



# TRAILWALKER

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

MAY/JUNE 2003

## Sharing the Trails with Timber Rattlesnakes

By Kris Schantz

A walk through the lush forests of northern New Jersey and southern New York is sure to delight even the most skilled and avid hikers. These woods are home to many species of wildlife, including black bears, hawks, songbirds that travel thousands of miles to nest, and to the surprise of many residents and visitors, two venomous snakes.

A hiker traveling trails in an area from northern New Jersey through southern New York may encounter the northern copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*) or the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*). Both are poisonous, however, neither is aggressive.

The timber rattlesnake is listed as a state-endangered species in New Jersey, a state-threatened species in New York, and as either threatened or endangered in most of the northeastern states. Their state listings afford them protection, making it illegal to kill, handle, collect, or harass timber rattlesnakes. Why protect a snake? Rattlesnakes are part of a healthy, functioning natural system. Simply stated, rattlesnakes eat and are eaten.

Black bears, coyotes, hawks, and owls eat timber rattlesnakes. In southern New Jersey, the eastern kingsnake will eat adult timber rattlesnakes and, statewide, the black rat snake will eat newborns and juveniles. Timber rattlesnakes mostly eat small mammals, including white-footed mice, red-backed voles, chipmunks, and cottontail rabbits. Unfortunately for the rattlesnakes, years of myths, folk tales, and Hollywood movies have portrayed them as evil, aggressive, "monster-type" creatures, encouraging people to kill them as well.

In truth, timber rattlesnakes are passive animals, relying on striking and biting as an absolute last form of self-defense. They rely mostly on their coloration for camouflage to protect them from predators. If that fails, they may rattle and recoil or they may rattle and attempt to escape. A strike is the last attempt for self-preservation. An animal looking for a meal will either kill the snake or leave it alone, while people tend to act much differently.

Some people may kill the snake out of



To rattlesnakes, we're the predators

fear, others may stand near the snake to take pictures, and some may move away to avoid any further contact. Those who kill the snakes are not only committing a crime, but also a senseless act of cruelty. Those taking pictures and watching a snake, although doing so with good intentions, are causing the snake stress and anxiety, and, more than likely, forcing the snake to take a defensive posture. To the snake, we are the predators.

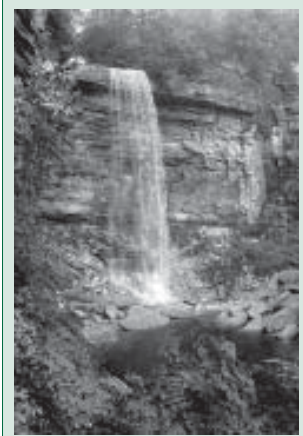
Rattlesnakes have many factors working against their continued survival. Not only do they have many predators, but loss of habitat and increased development have replaced foraging grounds with acres of lawn, and roads have made travel to their foraging, incubation, and basking

sites a treacherous task. The timber rattlesnake has a strong affinity to these sites. They often use the same areas to forage year after year, females use the same incubation sites for generations, and after the third denning year, the snakes will return to the same den each year. Once these areas are destroyed, the snakes have a difficult time adjusting and may not survive.

In addition, most of the timber rattlesnakes in our area are not reproductively mature until they are eight or nine years of age, and typically, the females have a three to four year reproductive cycle. They breed one summer, over-winter, incubate, and give birth to live young in late summer of the following year, and then need one to two years to recuperate their strength and restore their body fat before breeding again. A female timber rattlesnake may give birth only once or twice in her lifetime. Although she'll give birth to six to ten young, little is known about the survival rate of the newborns. The newborns do have venom to kill their prey, and just like the adults, will strike if their lives are threatened. They don't look like the pictures of rattlesnakes that we often see in books or on television. To those unfamiliar with snakes, adult snakes of other species are often misidentified as rattlesnakes, and newborns of various snakes look similar.

Rattlesnakes are found in different habitats depending on their life cycles and seasonal stages. When snakes forage, they can be found in the forests—hardwoods

*continued on page 8*



### Help Build New Stony Kill Falls Trail

Trail Conference members help make good things possible. Two years ago, your generous donations supported the purchase of access property at Stony Kill Falls on the northwestern edge of Minnewaska State Park. Now the Conference is ready to put in the new trail. Everyone is invited to join the trail-building effort from Thursday, June 19, through Sunday, June 22. All skill levels are welcome (including total novices), and you can join us for one or multiple days. Limited camping opportunities are available—please inquire when you register.

This new trailhead, the only one on this side of the park, was made possible through the joint efforts of the Trail Conference, its individual and club members, and the Open Space Institute.

For more information or to register, contact Trails Director Larry Wheelock, 201-512-9348, [wheelock@nynjtc.org](mailto:wheelock@nynjtc.org). For additional trail maintenance opportunities, see page 4.

## Crews Continue to Clear Winter Trail Damage in Region's Parks

It has been a hard winter for many trails in our region. First came the ice and windstorm of November 16-17 that snapped the tops off trees, broke many branches, and toppled many other trees. Next, the heavy snowstorms during the end-of-year holidays bent and broke more branches. Heavy snowstorms in January, February, and even into March brought down more debris.

Much blowdown has been cleared, but the accumulation of snow on the trails after mid-December kept Trail Conference crews and maintainers, as well as many park staff, from trail-clearing work almost until spring. Owing to the extent of dam-

age, hikers are cautioned that some of their intended routes may still be blocked. In addition, unusually wet conditions may persist, particularly in low-lying areas, into May or even June. Be prepared with proper footwear and avoid walking around wet areas to help prevent widening of the trail. Better yet, try to plan hikes in higher and dryer zones so as to avoid wet trails until the ground has firmed up.

The most significant winter damage was reported in Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Schunemunk Mountain, Black Rock Forest, Storm King State Park, the Taconic Ridge, and the Catskills, all in New York, as well as in High Point State

Park and Stokes State Forest in New Jersey.

With the return of warm weather in late March, Trail Conference crews of volunteers headed back to the work of clearing trails. Hikers can help by removing as much debris as they can safely handle from the trails they walk.

The Trail Conference maintains a web page where hikers can exchange information about trail conditions (click on Viewpoint at [www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org)). To report serious trail problems, email [info@nynjtc.org](mailto:info@nynjtc.org) or call the office at 201-512-9348.

Hikers are also welcome to join TC Trail Crews or to volunteer as maintainers. Information is available on the website (click on Volunteers on the home page) or by calling the Conference office. The spring Trail Crew schedule is 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.

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

# Ah, Spring

This past winter has had more than its share of snow and cold weather. There are hikers who will be out in almost any temperature and those who eagerly await the longer days and warmer weather. No matter which group you belong to, spring is a welcome time of revival and renewal. When spring peepers herald things to come, one cannot help but smile, put away the heavy clothes, and begin to plan hikes and trips. With spring being a time of renewal, why not show your love and appreciation of the outdoors in a different way this year?

Celebrate spring and visit a park or area you have not been to before. All of us pass by parks on our everyday travels. We may look at the gateway and decide—it's just a playground, a picnic area, or a farm. Look again. Gedney Park in Millwood, NY, and Muscoot Farm on Route 100 in Somers, NY (both in Westchester County, near where I live and work), are just the types of parks where appearance is deceptive. The former has about three miles of trails tucked around playgrounds, tennis courts, and ball fields, but coyotes live there and a variety of plants grow in the woodlands and edge environments. Muscoot (which means something swampy) Farm has more than seven miles of hiking trails, covering a variety of habitats—old farm pastures, woodlands, ponds, and wetlands. Both parks are easy-to-get-to venues for delightful nature walks. Look around; likely there are similar places near you.

Another way to celebrate spring is to

take several children on a hike and in the process point out interesting things along the trail. One spring 10 years ago, I was the trail sweep on a hike that had two children along. The 6-year-old could not keep up with the group. However, her father, another adult, and I split off from the group and did the loop part of the hike in reverse. There had been moist weather during the previous week, and we saw so many orange salamanders (red elfs) that we did not bother to count them. The four of us spent most of our hike looking at them and noticing differences such as coloration, number of spots, and size. Interesting discussions occurred. When the other hikers joined us, they could not believe that we could have had such a good time and not gone very far. For me it was one of my personal top-10 hikes because the walk in the woods became something more than that.

A third way to celebrate is to organize an "It's Spring" hike for adults who have never been on a hike. Family, coworkers, members of your church, temple, or mosque are people you might include. Choose a hike with a destination such as a lake, a great view, or a waterfall. Bring something special along for the celebration—it might be someone to talk about flowers, geology, or birds, or have a box of homemade cookies for dessert at lunch.

For those of you who are maintainers, celebrate spring this year and invite a hiking friend to help you. This introduction to trail maintenance will let you spread

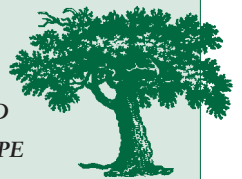
the word about how to help maintain trails so that we can continue to hike. Just remember to let your friend know that one does not go and just maintain; you need to be assigned a trail or trail segment. If you don't have a trail assignment, call Josh at the Trail Conference office and let him know you would like to help.

Now, if you are one of those people who has more money than time, why not celebrate spring by making a donation to the Trail Conference. That way your dollars make a difference, whether in protecting land, the environment, or educating people as to where to go and how to do it.

Happy Spring and Happy Trails.

—Jane Daniels  
Chair, Board of Directors

READING  
THE  
FORESTED  
LANDSCAPE



Friday, May 9

A slide/lecture by forest ecologist  
and author Tom Wessels

Presented by:  
The Museum of the Hudson Highlands  
Co-sponsored by:  
The New York-New Jersey  
Trail Conference

- ♦ You're on a hike and stone walls appear in the middle of the forest.
- ♦ You're wandering through an area of small deciduous trees, and you come upon a "granddaddy" tree.
- ♦ Have you ever wondered why that is and what was there before? Through clues and techniques, you, too, can learn to read the history of the forest. Come to this lecture, and no walk in the woods will ever be the same!

**Time:** 7:30 PM  
**Place:** Storm King School Theater, Mountain Rd. off of Route 9W, Cornwall, NY (full directions at www.sks.org)  
**Price:** \$10.00 general admission, \$7.00 Trail Conference members or members of the Museum of the Hudson Highlands  
Seating limited; reservations suggested - 845-534-5506 ext. 204

An intrepid sleuth and articulate tutor, Tom Wessels, author of *Reading the Forested Landscape*, teaches us to read the landscape the way we might solve a mystery. He has spent more than 20 years interpreting the northeastern landscape and teaching others to see the forest for the trees. Mr. Wessels is a forest ecologist and professor of ecology in the Environmental Biology Program at Antioch New England Graduate School.

