



83rd Year

TRAILWALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE...MAINTAINING OVER 1500 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2003

More Wilderness in Catskills If Draft Master Plan Is Adopted

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released its draft revision of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan at the end of August, and most of its provisions are supported by the NY-NJ Trail Conference. "The adoption of the revised Master Plan will affect the management of the Catskill Forest Preserve and the quality of the hiking experience there for the next 25 years," read a statement issued by the Trail Conference (TC)/Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Partnership, which has long urged greater wilderness protection in the Catskills.

Revisions to the Master Plan include:

- Designation of additional Wilderness Areas with an increase in protected wilderness of 50,000 acres;
- Positive trail designations for the use of snowmobiles and mountain bikes (under the current Master Plan, there are no restrictions on mountain biking in the Catskills);
- Provisions for scenic vista maintenance;
- Designation of the 3500' trailless peak canisters as conforming and permitted;

Attention NJ Voters

The November 4 ballot includes three statewide questions that could impact protection of the Highlands:

- Whether to increase funding for the Garden State Preservation Trust;
- Whether to make changes to a program that cleans up brownfields (polluted sites) so as to create a stable source of funding for the program; and
- Whether to authorize \$200 million in bonds to finance dam restoration and repairs, lake and stream dredging and cleaning, and water supply, water resource, or wastewater treatment projects.

The first two ballot questions are supported by several environmental organizations, including the Trail Conference, which has taken no position on the last item.

For additional information, visit www.nynjtc.org.

- Creation of the 27,000-acre Hunter-West Kill Wilderness, ensuring stronger protection for Hunter Mountain;

- Creation of the 18,000-acre Windham-Blackhead Range Wilderness.

More Wilderness Acres

The most important aspect of the revised Master Plan is the redesignation of two Wild Forest Areas to Wilderness Areas. First, a major portion of the Windham High Peak Wild Forest is to be added to the Blackhead/Black Dome Wilderness Area. The Trail Conference and ADK support this redesignation.

TC/ADK also urged that the southern boundary of the Windham-Blackhead Wilderness Area be extended to the 2,500-foot contour line south of North Mountain to ensure that all of the Escarpment Trail will remain a hiking trail.

The revised Master Plan would also expand the West Kill Wilderness Area to include most of the Hunter Mountain Wild Forest. An exception would be made for the Spruceton Trail (jeep road) and summit land containing a fire tower. This narrow corridor would be designated as part of Rusk Mountain Wild Forest.

If this revised plan is approved, the Catskill Forest Preserve will be 50 percent Wilderness and 50 percent Wild Forest, compared to today's 40 percent Wilderness and 60 percent Wild Forest.

2700-foot Rule Change

The DEC proposes to replace the 2700-foot rule, which states that all Wild Forest areas above 2700 feet are to be managed as Wilderness, with a 3100-foot rule. DEC wishes to modify this rule because it limits mountain bike trail designation in several suitable areas and limits camping party size in some Wild Forest areas. The Trail Conference and ADK analyzed this proposed change and decided it was acceptable for the following reasons:

- The plan calls for mountain bikes to be allowed only on trails specifically designated and signed for mountain biking, and to be prohibited in Wilderness areas. Hiking trails in Wild Forest areas would not be marked for mountain bike use on steeper, single-track trails where there are

Public Comment Period Extended to November 14

It is essential that those who favor extension of Wilderness designation in the Catskills let the DEC know. DEC has extended the comment period on the draft Master Plan by one month at the urging of plan opponents. Send your comments to:

Peter J. Frank
Bureau Chief
Forest Preserve Management
NYSDEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-4254
Email: Pjfrank@gw.dec.state.ny.us

potential user conflicts and safety issues.

- The 3100-foot rule protects the Dry Brook Ridge and Mill Brook Ridge from snowmobile use. All other higher elevation areas currently protected by the 2700-foot rule would be designated as Wilderness. The new rule will not result in the designation of any new snowmobile trails.
- Motor vehicle and all-terrain vehicle use are to be prohibited on all trails in the Catskill Forest Preserve.
- 50,000 additional acres are to be designated as Wilderness.

Other Provisions

- The plan proposes to limit group size

continued on page 10

A Rare AT Original

By Josh Erdsneker
Volunteer Projects Director

Ron Rosen of Poughkeepsie, New York, is one of those rare, steady overachievers. Twenty-three years ago, when the Dutchess/Putnam Appalachian Trail Man-



Ron Rosen

agement Committee was formed, he stepped up to become its chair. He never stepped down. Ron is surrounded by a group of volunteers who are

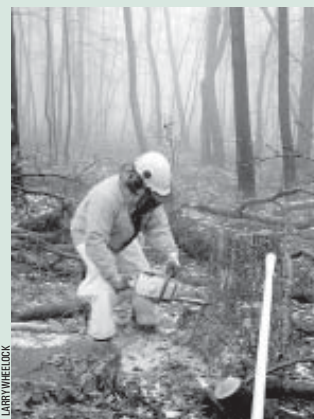
steadfast. The committee has more 4,000+ hour lifetime volunteers, including Ron, than any other AT committee, a testament to his management abilities and style for retaining dedicated volunteers.

Ron's extraordinary record of service was recognized in October by the Appalachian Trail Conference, which gave him its inaugural Mid-Atlantic Regional Volunteer Award. Ron has been involved in hiking and backpacking since he was in the Boy Scouts as a teenager in Florida. He continued doing both during college. After college, as a teacher, he took groups of students on hiking and backpacking trips. He made sure that he and those he hiked with carried out their own litter, picked up litter on the trails, cleared trail obstructions, and kept the trails in good condition.

Ron began maintaining a stretch of the Appalachian Trail in the late 1970s. In addition to running the management committee meetings, he scouts the routes for trail relocations; organizes work trips to perform major construction, such as out-houses, shelters, bridges, boardwalks, and trail relocations; leads trail maintenance and monitoring workshops to train others to help protect the trail; coordinates efforts to create a management plan for the trail in Dutchess County; and organizes meetings with trail neighbors to improve relations between the trail community and people living near the AT. He writes grant requests to receive money for various trail projects and supervises the projects when the grants are awarded. He has coordi-

continued on page 10

INSIDE



LEARN WOODCRAFT

The big buzz on the trails is the TC volunteer chainsaw crew. See story on page 4.

Georgette Weir
Nora PorterEditor
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.

Thank You, Cap

On August 10, 2003, an obituary appeared in the *New York Times*, letting the world know that Albert Field, archivist of the works of Salvador Dali, died at 86. But there is another side to Cap, as he was better known, that was missing from the article. To those in the Trail Conference who knew Cap, his passing was the passing of a remarkable man. Cap was devoted to the outdoors. He was a former executive director of the Trail Conference and a life member, a staunch supporter of the Long Path, and long-time Metro Trails chair. He was a former chair of the New York State Trails Council and for many years was the NY-NJ Trail Conference representative to the Council. Cap was a firm believer in hiking in the nude, was a choral singer, collector of playing cards, knowledgeable negotiator, and gifted conversationalist. He influenced not only the Trail Conference, but also many people associated with trails.



A larger than life figure, Cap, when the platform was right, loved to expound his views. Karl Beard, TC member and NY Projects Director for the National Parks Service Rivers and Trails Program, first met and hiked with Cap in the '70s on a beastly hot summer day. Cap boomed out the virtues of hiking in the nude while they walked. And the farther they went, the more the clothing kept disappearing from him. "We convinced him to keep the shorts on, but not without considerable diplomacy from my then-boss Brad Snyder," Karl recalls. "At least until the swimming-hole,

when all bets were off (as was everything else, quickly), and we all went in."

For Karl, Cap was his introduction to the NY-NJ Trail Conference. "Cap was your ambassador. It left an indelible impression: the Trail Conference is . . . well . . . different . . . from other groups I knew." And while Karl's understanding and appreciation for NY-NJ TC has grown enormously over the years, that basic truth remains. Thank you, Cap; our association with the Rivers and Trails Program has been beneficial to us for help with the Long Path and the Highlands Trail.

Cap also made an impression on me. Unlike Karl, I never witnessed Cap's preferred method of hiking, though he did tell me about it. He was a font of Trail Conference history, and his recitations of it helped me to understand some of the past. His stories of talking with people about the Long Path made me realize what a skilled negotiator he was. He listened to people first, found what they thought was a common interest, and gained their trust. In some cases, he knew just enough to carry on a conversation, but it was sufficient to convince many to permit the Long Path on their property. Thank you, Cap, for taking the time to explain and to teach people.

Even though Cap loved to expound his views, he was diplomatic when the occasion called for it. Karl describes Cap's role as chair of the NYS Trails Council, "at a time when the meetings pretty much consisted of yelling matches between the motorized and non-motorized users, it made for an unpleasant and repetitive agenda, four times a year. A typical meeting consisted of Item 1: yell; Item 2: yell back; Item 3: yell in chorus, being sure to cover such key debating points as ascription of evil intent, political conspiracy, theft of

resources, and the dubious parentage of various members of the opposition." Karl adds, "No one in their right mind would knowingly undertake such a thankless role and stay with it. But Cap simply acknowledged all the fray as it predictably and painfully unfolded each time ('Yes, yes, yes, of course you do'), pausing only occasionally to insert his own acerbic little quips. And he simply continued to preside. What fortitude.

"People kept coming to the meetings and, over time, the group even made progress. With Cap as chair, they gradually figured out how to disagree profoundly, and yet keep talking. Even if they had to hold their noses or keep from gagging while they did so. (Yes, yes, yes, naturally!) Thank you, Cap, for not only showing diplomacy, but also establishing a UN of trails."

