ShawangunkRidge.org; or call 845-255-3786.

Amy Little is Coordinator of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition.

FAVORITE HIKES

Not Your Usual Island of Serenity



The place where I most like to hike offers woods and waterfalls, ponds and parks, serenity and beauty.

This remarkable place is close to my home and is much easier to reach than most other hiking areas I know. It has features not commonly associated with many favorite hikes. There are ball fields and quiet residential streets. There are beach views in one direction, skyscrapers in another. There are historic cemeteries and a "mountain" made of the excavated rock from a highway project.

I am referring to the Greenbelt on Staten Island. And in spite of being within New York City limits, with wooded trails that lead out to golf courses, scout camps, and busy streets, there also are areas where visitors will find no evidence of civilization.

Within the Greenbelt, I have a choice

of four long trails for hiking and many short walks. Each is well marked and maintained by dedicated volunteers of the Metro Area Trails Committee and members of the Greenbelt maintenance crew. Most trailheads are reachable by bus or car, and parking is ample in dedicated areas.

The blue-blazed Greenbelt Circular Trail at 13.4 miles is one of the long trails. (Take the S48 bus to Forest Avenue and Clove Road. Trailhead is on the left.) This trail runs through Clove Lakes Park, past several waterfalls. It climbs through forests, passes ponds, two golf courses, a former seminary, and follows quiet residential streets. It offers splendid views of Raritan Bay, the Atlantic Highlands, and Sandy Hook. It ends at Brielle Avenue near Roanoke Avenue, where one can return to the Staten Island Ferry by the S54 bus, transferring to the S62 at Victory Boulevard.

In the heart of the 2,800-acre Greenbelt is High Rock Park, where restrooms and parking are available. Also within the Greenbelt's borders is Historic Richmondtown, a historic village that boasts the oldest existing schoolhouse in America—the Voorlezer's House—in a charming setting. The Jacques Marchais

Museum of Tibetan Art, which exhibits a rare collection of Himalayan art in a temple-like building atop Lighthouse Hill, is also within the Greenbelt.

There is more exciting Greenbelt news. Ground has been broken for the new Greenbelt Nature Center, a 5,400-square-foot structure, which will become a haven for Greenbelt friends and new visitors alike. The center will offer meeting areas, a gift shop, exhibition space, and access to a number of rustic trails.

The Greenbelt provides a wonderful place for discovery and enjoyment. For me, I just like to walk along its peaceful trails.

More detailed directions can be found in the *New York Walk Book* (NY-NJ Trail Conference, 2001) or can be obtained from the Greenbelt Conservancy. Last summer the Greenbelt Conservancy, which helps run the park with the City of New York/Parks & Recreation, unveiled a color trail map/information brochure depicting the Greenbelt's trail system, elevations, history, and points of interest. It is a very handy aid for hiking in this area. Visitors may request a copy by calling the Greenbelt at 718-667-2165 or download one off the Greenbelt Conservancy's website: www.sigreenbelt.com.

—Bob Ward

Chairman, Metro Area Trails Committee

With help from

Dorothy A. Reilly, Director of Public Relations, Greenbelt Conservancy, and Bettye Soffer, Staten Island Area