# L · E · T · T · E · R · S

Thank This Man If You Hike at  
Storm King State Park

Getting Storm King State Park ready to reopen for hikers last fall took scores of volunteers, SKSP trail maintainers and supervisor, the trail crew, and its outgoing chief, Bob Marshall. They worked many hours and days to accomplish the huge amount of work necessary to undo three years of maintenance neglect and to construct the new Crossover connector trail (a red-blazed trail between the Stillman Spring Trail and the Howell Trail).

Through it all, there was one figure who was there all the time. He gave of himself beyond the call of duty. He was there in the beginning assessing the work required. He helped scout, plan, and construct the Crossover Trail. He clipped and cleared trails. He removed blowdowns. Most of all, he reblazed virtually the entire trail

system in Section C—the eight miles of trails from about Clove Road, across Storm King Mountain to Mountain Road and from Rt. 9W to Rt. 218.

He devoted more than 20 FULL days in 2002 to reopening Sections C and A. He is committed to however many more days it will take to reopen Section B in 2003. He will not be satisfied until the job is done completely and properly.

This man is a gem in the crown of the Trail Conference. The Trail Conference would be a far, far, better organization if it could clone TC's Storm King State Park trails supervisor, John Blenninger.

Larry Braun  
West Hudson North  
Trails Committee, chair



from the Executive Director

## Stepping into the Breach, Again

In 1920, Major William Welch, the first Superintendent of the Palisades Interstate Park, had a problem. Crowds were congregating on the shore of the Hudson River, and there were few paved roads or marked trails to help distribute visitors to other park areas and no money to build any.

Major Welch began talking to the various hiking and “tramping” clubs who were avidly using the backcountry. He knew they could help him entice the crowds away from the river’s edge. A meeting with the various clubs was arranged at the log cabin on the top of the Abercrombie & Fitch Building in Manhattan.

At that meeting, the assembled groups agreed to work together to promote “a deeper interest in the use of the Palisades Interstate Park for recreational purposes” and to work cooperatively “in the development of trails and shelter systems.”

So it was that the Trail Conference was created in 1920—a federation of hiking groups dedicated to helping the broader public connect with nature on public lands. This continues to be our core purpose to this day and far into the future.

Major Welch went on to chair the Trail Conference for 10 years, a period in which he was very active in the state and national park movement of the times. The Palisades Interstate Park and the Trail

Conference served as a model for other public/private park partnerships across the nation. The Trail Conference built the first section of the Appalachian Trail in 1923 and, in 1925 with Major Welch as its first chair, the Appalachian Trail Conference was formed along TC lines to build and manage the Appalachian Trail.

The Trail Conference, with more than 85 member organizations, has remained focused on the trails and trail lands rather than on the activities that can occur there. The Trail Conference does not lead hikes or organize recreational events—that is what our member organizations do.

The Trail Conference is a forum where individual and organizational members come together to protect their common interests—the lands and the trails that traverse them. Our focus is on the projects that are either too large for an individual club or better managed by an umbrella group where the interests of all users are taken into account.

As our region’s population grows and open space shrinks, the need to optimize the public’s benefit from the remaining open space will present even greater challenges. For example, disputes between different user groups that have been seen in recent years are reminiscent of the “trail wars” between different hiking clubs that the Trail Conference had to overcome in

its first decade.

The Trail Conference’s mission has been and will remain to assist public agencies in making their lands accessible and beneficial to the public. The enormity of this task is made ever more formidable with each new budget cut announced by federal and state administrations. It is clear that public agencies will continue to rely on Trail Conference volunteers.

Force reductions in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as a result of early retirements and budget cuts are leaving essential positions unfilled. In New York the ranks of the Department of Environmental Conservation are thinning and the legally dedicated Environmental Protection Fund is eroded further with each additional budget proposal.

Under these circumstances, which are expected for the foreseeable future, organizations like the Trail Conference become more important than ever. We nurture a reservoir of volunteer talent, people who are moved to action by their passionate dedication to a cause; these are resources that can make the difference when public commitment falls short. The public/private collaborations that have marked Trail Conference history since 1920 will continue, but it is clear that our public partners will be increasingly stretched in the days ahead.

The private commitments we each make—whether to keep a trail accessible by being a maintainer, field-checking a book description, attending a hearing on a development proposal, or writing a letter to a government decision-maker—will often be the difference between stewardship and loss. There’s never been a more important time to be a Trail Conference member and a volunteer.

— Ed Goodell

## Sterling Forge Estates

### A Development “Hole” in a Hard-Won Park?

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Sterling Forge Estates, a proposed development for an 18-hole golf course with 103 upscale houses to be located in the heart of the Sterling Forest State Park, is imminent, developers announced in March. The Town of Tuxedo Board, which is the lead agency reviewing the project, appears to favor the proposal, citing its projected tax-positive benefits and the perception that a golf course is a “green,” environmentally-friendly land use.

The development proposal was first put forward in 2000; public hearings were held on the project’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and additional studies were required by the town board and the NYS DEC. Sterling Forest Partnership members (the Trail Conference is among them) monitored all Tuxedo Town Board meetings and workshops dealing with Sterling Forge Estates. Its expert consultants have written letters to the town board whenever it appeared the board’s actions or interpretations of environmental law were questionable and when the town’s consultants appeared to be in error. Repeated requests have been made to the town to require a Supplemental EIS. If the town refuses to require a Supplemental EIS, it is possible that legal action may follow.

The 571 acres proposed for this development are very rugged, consisting of steep ridges of exposed bedrock and very thin soils. The only level areas are composed of wetlands and stream valleys. Turning this particular piece of property into a golf course and a housing subdivision is going to require a massive change to the landscape with far-reaching environmental impacts that will extend beyond the boundaries of the Sterling Forge property into the Sterling Forest State Park, Tuxedo Lake and Tuxedo Park, the Ramapo River, and potentially into New Jersey’s drinking water system.

#### What You Can Do

- Write letters to Governors Pataki or McGreevey and to your local legislators, and urge them to finish the job of protecting Sterling Forest.
- Work with a member group of the Sterling Forest Partnership. There are times when your attendance at meetings and your written opinions will be critical.

Sterling Forest Partnership has committed payment of nearly \$100,000 to pay its expert consultants. Through funds raised by the Partnership, and with donations

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## ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

### Minnewaska-Catskill Corridor Reviewed

The Trail Conference-Adirondack Mountain Club Partnership is actively participating in New York’s Department of Environmental Conservation development of a revised unit management plan (UMP) for the Sundown Wild Forest, located in the southeastern corner of the Catskill Park. The plan will cover nearly 5,000 acres of the former Lundy Estate, which the state recently acquired from the Open Space Institute, most of which lies outside the Catskill Park and is now called the Vernooy Kill State Forest. This combined unit of public land encompasses approximately 28,000 acres of Forest Preserve and 3,700 acres of reforestation lands located in the Towns of Wawarsing, Rochester, Denning and Olive in Ulster County, and the Town of Neversink in Sullivan County.

The Lundy estate has long been considered one of the most outstanding pri-

ivate parcels of land within the Catskill region and had been included as a priority in the State’s Open Space Conservation Plan. Important for wildlife habitat and recreation, this property is also the linchpin for the long hoped-for connection between the public land of the Shawangunk Ridge and Catskill State Park. A major issue for hikers is likely to be routing the Long Path through this parcel to connect Minnewaska State Park Preserve with the Catskill Forest Preserve.

For additional information, contact planning coordinator Jeff Rider, NYSDEC, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561; 845-256-3083; jarider@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

### Awosting Reserve Development In Town Planning Stage

The proposed development, Awosting Reserve, which threatens the northern Shawangunk Ridge, is moving through the

planning process with the town of Gardiner and the NYDEC. As this issue goes to press, the developer’s application is still incomplete, and no action is required until it is deemed complete by the town. Following that, the DEC will issue a “Positive Declaration,” indicating that there are significant environmental and public impacts that require a thorough review and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, a project of the Trail Conference, is working in collaboration with other groups at each step of the process. For the latest news and information on how to get involved go to [www.shawangunkridge.org](http://www.shawangunkridge.org).

### Monitoring Belleayre Resort Plan

The TC-ADK Partnership continues to monitor a proposal for major new Catskill resort in an area adjacent to the Big Indian Wilderness Area and Balsam Moun-

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# TRAIL NEWS

## Orange Alert! Backpacks Searched at Bear Mtn. Bridge

The Orange Alert declared the first day of the U.S. war against Iraq led to early confusion about the status of pedestrian traffic on the Bear Mountain Bridge. A State Police spokesman told a Trail Conference staffer that the bridge would be closed to all pedestrians when an Orange Alert was in effect, and at least one hiker reported that she had been prevented from walking across the bridge. Bridge authorities confirmed that one hiker was denied permission to cross the bridge, but only after she refused to allow inspection of her pack. After a flurry of emails and phone calls on the subject from Trail Conference representatives to the State Police, PIPC Park Police, the Bridge Authority, and the National Park Service (which oversees the AT), announced police procedure seemed to settle on permitting pedestrian crossings, subject to inspection of any and all

bags or packs. Hikers who do not agree to a bag search will not be allowed to walk on the bridge. Vehicles are not being searched. Please contact the TC office if your experience differs from the announced procedure.

## Orange Alert! Ashokan Causeway Crossing Closed

Hikers heading for the southern Catskills should be aware that Monument Road, which crosses the Olivebridge Dam in the middle of the Ashokan Reservoir, is closed indefinitely. The closure is a security measure effected by the New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection that aims to protect the water supply.

## Breakneck Relocation

The Breakneck Ridge Trail east of where the Notch Trail leaves the ridge toward Bull Hill was relocated on March 29 at the request of the DEC Natural Heritage Program. The relocated section is coaligned with the Notch Trail and contours around the high point to the north before rejoining the old trail.

## Temporary Closing of Columbia Trail in Hunterdon County

The Hunterdon County portion of the Columbia Trail, extending from the Morris County border into High Bridge, will be closed to the public until sometime in May 2003, while the trail undergoes re-

construction. New bridge decking, drainage work, and clearing of some vegetation will be in progress.

In the future, parking will be in the High Bridge municipal and Valley parking lots. No parking will be permitted in the Hoffman Crossing Area. Future additional parking may be available in the Borough of Califon.

During the period of construction, there will be a zero tolerance policy in effect for all violators of the trail closure postings. A court summons will be issued to anyone violating this notice.

For additional information or questions, please contact William A. Clothier, Supervising Planner, Hunterdon County Department of Parks and Recreation at 908-782-1158 or email him at [bclothier@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:bclothier@co.hunterdon.nj.us).

## Not (Yet) on Your Maps: Schuber Trail in Bergen County

The 6.7-mile orange-blazed Schuber Trail, opened in a ceremony to commemorate National Trails Day in June 2002, connects Ramapo Valley County Reservation in Mahwah with Ramapo Mountain State Forest in Oakland, passing through the former Boy Scout Camps Glen Gray and Tamarack—now owned by Bergen County—on the way. It parallels the Cannonball/Hoeflerin Memorial and Yellow/Yellow-Silver Trails, making possible a number of loop hikes of varying lengths.