Irene Szabo of the Finger Lakes Trails Association remembers that "Cap did not drive to the [NYS] Trails Council meetings and needed to be picked up at an airport. . . . After he stepped down as chair, Cap continued to attend NYS Trails Council meetings, as he obviously thought these meetings were important enough that he continued for almost twenty years to pay his airfare to attend, right to the very end."

As I found out in contacting people, no one story tells all facets of Cap. I knew that he sang as part of the chorus in the Oratorio Society for many years. Ed Walsh told me about learning of Cap's collection of playing cards, reported to be the largest in the world. Neil Zimmerman told me that Cap influenced our books and maps.

Thank you, Cap.

—Jane Daniels
Chair, Board of Directors

LETTERS

Backpacker's "Toughest Dayhike" Is in Catskills

The April 2003 *Backpacker* Magazine published "The Wild List." In the list, the magazine named the Devil's Path in the Catskills as the "Toughest Dayhike." As an avid hiker and former AT thru hiker, I took the challenge to heart. The trail's name says it all!

On August 16th, with a copy of the Trail Conference Catskills map and a pack filled with Snickers bars, I hit the trail at 6:00 am and began my 12 hour 30 minute (24.6-miles) adventure. The hike was unbelievable. The long grind up each of the seven peaks was rewarded with a difficult

descent down a rocky and often slick trail. To make my hike a bit more challenging, Mother Nature decided to add a thunderstorm to accompany me for the last 7.2 miles! For my pain and suffering, I was rewarded with the satisfaction of earning and enjoying some spectacular viewpoints. Not every hiker should try and complete this trail in a day, but for those hearty souls who do, it's an amazing experience that they will never forget.

Josh Erdsneker
Valley Cottage, NY

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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As of the filing date of October 1, 2003, the average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months was 9,000; the actual number of copies of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 8,500. The paper has a total paid and/or requested circulation of 7,000 (average) and 6,990 (actual, most recent issue). The average free distribution for the 12 months preceding the filing date was 1,900 (average) and 1,400 (actual, most recent issue). The total average distribution was 8,900; the actual distribution of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 8,500.

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



from the Executive Director

Developing a Robust “Green Infrastructure”

The vision I have for New York and New Jersey is that we can walk out of our homes, head down the sidewalk, enter a municipal park, find a marked trail, follow the trail to a local greenway, enter a county park, connect with a feeder trail that brings us to a state park, and from there get on a regional long-distance trail that takes us to a national scenic trail such as the AT.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference that I dream of would work on a network of trails interconnecting a diverse fabric of community parks, municipal greenways, county recreation areas, state parks and forests, regional greenways and national scenic areas. The New York and New Jersey that I envision would have a highly developed “green infrastructure.”

Green infrastructure is a term recently coined to describe the parts of the landscape essential for providing the natural amenities we need for good quality of life—clean water, clean air, plentiful wildlife habitat, and accessible outdoor recreation areas. We hear a lot about infrastructure such as roads and utilities; green infrastructure comprises the essential components of a functioning ecosystem which provides the natural resources we all rely on.

Green infrastructure is generally talked about in terms of a network of interlocking “hubs” and “links.” The hubs are big units of open space, such as state and national parks, that are large enough to protect watersheds and sustain biological diversity. The links are the ridgeline and bottomland corridors that connect the hubs into something greater than the sum of their parts while protecting additional habitat, recreation, and viewsheds.

How does the Trail Conference fit into green infrastructure world? We act as planners, engineers, surveyors, construction teams, and inspectors—the literal DOT (Department of Trails) for green infrastructure.

Academic and agency partners who provide research and best practices about land use management are as much a part of this infrastructure as are physical components. Also important are our member clubs, which provide recreational programming, as well as the Trail Conference’s own books and maps, which make the green infrastructure accessible to the broader public.

The interesting thing about green infrastructure is that you don’t build it, you protect it, and the most certain protection method is acquiring lands. Historically, when the Trail Conference wanted to build a trail connecting two state parks or other large open space areas, it simply plotted a route through undeveloped land. Typically, these trails followed ridgelines with, perhaps, a few short road walks, and permission to cross these private lands was readily given.

Nowadays, ridgelines that were once relatively safe from development are marketed as locations for “homes with a view.” Once every month or so the Trail Conference hears from a private landowner who wants a section of our trail removed from their property. Almost invariably, this signals that the property has been sold or is going on the market.

To counter this trend, the Trail Conference is embarking upon a major effort to protect its long-distance trail corridors. As a first step, we have identified 37 priority parcels for protection with a total market

value of about \$12.5 million dollars. As large a task as this might seem, protecting our existing trail corridors is not enough. To achieve our vision of an interconnected trail system, we must work closely with agency and nonprofit partners to identify new corridors and protect them before it is too late.

One such initiative involving the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) is worth noting. NJCF’s Garden State Greenway program, funded by NJ Green Acres, seeks to identify and rank potential corridors in terms of connecting existing open space and value for protecting watersheds, habitat, and recreational opportunities.

NJCF has agreed to allow the Trail Conference to use this data and overlay it with information relating to proximity to existing trails, the presence of local volunteer groups, and individual parcel data. From this analysis we expect to identify a few new trail corridors that connect important existing networks of trails. Our next step will be to work on acquisition strategies to protect the corridors and identify local groups who want to advocate for their protection and help develop them as recreational amenities.

By building on collaborative efforts like these, and persevering mightily, I think we can create a truly walkable landscape on a par with other better known destinations for hiking. When Metropolitan New York is mentioned as a hiking destination in the same breath as the Lake District of England and the Dolomites of Italy, then we will know that we have been successful.

—Edward Goodell

Conference Names Award Winners

The following Trail Conference awards were bestowed at the Annual Meeting in October:

Major Welch Trail Partner Award to Brian Goodman, for his valued insights on New York State park management. The Welch Trail Partner Award is given to government or private TC partners who have provided long and/or significant help to the hiking community. Brian, site manager for the Old Croton Aqueduct, retired in 2002 after 10 years. Brian made it his mission to spread the word about the history and engineering aspects of this unique trail in lectures, tours, and tireless and creative goodwill efforts. Since 1993, his wit and wisdom have been instrumental in helping the Trail Conference better understand New York State park operations and to be a better partner.

Ken Lloyd Award to Ilse Dunham, for her tireless work with the Interstate Hiking Club. The Lloyd Award, a new award, honors individuals who have given exemplary service to their club. It is named in honor of Ken Lloyd, a dedicated member of the Trail Conference and the Woodland Trail Walkers. He received the Hoeflerlin Award in 1988 and became an Honorary Life Member in 1991. His efforts in saving High Mountain and Pyramid Mountain exemplify what a member of a dedicated club can do.

The Interstate Hiking Club maintains the Sterling Ridge Trail plus several trails on Schunemunk Mountain. Ilse oversees the club’s efforts there, as well as being the maintainer for Raccoon Brook Hills Trail and a chainsawyer for Harriman Park. Her trails are well kept and an excellent example of uniform blazing.

Hoeflerlin Award to Tom Dunn and Jim Ross. The Hoeflerlin Award recognizes TC volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.

Tom was responsible for the installation of the ladder on the Raccoon Brook Hills Trail. Last year, he made a generous donation of materials. He always volunteers his services for chainsaw work when needed in Harriman and personally maintains almost six miles of the White Bar Trail. And that is all in addition to providing his services and use of his vehicle as a loyal member of the West Hudson Trail Crew.

Jim was the first Project Supervisor (now called Trails Chair) for the Long Path for the Trail Conference. While the New York Ramblers were responsible for reviving the Long Path project, it was Jim who brought it to the Trail Conference. Under his leadership, the trail evolved into a continuous 215-mile long-distance trail from the George Washington Bridge to Windham, NY.

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

Federal Trails Program Saved

The biggest trails funding program in the country was saved in September. On September 4, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an amendment to the 2004 Transportation Appropriations bill, restoring guaranteed funding for the popular Transportation Enhancements (TE) program, the major source of federal money for trails, walking, and bicycling projects.

The TE program came under sharp attack this past summer, and the Transportation Appropriations bill included language to eliminate funding for TE, a critical trail program responsible for nearly \$3 billion (approx. \$300 million per year) in support of rail-trails and other pedestrian and bicycle facilities nationwide since 1991. Following a public outcry, a bipartisan amendment to save the TE program passed by a vote of 327 to 90. Gutting TE

would have been a devastating loss for communities and trail organizations nationwide. Individual states would have been allowed to put all funds into highway projects.

To learn more about transportation trail funding programs, visit: www.americanhiking.org/policy/current/tea.html.

continued on page 7



TRAIL NEWS



Fort Montgomery Historical Restoration

Parking is now provided 0.2 mile north of this site on Route 9W, at the north side of the lot for the Trading Post, beyond the existing garage. Please park only where designated. Parking anywhere along Route 9W or at Firefighters Memorial Park is against the law.

New Trail in Fahnestock State Park

A new trail, known as the Trout Brook Trail, in the Hubbard-Perkins section of Fahnestock State Park, was recently established to connect trails in the park to a new parking area. This trail is shown on the new East Hudson map set. The Trails Council approved the adoption of this trail by the Conference in August.

Beacon-Fishkill Ridge Connector

Scenic Hudson has constructed a new trail on North Beacon Mountain that connects a new parking area at the base of the mountain with the Fishkill Ridge Trail, thus lessening the need to park at the trailhead for the Fishkill Ridge Trail, where little parking is available. The land on which the trail is located is currently owned by the Open Space Institute.