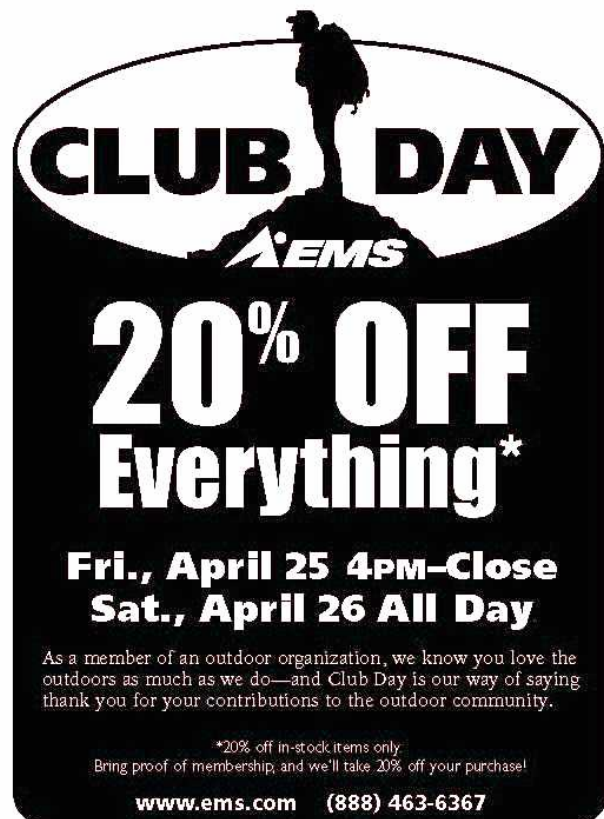
Supervisor

LITTER DAY, MAY 4

Be sure your club schedules a spring cleaning on your trail or adopt a special project for Litter Day, May 4. Let others know about your plans and attract participants by sending details of your project in time for the next issue of *Trail Walker*. Send info to tw.nynjtc.org by March 15. Follow up with photos and a brief account of your work for the issue that follows; deadline May 15.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY, JUNE 7: REGISTER YOUR EVENT

The Trail Conference will be announcing its National Trails Day event in the next issue of this newsletter. Let us know what your club will be doing to mark the occasion, and we will publicize it in the same edition. A planning manual (2003 Event Organizer's Manual) is online at the American Hiking Society's website and can be downloaded. Retailers such as REI and Galyan's are gearing up their stores and employees to help promote events and recruit volunteers. To register your event with *Trail Walker*, send details to tw.nynjtc.org. To register nationally or find information and helpful hints for a successful National Trails Day, go to www.AmericanHiking.org/events/ntd/index.html. You may also contact Jane Thompson at 301-565-6704 x208 or JThompson@AmericanHiking.org.



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- Manhattan, NY** – (212) 966-8730
591 Broadway
- West Nyack, NY** – (845) 348-6486
Palisades Center



continued from page 12

IHC. Silvermine Circular. Leader: Patricia Wexler; call for information: 973-835-1060. Meet: 9 am at Silvermine Picnic Area, Seven Lakes Drive, Harriman State Park, NY. Moderately strenuous; Menomine Trail, then Long Path to the Torrey Memorial. After lunch we will return by the Popolopen Gorge. Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancel.

RVW. Harlem Valley Rail Trail. Leader: for more information, call 845-246-5670. Meet: 8 am in Saugerties, NY. Easy, level hike of 7 miles; 4 hours.

WTW. Norvin Green State Forest, Ringwood, NJ. Leader: Estelle Anderson, 973-492-9035. Meet: Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood, NJ. Must call leader to register. 7 miles on the many colors of Norvin Green: check out the Green, Red, Orange, Yellow and Blue trails. Adverse weather conditions cancel.

UOC. Cheesquake State Park, Matawan, NJ. Leader: Mimi Wolin, 732-249-9166. Guided morning nature hike with a state naturalist who will highlight native animals, plants, and especially osprey and the American eel migration. Call for time and place for meeting.

LIG. South Haven Saunter. Leader: Ken S., 631-653-7948. Meet: 10 am at main parking area, north service road of NY 27, between Exits 57 and 58. Easy, flat 7-8 miles, wandering the pine barrens of South Haven County Park.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

FVTW. Lake Tiorati, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: George Pullman, 973-773-2678. Meet: 10 am at Tiorati Circle parking. 7-10 miles; not for beginners. Circular hike with many available trails and views.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

UHC. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Mimi Solomon, 973-379-3910. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna, across from Millburn RR station. Bristle hike; some trails are rocky.