Starting from the parking area for the

Ramapo Valley County Reservation on Route 202 in Mahwah, the Schuber Trail crosses the Ramapo River and follows the routes of the former River and Waterfall Trails to reach the wide park road leading to the MacMillan Reservoir. It continues along the former route of the Silver Trail to reach Bear Swamp Road at 2.8 miles. After briefly following the road to cross a bridge over Bear Swamp Brook, it continues along a newly constructed trail to join the Yellow Trail. The Schuber Trail follows the Yellow Trail to an east-facing overlook on the property of Camp Glen Gray. It descends through the camp (now managed by Friends of Glen Gray and open to the public) and follows the former Bottle Cap Trail through Camp Tamarack to end at the camp entrance, opposite the upper parking area on Skyline Drive.

The Schuber Trail is not shown on the 2002 edition of the Trail Conference's North Jersey Trails Map #22, but a full description of the trail will be included in the 2003 edition of the *New Jersey Walk Book*, expected to be available in summer 2003. A comprehensive trail description is also available on the Trail Conference's website. Although hikers may follow the trail through Camp Glen Gray, parking at the camp is not permitted for day hikers. Hikers should access the trail at its endpoints, where parking is available.

# TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES



For the latest schedules, check <http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trvolop.html#crew>  
TBA = To be announced

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.

## East Hudson

**Leaders:** Walt Daniels, 914-245-1250  
Terry Platz, 845-424-3358  
If you are coming by train, be sure to let the leader know so that we wait for the train. Trips led by Terry Platz will meet in Glennylyff (short walk from Garrison RR station); no beginners, work with youth 14-18.

The East Hudson Trail Crew has exciting projects this season with opportunities to build several new trails. The Trail Conference has recently adopted trails in some Westchester County Parks, including trails in Kitchawan Preserve, George's Island, and Montrose Point, which need to be brought up to TC standards before they

can be turned over to maintainers. In Fahnestock State Park, the crew will revive an old horse trail east of the Taconic Parkway. In addition, in cooperation with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and Open Space Institute, we will work on trails on in the Garrison area. Many great opportunities for new crew members and maintainers! Please contact leader for details. Details and more trips will be announced on the web at [www.nynjtc.org/committees/trailsCouncil/crews](http://www.nynjtc.org/committees/trailsCouncil/crews).

**May 3:** 9 am-3 pm, Daniels, Hudson Highlands Gateway Park (new trail)  
**May 3:** 1-4 pm, Platz  
**May 10:** 1-4 pm, Platz  
**May 17:** 1-4, Platz  
**May 24:** 1-4, Platz  
**May 31:** 1-4, Platz  
**June 14:** 9 am-3 pm, Daniels, TBA

## West Hudson

**Crew Chief:** Chris Ezzo, 516-431-1148  
Brian Buchbinder, 718-218-7563, [brian@grandrenovation.com](mailto:brian@grandrenovation.com)  
Claudia Ganz, 212-633-1324, [clganz@earthlink.net](mailto:clganz@earthlink.net)  
Robert Marshall, 914-737-4792, [rmarshall@webtv.net](mailto:rmarshall@webtv.net)  
Monica Resor, 732-937-9098, [adamant@trailstobuild.com](mailto:adamant@trailstobuild.com)  
**May 3:** RD Trail, Black Rock Mountain, Harriman, Marshall  
**May 4:** RD Trail, Black Rock Mountain, Harriman, Marshall  
**May 8:** TBA in Harriman, Marshall  
**May 17:** Southfields Furnace, Resor  
**May 18:** Southfields Furnace, Buchbinder  
**May 29:** TBA in Harriman, Marshall  
**May 31:** Southfields Furnace in Harriman, Resor  
**June 1:** Southfields Furnace in Harriman, Ezzo

**June 7:** Nurian Trail in Harriman, Buchbinder  
**June 8:** TBA in Harriman, Ezzo  
**June 12:** TBA in Harriman, Marshall

## New Jersey Highlands

Call the leader no earlier than one week before the scheduled date. Work will be concentrating in the Lake Hopatcong area.  
**Leader:** Bob Moss, 973-743-5203  
**May 10; May 25; June 14; June 29**

## West Jersey

**Leaders:** David Jay and Monica Resor, 732-937-9098, [westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com](mailto:westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com)  
All meeting times: 9 am; call for meeting location; heavy rain cancels.  
**May 3:** Appalachian Trail, Stokes State Forest - Erosion control  
**May 18:** Appalachian Trail, Stokes State Forest - Erosion control  
**June 7, National Trails Day:** Appalachian Trail, Worthington State Forest - Erosion control and tread revitalization on the AT between the Dunnfield Creek parking lot and Sunfish Pond. Meet 9 am at Dunnfield Creek (AT) lot.  
**June 28:** Howell Trail, Stokes State Forest - Work to begin on replacing a defunct bridge.  
**June 29:** Howell Trail, Stokes State Forest - Continuing bridge work.  
**July 12:** Howell Trail, Stokes State Forest - Continuing bridge work.

## 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.

## Delegates' Meeting Thursday, June 12

*All Members Are Welcome*

All Trail Conference members are invited to attend the next meeting of the hiking club delegates on Thursday, June 12, 2003, at the Fort Lee Historic Park, in Fort Lee, New Jersey.

The meeting and program start at 7 pm. Please join us for a social hour, beginning at 6 pm, for a chance to share refreshments and chat with hiking club representatives.

Although each member club or organization of the Trail Conference designates a delegate to act as liaison to the Conference, individual Conference members are always welcome at delegates' meetings. Meetings, held in New York City or at Fort Lee Historic Park on the New Jersey Palisades, provide wonderful opportunities to share hiking and conservation news, discuss issues, and help guide the Trail Conference's future work and activities.

**Getting There:** Fort Lee Historic Park is immediately south of the George Washington Bridge on the east side of Hudson Terrace, on the New Jersey Palisades. Frequent bus service from the GWB terminal in Manhattan is available, or take the lovely (and free) one-mile walk across the bridge. Ample (free) parking is available. Driving directions are available at [www.njpalisades.org](http://www.njpalisades.org) or by calling the Trail Conference office.



Towering pinnacles create the exotic "Lost City."

# Stories Told by Shawangunk Stone

by Daniel Brownstein

The Shawangunk Mountains offer fascinating opportunities for geological observation. From vantage points within a radius of several miles, it is possible to see evidence of one billion years of geologic history (the Hudson Highlands visible to the southeast are 1.1 billion years old) and the remnants of four major mountain-building events: the Grenville event that formed the Hudson Highlands; the Taconian event, responsible for the Taconic and Berkshire Mountains; the Acadian, the erosion of whose mountains resulted in the sedimentary deposits of the Catskills; and finally the Appalachian event, which created the Appa-



The author, a *roche moutonnée* in the background.

lachian range and uplifted the Gunks.

Along the Shawangunk ridge we also find evidence of ancient seas and beaches, see the tremendous impact glaciers had on this region in the not-so-distant past, and witness the effects of weathering and erosion that continually alter the landscape of the Hudson Valley, a process dramatically demonstrated this past January by a major rock slide that closed Route 52 east of Ellenville for days.

In November of last year, I led a geology hike in the Shawangunks for earth science teachers from Long Island to Oneonta. The trip comprised three separate mini-hikes to spots selected for their special geological interest and beautiful views. This a guided tour for those who may want to follow in our group's footsteps and enhance their knowledge of this beautiful hiking area.

## Overview

The story of geology almost always comes down to rocks. Fortunately, there are just two main rock types to be concerned about in the Shawangunks: the hard, resistant, younger Shawangunk Conglomerate, which is found capping the ridge; and the weaker, older Normanskill

Shale, which underlies the conglomerate.

To understand how the Shawangunks formed, we need to travel back about 430 million years. At this time, a large mountain range on the scale of the Rockies existed to the east of the present-day Gunks. To the west of this mountain range, called the Taconic Mountains, was an inland sea. Into this sea, rivers flowed off the Taconics carrying sediment eroded from its slopes. The larger particles in this stream—the sand and pebbles—settled out of suspension once the river met the ocean and formed a beautiful white sand beach made mostly of quartz. Once this beach solidified it became the attractive Shawangunk conglomerate that visitors now associate with the Gunks.

Several hundred million years later, this solidified beach was folded during another mountain-building event called the Appalachian orogeny. Just like folds in a carpet, the Shawangunk conglomerate was tilted and uplifted when Europe and Africa collided with North America.

Then for nearly 250 million years the geologic environment was rather "quiet," until the climate suddenly cooled about one million years ago. During this time, up until about 12,000 years ago, glaciers repeatedly advanced and retreated over the Shawangunks, dramatically altering their appearance. The softer underlying shale weathers at a much faster rate than the harder conglomerate cap, and the result is a noticeable ridge along the uplifted layers. The topography we see today is therefore a result of faulting, folding, glaciation, and the extremely resistant Shawangunk conglomerate cap rock.

Evidence of glaciation is everywhere in the Shawangunks. The mountains are littered with glacial erratics (out-of-context boulders that were transported and deposited by glaciers), have extensive cliff ridges, and large "fields" of glacial polish scored with scratches, chatter marks, and gouges. In general the northwestern slopes are smoothed, and cliff lines are on the southeast, a result of the direction the glaciers were moving. Glacial features are especially prominent on the glacial polish. The conglomerate is so hard that it has barely weathered on the surface since the last glaciation (thus aiding in the preservation of these features). Instead, weathering occurs mainly along vertical cracks, which are extensive. Water easily seeps into these cracks, and, owing to the fact that water expands when it freezes, the conglomerate is susceptible to extensive splitting due to ice wedging. Eventually

this process results in many talus fields or large block fields, as well as many crevices and caves. The winter rockslide along Route 52 was a dramatic recent example of this process.

## To Hawks Watch

Hawks Watch overlook in the Mohonk Preserve offers excellent views of the Wallkill Valley and Catskill Mountains, and the chance to observe numerous glacial features. (From the Mohonk Preserve's West Trapps Trailhead parking lot, go to the Trapps Carriageway just west of the Route 44/55 overpass and take the blue-blazed Millbrook Mountain Trail up to the ridge.) This quick jaunt goes over spectacular glacial polish (very smooth, shiny rock "polished" by a glacier) to the overlook. Preserved amidst the glacial polish are numerous glacial parallel scratches and concave gouges.

At Hawks Watch, look across the highway gap to a glacial feature called a *roche moutonnée*, a mountain or hill that has been smoothed on one side by an advancing glacier and "plucked" by the action of its retreat on the other. In the Shawangunks, many of the northwestern slopes are smoothed and the southeastern slopes plucked, and these *roche moutonnées* create magnificent cliffs.