Eagle Scout's Project Restored in Harriman S.P. A bench located on the Nurian Trail at the scenic viewpoint on Black Rock Mountain was shamefully vandalized shortly after its original installation in an Eagle Scout project two years ago. However, the West Hudson Trail Crew recently reinstalled it as part of trail restoration work they completed on the RD and Nurian Trails. Such projects are sanctioned by the park to help Scouts attain their personal achievement goals and to provide enjoyment to the general public. If you witness anyone defacing this bench or any other park property, please notify the park authorities.

Big Buzz On Trails

Pity the poor trail maintainer facing a large tree horizontal across her trail. The clippers she has in hand, or even the bow saw in her pack, just won't cut it. Nothing to do but leave it for now. And call in the cavalry!

The cavalry, in this instance, is the Trail Conference crew of chainsawyers, men and women who have taken required safety training and answer the call for heavy-duty trail work. When ice storms devastated trails along the Shawangunk Ridge last November, volunteer trail maintainers and park staff received vital assistance from TC chain sawyers, and most trails throughout our area were soon back in service thanks to their efforts.

Contrary to the belief of many people, chainsaw work is not necessarily done by park personnel; in fact, many park managements have become increasingly dependent on the volunteer community to take care of this need as well as to take on regular trail maintenance. Using a chainsaw, however, or for that matter using a crosscut saw, is not something that should be done by the untrained or inexperienced trail worker.

For some years now the Trail Conference has been coordinating training for those who want to take on this challenge. The US Forest Service has set the standard for the safe use of chainsaws, and the Conference now has 40 people through-



The Trail Conference has a crew of 40 chainsawyers trained to US Forest Service standards.

out the region who are certified to USFS standards for work on trails. This level of chainsaw safety training is necessary for saw work in any National Park or National Forest and is strongly encouraged for anyone wishing to use a chainsaw on TC-maintained trails. To keep up with the constant upgrades in safety gear, saws, and sawing techniques, the sawyers need to re-certify every three years. We in this area are lucky to have a highly competent trainer in Jack Shuart with the NJDEP, Division of Forestry, who will be working in the future with the Appalachian Trail Conference's Peter Jensen to conduct future training courses.

The Palisades Interstate Park Commission has in the past provided some train-

ing for sawyers who work in their parks; there is no recertification requirement. Thirty-one TC volunteers have taken this training, many of them certified in both standards.

A few years ago one of the PIPC trained sawyers, Christopher Tausch, formed an ad-hoc group of sawyers to tackle the work needed in the PIPC parks. This group, now very ably run by Steve Banyacski, has cleared hundreds of

downed trees from Harriman, Storm King, and Minnewaska State Parks. In New Jersey our many qualified sawyers, led by Sandy Parr, John Grob, and Bob Boysen, have done an incredible job keeping the trails clear throughout the northern part of the state. The ice storm of last winter and this summer's soaking rains and strong winds have kept TC chainsawyers very busy.

It takes a special person to take on chainsawing. We owe big thanks to those who do this dangerous and demanding work. It doesn't look like the trees are going to stop falling!

—Larry Wheelock
TC Trails Director

TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES



For the latest schedules, check <http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trvop.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.

WEST JERSEY TRAIL CREW

All meeting times: 9 am; call for meeting location; heavy rain cancels.
Leaders: David Day and Monica Resor
Phone: 732-937-9098
Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
Nov. 8 & 9 (Saturday & Sunday)

Appalachian Trail, High Point S.P. We will be placing stepping stones in a very wet and boggy area of the AT, near the Iris Trail.

Nov. 22 (Saturday)
Rain date makeup or TBA.

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.

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS

Leader: Bob Moss, 973-743-5203
Contact leader for details, no more than one week before the scheduled work date.

Nov. 9 (Sunday)

WEST HUDSON

Leaders:
Crew Chief: Chris Ezzo 516-431-1148
Robert Marshall 914-737-4792, email rfmarshall@webtv.net
Brian Buchbinder 718-218-7563, email brian@grandrenovation.com
Claudia Ganz 212-633-1324, email

clganz@earthlink.net
Monica Resor 732-937-9098, email adamant@trailstobuild.com
Nov. 1 (Saturday)
Southfields Loop, Sterling Forest S. P.
Leader: Monica Resor
Nov. 2 (Sunday)
Southfields Loop, Sterling Forest S. P.
Leader: Chris Ezzo
Nov. 6 (Thursday) TBA
Leader: Robert Marshall
Nov. 15 (Saturday) TBA
Leader: Monica Resor

EAST HUDSON

See website for crew schedule.
<http://www.nynjtc.org/committees/trailsCouncil/crews/east.html>



North and West Jersey crews joined forces at Dunnfield Creek.

Hiking Clubs Raise \$2,000 for NJDEP ORV Operations Team

In March of this year, the Morris Trails Conservancy came to the Trail Conference with a plan to raise funds for personal protection gear needed by members of the NJDEP North Region's ORV (off-road vehicle) Operations Team. They put up a \$1,000 challenge grant to be matched by Trail Conference member organizations to generate funds for helmets or other gear needed by the 14 rangers who comprise this team (TW, July/August 2003).

The ORV Operations Team, made up of one ranger from each of north New Jersey's parks, was set up as a response to the increasing pressure from the illegal use of off road vehicles in state parks. This team can operate as a whole or in parts to zero in on specific problem areas to apprehend perpetrators. Even though they are not allowed to pursue, with their four ATVs and two



snowmobiles, the team is able to cut off and surround their targets. With the help of some municipal police officers and an increase in accurate and timely reporting of incidents by hikers, a number of ATVs have been apprehended, and in one incident some vehicles were impounded.

Even though the NJDEP supports and encourages this team, they are not at this time able to provide funding for adequate personal protection gear (with the exception of bulletproof vests); these needs have been taken care of by the individual officers. With the help of a number of member organizations and individuals, \$2,000 has been raised, which, with a generous discount from Pompton Honda Suzuki of Pompton Plains, NJ, will provide 10 needed helmets.

This effort has been a first and successful show of the hiking community's support for this kind of effort, and the Trail Conference hopes it will generate more cooperation between land managers and responsible recreational users of these lands.

Boy Scouts Put in 270 Hours on Camp Glen Gray Trails

Wearing his hat as Trail Conference supervisor for Ramapo Valley County Reservation, John Moran had some concerns in 2002 when Bergen County announced that it had acquired Camp Glen Gray, thus opening its trail network to the public and expanding maintenance challenges for the TC. Not to worry. In addition to the attention given to the camp and reservation by other TC supervisors and regular TC maintainers, the Boy Scouts of America also lent a giant helping hand. In the past year, four Eagle Scout candidates and one Scout service project have contributed valuable project time and effort to the trails in the Camp Glen Gray area.

First came Jesse Figueroa, who was about to turn 18 and wanted to complete his Eagle Scout project before his time expired. Jesse and his crew of Scouts from Troop 85, Hawthorne, NJ, volunteered nearly 90 hours to reblaze and repair the two-mile Millstone Trail (yes, the trail features a genuine old millstone quarry!). After doing an excellent job, Jesse further signed on with the TC as volunteer maintainer for the trail.

David Alhorn of Troop 7, Ridgewood, NJ, called John to volunteer for a project. He came away with a proposal to reblaze the entire seven-mile Schuber Trail, in addition to providing an extra tour of summer maintenance for the whole route. (David also joined the TC and attended

Maintenance 101.) David's Eagle Scout project entailed nearly 100 crew hours over four weekends.

Next came Erik Heymann of Troop 47 of Westwood, NJ. For his Eagle Scout project, Erik volunteered to take on a one-mile stretch of the Yellow Trail, helping to relocate it off paved roads and into the woods. Besides working at home to prepare metal tag blazes, he and his crew of five devoted more than 75 field hours to whipping the trail into shape.

Tim Andre of Troop 13, Montclair area, NJ, took on the Yellow-Silver Trail for his Eagle Scout project. After producing over 500 two-toned metal tags at home, Tim and his crew of six drove up Bear Swamp Road to the trail's midpoint and on two consecutive weekends put in more than 85 hours to replace old soup-can lids with fresh, standard TC blazes. They also extended the trail an extra quarter-mile, pruning limbs and clearing trail litter as they went.

Finally, Gene Giordano, the TC's supervisor for Ringwood State Park, as well as Scoutmaster for Troop 96 of Ringwood, NJ, turned out with a member of his troop to reblaze the old Matapan Rock Trail and extend it to connect with the Schuber Trail. Gene and his Scout devoted 10 hours to this project.

All told, the BSA contributed more than 270 hours to trail maintenance in the Camp Glen Gray area. Jobs well done!

TC Receives \$10,610 Grant for Trail Work in New Jersey

A grant of \$10,610 to the Trail Conference will pay for tools and staff time to complete several trail projects in northern New Jersey. The grant was announced by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and is funded by the National Recreational Trails Program, part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, which provides money to states for developing trails and trail facilities. These funds, which are the only federal ones that are completely devoted to trail projects, are generated by a federal gas tax attributed to off-highway

vehicle use.

The construction tools to be purchased with these new funds will greatly enhance TC's ability to cut rock and move large timbers and boulders and will help us create stable and safe trails that will be around for many generations.

Thanks are due to NJDEP's Office of Natural Lands Management and the State Trails Council, under whose advisement these funds are distributed. Thanks also go to the various park managements in northern New Jersey for their encouragement and help in acquiring these funds.

Hunting Schedules

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

NEW YORK

Southern Zone (including Catskills)

Deer Season

Regular: Nov. 17–Dec. 9

Archery: Oct. 15–Nov. 16;
Dec. 10–14

Archery (Westchester Co. only):
Nov. 1–Dec. 31

Muzzleloader: Dec. 10–16

Special regulations apply on Long Island. For details, go to: dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/guide/bgseasons.html

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park. However, it is allowed in parts of Minnewaska, Sterling Forest and Storm King State Parks. Call

845-786-2701 for more details about hunting in these parks.