NYHC. Hike Along the Hudson River. Leader: Judy and Marty Mahler, 718-692-2854, call 6-8 pm. Meet: 66th St. and Broadway, Manhattan; call for meeting time. 4 miles along the river to 107th St.; hike ends at Roenich Museum (optional visit).

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

MJOMC. Bald, Timp & West. Leader: Ira Haironson, 718-854-4472; no calls on Shabbos please. Meet: Call leader for location; accessible by public transportation. Enjoy the start of spring with a strenuous, moderately paced 8-mile hike climbing three mountains on Bear Mountain/Harriman Park border (over 2,000 ft. elevation gain; no beginners). Guaranteed sensational views of Hudson River and surrounding mountains. Non-members \$10.

IHC. Southfields Circular. Leader: Roy Williams, 973-283-9756. Meet: 9 am at Red Apple Restaurant, Rt. 17, Southfields, NY (park in rear). Strenuous (12 miles + 7 Hills). Nuriar Trail from beginning to end, then south on the Ramapo-Dunderberg (R-D) to Tom Jones Mtn. and Parker Cabin Mtn. (all before lunch). Strong hikers only; no beginners. Expect 6 or 7 strong climbs during the day. Rain, ice, or poor driving conditions cancel.

WWW/WEC. Pancake Brunch Hike. Leader: Don Weise. Meet: 9:30 am; call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for information. Hike 8.5 miles at a strenuous, fast pace from Camp Wyanokie Boy Scout Lake to Weis, all through Norvin Green State Forest. Outstanding views and scenery. Brunch optional (extra charge).

GAHC. Bear Mountain State Park, NY. Leader: Brian Kassenbrock, 718-748-0624. Meet: 10 am at Bear Mt. Inn. Three different level hikes.

CAHC. Fort Tyron Park to Van Cortlandt Park. Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-9457; call 7-8 am. Meet: 12:30 pm outside the Fort Washington Ave. entrance to the 190th St. station on A train. Easy 4-5 mile hike, but with some steep ups and downs. See the natural high points of the city.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

RVW. Doubletop Mountain (3860'). Leader: for more information, call 845-247-8756. Strenuous bushwhack (off-trail) of 5.5 miles; 5+ hours; snowshoes and crampons required.

APRIL

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

FVTW. Old 210, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Al Leigh, 973-471-7528. Meet: 9:30 am at Red Apple Restaurant, Sloatsburg, NY. Sharing 8-9 miles of trails in a delightful setting at a moderate pace; climbing in both morning and afternoon with rewarding views and rest stops. Includes Tom Jones, Parker Cabin, and Carr Pond mountains.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

UHC. Watchung Trail Maintenance. Leader: Pre-register by calling Trailside Nature and Science Center at 908-789-3670. Meet: 9:30 am at Trailside's visitor center; will work until 12:30 pm. Bring tools and work gloves, if you have them; no experience necessary. Meet new people, learn new skills, while working outdoors pruning vegetation, removing blow downs, etc. Have fun giving back a little to the trails.

MJOMC. Hubbard Perkins Conservation Area. Leader: Lanny Wexler, 516-938-5721; call 7:30-10 pm two days prior to event. Meet: Call leader for location. 10 miles on hilly trails starting at Canopus Lake to Wicopsee Pass; several scenic views. Non-members \$10.

CAHC. New York Bay. Leader: Marty and Judy Mahler, 718-338-7929. Meet: Call leader for details. 3.5 mile walk along the Bay under the Verrazano Bridge.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Daylight Saving Time begins.
Move clocks ahead one hour.

IHC. Trail Maintenance, Sterling Ridge Trail. Leader: Ilse Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am at South end of the Sterling Ridge Trail, Rt. 511, Hewitt, NJ. We need your help for another spring cleanup. Bring your lunch, water, clippers & good working gloves. If you do not have clippers you can use the tools provided. Rain, ice, or poor driving conditions cancel; rain date Saturday, April 12.

NYHC. Scarborough to Tarrytown on the Old Croton Aqueduct. Leader: Mike Puder, 718-743-0920; call during week of hike for meeting time. Meet: Stationmaster's Office at Grand Central. Easy 5-mile hike, fairly level.