The Catskills, visible to the northward, are essentially the remains of an ancient delta (like the Mississippi Delta)—huge mounds of sediment piled up over millions of years from the erosion of another range called the Acadian Mountains.

## The Lost City

Lost City is a marvelous area, also in the Mohonk Preserve, with small cliffs, towering spires, and very large boulders looking very much like an abandoned, broken down city. (Park in the Coxing Kill lot, and head north on the blue-blazed High Peters Kill Trail for about .25 mile, then bear right on the Yellow Trail, which has two short branches.) Geologically, the Lost City lies on a fold parallel to the Trapps ridge to the east. Like the Trapps ridge, the Lost City has cliffs on the southeastern slope and glacial polish on the northwestern slope. Unlike the Trapps ridge, the angle of the fold (dipping down instead of up) has literally caused the cliffs to slide downhill. Ice-wedging and ancient faults have aided this process significantly. Be-

cause of this difference, tall towers and pinnacles that were once part of the cliffs stand alone, tempting adventurous climbers to scale them.

## Along Lake Minnewaska & Millbrook Mountain

The startlingly beautiful, aqua-green Lake Minnewaska lies along an ancient fault line, as do Lakes Awosting and Mohonk, and the underlying conglomerate bedrock greatly influences the clarity of the water. Very little sediment weathers off the hard conglomerate, and the rock's chemical composition results in the water being too acidic for most plants to grow. From the lake, take the Millbrook Mountain Trail (red blaze) to Millbrook Mountain, a return to the ridge overlooking the Wallkill Valley. The 360-degree views from Millbrook Mountain are, in my opinion, among the best in the Shawangunks, encompassing the Catskills to the northwest, the Taconic Mountains to the north-



At Millbrook Mountain, with the Catskills beyond.

east, the Hudson Highlands to the southeast, and High Point in New Jersey to the south. If you return to the lake via Millbrook Drive, you will pass the Palmaghatt Ravine, a pristine area framed by cliffs that is threatened with development encroachment by the proposed Awosting Reserve (see page 3).

Trail Conference member Daniel Brownstein is an earth science teacher and the chair of the high school science department in Hastings, New York. He received the Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award from the National Association of Geoscience Teachers for New York State in 2002, and the Radio Shack National Teachers Award for 2003. The outing described above was an extension of one that he leads each year for an Advanced Geology class he teaches.

## SHARP ELECTRONICS TO HELP ON MAY 3 LITTER DAY CLEANUP OF AT

On May 3 employees from Sharp Electronics will be teaming up with the Trail Conference to participate in Litter Day along the Appalachian Trail. Together we will be collecting trash, breaking up illegal fire rings, and performing minor maintenance work. Join us for a day of fun; please contact Josh at the TC office for more details.

The Trail Conference is also looking for outgoing individuals who would be interested in organizing similar corporate volunteer outings. If you are interested in learning more, contact Josh at the office.





**NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY  
TRAIL CONFERENCE**



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Your generous gift rewards you and the Trail Conference.

For information specific to you, contact Jim Davis or Maureen Walsh at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348. Provide your name, address, phone, and date of birth. All inquiries are confidential.

**SAMPLE RATES  
(one life):**

Minimum gift is \$5,000; minimum age is 65, limited to two income beneficiaries.

AGE	RATE
65	6.3%
70	6.7%
75	7.3%
80	8.3%
85	9.7%
90+	11.5%

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members: Jakob & Gely Franke, Blair A. Seidler, and Jennifer S. Broekman.

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."

**VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS**

The Trail Conference is volunteer-powered organization. Without the dedication of its members, we would not be successful in accomplishing our mission. Below are new and interesting opportunities for members to get involved. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and can't find an opportunity that suits you, contact Volunteer Projects Director Joshua Erdsneker at [josh@nynjtc.org](mailto:josh@nynjtc.org) or 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

**Why did the hiker cross the road?**

Because a volunteer like you coordinated the placement of "Hiker Crossing" signs and trailhead signs at strategic trail/road intersections. If you are interested in working with our Trails Council to identify and oversee the placement of roadside and trailhead signage to increase hiker safety, call now. Make a difference; help create a safer hiking environment.

**Hike of the Week Expansion**

Help expand the scope and utilization of our popular Hike of the Week newspaper series. Your business savvy can add miles to our ideas.

**Ruta Apalache**

We are looking for Spanish/English speaking volunteers to update a Trail Conference brochure regarding the Appalachian Trail written in Spanish. Help the Trail Conference educate and inform Spanish-speaking audiences about the Appalachian Trail, a national treasure located less than 50 miles from Times Square.

**Fulfillment Clerk**

Looking for an interesting way to stay cool during the hot summer months? Why not come to the Trail Conference office once a week and assist our membership and sales department with the processing of membership forms and sales orders. Data

entry has never been more exciting! Our friendly staff will set you up on a computer and give you all the training you'll need.

**Lawyer Sought...**

The Trail Conference is looking for a copyright/intellectual property lawyer. If you have experience in this area of the law or know someone who does, contact Josh.

**Trail Maintainers Wanted for High Point State Park and Stokes State Forest**

In 1923, Colonel and Mrs. Kuser donated the first 10,500 acres of what has become High Point State Park, one of the most popular hiking locales in New Jersey. Join the team of dedicated volunteers who maintain and protect these hiking trails. Many trails have been closed and/or damaged from the severe winter storms that hit our region this winter. Sign up to adopt a section of trail; your work will allow other hikers to enjoy one of New Jersey's treasures.

**Harriman Nature Walks Coordinator**

Every summer the TC offers nature walks in Harriman State Park. We are looking for an organized individual to coordinate walk leaders and arrangements with the park ranger at Tiorati Circle. The leaders will be offered a training session to learn about the plants and animals they might see during the hike. A coordinator who knows enough about the plants and animals to lead the training is desirable, but we can supply a naturalist if necessary. There do exist guide sheets and identification books to use on the hikes.

**Do you remember 1990-2000?**

The Technology Committee and webmaster are looking for a brief synopsis of the Trail Conference's activities during the '90s. Help maintain our website and inform our website visitors about the Trail Conference and its activities.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Martin Deeks**

It was only a year ago that Martin Deeks came to a Trails Council meeting to request support for his concept of a trail linking iron-making historic sites in New Jersey's Ringwood State Park. His enthusiasm for this project was infectious, and many of us began looking forward to assessing these future trails and spending field time with Martin learning about the history in this fascinating area. Soon, he was involved with trail-planning efforts in Sterling Forest, and again he showed us how to see the land through a historian's eyes. With increasing anticipation we looked forward to the spring thaw and getting back on the trails with him when, suddenly, we paused upon hearing that he was ill, and then came to a standstill with the news of his untimely passing in late February.

Martin worked for the Ringwood State Park as a historian, was a member of Friends of the Long Pond Ironworks and Ringwood and North Jersey Highlands Historical Society. His efforts to bring back to life some of the iron-making history of this area will not be forgotten. We at the Trail Conference look forward to working with the members of the Long Pond Ironworks and Ringwood S. P. to see these trails completed. He set in motion a concept that has taken on a life of its own, and through these valuable educational trails, Martin Deeks will be remembered.

—Larry Wheelock,  
Trails Director

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

**TORREY SOCIETY**

Gifts over \$500  
Duncan Douglas, Hedley M. and Barbara Weeks

**DONORS**

Gifts up to \$500  
ADK Knickerbocker Chapter, Sarah Barnaby & Juan Martinez, John V. Bracco, Daniel M. Byrd, Philippe Cheyette, Ledge Clayton, David L. Cullen, Valerie A. Desharnais, Anita DiGiulio, Donald E. and Mary Sue Farquhar, Robert J. Flynn, Heather Frisbie, Peter Gabriele II, Claudia L. Ganz, George Gentsch & JoAnn Abbadessa, Charles Glanville, Lawrence and Elizabeth Gross, Jennifer M. Gurkan, Nancy G. Hassanein, Greg Hesterberg & Tim Kunin, Nadine S. Kaprelian & David R. Hibbeln, Peter L. Kennard, Leonard M. Leiman, Julius and Hermine Levine, James A. Lignori, H. Max Lopp II, Christian Meyer & Hwa Soon, Katherine T. Miller & Sandra Caravella, Tommy and Maureen Pearce, Robert J. Piepiora, Alfred Polvere & Natalie Polvere, Carol A. Quinn & David W. Mayo, John K. Robinson & Alice T. Cialella, Rick Rogers, Aaron & Kathy Schoenberg, Steve R. and Susan J. Schwinn, Larry and Steven Spinner, Miriam R. Taub, Lanny S. Wexler, Michael J. and Lois V. Williams, H. Neil Zimmerman

**GIFTS TO THE SHAWANGUNK RIDGE COALITION**

Peter M. Balma, Stuart Bliss, Walter E. Britt, James Brown III, Brigitte Dessauer, Gregory Frux, Barbara Howard, Douglas F. McBride, Marshall McKnight, Emily Mines, Robert

Montevago, Lilly E. Popper, Robert and Rosemary Schmitt, Fred H. Schroeder, Melissa D. Shumer, Eric M. Weis, Janice M. Whipple, AT Your Own Risk Hiking Club

**MATCHING GIFTS**

Altria Group, Inc, CNA, IBM, Phizer, Prudential Insurance, Unilever Bestfoods

**IN MEMORY OF MARLIES WU**

David Sutter & Naomi Sutter, Richard Wolff & Nancy Wolff

**FAREWELL, LIBBY HERLAND**

Early this April Libby Herland, Manager of the Walkill Wildlife Refuge since 1995, left to take up new duties in Massachusetts. In her eight years of managing the Walkill Refuge, Libby more than doubled its acreage, directed the restoration of the Dagmar Dale farm into refuge headquarters, conceived and developed an interpretive trail system, and increased the staff from three to seven. She was an excellent collaborator, and excelled in developing partnerships between federal, state, county, municipal authorities, and the volunteer community. The TC acknowledges the contributions and thanks her for a very productive eight years.

—Larry Wheelock,  
Trails Director

**STERLING FORGE ESTATES**

*continued from page 3*

from the Village of Tuxedo Park, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, NY-No. Jersey Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Appalachian Trail Conference, and Thendara Mountain Club, the Partnership has raised \$60,000. To meet commitments, an additional \$40,000 must be raised, and likely more to finally finish the job of protecting Sterling Forest. A Sterling Forest Defense Fund has been set up for this purpose. Donations are being sought.

You can defend Sterling Forest with an individual or organization donation to: Sterling Forest Partnership for the Sterling Forest Defense Fund, 7 Spring Rock Drive, Goshen, NY 10924, or New York-New Jersey Trail Conference for the Sterling Forest Defense Fund, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430.

Keep up with news on this issue at [www.nynjtc.org/partners/sterling](http://www.nynjtc.org/partners/sterling).