Black Rock Forest closes to all hikers from Nov. 17 to Dec. 9, inclusive. For details, call 845-534-4517.

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

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey has very complicated hunting seasons that vary depending on location and kind of weapon permit. It is recommended that hikers verify the dates for the location in which they are interested. Call 609-292-2965 or visit www.njfishandwildlife.com. The following dates for deer season apply in many zones:

Deer Season

Firearms: Dec. 8-13

Archery: Sept. 27–Oct. 24, excluding Sundays

New East Hudson Maps Win Award

The newest edition of the East Hudson map set published by the Trail Conference has won an award in a world-wide competition for maps produced by digital (computerized) technology.

The sixth edition of the East Hudson Trails map set was published in June, and is the first produced entirely by digital technology by the Trail Conference. The maps were produced under the direction of NY-NJ TC Project Manager Walter Daniels, of Mohegan Lake, NY, and cartographer Herbert Chong, of Peekskill, NY, with assistance from Amy Bianco, of Sleepy Hollow, NY, text editor, and Steve Butfilowski, of Greenwood Lake, NY, layout artist.

The award, in the category of Topographic Maps, was announced in August by competition sponsor Avenza Systems, Inc., makers of the Mapublisher software used by Chong to create the maps. The top award in the competition went to the "Atlas of Namibia," produced by a team of geographers from the Directorate of Environmental Affairs of the African coun-

try of Namibia.

The East Hudson Trails map set shows hiking and multiple-use trails in public parks and reservations between Beacon in Dutchess County and Peekskill in Westchester County, and extending from the Hudson River to the Taconic Parkway.

Five different sets of digital map data, and five different software programs, were used in the design and production of the East Hudson maps.

Edward Goodell, executive director of the NY-NJ TC, said, "The award gives professional encouragement to our program of converting all our trail maps to digital technology. We expect computer cartography to make our maps more accurate and readable, and to improve our response to changes and additions to the trail systems under our care."

The East Hudson Trails map set can be purchased at the NY-NJ TC website and office in Mahwah, NJ, outdoor stores, local bookstores, and the Fahnestock State Park Visitors Center.

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Your planned gift to the New York–New Jersey Trail Conference can leave a lasting legacy and give you some immediate benefits:

- Reduce your taxes
- Increase your current income
- Conserve your family's wealth
- Fulfill your charitable goals
- Reflect your special interests

Here are some ways to make a planned gift:

Bequests

With the right planning, including the Trail Conference in your estate plans can reduce estate taxes. You can make a charitable bequest of a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder of your estate after making provisions for family and friends.

Gifts That Provide Life Income

A **Charitable Gift Annuity** can be purchased directly from the Trail Conference for a minimum of \$10,000. Annuity income can be provided for life for up to two people, and payments can be deferred until a time when you need it most. A charitable gift annuity can be purchased with cash or appreciated securities. Charitable gift annuities provide you with guaranteed income for life at a rate that may be higher than other fixed income products. You will receive an immediate charitable gift income tax deduction and may get relief from tax on capital gains.

A **Charitable Remainder Trust** may be funded with cash or appreciated assets such as securities or real estate. You and/or other beneficiaries who you name, receive income for life or for a set number of years. You immediately receive a charitable gift income tax deduction and may

get relief from tax on capital gains. When the trust expires, the assets remaining in the trust go to support the mission of the Trail Conference.

Gifts That Conserve Your Wealth

A **Charitable Lead Trust** can allow you to pass wealth to your children or grandchildren with minimal future taxation and get an immediate charitable gift income tax deduction. This is sometimes called a "reverse charitable remainder trust" because it provides income to the Trail Conference for a period of up to twenty years. When the trust expires, the assets in the trust are returned to you or your heirs largely avoiding estate and inheritance taxes.

You may choose to donate your home, vacation property or other real estate to the Trail Conference while retaining use of the property for your lifetime and the lifetime of your spouse. Called a **Retained Life Interest**, this method will give you an immediate charitable gift income tax deduction, allow you to avoid tax on capital gains, and remove the property from your estate. You are responsible for maintenance and the payment of property taxes so long as you continue to use the property.

These are some of the ways you can make a planned or deferred gift to the New York–New Jersey Trail Conference. Each person's circumstances and needs are different and a planned gift should be designed with your particular needs in mind. For more information or to discuss your needs in confidence, please contact Jim Davis at 201-512-9348 or by email at jfdavis@nynjtc.org.

This information is not intended as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax professional or investment professional.

Ken Lloyd Leaves Generous Bequest to Trail Conference

When TC life member Ken Lloyd died in 2001, he made certain that his dedication to his favorite cause would endure. In 2003, the Trail Conference received a generous bequest from his estate of \$192,744.

Ken, of Clifton, NJ, was long known to be a lover of the outdoors and a dedicated maintainer of trails. He served almost half of his 83 years as a volunteer with the Woodland Trail Walkers and the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and was an important activist in saving High Mountain and Pyramid Mountain as open space. The Conference recognized Ken's efforts in 1988, when it gave him its annual Hoerferlin Award for exemplary service, and again in 1991, when it made him an Honorary Life Member. Further recognition comes this year, with the establishment of a new award, the Ken Lloyd Award, to be given to an individual who has given exemplary service to his or her club (see awards list, page 3).

Bob Busha was a frequent hiker and maintainer with Ken Lloyd at Pyramid Mountain in Kinnelon. "We were working on the trails there even before Morris County took it over," he recalls, "and we were grandfathered in." At the time, Ken Lloyd was the area supervisor. Busha remembers him going out nearly every day and working "from noon till five, in the boiling sun. He was very devoted and gave a lot of time. He really enjoyed clipping bushes and painting blazes." Over the years, Lloyd also did trail maintenance on the Appalachian Trail, Kittatinny

Ridge, and Garrett Mountain Reservation, all in New Jersey.

A retired accountant with a degree from Rutgers University, Ken Lloyd came to New Jersey by way of England and Canada. He once summed up his love for working in the woods: "There's the physical exercise, the fresh air, the joy of being in the woods, and the tangible results. When you're through working, there's a real sense of accomplishment. It's a magnificent sport!"

TC Executive Director Edward Goodell said of the bequest, "The Ken Lloyd bequest was put immediately to work in the Outdoor Fund and allowed us to protect several priority parcels on the Shawangunk Ridge for the benefit of everyone in our region. Ken's generous spirit will live on in this work and sustain the activity he loved so well."

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members: **George D. Reskakis** and **Stephen Zeller**.

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."

GET INVOLVED

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

Tool Time

We all change the oil in our cars, replace air filters in our A/C units, and seal our drive-ways with tar to extend the life of our cars and equipment. Now the Trail Conference is looking for a Quartermaster to do the same for our tools. We are looking for an individual to oversee the distribution and maintenance of our tool supply. If you have good organizational skills and would like to learn more about the upkeep and maintenance of grip hoists, rock bars, snatch blocks, generators, rock drills, and other tools used to maintain and rehabilitate the

1,500 miles of trails that the Conference volunteers work on, then contact Larry Wheelock, wheelock@nynjtc.org.

Workshop and Training Coordinator

Volunteers are the heart and soul of this organization. Without them, our trails fall in to disrepair, our maps become outdated, our website stops loading, etc.... To support our volunteers, the Trail Conference offers a variety of training programs, from Trail Maintenance 101 to teaching computer skills. Training is an essential part of our volunteer program. We are looking for a person to help coordinate these training sessions. Interested persons should have excellent coordination skills, be able to plan in 12-month intervals, have good communication skills, and be willing to work with Trail Conference staff and volunteers to maximize the impact of our workshops and training sessions. For information, please contact Josh Erdsneker at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

Retail Store Representatives

A Trail Conference sales representative should be outgoing and not afraid to speak with people. He/she should be down-to-

earth and able to adapt their communication to fit the needs of the moment. Retail experience is a real bonus as well as any "visual/display" experience, but not necessary. An eye for detail is a must as well as a creative and fun spirit able to communicate the TC mission. Ability to travel to the needed locations is a must. The representative must understand the need to increase sales of our product and its relationship to our mission, which is the building, maintenance, and acquisition of new trails and lands. Training will be provided. For more information about this opportunity, please contact Ramon McMillan at office@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

Technology Crew and Maintainers

When you think of the Trail Conference, you have images of shovels, rock bars, and clip-pers as the primary tools of our trade. This is only half true, as we expand our arsenal of tools to accomplish our mission; the Trail Conference has embraced the use of many hi-tech tools such as GPS devices, scanners, database development, and advanced micro-computing environments. Our organization needs computer savvy individuals to expand and enhance our electronic capa-

bilities. If you have experience in any of the areas below and would be willing to donate some of your time to advance the Trail Conference, please contact Maureen Walsh at walsh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

- Assistant Webmaster
- Network/Server administration
- Webpage development
- Database design
- Desktop computer support (hardware and software)
- Electronic Marketplace (online stores)

Trail Walker Assistants

The *Trail Walker* is an important communication tool used by the Trail Conference to effectively contact our membership and the hiking community as a whole. We are always looking for ways to improve our newsletter and find new contributors. Several exciting opportunities are available for writers, layout and graphic designers, and even some sales opportunities. If you would like to contribute to the premier hiking newsletter in the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan area, then please contact Maureen Walsh at walsh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

Study Examines Trail Effects on Birds and Beetles

By Ed McGowan

As the fog lifted and the drizzle stopped, a lone red-eyed vireo began to call from a nearby chestnut oak. Columbia University graduate student Jean Rothe was making her early morning rounds along the trails, woods roads, and backcountry of Black Rock Forest, hopeful that the weather would clear enough for data collection on breeding birds. As it turned out, the rain picked up again in earnest and the morning was a washout, like so many others this especially rainy spring. Such are the vagaries of field biology. Undaunted, Jean packed up her binoculars and clipboard, determined to return to the forest before dawn the following morning to continue her work.