OCJSJ. Skittishing About. Leader: Jack and Chiolo Hoffman, 856-784-8104. Meet: 10 am at Skit Branch Bridge, 5.2 miles SE of Tabernacle on Carranza Rd., NJ. 8-10 miles on sand roads, fire cuts, and trails. Beautiful area near the Mullica River; some wet spots.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

UHC. Garrett Mountain Reservation, West Paterson, NJ. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0766. Meet: 10 am at Lambert Castle, Clifton. After a steep climb, moderate pace along periphery of the park, enjoying views of famous Paterson Falls. Optional lunch afterwards on the castle veranda. Rain cancels.

OCJSJ. Delaware River Water Gap Trek. Leader: John and Hedy Bauer, 609-877-7018. Meet: 10 am at Delaware Water Gap Visitor's Center (last exit in NJ off I-80, turn left). 12 miles. Rocky climb up the Red trail and along the ridge to Dunnfield Creek, then back to the Gap.

WTA. Dunderberg Circular. Leader: Catherine Allen, 914-948-4061. Meet: 9 am, call for info. 8 miles, moderately strenuous; hilly ups and downs with great views in all directions.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

WWW/WEC. Storm King Mountain. Leader: Don Weise. Meet: 9:30 am; call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for information. Hike 8 miles at a strenuous, fast pace. Closed for several years, beautiful Storm King is now re-opened! Hike to the northern terminus of the 150-mile NY/NJ Highlands National Millennium Trail for breathtaking views of Hudson River, Breakneck Ridge, Teaconics, Gunks, and Catskills.

IHC. Schooley's Mountain. Leader: Charlie & Anita Kientzler, 973-835-1060. Meet: 9 am at Cooper Mill, Rt. 24 (Rt. 513), Chester, NJ. Moderately strenuous. The Patriot's Path newest addition extends into this Morris County Park. Waterfalls and an old rock quarry are some of the points of interest. Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancel.

GAHC. Silvermine/Tiorati Circular, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Mathias Wuethrich, 908-253-9042. Meet: 9:30 am at Silvermine parking lot on Seven Lakes Dr. Two hike levels offered.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

FVTW. Favorite Gunks Paths. Leader: Dave & Naomi Sutter. Meet: 10 am at Minnewaska State Park upper parking lot (may be a parking fee). Leaders' favorite hike in the Shawangunks; no beginners.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

SCS. Singles Hike and Clean-up at Eagle Rock Reservation. Leader: Ron Pate (973) 364-7573 option #2. Meet before 10:00 am at Highlawn Pavilion parking lot off Eagle Rock Ave. in West Orange, NJ. Hike 3-4 miles at moderate pace and clean up as we go. Rain cancels. All participants must sign liability waiver. Work gloves provided.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Lee Fanger, 973-376-3160. Meet: 10 am at Tulip Springs parking lot, Brookside Ave., Millburn, NJ (4 mile north of S. Orange Ave.). Bristle hike of 2+ hours; rain cancels.

WTA. Downtown Doodletown. Leader: Don Derr, 914-277-5707.

Meet: 10 am, call for info. 6 moderate miles starting from Anthony Wayne north lot, through Fawn Valley into what was the hub of this small settlement. Transportation: \$4.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

IHC. Hike the Sterling Ridge Trail. Leader: Steve Rikon, 973-962-4149. Meet: 9 am at south end of the Sterling Ridge Trail, Rt. 511, Hewitt, NJ. Strenuous. The IHC maintains this trail, but today we will enjoy hiking it end to end. Come out and see all the great work we did two weeks ago on trail maintenance. We hope you were out helping us maintain this beautiful trail. Rain, ice, or poor driving conditions cancel. Car pool/shuttle to trailhead.