## Call for Board and Delegate Nominations

Conference members are welcome to submit nominations, with supporting background information, for candidates for the TC board of directors and delegates-at-large. Elections are held for 5 members of the board of directors and 15 delegates-at-large at the annual meeting each October. Also at that time, awards are presented to members and friends to recognize outstanding people in the hiking community.

Send your suggestions for board and

delegate candidates to the Nominating Committee, in care of the NY/NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430; telephone 201-512-9348; email [info@nynjtc.org](mailto:info@nynjtc.org). The deadline is May 15, 2003.

Nominating committee members for this year are Robert Cherdack, Jane Daniels, Anne Osborn, Phyllis Stewart, and Robert Ward.

## Call for Candidates for Recognition Awards

Each year, the TC board of directors selects individuals to honor for their contributions to the hiking community. Nominations are welcomed from the membership, and should include supporting background information. Send your nominations to Recognition Awards, in care of the NY/NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430; telephone 201-512-9348; email [info@nynjtc.org](mailto:info@nynjtc.org). The deadline is May 15, 2003.

The annual awards are as follows:

**William Hoeflerlin Award:** recognizes Trail Conference volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.

**Next Generation Award:** given to those under age 21 who are making significant contributions of time and energy to trail

building and/or protection.

**Major Welch Trail Partner Award:** presented to those outside the Trail Conference—for example, state, federal, or local agency partner officials—who have given long and/or significant assistance to the local hiking community.

**Corporate Partner Award:** presented to a company that has furthered the hiking trail experience and/or protection effort.

**Raymond H. Torrey Award:** the Conference's most prestigious award, given for significant and lasting contributions that protect our hiking trails and the land upon which they rest.

**Leo Rothschild Conservation Award:** presented to a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to the protection of our trails and/or the natural lands that surround them.

I knew something about Malcolm Spector before I joined him one afternoon for a hike and conversation around Terrace Pond in New Jersey. I knew he was a member of the board of directors at the Trail Conference. I knew he served on the Conservation and Advocacy and Development Committees. I knew he was a trail maintainer and a trail crew member. I knew that he recently resumed the role of project manager for the upcoming sixth edition of the Shawangunks map set. I knew he was a hike leader for the AMC. I knew a lot about Malcolm.

But that afternoon I learned more. I learned that Malcolm grew up on a small farm in the suburbs of St. Louis and is a knowledgeable and capable chicken farmer. He speaks both French and Italian. He was a civil rights activist. He also is an accomplished gondolier, having learned that skill in the canals and Grand Lagoon of Venice, Italy. Malcolm can solo or tandem row and has the tales to prove it!

I learned that Malcolm's current career has him practicing law. He is an attorney for Legal Services for the Elderly, in New York. I say current career because Malcolm has many trades that he could pursue. In addition to the Juris Doctor he earned from NYU in 1994, he also earned a Ph.D. from Northwestern University. He was an associate professor at McGill University in Montreal, where he taught sociology. He is an accomplished writer, author of *Constructing Social Problems*.

Tucked in an around everything he

does, Malcolm makes time to hike, and he has done so around the world: the White Mountains in New Hampshire, the Catskills, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, New Zealand, the

Dolomites in Italy. Even Terrace Pond in the Newark Watershed lands, where this interview was conducted during our ramble around the pond, is a place where he enjoys nature's beauty. He especially loves to scout new trail routes. The thrill of the hunt, bushwhacking through the ups and downs of uncharted hills to find the perfect route is his passion. Scrambling through the rocks and cracks of the Lost City in the Mohonk Preserve is this lawyer's idea of fun.

Malcolm's enthusiasm and passion are contagious, and lucky novice hikers get an educational treat when they join one of his introductory hikes for AMC. He can explain how the surrounding terrain was formed by geological events millions of years ago, and he can describe the difference between moss and lichen and not make you feel foolish for asking.

In short, Malcolm Spector is a great companion on any hike and he brings a treasure trove of skills and talents as a busy volunteer for the Trail Conference.

After hiking with Malcolm through what many would consider a miserable day of rain, Maureen Walsh, the Conference's administrative director, proclaimed with a smile, "I'd follow him anywhere..."

—Josh Erdsneker,  
Volunteer Projects Director



## 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!

See our website for latest action needed: [www.shawangunkridge.org](http://www.shawangunkridge.org)

- 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](http://www.shawangunkridge.org) or contact Amy Little 845-255-3786; [amylittle@shawangunkridge.org](mailto:amylittle@shawangunkridge.org) or Josh Erdsneker at [josh@nynjtc.org](mailto:josh@nynjtc.org); 201-512-9348

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



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# HIKER'S

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NY-NJ TC member?  YES  NO  JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price

	Retail	Member	P/H	Total
<b>Official Conference Maps</b>				
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	\$7.50	+.95	_____
West Hudson Trails (2000)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.95	_____
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	\$7.50	+.95	_____
South Taconic Trails (1988, rev. 1998)	\$4.95	\$3.75	+.65	_____
Hudson Palisades (1991)	\$5.95	\$4.75	+.80	_____

### Books

A.T. Guide for NY & NJ (2002) w/6 maps	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.00	_____
Long Path Guide to NY/NJ (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.00	_____
Day Walker (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
Hiking Long Island (2002)	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.50	_____
NEW!! Circuit Hikes in Northern New Jersey	\$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	\$8.75	+\$2.00	_____
Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) Hardcover	\$11.45	\$9.25	+\$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)	\$15.95	\$12.95	+\$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

Note Cards: TC Collection	\$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	_____
Polo Shirt (Forest Green) Circle: S M L XL	\$19.90	\$15.50	+\$4.00	_____
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	_____
Long Path Logo Patch	\$2.75	\$2.75	postpaid	_____
Conference Logo Decal	\$.85	\$.85	postpaid	_____
			Subtotal	_____

Postage/handling from above, or \$6.00, whichever is LESS \_\_\_\_\_

For non-clothing items, New Jersey residents add 6% tax\* \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:  
 Check or money order enclosed  
 Visa  Mastercard  Amex  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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!

## Catskill Lean-to Is Family's Gift in Memory of Their Father



The Kaasmanns gather at their memorial shelter.

As a memorial to their father, the family of Lt. Col. Ed Kaasmann last year funded construction of a new shelter, fireplace, and outhouse at Long Pond in the Catskills.

Ed Kaasmann spent much of his free time in the Narrowsburg area, hiking through the woods. "We felt that a campers' shelter was the perfect tribute to our Pop," writes Tina Kaasmann-Dunn. "He was a giving and caring man who shared his love of the outdoors with all of his children and grandchildren."

The new campsite is located just off the orange-blazed snowmobile trail high above the pond and across the water from the old campsite. It was built by Jeff Ryder of the DEC along with two seasonal helpers. Ken Kaasmann also assisted in the

construction.

Last July, the family gathered to dedicate the new campsite. "The trail into the site was a rocky, uneven road, making it difficult to get Mom—age 87—to the campsite. A method was devised using a rickshaw like device pulled by her sons—a bumpy ride that was full of laughs and will be remembered long after Mom's headache fades away!"

The family thanks the DEC builders for their dedication and flawless work. "To all hikers, we invite you to visit 'our' shelter," Ms. Kaasmann-Dunn says. "Dad would be most pleased to have you stay awhile, and if perchance you should hear the strains of reveille in the early morning, well, that's just our Army Pop."

### ADOPT A LEAN-TO

The Trail Conference has responsibility for caretaking many of the lean-tos in the Catskill Forest Preserve. Caretaking positions are currently vacant. Find out more by indicating your interest and writing to: Lean-to Supervisor Elie Bijou, P.O. Box 26, Elizabethtown, NY 12932-0026, or by contacting him at [elie@willex.com](mailto:elie@willex.com). Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, and email address.

### RATTLESNAKES

*continued from page 1*

and evergreens—as long as it's a forest where small mammals are found. Timber rattlesnakes that are incubating and hibernating can be found on rocky talus slopes. Shedding snakes can be found just about anywhere that they can find warmth and moisture (including high humidity). They can be found within the forest, on the talus, in seeps, in tall grassy fields, and in forested floodplains.

Rattlesnakes are active in this region from around early May until late October. Occasionally, a snake may be found basking on a talus in November, trying to soak up the last bits of warmth. Research has shown that the snakes will emerge when there is a string of two to seven warm days and nights above 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit). They'll emerge from the dens to bask in the sun and then return to their crevices at night. Continued warm weather day and night initiates their migration to their foraging and shedding grounds.

### What to Do

The best actions to take when you encounter a timber rattlesnake are to avoid prolonged interaction by moving around the snake, ALWAYS keep your dog on a leash and children by your side, and continue on your hike. The snake will not fol-

low you and will often move to seek cover. NEVER attempt to shoo the snake away, and NEVER attempt to move a rattlesnake. Such actions are considered harassment of a protected species and may provoke a defensive response; poking may injure the snake. Inexperienced handlers risk their own safety, the safety of those around them, and the snake's safety. (It's best not to handle any wildlife; even the furriest bunny can have a ferocious bite when cornered.) If a hiker is for some reason unable to move around a snake at a safe distance, the hiker should turn back and travel about 50 yards away from the snake and wait. Carefully check the trail every half-hour or so. If the snake is basking, it may take some time for it to move off the trail.

Be a safe and conscientious hiker. Know what you can expect to find along your path by contacting the local ranger station, reading the materials in the trail directories, or conducting some online searches. For the "Do's and Don'ts" of first aid treatment for a venomous snake bite, visit the CDC's (Center for Disease Control) website at [www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/) and search under "Venomous Snake Bite." Happy hiking!

■ *Kris Schantz is Senior Biologist with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program.*



## Eagle Projects Benefit Norvin Green

Two Eagle Scout candidate projects in Norvin Green State Forest in New Jersey resulted in significant improvements to the park's trails.



BSA Troop 144: bridge builders

### Blue Mine Footbridge

A new footbridge near the Blue Mine is the result of a project by Tom Dempsey of BSA Troop 144, Pequannock, NJ. Tom chose the project with the help of the Trail Conference and received financial support from its Elizabeth Levers Memorial Fund.

The new wooden bridge spans a 24-foot stream that over the years had wiped out a number of log bridges. Tom handled the project's engineering requirements, produced a bill of materials, made arrangements for pre-cutting and delivery, and recruited the assistance of fellow scouts. The professional results of this effort are on view for hikers who traverse the Mine and Wyanokie Circular Trails.

In addition to money from the Levers Fund, the project benefited from discounted materials supplied by 84 Lumber of Oakland, NJ, and Somerville Lumber of Somerville, NJ. Rentals Unlimited of Pompton Plains, NJ, donated the use of an electric generator for on-site tool power. Financial contributions were received from the Knights of Columbus (John F. Kennedy Council No. 5486 of Lincoln Park, NJ); James LaSala, attorney-at-law; Helen K. Mueller; Kathleen Golden; Karin Kolodziejski; Philip Kolodziejski; Janet Konecki; Thomas Casey, Sr.; Thomas Casey, Jr.; and Joe Dugett, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 23. Others who contributed

to the success of this project include the scouts, leaders, parents, and friends of Troop 144, and volunteers from the Trail Conference.