Together with the Trail Conference and Dr. James Danoff-Burg, a beetle expert at Columbia's Center for Environmental Research, Jean is examining the effects of trails, if any, on forest animal communities. Birds and beetles may seem like an unlikely pair, but each offers opportunities for quantitative sampling not found in other species groups. Through their unique calls, male forest birds announce their territories to potential rivals as well as to mates, and allow the attuned birder to identify their species and approximate

location, even without visual confirmation. Carrion beetles cooperate in a different way, readily coming to simple traps fashioned from old plastic containers and baited with chicken parts. Each group is extremely diverse, locally represented by numerous species. By measuring and comparing species diversity (# species recorded) and abundance (# individuals recorded) along trails, woods roads, and in interior forests without trails, the study aims to gain insights into whether trails affect these two very different species groups.

Preliminary results from the bird survey (the beetle work was still under way at the time of printing) suggest that the hiking trails traversing Black Rock do not meaningfully impact either the diversity or abundance of local breeding birds, at least with reference to our measure of calling males. Fifty-five different bird species

were documented during the study. There was little difference in average bird abundance or diversity between trails, woods roads, or forest interiors. In fact, tallies were surprisingly uniform among survey plots in each context. For example, bird abundance ranged from 6.8 to 9.7 individuals per plot across all plot types. Mean bird abundance for each plot type was nearly identical (trails = 8.1 birds, forest = 7.8, woods roads = 8.4). Similarly, species diversity ranged from 5.4 to 8.2 bird species per plot but more importantly averaged 6.5-7.0 species within each context.

As might be expected, there were differences in species composition between the three plot types, probably due in part to habitat differences in each. Although habitat type was controlled for by selecting plots with similar vegetation, some habitat differences were inevitable. Woods road margins tended to be more brushy than trails or forest interiors, owing to greater sun penetration to the forest floor. Several widespread birds of the region's

wooded habitats, including the oven-bird, eastern wood pewee, scarlet tanager, and wood thrush, were documented in every survey area, while species typically associated with more open habitats (prairie warbler, yellow warbler) made only occasional surprise appearances.

While the results suggest that singing male birds are not avoiding trail corridors, it is too early to draw meaningful generalizations from this study. First, the results represent just a single season's work (of a planned two-year study funded by Black Rock Forest), and one interrupted by rainy weather. The ecological literature is replete with examples of short-term research findings overturned by longer studies. Second, as we measured just one index, calling male birds, we cannot as yet comment on such important factors as nesting success and fledgling recruitment in each context. Other factors such as variation in visitor use levels of trails and woods roads also could not be accounted for, owing to insufficient data.

Still, this year's work lays an important foundation for next year's effort and for more extensive studies on forest communities along trails. Understanding these complex systems and our role as hikers in their dynamics will benefit stewardship of trail lands for years to come. 🌿

Ed McGowan, Ph.D. biology, recently joined the Trail Conference staff as Science Director.



Red-eyed vireo

Jean Rothe surveys birds at Black Rock Forest.



ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

continued from page 3

■ NJ Task Force to Create Highlands Master Plan

In September, New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey issued an executive order creating a Highlands Task Force, a special panel that will develop a master plan to preserve the natural resources and critical water supply in the more than 1,000-square-mile region that includes parts of seven North Jersey counties and 90 towns.

The new panel, officially unveiled at the annual meeting of the Highlands Coalition, will examine legislation, regulations, local ordinances and other government action needed to protect the area. It is to provide the governor with recommendations within 180 days. The task force will hold public hearings across northern New Jersey in the next several months.

The Trail Conference is a member of the Highlands Coalition.

■ Efforts to Protect Torne Valley

Much of the Torne Valley (in Rockland County, NY), a key part of the federally recognized Highlands Stewardship Area, would be forever preserved under new zoning rules proposed by Town Supervisor

Christopher St. Lawrence. Pending adoption of the new master plan, a moratorium on large building projects is in place.

Under the proposed plan, St. Lawrence said, close to 600 of about 700 acres in the Torne Valley owned by the Ramapo Land Company would be transferred to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission to become part of Harriman State Park. In exchange for the donation, the property owner would be given permission to develop a 100-acre parcel with a mix of up to 464 single-family homes and townhouses. The donation would be required under the new zoning rules.

St. Lawrence also said the Trust for Public Land was negotiating to purchase an additional 260 acres from the Ramapo Land Company, while the park commission was negotiating with Braen Stone Industries to purchase 550 acres. All of the property would be incorporated into Harriman State Park. (Source, *The Journal News*)

■ NJ Parks Need Maintenance Funds

State officials estimate New Jersey's parks need \$217 million in repairs and upgrades over the next three years—this as the state faces another in a series of multi-billion dollar budget shortfalls. Lib-

erty State Park alone, considered the jewel of the park system, needs \$40.8 million for repairs and improvements. New funding sources are being investigated including borrowing money or creating dedicated tax sources for the funds.

A top priority is reopening the observation tower at High Point State Park, closed in 1998 because its stairs were crumbling. Bradley Campbell, the commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Protection, said the tower would open next year—an event, he said, that would be a “substantial and overdue achievement.” (Source, New Jersey *Star-Ledger*)

■ Open Space Successes

Union County, NJ: Union County purchased one of the last and largest tracts of farmland in the county in September, preserving it from development. The 23-acre Ponderosa Farm in Scotch Plains was acquired for \$10 million using money from Union County's Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The farm had recently been put on the market.

Mahwah Preserves Ramapo River Property: Mahwah Township has received a \$300,000 Bergen County grant for a 15-acre tract along the Ramapo River that it purchased in August. The township paid

a developer \$300,000 for the property, on the east side of the river off Halifax Road. The reimbursement comes from the county's Open Space Trust Fund. The purchase completes a greenbelt from the [county-owned] Ramapo Reservation in the south to the [township-owned] Marty Patrick property in the north, according to a township official.

Jockey Hollow, NJ: The Trust for Public Land has protected nine acres within the Tempe Wick Road National Historic District as a buffer for the Morristown National Historic Park in Harding Township. The land, known as Jockey Hollow Meadow, will buffer the park's Jockey Hollow Encampment from residential development, provide a new site location for park office headquarters, and offer a critical new linkage point for Patriots' Path, a network of bicycling, hiking, and equestrian paths and trails. Funding for the \$1.5 million purchase price came from the National Park Service, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Johannee Wallerstein Institute, and area residents who rallied to raise funds for the protection of the property. The property's strategic location will permit a safer crossing for an extension of Patriots' Path across Tempe Wick Road to link with the New Jersey Brigade Trail.

NY-NJ TC member? YES NO JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price

	Retail	Member	P/H	Total
Official Conference Maps				
Sterling Forest Trails (2003)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.80	_____
North Jersey Trails (2002)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.95	_____
Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails (2003)	\$8.95	\$6.75	+.95	_____
NEW!! East Hudson Trails (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 (available Mar. 2004)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.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	_____
Circuit Hikes in Northern New Jersey (2003)	\$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	_____
NEW!! Shawangunks Trail Companion (2003)	\$18.95	\$15.15	+\$2.50	_____
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	_____
AMC Catskill Mountain Guide (2002)	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$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!

Our Members

Two TC Members Receive Highlands Activist Awards

Trail Conference Life Member Peter Rostenberg received an Outstanding Activist Award from the Highlands Coalition September 20, 2003, for his work in preserving the Fishkill Ridge in New York. The area is part of the multi-state Highlands region. Peter is president of Fishkill Ridge Caretakers, an organization dedicated to the responsible use of the Fishkill Ridge for present and future generations. The citation acknowledges "outstanding grassroots activism to defend the Fishkill Ridge, Breakneck, and the Clove Creek areas of the NY Highlands from incursions by mining companies."

Peter and this organization were instrumental in stopping mining operations that would have destroyed rattlesnake habitat and the eastern end of a beautiful mountain. For more information about Fishkill Ridge Caretakers, visit the group's website

at www.fishkillridge.org.

Rob Lehmann was also recognized by the coalition for his beyond-the-call-of-duty volunteer contributions to the Highlands Coalition, including his recent redesign of the coalition's website. For the Trail Conference, Rob maintains the Hike of the Week pages.

Volunteer Bob Busha Profiled in The Record (Bergen, NJ)

Long-time Trail Conference maintainer Bob Busha (pronounced boo-shay) was profiled in *The Record* on August 15. Busha, a resident of Clifton, NJ, oversees 39 other TC volunteers and 25 miles of trails at Pyramid Mountain and other nearby parks. Now 80 years old, Bob is looking to retire from his TC job, but, as he led a reporter on a hike in the park, he said, "I've got to find someone to replace me." Contact the TC office if you would like to make Bob's dream come true.