IVHC. Bear Mountain. Leader: Bob Ward, 718-471-7036. Meet: call leader for details after 8 pm, at least one week in advance. Easy 5-mile hike on the new Twin Forts trail; cross the newest bridge in NYS. Car trip.

OCJSJ. Atsion Woods. Leader: Joseph Trujillo, 856-468-4849. Meet: 10 am at field on east side of Rt. 206, just north of Atsion Ranger Station, NJ. 7-9 miles; 4+ hours. Springtime hike through pine and hardwood forest east of Mullica River.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

FVTW. Johnstown Circular. Leader: Joe Brownlee, 973-635-1171. Meet: 10 am at Johnstown Road circle. 8-mile hike with a lake and views from Parker Cabin Mountain and the Blue Disc Trail.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

UHC. Two Lakes Circular, Harriman State Park. Leader: Ed Fanslau, 201-652-1496. Meet: 10 am at Johnstown Circle parking off Seven Lakes Dr. in Sloatsburg, NY. Moderate 6-7 mile hike passing lakes Sebago and Skenonto. Rain cancels.

NYHC. Rockland Lake to Nyack Beach State Park. Leader: Lynn Albin, 718-743-0920. Meet: call starting Thursday eve of the week of the hike for details. Moderate 8 mile hike, mostly flat, but with one hill. Lovely mountain and river views. Optional dinner afterwards in Nyack. Leave early and return late from Port Authority Bus Terminal.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

IHC. Jessup Trail. Leader: Ilse Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am at Taylor Rd. Parking area, Mountainville, NY. Strenuous. Hike the entire length (8.6 miles) of the trail, along the eastern ridge of Schunemunk Mountain. We'll be rewarded with great views of Storm King Mountain

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and the Hudson River. Rain cancels.

GAHC. Breakneck Ridge, Cold Spring, NY. Leader: Manfred Janowski, 914-428-4573. Meet: 9:15 am at parking lot on Rt. 9D just north of RR tunnel, to coincide with Metro North train arrival at 9 am. Three different hike levels offered; strenuous climb.

OCJSJ. Carranza to Apple Pie. Leader: Toni and Bandit, 856-296-3996. Meet: 10 am at Carranza Memorial parking, 6.7 miles SE of Tabernacle on Carranza Rd., NJ. 8+ miles at moderate pace. Rain cancels.

CAHC. Staten Island Greenbelt. Leader: Bob Ward, 718-471-7036. Meet: Call leader after 8 pm for details. Walk along some of the trails under the leader's jurisdiction (as the Trail Conference's Metro Area Trails Chairman).

THURSDAY, MAY 1

FVTW. Echo Lake to Wyanokie, One-Way. Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 9:30 am at Weis Ecology Center for shuttle. Hike 9 miles from Echo Lake to Weis Ecology Center on the Highlands Trail and others.



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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 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 Web site or send an 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	Adirondack Mountain Club - Mid-Hudson Chapter	OCSJ	Outdoor Club of South Jersey
ADK-R	Adirondack Mountain Club - Ramapo Chapter	RWW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
CAHC	College Alumni Hiking Club	SCS	Sierra Club Singles
FVTW	Frost Valley Trailwalkers	UHC	Union County Hiking Club
GAHC	German American Hiking Club	UOC	University Outing Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	WTW	Woodland Trail Walkers
LIG	Long Island Greenbelt	WWW/WEC	Weis Wyanokie Wanderers/Weis Ecology Center
MJOMC	Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Mountain Club	WTA	Westchester Trails Association
NYCHS	New York Hiking Club		

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 May/June issue is March 15, 2003.

MARCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

UHC. Watchung Trail Maintenance. Leader: Pre-register by calling Trailside Nature and Science Center at 908-789-3670. Meet: 9:30 am at Trailside's visitor center; will work until 12:30 pm. Bring tools and work gloves, if you have them; no experience necessary. Meet new people, learn new skills, while working outdoors pruning vegetation, removing blow downs, etc. Have fun giving back a little to the trails.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 am at visitor's center (\$4 admission fee). Moderate 4-mile hike in this historic park. Steady rain, snow or icy conditions cancel.