### Hewitt-Butler Waterbars

Tim Cook of BSA Troop 34, Ramapo Mountain district, tackled the job of building a series of waterbars on the Hewitt-Butler Trail. This popular section of trail, leading up the north side of Wyanokie High Point, is heavily traveled, quite steep, and subject to erosion and degradation.

The project of building and installing waterbars and check dams, utilizing both stone and wood materials, required several erosion control devices in a few hours of toil under difficult circumstances.

Other participants included Scoutmaster Tom Cook, Assistant Scoutmaster James Pidgeon, former Scoutmaster W. Milford, and Doug Stelling; scouts Jarrett Barbuto, Phil DeNicola, Mike Kobes, and Tom Sidoti; and NY-NJTC advisers Cliff Gerenz and Bob Jonas. Special thanks go to Jim Flechsig, Hazekamp's Friendly Mobil Service, and Peter McBride (all of Franklin Lakes), Larry and Linda Schumann of Wyckoff, and Shop Rite of Oakland.



Last row L to R: Doug Stelling, James Pidgeon, Tom Cook. 2nd row L to R: Cliff Gerenz, Jarrett Barbuto, Tom Sidoti, Phil DeNicola, Mike Kobes. Front: Tim Cook

## ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

*continued from page 3*

tain in the Catskills. First proposed several years ago by Crossroads Ventures, the plan calls for a resort hotel, 250-second homes, and a golf course on the upper slopes of Belleayre Mountain. Earlier this year the developer submitted a revised Environmental Impact Statement to the DEC. As of the deadline for this issue, the DEC was still reviewing the developer's application to determine whether it was complete.

### Ramapo to Buy Torne Valley Land

Ramapo town officials announced in early March that they had reached tenta-

tive agreement to buy 144 acres in Torne Valley. According to *The Journal News*, "there would be two purchases: one of about 94 acres on the top of the mountain, at a price of about \$800,000, and the other for about 50 acres including the well fields and property across the Ramapo River, for about \$700,000." The area was long eyed as a site for a power plant, a plan that encountered environmental obstacles and sustained opposition from residents. The area is known to be habitat for timber rattlesnakes, a state protected species.

### In NY, Environment \$\$ at Risk

Money from New York's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), a dedicated fund financed by taxes on real estate sales (revenue from which has actually increased

## HIKERS' BOOKSHOP



### 50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley

By Stella Green and H. Neil Zimmerman  
Backcountry Guides, 2002  
Reviewed by Georgette Weir

To those long in our region's hiking circles, few names are likely to be more familiar and well regarded than Stella Green and H. Neil Zimmerman, respectively past vice-president and past president of the Trail Conference. Last year, these two inveterate hikers published this, their second hiking guide (their first was *50 Hikes in New Jersey*), and it comes as no surprise that the book reflects the authors' broad and deep knowledge of the diverse trails in our region.

The hikes are grouped regionally, Westchester County, East Hudson Highlands, Rockland County and Harriman Park, etc., and each description is accompanied by a black-and-white topographical map detail and photograph. The outings are introduced with paragraphs on historical or natural history background, directions on how to get to each destination, phone numbers, and information relevant to open hours and accessibility. The necessary information about trail blaze

colors, turns, confusing junctions, and, when relevant, poor signage are reliably noted and enlivened by observations about views, geology, history, plants, and good places to stop for lunch. A handy chart at the opening of the book summarizes the details of each walk, including its suitability for kids, camping, cross-country skiing, and whether or not it features a waterfall or requires a shuttle.

Green and Zimmerman have an expansive view of what constitutes the Lower Hudson Valley (or is just provincial of us who live south of Albany, in my case in the area usually designated Mid-Hudson, to consider the Lower Hudson area to be south of Peekskill?). Happily, this gives them leave to include hikes in the Shawangunks, Catskills, even as far north as Thatcher Park near Albany, though most of the hikes in this guide are clustered in the area bounded on the north by I-84 and on the west and south by I-287.

This is a good guide for new hikers in our region, and a handy one for those of us who may be ready to break away from our accustomed romps in just one or two favorite parks or who may want to learn a bit more about the paths we regularly walk.

since September 11, 2001), would be used for purposes unintended for the fund under a plan proposed by Governor Pataki. Given a nearly \$12 billion dollar shortfall in New York State tax revenues, reductions in expenditures for the environment in 2003-04 were expected. The governor proposes to spend just \$30 million for acquiring new Forest Preserve and state park lands and \$5 million for land stewardship, down from \$38 million for land and \$6.5 million for stewardship in 2002-03.

He has also proposed to saddle the EPF with \$33.4 million in state employee salaries and routine agency (DEC/OPRHP) capital projects, expenses previously paid out of the General Fund. This diversion represents nearly a 30 percent reduction in the funding available for traditional EPF programs such as clean water, land acquisition, farmland preservation, wilderness stewardship, recycling, and solid waste remediation.

Further, the governor proposes to withdraw an additional \$20 million for non-environmental purposes. In 2002, the state transferred \$235 million of EPF funds to non-environmental general fund programs. The total of \$255 million siphoned from New York's only dedicated fund for the environment exceeded the amount actually spent on the environment by some \$10 million.

### In NJ, More \$\$ for Open Space?

In March, New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey proposed several measures that could boost efforts to preserve New Jersey's Highlands region: raising the cap on the bonding capacity of the Garden State Preservation Trust, exempting from capital gains taxes the sale or transfer of open space to the state for preservation, and allowing farmers to average their yearly net profits to level out their tax liability.

According to the governor's office, the proposal to raise bonding capacity for the GSPT would have the effect of increasing by at least \$100 million the amount of money available for open space preservation over the next three years. He suggests these additional funds be divided between land acquisition in the New Jersey Highlands and local park upgrades and expansions throughout the state.

New Jersey residents are encouraged to support these efforts by writing letters to local newspapers and to the governor thanking him for this commitment to the Highlands and urging him to consider creating a new state park in the Highlands. Send your letters to Governor James McGreevey, PO Box 001, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Contributors to this report include Neil Woodworth, counsel to the TC-ADK Partnership, and Amy Little, coordinator of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition.



### Cascade of Slid

Harriman State Park contains few waterfalls with names, but of them, the one most interesting to visit is the Cascade of Slid on the Kakiat Trail. Access is from the Reeves Meadow Visitor Center at the south end of Seven Lakes Drive near Sloatsburg. Leave the parking area beside the stone comfort station and proceed northeast along the Pine Meadow Trail (red blaze). The trail parallels Stony Brook for approximately a third of a mile before turning uphill. At this point, the newly opened Stony Brook Trail (yellow blaze) comes in from the left. Turn left on the

yellow trail and continue to follow Stony Brook. In approximately half a mile, the Kakiat Trail (white blaze) crosses Stony Brook from the left on a small wooden bridge above the water and joins the Stony Brook Trail. The two trails travel together northeast alongside Stony Brook for less than a quarter mile, crossing Pine Meadow Brook on a bridge just before they part ways.

Turn right to continue along the Kakiat Trail as it heads uphill alongside Pine Meadow Brook. The way is steep and bouldery, with splashing water on the right. After about 200 yards of climbing, the grade eases and there are some small ledges beside the stream, below the trail. The steepest and largest falls is just below the junction with the Hilburn-Torne-Sebago Trail (HTS, orange blaze). There are ledges to sit on and the place makes a wonderful lunch spot. To return to the parking lot, turn right on the HTS to cross the bridge over Pine Meadow Brook and go uphill about 100 feet. There, the HTS crosses the Pine Meadow Trail. Turn right on the Pine Meadow Trail to descend back to Stony Brook and return to the parking area. Total distance: approximately 2 miles.

# FAVORITE HIKES



## Spring Splashes

Story and Photos by Herb Chong

*Abundant winter snows and plentiful spring rains mean dramatically rushing waterfalls at the start of this hiking season. Here are three favorites of member and photographer Herb Chong.*

### Kaaterskill Falls

The tallest waterfall in New York State isn't Niagara Falls. Instead, that distinction belongs to a waterfall in our own neck of the woods, the Catskills. Kaaterskill

Falls, at just over 260 feet over two drops, has had a checkered history of discovery, fame, control, and restoration to a more or less natural state. Access to the waterfall is at a small parking lot on the south side of NY Route 23A as it heads westward up Kaaterskill Clove toward Haines Falls and Hunter beyond. The parking lot is most of the way up the Clove, just after a sharp hair-



pin turn and a small bridge crossing Spruce Creek. Leave the car at the parking area and return to the small bridge by walking along the highway. Use extreme caution, as there is no sidewalk. Cross the bridge and turn left into the woods toward Spruce Creek. In front of you lies Bastion Falls, a small taste of what to expect.

The Kaaterskill Falls Trail (yellow blaze) heads uphill immediately on the east side of the stream through small boulders. When wet, the rocks can be extremely slippery. Sign in at the trail register and con-

tinue along the rock steps until the path tops a hill and levels off. The hard part is now over. Follow the yellow blazes as they twist alongside Spruce Creek and round a corner. Suddenly, there you are, looking up at the waterfall. There is a convenient wooden log to rest at, if you are not one of hundreds of people visiting. If you feel ambitious, you can scramble along the slopes to the hard platform of the amphitheater below the upper falls, but there is no trail and the way is steep and slippery. Return to the parking lot by retracing your steps on the yellow trail. Total distance: approximately 1 mile.

### Bash Bish

What is a hike in the Hudson Valley without some tale of romance or history to enliven the places one goes to or passes? Such is the case with Bash Bish Falls. Supposedly named after an Indian maiden who threw herself over the falls to her death after a love unrequited, the falls doesn't need any story to be a romantic



place to go to. The parking area is located on the south side of NY Route 344 in the village of Copake Falls. The trail has no blazes, but unless you go on an absolutely horrid day or very early in the morning, there will be a steady stream of visitors to guide your way along Bash Bish Brook upstream to the falls along a packed gravel roadbed. Along the way, you will cross the border from New York into Massachusetts. You will arrive in less than half a mile at a small clearing with a comfort station. Well before that, though, if the water is running well, you will hear the sound of the falls itself. Descend the rock steps to the pool below the falls. In a dry year, the falls will be barely enough to wet the rocks and keep the moss alive. In a year such as this one, you will barely be able to hear yourself think. Return to the parking area the way you came. Total distance: approximately 1 mile. 🍃

### June 7: National Trails Day

#### Staten Island Greenbelt

10 am-4 pm

200 Nevada Avenue, Staten Island, NY  
Information: 718-667-2165

The trails and natural areas around High Rock Park, Staten Island, will be the staging area for several outdoor maintenance and gardening activities performed by volunteers from the Metro Area Trails Committee, Goldman Sachs Community TeamWorks, and Staten Island Greenbelt staff to improve trails and promote care of Greenbelt, one of five flagship parks in New York City. Tools, materials, guidance, and refreshments will be provided. This is a fun day during which volunteers can help make a difference in their community while being in the "great outdoors!" Everyone is welcome. Rain date is Sunday, June 8. Log on to [www.sigreenbelt.org](http://www.sigreenbelt.org) to view the Greenbelt trail map and event listings.