CONTRIBUTIONS

GIFTS

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To Sterling Forest Protection Fund
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 Mona Reynolds

To the Science Program
 The New York Community Trust*

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In memory of Kenneth W. Lloyd
 Robert F. Busha*

* Members of the Raymond S. Torrey Society



Good Morning Midnight: Life and Death in the Wild

by Chip Brown

Riverhead Books, 2002

Reviewed by Robert E. Green

This book traces the main events, and there were many, in the life of Guy Waterman, a musician, mountaineer, and writer who committed suicide by allowing himself to freeze to death on Mount Lafayette in the White Mountains in February 2000. Waterman, and his wife and frequent co-author Laura, will be familiar to many hikers for books about the wilderness, including *Backwoods Ethics*, *Wilderness Ethics*, *Forest and Crag*, and *Yankee Rock and Ice*, and, soon to be published, *A Fine Kind of Madness – Mountain Tales, Tall and True*.

Good Morning Midnight details Waterman's early life by focusing on a fascinating series of events culled from numerous interviews with friends and relatives and provides a clear understanding of the powerful forces that tugged this complex individual in every direction of the compass.

In May 1950, Guy and his girlfriend Emily Morrison flew to York, NC, where the 18-year-olds could marry without their parents' consent. In April 1951, the couple's first son, William Antonio Waterman, was born. Guy was 19, had a regular gig playing jazz three nights a week, and was living in an apartment while studying at the university, where he compressed the four-year course into two and a half years and graduated at the top of his class. The second son, John Mallon Waterman, was born in September 1952, and in 1955 the Watermans had a third son, named James (Jim) Reed Waterman.

In 1963, soon after his drinking and other factors resulted in divorce, Waterman read an article about climbing the North Face of the Eiger in Switzerland and became interested in mountain climbing. That activity soon took over almost his entire life and was an enduring fascination; he mastered rock and wilderness skills and abated his drinking. In time, all three of his sons also became avid rock climbers and mountaineers, emulating and even outdoing their father's climbing feats.

His second wife, Laura, shared his outdoor interests. She was 29 when she met Guy, who was 38, and they were immediately attracted. Their wedding night in August 1971 was spent in a small tent pitched on a belay ledge halfway up a 5.8 Gunks climb called Oblique Twique. A year or so later, after reading a book by Scott Nearing called *Living the Good Life*, they moved into a tent while they built the homestead they named Barra, after an ancestral island in the Scottish Hebrides, on 39 acres in the Vermont woods. The

couple lived off the land at Barra, becoming vegetarians so that they did not have to keep animals, and valuing the tranquility of the deep woods. It was at Barra where they wrote their books.

In July 1998, after many discussions, Guy told his wife that he had decided to end his life, partly for health reasons. He made his first attempt at suicide by trying to jump off the Whitney-Gilman Ridge in Franconia onto granite boulders 600 feet below, but found that he could not. "Perhaps because he could not leave his wife to fend for herself on a homestead set up for two," the author speculates. When Waterman returned and confessed, Laura talked him into making preparations for her to live (nearer to town) without him.

Guy decided to wait for winter, when he might be able to allow himself to freeze to death without much suffering, as Eskimos and some Japanese used to do, according to Derek Humphrey in his book *Final Exit*. In the meantime, the Watermans bought six acres just outside Corinth and hired a contractor to build a 1200-square-foot pine log cabin in which Laura was to live.

When he died, Guy Waterman was in extremely good physical condition for a 67-year-old man, and the manner of his death aroused considerable controversy. In life, Guy often talked about his "considered preference" for his selected manner of death, but his many friends in the outdoor fraternity mourned the loss of such a versatile companion. This book goes a long way toward explaining Guy's mindset and how his life pointed him in the direction of ending things as he did.

Shawangunks Trail Companion: A Complete Guide to Hiking, Mountain Biking, Cross-Country Skiing, and More Only 90 Miles from New York City

by Jeffrey Perls

Backcountry Guides, 2003

Reviewed by Malcolm Spector

Fortunately for the hiking community, the title of this book is (almost, see below) completely accurate. In 367 pages, the author describes virtually all the opportunities for outdoor recreation in the unique environment we know as "The Gunks," the mysterious brooding ridge that runs from Port Jervis to Rosendale. The geological forces that make the Gunks so special are very well described, as are the histories of human settlement and development. There are chapters describing virtually all of the trails near the Mohonk Mountain House and Mohonk Preserve, in Minnewaska State Park Preserve, in Cragmoor and Sam's Point Dwarf Pine Ridge Preserve, and the Long Path along

the southern ridge from Route 52 to Port Jervis. For each trail, the author provides the length, the marking, a capsule description of the trail, the special highlights of the trail, any "downside" to the hike (noise from traffic, power lines, viewshed pollution, exposure to wind or sun, bugs, shared access with bicyclists, boring stretches of carriage road) and any special difficulties or hazards. All this in addition to detailed trail narratives that are models of clarity. There are maps that show which trails are for hiking only, and which are multi-use trails for hiking, biking, and/or cross-country skiing.

A long chapter describes the attractions of the neighboring valleys: the Wallkill River Valley to the southeast of the ridge, the Roundout Valley to the northwest, and the Neversink River Valley to the west. This chapter describes the sites and hikes in Rosendale and High Falls, in and around Ellenville, New Paltz, Wurtsboro and the Basha Kill, and Port Jervis. Good descriptions are provided of the D & H Canal, its history and significance, and the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail.

The author makes the reader aware that the Gunk landscape is both unique and fragile. He describes the many struggles and campaigns by environmental advocacy organizations to preserve the landscape, and also the efforts of those who acquire the land, plan and construct the trails, and maintain them. With this fragility in mind "a number of informal routes and trails are purposefully left out to protect those areas from unwanted use and to protect users from wandering into places where they don't belong."

The book is also remarkably up to date. For example, Perls not only reminds the reader that the Long Path has been closed between Verkeerderkill Falls and Mud Pond by the private landowner (John Bradley), but also that there are plans to relocate the trail through High Point,

Napanoch Point, the Witches Hole, and the Lundy Property.

At 6 inches by 9 inches, Perls's book is a little larger than the usual trail guide. But, it is, at last, a comprehensive guidebook for the Shawangunks, one that reminds even the most experienced local hiker how special and precious this area is. *Shawangunks Trail Companion* will inspire the protective instincts of all who love the out-of-doors to do whatever it takes to safeguard it from development and preserve it for future generations.

Malcolm Spector is a member of the Trail Conference Board of Directors.



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Volunteers Wanted for Lower Hudson Winter Eagle Survey

Early each winter, as ice claims the open waters of the northeastern United States and Canada, bald eagles migrate southward to find suitable overwintering habitat. Increasingly, they go no further than the open waters of the Delaware and Hudson River watersheds in southeastern New York. In fact, upwards of 200 eagles now make this region their winter home. The uptick in eagle numbers is attributable to the successful recovery of eastern populations over the last several decades, including a dramatic increase in birds fledged from New York nests.

Working in cooperation with the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Trail Conference is initiating a volunteer-based winter eagle survey on trail lands along the lower Hudson River (Beacon to Croton Point). The objective of the project is to document levels of eagle use as well as possible disturbances at eagle perches along the river's edge and at night roosts in the Highlands. Information gained from these efforts will help protect eagles and their habitat. If you would like to volunteer as an Eagle Monitor please contact Ed McGowan, TC Science Director, at mcgowan@nynjtc.org or 201-501-9348.

**IF YOU LOVE THE
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This website of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition has been redesigned and should be your one-stop source for up-to-date news about the Shawangunks.

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Add it to your list of Web favorites.

The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition is a project of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

A RARE AT ORIGINAL

continued from page 1

nated and supervised numerous Boy Scout Eagle projects, AT crew projects, and a Telephone Pioneers project.

“One of Ron’s strengths is his skill in managing people,” says TC Board Chair Jane Daniels. “He brings together a large number of individuals who are interested in trail work and coordinates their activities to make the best use of all of their strengths.” Ron has built a network of trail activists: they monitor potential and existing problems near the trail, report them, and help deal with these problems; they, as does Ron, attend many town and community meetings where issues affecting the trail are being discussed.

Last year, as the Trails Chair for the Dutchess/Putnam Appalachian Trail Management Committee, Ron contributed over 148 hours of work while supervising 52 volunteers who donated 1,650 hours of service. Quite an accomplishment, given his involvement with the Boy Scouts, his temple, and his business! His perseverance is simply amazing.

Ron’s dedication and commitment to the Trail Conference and the Appalachian Trail is extraordinary. The TC is very lucky to have him as a cornerstone of our AT management committee in New York. His efforts have not gone unnoticed. Thank you, Ron, for doing such an amazing job for the past 23 years. 🍃

Thanks to Marilyn Rosen, who helped with this article.

FAVORITE HIKES



Snowshoe Solitude in Suburbia

by Russ Faller

One of my favorite snowshoe hikes is the Wilkinson Memorial Trail in the Hudson Highlands (NY-NJ TC East Hudson Map 102). During winter, quiet and solitude in an unspoiled natural setting are the norm. The trail is often unbroken, even long after new snowfall. The entire trail is 9-10 miles long, with a 900’ ascent, taking eight hours end to end.

This is a point-to point hike, so you’ll need two cars. I start on the east side and traverse the ridge toward the Hudson River. This saves the more spectacular views for later in the hike. If you have a large group, needing several cars, leave the cars on the west side. There is trailhead parking about .5 mile north of the Route 9D tunnel at Breakneck Point. The east side has no parking area and, in winter, it can be a challenge to squeeze one car off the side of the road.

Finding the Trailhead

The eastern trailhead is located on Reservoir Lane. Take US Rt. 9 south from I-84 to the Old Albany Post Road. This is a right turn off Rt. 9, about .25 mile from the Dutchess-Putnam County line. Drive another .25 mile to Reservoir Lane and park where you can. Do not park on Reservoir Lane. This is a private road, and trail access is a privilege that could be rescinded.

The Hike

Yellow blazes lead up Reservoir Lane.