ADK-R. Square the Diamond. Leader: For more information, call leader at 201-816-9465. 6 miles.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

IHC. Tiorati Circular. Leader: Jim Hayes, 201-825-9506. Meet: 9 am at Tiorati Circle parking area, Harriman State Park, NY. Moderately strenuous 9-mile hike; come see if leader knows what he is doing in the woods. No matter, it should still be fun. Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancel.

SCS. Singles Hike at Hatfield Swamp, West Essex Park. Leaders: Patrick Montague and Ron Pata, 973-364-7573 option #2. Meet: before 10:00 am at Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave., Roseland. Hike 5 miles at a moderate pace through forested wetlands along the Passaic River. Lunch to follow at local restaurant (to be announced at hike). Rain cancels. \$3 fee will be charged to nonmembers (members must show membership cards). All participants must sign liability waiver.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

RWW. Blackhead Mt. via Lockwood Gap. Leader: for more information call 845-246-8616. Meet: 8 am in Saugerties, NY. Strenuous hike of 4.4 miles, elevation 3940', taking 4 hours; snowshoes and crampons required.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

ADK-MH. Hudson Highlands Traverse. Leader: Call 845-297-5126 before 9:30 pm to register or for info. Meet: 7:30 am at Dutchess Mall, Route 9. 9 miles with 900 ft. ascent. Hike or snowshoe, depending on conditions, up Wilkinson trail to Scofield Fidge, then down Breakneck Bypass to Rt. 9D. Views galore in almost every direction. Crampons and/or snowshoes may be required; heavy rain or bad driving conditions cancel.

MJOMC. Walking Dunes. Leader: Lanny Wexler, 516-938-5721;

call 7:30 - 10 pm two days prior to event. Meet: Call leader for location; accessible by LIRR. Hike 11 miles on the Talkhouse and Paumona paths among the Walking Dunes; trail snakes its way through pine-oak forest and shifting sand dunes with dramatic views of Gardiner's Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Non-members \$10.

NYHC. Queens Greenbelt. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 11 am at corner of Main St. and Roosevelt Ave., Flushing (#7 train to last stop). Easy hike of 7-8 miles, easy terrain, through Kissena Park, Cunningham Park, Alley Pond Park, Oakland Lake.

ADK-R. Anthony Wayne Circular. Leader: For more information, call leader at 845-354-1184. 7 miles.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

IHC. Arden Circular. Leader: Roy Williams, 973-283-9756. Meet: 9 am at Elk Pen Parking Area, Arden Valley Road, Arden, NY (Harriman State Park). Moderately strenuous; start on the AT Trail and hike over to Island Pond, up to the Lemon Squeezer. Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancel.

UHC. Pyramid Mountain, Montville, NJ. Leader: Bob Keller, 908-233-0699. Meet: 10 am at visitor's center. Moderate hike starting with a gentle ascent but leveling off; interesting glacial erratics known as Tripod and Bear rocks. Rain cancels.

UOC. Monmouth Battleground State Park, Freehold, NJ. Leader: Goldie Jadzak, 732-254-7514. Moderate 2-3 hour hike along the battlefield grounds and hiking trails. Call for time and place for meeting.

LIG. Hidden Pond to Heckscher. Leader: Bill R., 631-859-1794, before 9 pm. Hike almost half the Long Island Greenbelt Trail; 14 moderate miles taking in Hidden Pond, Lakeland, Connetquot, and Heckscher parks, and more. Meet: Field 7, Heckscher S. P. (end of S. St. Pky) for car shuttle to Hidden Pond. Rain cancels.