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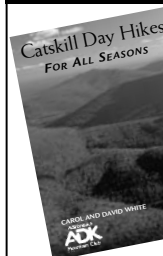
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continued from page 12

10:30. Early finish.

**UHC. Ramapo Lake, Oakland.** Leader: Micky Siegel, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Very scenic moderate 5-6 mile hike, well worth the commute. Views of beautiful Ramapo Lake. Call if in doubt due to inclement weather.

**SATURDAY, MAY 31**

**ADK-MH. Appalachian Trail Maintenance.** Leader: Ollie Simpson, 845-298-8379. Meet: 9 am at AT trailhead on Rt. 22 north of Pawling, NY. We'll work on the non-boardwalk portion of the trail; wear gloves, long-sleeved shirt, long pants; bring tools if you have them (clippers, shovel, rake, weedwacker). Cut tall grass, trim/remove prickly bushes, clear waterbars - something for everyone! Call if weather looks bad.

**OCJS. Almost to Quaker Bridge.** Leader: Dave & Julie Hegelien, 856-235-8792. Meet: 10 am; call for location. 10-11 miles from Batsto to a high spot just south of Quaker Bridge.

**PMNHA. May Mountain Magic Hike.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. See the ways the mountain has come to life on this easy hike.

**UHC. Patriots' Path, Morristown.** Leaders: Martin Frahme & Carol Czajkowski, 973-539-4084. Meet: 10 am at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, Morristown; call for directions. Over the fields and through the woods, down the river and to the lake. Mostly level 5 miles at moderate pace; suitable for beginners. Possible out at half-way point. Optional visit to farm and house (admission fee) afterwards. Rain cancels.

**Highlands Coalition. Critical Treasures: Fishkill Ridge.** Leader: Bob Cherdack, co-leader Peter Rostenberg. Info: Richard Whiteford at 609-818-0400. Meet: 10 am, McDonald's parking lot just south of the I-84/Route 9 interchange, in front of the Dutchess Mall. This hike will ascend through hemlocks to the music of rushing waters leading to spectacular views of the Hudson Highlands; long, moderately steep climb at a compassionate pace.

**WTW. Pyramid Mountain Trail Maintenance.** Leader: Bob Busha, 973-777-5016. Meet: 10 am at visitor center. Bring clippers and work gloves. We'll be working on the Green Trail.

**JUNE**

**MONDAY, JUNE 2**

**RVW. Sam's Point** (with ice caves & falls option. Bring a flashlight). Info: 845-658-8606. Moderate hike: 5 miles, 5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 5**

**FVTW. Ramapo Torne, Harriman State Park.** Leader: Dave Hogener, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at Reeves Meadow Visitor Center parking. Spectacular view of NYC and northern NJ from the Torne and then hike along the Seven Hills Trail. 7-10 miles; not for new hikers.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7  
NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**

**OCJS.** Leader: Joseph T rujillo, 856-468-4849. Meet: 10 am; call for location. 6-7 miles. Get acquainted with a section of the Batona Trail, which spans three state forests.

**PMNHA. Morning on the Mountain.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information; contact Douglas Vorolfeff. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Moderate 2-hour hike.

**TBS. Black River County Park Botanical Walk, Morris Co.** Leader: Steve Glenn, 718-623-7314, steveglenn@tbg.org. Meet: 10 am in the parking lot of the park in Milltown on the south side of Hwy 124 (HWY 510/513, Washington Tpke.) just east of the Black River. Full directions available at [www.torreybotanical.org](http://www.torreybotanical.org). This park has access to mesic woods, swamps, streams, and a couple of small ponds. We will observe many wildflowers, ferns and fern allies, and a surprise woody species!

**UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn.** Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832; call before 9 pm. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 5-mile hike with steep up at start; suitable for intermediate, experienced hikers. Rocky ups and downs. Steady rain cancels.

**UOC. Palisades Hike, NJ.** Leader: Russ Jessop, 732-251-9416. Meet: 9 am in Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ. Moderate hike of 6 miles.

**WTW. AT Pochuck Bridge and Boardwalk.** Leader: Bob Busha, 973-777-5016. Meet: 9:30 am at Meadowtop Shopping Center, Rt. 23, Butler. A 5-6 mile hike on this newly completed boardwalk. If time permits we'll climb to the 1422' summit of Wawayanda Mountain.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8**

**ADK-MH. Hike on the Appalachian Trail - Cat Rocks, Nuclear Lake.** Leader: Lalita Malik, 845-724-5786. Meet: 9 am; call leader to register. Moderate 8 mile hike with 1000' elevation gain. Everything you'd want in a hike: views, water, and blooms (mountain laurel). Shuttle required.

**ADK-R. Hudson Shore Path Trail Maintenance.** Leader: Dick Warner, 201-327-4945, and North Jersey Trail Crew. Meet: 9:30 am at Alpine Boat Basin. Work area: Huyler Landing to Forest View Trail, 4.5 miles. Total: 6 miles. Car shuttle. No cliff climb. No parking fee for maintainers.

**IHC. High Point State Park Figure 8 Hike.** Leader: Marguerite LaCorte, 973-625-4379. Meet: 9 am at Burger King/Stop & Shop, Route 23 North, Butler, NJ. Moderately strenuous hike on the Iris Trail, past Lake Rutherford, and the AT. Rain cancels.

**MJO. Wawayanda Hike and Swim.** Leader: Hanna Abolitz Benesch 732-565-1125; call to register and confirm. 6 miles, leisurely pace. Hike AT with a steep climb up Pinwheel Vista and an additional mile on the 1M trail to Wawayanda Lake with a public swimming beach. Rain cancels. Non MJO members, \$10.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14**

**ADK-MH. Minnewaska State Park.** Leader: Jenny & Stan Roberts, 845-471-5712; call before 10 pm. Meet: 9 am; call to register. Easy 3-mile hike to Beacon Hill, along the escarpment and return around the lake; should view lots of laurel in bloom. Suitable for children ages 5+ accompanied by adult. Shared parking fee. Rain cancels.

**IHC. Appalachian Trail/Housatonic River.** Leader: Steve Rikon, 973-962-4149. Meet: 8 am in Suffern, NY; must call leader for details. Moderately strenuous hike on the AT near Kent, CT, then spend the afternoon on the Housatonic River, relaxing, exploring, wading, etc. Dinner in the area optional. Car pool to Kent, CT, and return to Suffern; share travel expenses. Rain cancels.

**UHC. Turkey Mountain, Montville.** Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0766. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Visitor Center; call for directions. Interesting loop with a steep climb and great views; we often see wild turkeys. Rain cancels.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 15**

**ADK-R. 7 Hills Circular.** Phone leader for details at 201-816-9465. 7.5 miles; strenuous terrain at a moderate pace.

**OCJS. Shane Branch Hike.** Leader: Chris Denneker, 856-461-5379. Meet: 10 am; call for location. 6-8 miles. We may see Turkey Beard and Mountain Laurel blooming. Hike trails and little-used sand roads.

**PMNHA. Geology Hike.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. This moderately strenuous hike will focus on the geology of the park.

**TBS. Morris Canal Park and Nature Preserve Botanical Walk, Passaic Co.** Leader: Joseph A. Labriola, 973-472-8451, joe.labriola@rcdesign.com. Meet: 10 am at the end of the park entrance driveway. The park is located adjacent to Broad St. near the intersection with Allwood Rd. Full directions available at [www.torreybotanical.org](http://www.torreybotanical.org). Easy walk. Both upland and wetland native vegetation remnants and more recent landscape plantings are present to provide a fairly diverse flora for a relatively small urbanized area.

**GAHC. Fahnestock State Park, NY.** Leader: Matthias Wuetrich, 908-253-9042. Meet: 9:30 am at parking lot SW end of Canopus Lake, Rt. 301. Moderate and easy hikes.

**WTW. Palisades Circular.** Leader: George Thomas, 914-580-7102. Meet: 9:45 at Alpine HQ parking lot. Public transit riders, call leader to be met. An easy 5-6 mile hike with one down and one up. Will descend to the river from the parking lot and head south to Huylers Landing. Then climb Huylers Trail to Long Path and back to start.

**MONDAY, JUNE 16**

**RVW. Twin Mt. (3640') loop.** Info: 845-246-7616. Moderate + hike: 5 miles, 5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 19**

**FVTW. Wyonkie Circular, Ringwood.** Leader: Mary Dell Morrison, 908-684-5175. Meet: 10 am at Weis Ecology Center. 7-10 mile hike may include Chikahokie Falls, Otter Hole, and other points.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21**

**ADK-R. Norvin Green State Forest Circular.** Phone leader for details at 845-359-2465. 6-7 miles; moderate terrain at an easy pace.

**MJO. Bonticou Crag.** Leader: Lanny Wexler, 516-938-5721, 7:30 pm-10 pm. An exploration of the rifts and crevices of Bonticou Crag.

Approximately 6 to 7 miles. Significant rock scrambling. Spectacular views of the Catskills and plentiful displays of mountain laurel. Non MJO fee, \$10.

**WEC. Catskill Solstice Weekend (June 21-22).** Call 973-835-2160 for info, to register. Two super-challenging hikes in the high Catskills over the longest daylight-weekend of the year. Bag 3500+ peaks along Devil's Path and in the far north. \$25 non-members.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22**

**IHC. Surebridge Mountain, Harriman State Park.** Leader: Jane Egan, 201-689-0049. Meet: 9 am at Lake Skannatati parking, Seven Lakes Dr. Moderately strenuous tramp through beautiful woods, past old mines, and up and down a mountain or two. Rain cancels.

**PMNHA. Welcome Summer Hike.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. An easy hike looking for signs of summer's arrival.

**UHC. Farney/Wildcat Ridge Half-Day Hike.** Leader: Erwin Conrad, 908-470-0621. Meet: 9:30 am at Wildcat Ridge parking; call for directions. Interesting variety of trails to a hawk watch platform and an active beaver lodge. About 5 miles at a moderate pace with some climbing. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 28**

**ADK-MH. Shingle Gully/Ice Caves Rock Scramble.** Leader: Ray Dupuy, 845-744-3648. Meet: Call to register. Strenuous; more of a rock scramble than a hike. Snowballs are possible; bring flashlight, sweatshirt and light gloves. From Smiley Carriage Trail, we'll hike up to Shingle Gully, then on to Grand Canyon, Labyrinth, Ice Caves, and the Flume.