MORE WILDERNESS IN CATSKILLS

continued from page 1

to 12 in Wilderness areas and 20 in Wild Forest areas.

• New scenic vistas would be created and existing ones maintained in Wild Forests. In Wilderness areas, existing scenic vistas would be permitted through the Unit Management Plan process.

Reaction

At four hearings on the draft plan in September, strong, organized opposition to the increase in Wilderness acres was presented by mountain bikers and Greene County officials. Bikers argued that the redesignation would leave them with little if any biking trails in the Catskill Forest Preserve. According to DEC officials, however, there are currently 70 miles of designated biking trails in six different Wild Forest areas. Adoption of the revised Master Plan would not alter this number. Furthermore, additional mountain biking trails will be designated in Wild Forest areas through the UMP process.

Follow these the entire hike. You will pass a gate, then a small stream. Just beyond the stream, the trail turns sharply left into the woods. Here you’ll likely need to put on your snowshoes. The trail climbs a gentle grade to a pond, and loops around the north shore of the pond. (If it’s cold enough, you can cross the ice, going west, to regain the trail.)

The trail gradually steepens, and eventually you’ll start stripping off layers of clothing. Just when you think you’re nearing the height of land, the trail turns right and dips back down. You begin climbing again, pass the white Fishkill Ridge Trail on your right, and come to a rock outcrop, from where you’ll enjoy your first view of the Fahnestock hills to the southeast. Notice the hemlocks across the gorge; these are the only hemlocks on this hike.

Continue along the trail to a junction with a blue trail (Crossover Trail). Turn left, staying on yellow, and climb to Scofield Ridge. Here you’ll find many nice viewpoints.

Descend into Squirrel Hollow, where you may find ATV incursions. If you encounter motorized vehicles, take the license numbers and report them to



The author enjoys the Wilkinson Trail in warm weather, too.

www.nynjtc.org/trails/illegaluse.html.

At Squirrel Hollow Brook, turn left following blue and yellow blazes. Cross the brook and begin an easy climb to where the yellow trail breaks away from the blue, turning right. Yellow takes you over gentle terrain, then dips down and follows a pretty stretch of Cascade Brook. In about .25 mile, you’ll begin climbing Sugarloaf Mountain. The woodland is open enough to bushwack straight up the mountain, rather than following the trail’s more gradual line.

From Sugarloaf, you will be treated to spectacular views up and down the Hudson River, the Catskills, Shawangunks, and Storm King. The ruins of Bannerman’s Castle on Pollepel Island can be seen below. It is less than a mile down the trail to Rt. 9D and your car. 🍃

Russ Faller is a frequent outings leader for the Mid-Hudson chapter of ADK.

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continued from page 12

exploring this undeveloped, Scenic Hudson area with its mysterious foundations; end up near RR station in Cold Spring, NY.

NYHC. Lost Brook Preserve. Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-9457, 7-8 am. Meet: 10:15 am at George Washington Bridge bus terminal upper level ticket booths (A train to 175th St.). Will take 10:40 bus. Easy 6 miles through a lovely nature preserve that is close to the city.

WTA. Castle Rock/Sugarloaf So, NY. Leader: George A. O'Leary, 914-631-8441. Transportation contribution \$4. Moderate 7 miles along old roads to Sugarloaf South and points beyond. Nice views of Hudson in pristine setting. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25

FVTW. Skylands, Ringwood, NJ. Leader: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10 am at Skylands Manor parking, off Morris Ave. 6-7 miles over Mount Defiance to Bear Swamp Lake; return through the gardens.

SATURDAY, NOV. 29

ADK-R. Appalachian Trail. Leader: Call 845-354-0738 for information. 11 miles.

PMNHA. Turkey Mountain, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Moderate hike to burn off those holiday fixin's.

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

SUNDAY, NOV. 30

IHC. Trestle-to-Trestle, Schunemunk Mt. Leader: Patricia Wexler, 201-792-1979. Meet: 9 am at Red Apple Restaurant, Rt. 17, Southfields, NY (park in rear). Strenuous hike along entire western ridge; exposed conglomerate rock, into ravine and climb ledges of High Knob. Rain cancels.

PMNHA. Turkey Mountain, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Strenuous hike to burn off those holiday fixin's.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Joan Lepseher, 908-273-4188. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature/Science Center on Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Brisk 4-5 miles with some rocky or muddy trails; suitable for strong beginners. Steady rain cancels.

WTA. Butler Sanctuary. Leader: Audrey Sutton, 914-723-1214. Moderately strenuous 6 miles.

DECEMBER

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

FVTW. Shawangunk Ridge Trail. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-769-3864. Meet: 9:30 am; call for location. Moderately strenuous 9.25 miles along this ridge trail from Rt. 211 to Rt. 171 and the railroad station; a hike up to the Long Path junction is an additional 2 miles. Car shuttle required.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

ADK-R. Stonetown Circular, NJ. Leader: Call 201-816-9465 for information. 9.5 miles.

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, NJ. Moderate hike on Turkey Mountain.

NYHC. Upper Montclair to Verona, NJ. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 10 am at Port Authority bus terminal, near commuter statue. Moderate 8-mile hike through Mills Reservation, then on abandoned railroad right-of-way with tracks removed for easy walking.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

IHC. Jewel of a Hike: New Sapphire Trail, Sterling Forest, NY. Leader: Peter Heckler, 201-261-4644; no calls morning of hike. Meet: 9 am at Red Apple Restaurant, Rt. 17, Southfields, NY (park in rear). Moderately strenuous hike also including AT, Indian Hill, Furnace Loop, and Wildcat Mt. If sufficient snow, bring snowshoes. Shuttle required; rain or poor driving conditions cancel.

WWW. Norvin Green, NJ. Leader: Don Weise; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 to register in advance; \$8 fee for non-members. Meet: 10 am at Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ. Strenuous 7-8 mile hike at a brisk pace. Heart-warming hike exploring Chikahoki Falls, glacier-carved summits. Rain or shine.

PMNHA. Map & Compass Skills Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Moderate hike working on orienteering skills. Fee \$3.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature/Science Center on Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Brisk 4-5 miles, some unmarked trails; not suitable for beginners. Steady rain cancels.

GAHC. Downtown Discovery, NYC. Leader: Wolfgang Hahn, 212-831-8254. Meet: 10 am at 195 Broadway, corner of Broadway & Fulton St. Easy hike.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

RVW. Full Moon Hike up Overlook Mountain, NY. For more information call: 845-246-7158. Moderate hike, 5 miles. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 5:15 p.m.. Inclement weather date—December 9.

THURSDAY, DEC. 11

FVTW. Sterling Forest, NY. Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 am at visitor's center; call for directions. 9 miles around Sterling Lake.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

ADK-MH. South Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Russ Fallor, 845-297-5126, before 9:30 pm. Meet: Call leader. Moderate hike to Parnapo Torne; many nice viewpoints and climbing is not very steep or long.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Ellen King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking (corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station). Steep climb at start, and then a loop of 5 miles including Hemlock Falls. Rain cancels.

RVW. Blackhead Mountain, via Lockwood Gap (3940), NY. For more information call: 845-246-4145. Strenuous 4.4 miles. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date—following Saturday.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

IHC. Harriman State Park Bike Path Hike, NY. Leader: Ann Gilbert, 973-839-0292. Meet: 9 am at Anthony Wayne North Parking Area. Easy hike on bike trail with gentle ups and downs (no danger of bikes since it'll be winter). Rain or poor driving conditions cancel.

ADK-R. Long Path by Rockland Lake, NY. Leader: Call 201-569-0244 for information. 7 miles.

PMNHA. Valhalla Glen, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Moderate hike to Valhalla Brook.

ADK-MH. Vanderbilt Estate Walk, NY. Leader: Jenny & Stan Roberts, 845-471-5712, before 10 pm. Meet: 1:30 pm at Vanderbilt Estate parking area. Easy walk to Bard Rock, along river on woods road, through garden. About 3 miles.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

RVW. Hudson Valley Rail Trail, Highland, NY. For more information call: 845-246-9373. Easy hike, 5 miles. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 10:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

FVTW. Lake Welch, Harriman S.P., NY. Leader: Al Leigh, 973-471-7528. Meet: 10 am at Lake Welch beach area; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 7-8 miles in a delightful area not often visited.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Brisk 5-6 miles with good views in a less traveled part of this park. Rain/snow cancels (snow on ground okay).

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

PMNHA. Valhalla Overlook. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Moderate hike to Lake Valhalla Overlook.

SUNDAY, DEC. 21

PMNHA. Winter Solstice Hike. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 3 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Moderate hike to celebrate the return of longer days/shorter nights. Fee \$3.

IHC. Winter on West Mountain, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Pete Rigotti, email peterlabor@yahoo.com. Meet: 9 am at Anthony Wayne Recreation Area (north area). Extremely strenuous and invigorating hike up West Mt. to warm your spirits with stop at a shelter for lunch; ice and snow may change route. Crampoms may be needed. Rain, heavy snow, or poor driving conditions will cancel.

TUESDAY, DEC. 23

FVTW. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Mary Dell Morrison, 908-684-5175. Meet: 10 am at Jockey Hollow; call for directions. Brisk 6-7 mile walk around the perimeter of this Morris Co. park.

THURSDAY, DEC. 25

IHC. Annual Holiday Hike, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Larry Spinner, 845-356-5219. Meet: 9:30 am at Lake Skannatati parking area, Seven Lakes Dr., Harriman. Moderately strenuous hike from Lake Skannatati at brisk pace; wear proper clothing. Rain, heavy snow, or poor driving conditions cancel; call after 7 am day of hike if in doubt.