WTA. Schunemunk. Leader: Catharine Allen, 914-948-4061. Meet: 9 am, call for info. 7 moderately strenuous miles. We will ascend via the Jessup Trail, visit the Megaliths, and return on the Dark Hollow. Different destination if conditions are snowy or icy. Transportation: \$4.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

FVTW. Bald Mountain and Timp. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 am at Bear Mountain Inn. 7-10 miles; not for beginners. A steep climb to Bald Mountain, Cornell Mine, and great view. Another view on the Timp, then return on easier trails.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

UHC. Hartshorne Woods, Highland/Navesink area. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am at Rocky Point trailhead of Hartshorne Woods Park, at the end of Portland Rd., Highlands, NJ. Join us in exploring this new (to us) area of the park. Views of rivers, bay and ocean; later you may want to have lunch at Sandy Hook or visit the Twin Lights museum. Steady rain cancels.

WTW. Harriman State Park. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194. Meet: At train station, Sloatsburg, NY. Must call leader to register. 5 mile hike from Reeves Brook Visitor Center to Pine Meadow Lake and back. Adverse conditions cancels.

NYHC. Nassau Greenbelt, Bethpage to Maspespequa. Leader: Mike Puder, 718-743-0920; call during week of hike for meeting time. Meet: LIRR waiting room in Penn Station (lower level). Moderate 8-

mile, level hike; late return.

WTA. Long Mountain. Leader: George O'Lear, 914-946-3940. Meet: 9 am, call for info. 6-7 miles, moderate to strenuous. Brisk hike past Queensbury and Turkey Hill lakes to Long Mtn. and Torrey Memorial for nice views. Bad weather cancels. Transportation: \$4.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

IHC. Reeves/Ramapo Ramble. Leader: Roy Williams, 973-283-9756. Meet: 9 am at Reeves Meadow Visitor Center, Seven Lakes Drive, Sloatsburg, New York (Harriman State Park). Moderately strenuous; Seven Hills Trail up Ramapo Tonne for the view, then to Pine Meadow Lake for lunch. Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancel.

GAHC. Buttermilk Falls/Appalachian Trail in NJ. Leader: Mathias Wuethrich, 908-253-9042. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location.

LIG. Montauk Exploration. Leader: Ken S., 631-653-7948. Meet: 10:30 am at park entrance on East Lake Dr., 2 miles north of Montauk Highway. Beautiful 9-11 miles, moderate and varied.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

RWW. Slide Mt. (4180') Leader: for more information, call 845-246-8546. Meet: 8 am in Saugerties, NY. Dress in green! Moderately strenuous hike of 6.5 miles, 5 hours; snowshoes and crampons required.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

FVTW. Sterling Forest. Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 am at Sterling Forest Visitor Center. 9 miles around Sterling Lake.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

NYHC. Cranberry Lake Park. Leader: Mayer Wiesen, 516-671-2095. Meet: 9:30 am at Grand Central Info Booth. Easy hike of 6 miles in Westchester Co. park.

UHC. Tourne Park, Boonton. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 am at Tourne Park. Moderate hike to the top of the Tourne, through wildflowers, around the lake, with a stop to see the boiling springs. Steady rain cancels.

WTA. Harriman Park Circular. Leader: Marilyn Varley, 914-698-2339, before 9 pm. Meet: 9 am, call for info. 6 moderate miles with initial steep climb followed by mostly flat terrain. We'll visit Hasenclever Mine and an old cemetery on the Beech Trail. Rain, snow cancels. Transportation: \$4.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

ADK-MH. Pawling Nature Preserve. Leader: Bill Beeher, 845-454-7832, evenings. Meet: 9:30 am at Pawling Nature Preserve. Easy hike of about 5 miles on the AT; moderate terrain at a leisurely pace. Hiking boots required.

MJOMC. Wyanokies, NJ. Leader: Hanna Abolitz Benesch, 732-665-1125; call two days prior to event. Meet: Call leader for location. Hike moderate 7 miles starting at Otter Hole, past Chickahoki Falls and climbing steeply to Carris Hill, Yoo-Hoo Point and High Point. Pace not too fast, but lots of ups and downs, lots of good views. Rain/snow cancels. Non-members \$10.

continued on page 11

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