**PMNHA. Morning on the Mountain.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information; contact Douglas Vorolfeff. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Moderate 2-hour hike.

**UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn.** Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0766. Meet: 10 am at Tulip Springs parking, Brookside Ave., Millburn; call for directions. Moderate paced hike through pine forest to Hemlock Falls. Rain cancels.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 29**

**IHC. Sterling Forest Loop.** Leader: Ann Gilbert, 973-839-0292. Meet: 10 am at Sterling Forest Visitor Center, Tuxedo, NY. Easy, lei-

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surely hike around Sterling Lake, 4-5 miles. Rain cancels.

**GAHC. Bear Mountain State Park.** Leader: Manfred Janowski, 914-428-4573. Meet: 9 am at Bear Mountain Inn parking lot. Moderate and easy hikes with great views of the Hudson River.

**TLR. Anthony's Nose.** Leader: Amy Keith. Meet: 9 am; call Teatowm Lake Reservation to register: 914-762-2912, ext. 10; limited to 15 adults. Directly east of the Bear Mountain Bridge, the Appalachian Trail goes up Anthony's Nose. No one knows how it got this name, but it makes for a wonderful hike with great views of the Hudson. Moderate hike. Fee: \$6 members, \$8 non-members.

**WTW. Crater Lake to Buttermilk Falls.** Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 973-252-8122. Meet: 9:30 at Hope Park & Ride (Rt. 80 west to exit 12, turn right; lot is on left). Moderately strenuous 5-6 miles, past Hemlock Pond, where we can stop for a swim on the return.

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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	PMNHA	Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area
ADK-R	Adirondack Mountain Club - Ramapo Chapter	FVW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
FVTW	Frost Valley Trailwalkers	TLR	Teatown Lake Reservation
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	TBS	Torrey Botanical Society
HC	Highlands Coalition	UHC	Union County Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	UOC	University Outing Club
MJO	Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club	WEC	Weis Ecology Center
OCSJ	Outdoor Club of South Jersey	WTW	Woodland Trail Walkers

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to [tw@nynjtc.org](mailto:tw@nynjtc.org) or to the Trail Conference office. The deadline for the July/August issue is May 15, 2003.

## MAY

### SATURDAY, MAY 3

**MJO. Pine Meadow Lake.** Leaders: Hanna Benesch, 732-565-1125 and Lanny Wexler 516-938-5721; call between 7:30 pm-10 pm. 5-8 moderate miles at a forgiving pace. From Reeves Brook Visitor Center in Sloatsburg, Harriman S.P., to and around the lake. Prospective and new club members welcome; membership discount if you join club on this hike. Steady rain cancels; call leader to register and confirm.

**PMNHA. Scenic Overlooks Hike.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Moderate 2-hour hike.

**UHC. Tourné Park, Boonton.** Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate hike through wildflowers, around the lake, and to the boiling springs. Steady rain cancels.

### SUNDAY, MAY 4

**ADK-MH. Appalachian Trail Maintenance.** Leader: Jane Geisler, 845-677-9909. Meet: 9 am; call leader for location near Pawling, NY. Participate in this service project on the AT. Wear gloves and long pants; bring water and lunch. Wheelbarrows will be provided for transporting old boards from the boardwalk.

**IHC. Lake Skannatati Circular, Harriman State Park.** Leader:

Pete Rigotti, [peterlabor@yahoo.com](mailto:peterlabor@yahoo.com). Meet: 9 am at Lake Skannatati parking, Seven Lakes Dr. Moderate hike to the naked (not many trees) part of Harriman; visit special places like Ship Rock, Bowling Rocks, Cape Horn, Lichen View, and Black Rock. Early finish.

**OCSJ. Hawk Mountain to the Pinnacle.** Leader: Dave & Julie Hegelein, 856-235-8792. Meet: 10 am; call leaders for meeting place. 9-10 miles on the AT, with great views of valleys below; lots of rock climbing. Bring binoculars.

**WES. Pequannock Watershed Hike.** Call 973-835-2160 for info, to register. Meet: 9:30 am. Strenuous, 8 miles. Hike from Echo Lake to Bearfoot Mountain via the back trails. Hike includes great mountain and lakeside views as well as a trip up to the fire tower.

**WTW. Bear Mountain AT Maintenance.** Leader: Sarah Collins, 973-744-5126. Meet: 9:30 am at Sloatsburg train station parking lot. Must register before 3 pm, Sat., May 3. Help us maintain this original section of the AT. Great for slower hikers. Bring clippers and work gloves.

### THURSDAY, MAY 8

**FVTW. Anthony Wayne Circular.** Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 am; call for location in Harriman State Park. Depending on conditions, we can hike West, Long, and Black Mountains; perhaps all of them. 7-10 miles; not for new hikers.

### SATURDAY, MAY 10

**ADK-MH. Catskills Indian Head Mountain.** Leader: Al DeMaria, 845-255-1704; call before 10 pm. Meet: 8:30 am; call leader for location. Strenuous hike of 8 miles with 1700' of climbing.

**OCSJ. Carranza Convolute.** Leader: Jack & Chieko Hoffman, 856-784-8104. Meet: 10 am; call leader for meeting place. 9-10 miles on sand roads, fire cuts, and trails; might be a few wet spots.

**UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn.** Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832; call before 9 pm. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking, corner of Glen Ave. & Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 5-mile hike with steep up at start; suitable for intermediate, experienced hikers. Rocky ups and downs. Steady rain cancels.

**WTW. Storm King Mountain.** Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 973-252-8122 or [LSL376@os.com](mailto:LSL376@os.com). Meet: 9:30 am at Silver Mine parking lot on Seven Lakes Dr. in Harriman. A moderate hike of 5-6 miles on the Howell Trail, with beautiful views of the Hudson River. Inclement weather cancels. Must register with leader.

### SUNDAY, MAY 11

**ADK-R. Long Path, Rockland Lake.** Phone leader for details at 201-569-0244. 6-7 miles; moderate pace and terrain.

**IHC. Indian Hill Loop.** Leader: Carolyn and Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9 am at Indian Hill parking off County Route 19 in Southfields, NY. Moderately strenuous hike from East Mombasha Rd. on the AT to Indian Hill Loop, with views to the east. Rain, ice, or poor driving conditions cancel. Shuttle required.

**PMNHA. Wildflowers with Mom.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. An easy hike looking for spring wildflowers.

**GAHC. Greenwood Cemetery & Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Brooklyn.** Leader: Brian Kassenbrock, 718-748-0624. Meet: 10 am at Cemetery main entrance, 5th Ave. & 25th St. (R line to 25th St. station). Easy hike; bring binoculars for bird watching.

### SATURDAY, MAY 17

**ADK-MH. Stony Kill Falls/Ice Caves.** Leader: Ray Deputy, 845-744-3648. Meet: Must call leader to register; limited to 12. Strenuous hike; we will be walking the streams and the trail will be wet, so bring extra socks, camera, flashlight, and sweatshirt for exploring the Ice Caves. Shuttle required.

**ADK-R. Appalachian Trail, East of the Hudson.** Phone leader for details at 845-354-0738. 11.8 miles; moderate pace and terrain.

**MJO. Greenwood Lake.** Leader: Herb Gecht, 718-743-5825, 7pm to 9:45 pm, May 12 to 15 only. Enjoy beautiful Greenwood Lake scenery with this moderately strenuous hike along the AT to Prospect Rock with scenic views of the lake. Bring 2 liters of water. This hike is accessible by public transportation. Rain cancels. Non-MJO member, \$10.

**OCSJ. Full Moon Hike.** Leader: Dave & Julie Hegelein, 856-235-8792. Meet: 7:30 pm; call leader for meeting place. 8 miles/3 hours; a spring evening in the pines; whippoorwill may be serenading.

**TBS. Nellie Hill Preserve Botanical Walk, Dutchess Co.** Leader: Carol Levine, 203-322-2051; [carolflora@aol.com](mailto:carolflora@aol.com). Meet: 10 am at the preserve. Nellie Hill is located on Rt. 22, 0.75 mi. south of Dover Plains. The parking area is a pull-off just S of Nelly Hill Rd. on east side

of Rte.22 (just north of mile marker 11.50). Complete directions available at [www.torreybotanical.org](http://www.torreybotanical.org). A beautiful conservancy that contains many interesting spring wildflowers.

**UOC. DeKorte Park Walk, Lyndhurst.** Leader: Martha Plamer, 732-271-4641. Meet: Call leader. Two hours at a comfortable pace.

### SUNDAY, MAY 18

**IHC. Storm King Mountain Revisited.** Leader: Ilsa Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am at Anthony Wayne Recreation Area parking, Harriman State Park, NY. It has been a long, long time. Strenuous hike; hikers are rewarded with outstanding views; lunch on top of Storm King. Rain cancels.

**PMNHA. Birdwatching Hike.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Bring your binoculars on this moderate hike.

**UHC. Fanny-Wildcat Ridge.** Leader: Erwin Conrad, 908-470-0621. Meet: 10 am at Wildcat Ridge parking; call for directions. 7-8 miles; steady pace with 500' initial climb and rough in spots; not for beginners. Variety of woods roads and trails, including Four Birds and Splitrock. Rain cancels.

**Highlands Coalition. Critical Treasures: Brace Mountain.** Info: Richard Whiteford at 609-818-0400. Meet: 9:30 am, Salisbury Town Hall, Rt. 41, Salisbury, CT. Carpool to trailhead on Mount Washington Rd. This is a hike for people of all ages and offers views of the Berkshires and the Taconics. Approximately 2 miles round trip.

**WEC. Challenge Hike: Hudson-to-Hudson.** Call 973-835-2160 for info, to register. Meet: 9:30 am. Very strenuous, 9 miles. Traversing scenic Dunderberg Mountain, this challenging end-to-end hike passes Cornell Mine, and the Timp, and offers frequent dramatic views. \$8 non-members

### THURSDAY, MAY 22

**FVTW. Green Pond Mountain.** Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 9:30 am; call for location. 9-10 miles on various trails, including the almost forgotten Green Pond Mountain Trail and woods roads. Nice views along the way.

### SATURDAY, MAY 24

**PMNHA. Turkey Mountain.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. A moderately strenuous 2-hour hike.

**UOC. Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, Princeton.** Leader: Charlie Severn, 732-246-3387. Meet: 9 am in Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ. Walk several miles through 70 acres of woodland.

### SUNDAY, MAY 25

**ADK-R. Wildcat Mountain and the Furnace Loop.** Phone leader for details at 845-359-2465. 8 miles; moderate terrain at an easy pace.

**IHC. New Trail to Victory.** Leader: Pete Rigotti, [peterlabor@yahoo.com](mailto:peterlabor@yahoo.com). Meet: 9 am at White Bar parking, Route 106, Harriman State Park, NY. Moderate hike to Lake Skanonito via the New and Victory Trails. Some good views of lakes; morning coffee break at

*continued on page 11*

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## TRAIL WALKER

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