RVW. Harriman State Park, NY. Meet: Reeves Meadow Visitor Center, 10 am. For more information call: 973-778-0992.

SATURDAY, DEC. 27

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 am at Jockey Hollow visitor's center; call for directions; \$4 per person admission fee. Moderate 4-mile hike in this

historical park, where Washington camped. Steady rain/snow/icy conditions cancel.

SUNDAY, DEC. 28

IHC. Highlands Trail, NY. Leader: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 8:30 am at south end of Sterling Ridge Trail, Rt. 511, Hewitt, NJ. Strenuous hike up Windbeam, Bear, and Board Mountains, then on Harrison and Horse Pond Mountains—peaks glare, with many great views. Shuttle required; rain, heavy snow or poor driving conditions cancel.

PMNHA. 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, NJ. Reflect on the passing year on this moderate hike.

TUESDAY, DEC. 30

FVTW. Schooley's Mountain. Leader: Bill Barton, 908-647-6658. Meet: 9:30 am; call for directions. 6-7 miles from Long Valley up to the county park. Shuttle required.

THURSDAY, JAN. 1

ADK-MH. Kaaterskill High Peak, NY. Leader: Henry Jenkins, 845-883-7853. Meet: Call leader to register 12/27-31. 6 miles at moderate pace, 1800' elevation gain. Winter hike to one of the 3500' peaks; crampoms and snowshoes required.

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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	ADK Mid-Hudson	PMNHA	Pyramid Mountain Natural
ADK-R	ADK Ramapo		Historic Area
FVTW	Frost Valley Trailwalkers	RWW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	UCHC	Union County Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	UOC	University Outing Club
MHSC	Mid-Hudson Sierra Club	WTA	Westchester Trails Association
NVHC	New York Hiking Club	WWW	Weis Wyanokie Wanderers

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference office. The deadline for the January/February issue is November 15, 2003.

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY, NOV. 1

ADK-R. Old Red and Seven Hills Trails, Harriman S.P., NY. Leader: Call 201-836-3329 for information. 8 miles.

ADK-MH. Anthony's Nose, Hudson Highlands, NY. Leader: Sue Mackson, 845-471-9892, before 8 am or after 6 pm. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. 6-7 miles at moderate pace, 1500' elevation gain. Wonderful views along the Hudson River from the ridge above Bear Mt. Bridge. Heavy rain cancels.

UCHC. Turkey Mountain, Montville, NJ. Leader: Terry Kulmane, 908-665-2672. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain visitor center; call for directions. 5 miles at a moderate pace; maybe we'll see some wild turkeys. Rain cancels; call before 8:45 am if in doubt.

SUNDAY, NOV. 2

NVHC. Pelham Bay Park. Leader: Bob Ward, 718-471-7036, after 8 pm. Meet: Call leader. Easy, flat 5-mile hike along some of the trails under leader's jurisdiction as Metro Area Trails Chair of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. Optional meal at City Island afterwards.

IHC. The Timp, Harriman S.P., NY. Leader: Ilse Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am at municipal parking lot, Rt. 202 & Rt. 59, Suffern, NY. Strenuous climb to one of the great lunch spots, with dramatic panoramic view of the Hudson River. Rain cancels.

PMNHA. Eight-Mile Hike. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Strenuous hike, not for beginners.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, South Orange, NJ. Leader: Jay Kreitchick, 973-992-4193. Meet: 10 am at Bramhall Terrace parking lot on Crest Dr.; call for directions. Moderately brisk 5 miles with some rocky/hilly areas and some fairly flat places. We'll go past the deer paddock and out to Washington Rock.

WTA. Breakneck Ridge, Hudson Highlands, NY. Leader: Peter Hibbard, 914-285-9211. Transportation contribution \$4. Strenuous 6 miles with good views of Storm King and Hudson River.

TUESDAY, NOV. 4

FVTW. Terrace Pond, Pequannock Watershed, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenaer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at Bearfort Waters; call for directions. 6-7 miles; Terrace Pond is a wild gem fed by springs and rain, reachable only on foot.

SATURDAY, NOV. 8

MHSC. Minnewaska Trail Maintenance, NY. Leader: Gerorgette Weir, 845-462-0142. Meet: 9:15 am, upper parking lot. We'll hike the carriage road to Castle Point, then down the Blueberry Run Trail, cutting back the blueberries as we go. Will walk back via Awosting Carriage

Road. Bring clippers, lopping shears. Rain date: Sunday, Nov. 9.

PMNHA. Limestone Quarry Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Moderate hike on Turkey mountain.

NVHC. Fort Tilden and Rockaway Point, NY. Leader: Harvey Fishman, 718-258-7276. Meet: Call leader. 10-mile hike, all flat, mostly along the beach.

ADK-MH. At-Three Lakes Loop, Fahnestock State Park, NY. Leader: Ollie Simpson, 845-298-8379, 7-8:30 pm. Meet: 9 am; call leader for location. 6-7 miles at moderate pace. Hike the AT from Denytown Rd. to Canopus Lake.

ADK-R. Schunemunk Mountain, NY. Leader: June Slade, 845-358-5215, for information. 8 miles.

UCHC. Hartshorne Woods, Highlands, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am at Rocky Point trailhead of Hartshorne Woods Park (end of Portland Rd.); call for directions. 5-6 mile moderate hike at the highest point along the East Coast; good views of bay and waterways. Steady rain cancels.

SUNDAY, NOV. 9

IHC. The Great Swamp. Leader: Barbara Murray, 908-647-8030. Meet: 9 am at McDonald's, Morris Hills Shopping Center, Rt. 202 & Rt. 46, Parsippany, NJ. Easy hike in National Wildlife Refuge; combination of trails and boardwalks, with stops at observation blinds. Rain cancels.

UOC. Sunfish Pond, Delaware Water Gap, NJ. Leader: Charlie Severn, 732-246-3387. Meet: Call leader. Moderately difficult with uphill climb; must be in good physical condition.

PMNHA. Full Moon Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 5:30 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Hike by moonlight on this moderate hike. Fee \$3.

WTA. Appalachian Trail, CT. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Transportation contribution \$6. Strenuous 7 miles between Bulls Bridge and Kent from north to south; omits 3-mile portion south of Bulls Bridge.

TUESDAY, NOV. 11

FVTW. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, NJ. Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-539-0756. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. 7 miles, including a new section of the Highlands Trail.

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

ADK-MH. Arden, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Alvin DeMaría, 845-255-1704. Meet: 9 am at Elk Pen parking; call leader for location. 7-8 miles at moderate pace, many ups and downs, but not steep.

UCHC. Ramapo Reservation, Mahwah, NJ. Leader: Al Leigh, 973-471-7528, call Friday 7-10 pm. Meet: 9:30 am in Mahwah; call for directions. 7 miles at moderate pace; early outs possible. You'll be amazed at the variety of quality trails in this Bergen Co. beauty.

SUNDAY, NOV. 16

ADK-R. Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: Call 845-359-2465 for information. 6-7 miles.

IHC. Highlands Fling: Clinton Res. to Echo Lake, NJ. Leader: Steve Rikon, 973-962-4149. Meet: 9 am at Burger King, Rt. 23N, Butler, NJ. Strenuous 11 miles; nice views from Echo Lake and fire tower. Rain cancels.

WWW. Patriots' Path, NJ. Leader: Don Weisse; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 to register in advance; \$8 fee for non-members. Meet: 9:30 am at Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ. Strenuous 8-10 mile hike at a brisk pace. Explore the rolling hills of Jockey Hollow and Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary; Soldier Huts, the Cross Estate, and pretty streams. Rain or shine.

PMNHA. Whale Head Rock Hike. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Strenuous hike to a glacial erratic.

GAHC. Black Rock Forest, Cornwall, NY. Leader: Henry Loddigs, 718-899-1052. Meet: 10 am parking lot of Storm King Mtn., second lot northerly direction on Rt. 9V. Moderate hike.

WTA. Sterling Forest, NY. Leader: Herb Hochberg, 914-472-3525. Moderate 8 miles on Sterling Ridge Trail from Rt. 17A to the fire tower.

TUESDAY, NOV. 18

FVTW. Appalachian Trail. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 9:30 am at Wawayanda State Park ranger's station for shuttle. 7-8 mile AT hike from Long House Rd. to Rt. 94.

PMNHA. Moderate Morning Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Moderate hike for ages 18 and up.

SATURDAY, NOV. 22

PMNHA. Tripod Rock. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township, NJ. Moderate hike to our famous glacial erratic.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 am at Jockey Hollow visitor's center; call for directions; \$4 per person admission fee. Moderate 4-mile hike in this historical park, where Washington camped. Steady rain/snow/icy conditions cancel.

NVHC. Mt. Vernon to Pelham, NY. Leader: Helen Yee, 212-348-5344. Meet: 11 am at Wakefield/241st St. subway token booth (#2 train to last stop). Moderate 7 miles with some ups and downs. Lunch at inexpensive restaurant; walk past some lovely homes; return to BX16 bus, which transfers to several subways.

SUNDAY, NOV. 23

IHC. Tripod Rock, NJ. Leader: Charlie and Anita Kientzler, 973-835-1060. Meet: 9 am at Kinnelon ball field, Kinnelon, NJ. Moderate hike around Butler Reservoir; from Pyramid Mt. ridge New York City is close at hand. Tripod Rock will, as usual, be an enigma. Rain cancels.

ADK-R. Johnstown Circular, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Call 201-816-9465 for information. 7.5 miles.

ADK-MH. West Point Foundry Preserve, NY. Leader: Jane Geisler, 845-677-9909. Meet: 1 pm; call leader for location. Easy hike

continued on page 11

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