



TRAIL WALKER

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference – Maintaining 1,675 Miles Of Foot Trails

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Can You Still Get There From Here?



GEORGETTE WEIR

Maintained footpaths connect people with nature, such as to this viewpoint in the Catskills known as Huckleberry Point. The Trail Conference seeks to fill 75 maintainer positions throughout our region, including 17 in the Catskills. Enjoy a public service experience in the great outdoors with your family, friends, colleagues, organization, or on your own by becoming a trail or shelter maintainer.

With 1,675 miles of trail to maintain and numerous shelters to watch over, the NY-NJ Trail Conference offers many opportunities for public service in the great outdoors. As we add new trails to our network and as volunteers cycle in and out of service, new maintainer positions are created and others open up. And there are *always* opportunities to join our regional trail crews. We now track more than 900 volunteer maintainers, who clip brush, clear blow-downs, pick up litter, and generally keep our region's footpaths and shelters open for public use.

As the new year begins, we seek to fill some 75 maintainer openings and add volunteers to our crews. Training is provided at our spring and fall maintainer workshops; our workshop this spring is set for April 21 and 22.

Our current vacancies are summarized here. Contact Heidi Adami or Larry Wheelock at the NY-NJ Trail Conference office (201-512-9348; adami@nynjtc.org, wheelock@nynjtc.org) to find the best match for your location and interests.

- Along the **Appalachian Trail (AT)**, in both New Jersey and New York's Dutchess and Putnam counties, there are 20 opportunities for both shelter caretakers, corridor monitors and AT maintainers.
- New maintainers are needed along the **Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail** as new sections are opened and others become vacant.
- The **Highlands Trail** needs the help of two in New York and two in New Jersey to keep the trail clear and blazed.
- In the **Catskills**, 17 vacant positions are listed in our files, including several lean-to caretakers as well as trail maintainers.
- In the eastern New Jersey area from the **Fanny Highlands to Pyramid Mountain to Ringwood State Park** there are another 15 maintainer positions open.
- In **western New Jersey** about seven maintainers are needed.
- In the area including **Black Rock Forest, Storm King Mountain, Schunemunk Mountain** and

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2006 NY-NJ Trail Conference Awards

Dedicated service to the hiking community and to the Trail Conference was recognized and honored at the Annual Meeting with the presentation of Trail Conference awards for 2006. Those honored were nominated by Trail Conference members and approved by the Board of Directors.

RAYMOND H. TORREY AWARD

TC's highest award, for significant/lasting contributions

Pete Heckler

Pete Heckler this year became only the seventh person to be honored with the Trail Conference's highest award. Pete's influence and dedication over the past few years has resulted in a much-changed organization. His ability to take on difficult tasks without hesitation has brought the Trail Conference from a NYC-centered organization to a regionally centered one, with a larger vision and greater influence. His chairmanship of the West Hudson Trails Committee and later the West Hudson South Trails Committee has been exemplary. His ability to work constructively with volunteers at all levels and with our agency



HERB CHONG

Pete Heckler, at right, is congratulated by Larry Wheelock and Jane Daniels.

partners, particularly the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, has shown us a talent that can only inspire. He understands the delicate balance between the needs of the hikers in our parks and the bureaucratic structures set up to manage them. His civil and even-handed approach to getting a job done brings prompt response from all those who work with him. His clear understanding of agencies' management needs and requirements has resulted in doors being kept open to him that could easily have been slammed shut with a less diplomatic approach. Volunteers and hikers owe an immense thanks to Pete Heckler. His work and influence have resulted in significant improvements of our trail systems throughout the region.

KEN LLOYD CLUB AWARD

TC club member individual who has given exemplary service to club

Patty Lee Parmalee



Patty Lee Parmalee coordinated a five-year-long grassroots campaign on behalf of TC member club Save The Ridge (STR) that culminated with spectacular success in March with New York State's purchase of the 2,500-acre Awosting Reserve for inclusion

into Minnewaska State Park Preserve. When a mega-development proposal in 2002 threatened the Reserve's natural beauty and the ecological integrity of the northern Shawangunks, local residents coalesced under STR to wage a spirited advocacy effort to preserve the property in league with a burgeoning band of like-minded organizations and individuals. STR's achievement is a paradigm for effective citizen action.

HERB CHONG

MAJOR WILLIAM A. WELCH TRAIL PARTNER AWARD

To a non-TC member partner who has given long/significant assistance

Jack Shuart

For the past decade Jack Shuart, Assistant Regional Forester in the Division of Parks and Forestry of the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection, has volunteered hundreds of hours to train and certify scores of TC blow-down crew personnel in chainsaw safety. Trained to United States Forest Service guidelines, Jack has willingly and enthusiastically given his time to ensure that our chain sawyers meet essential safety standards in the performance of their demanding work. All who have attended the Chainsaw Safety Training Workshops (sponsored through the TC under Appalachian Trail Conservancy aus-

pices) in which Jack serves as an instructor, have admired and greatly benefited from his dedication and thoroughness.

WILLIAM HOEFERLIN AWARD

For exemplary service to trail maintenance/management/protection

Jakob Franke

The 75th anniversary of the conception of the Long Path is a fitting time to honor Jakob Franke, Long Path South Trails Chair, who has demonstrated unremitting dedication to the growth



HERB CHONG

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Trail Conference Purchases Two Properties Along Highlands Trail in New Jersey

The Trail Conference recently purchased two properties in Washington Township in western Morris County, NJ, that will connect Stephens State Park in Mount Olive to Schooley's Mountain County Park via the Highlands Trail and Patriots' Path. These two ridge-top tracts are part of a complex three-owner, six-parcel project that totals 74 acres and a \$1.1 million purchase price.

This is the second New Jersey project for the Trail Conference, and is the result of

more than two years of work. The protected land is heavily forested and contains habitat for nine New Jersey threatened and endangered species, including barred owl, cooper's hawk, eastern box turtle, great blue heron, marbled salamander, red-shouldered hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, timber rattlesnake, and veery (a thrush that prefers damp deciduous forests).

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TRAILWALKER

VOLUME XXXIV, No. 1 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007
 GEORGETTE WEIR EDITOR
 LOUIS LEONARDIS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

The TRAIL WALKER (USPS Permit #970-100) (ISSN 0749-1352) is published bi-monthly by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference as a benefit of membership. Subscriptions are available to libraries only at \$15.00 a year. Periodical postage paid at Mahwah, N.J., and additional offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to the address below. Opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily represent the policy or position of the Conference. Contributions of typed manuscripts, photos, and drawings are welcome. Manuscripts may be edited for style and length. Send SASE for writers' guidelines. Submission deadlines for the TRAIL WALKER are January 15 (Mar./Apr. issue), March 15 (May/June issue), May 15 (July/Aug. issue), July 15 (Sept./Oct. issue), September 15 (Nov./Dec. issue), November 15 (Jan./Feb. issue). Unsolicited contributions cannot be acknowledged unless accompanied by SASE. For information on advertising rates, please write or call.

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Mission Statement

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference 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 103 hiking and outdoor groups, and 10,000 individuals.

From the Chair Cold Weather Hiking

Just because the weather has turned cold, you should not consider putting your hiking boots away for the season. Cold weather hiking offers its own rewards.

Views open up when trees lose their leaves. Icicles on a rock face invite you to stop and touch them. Streams with ice formations along the edges or around rocks are places to pause. Snow crunching under foot is a different experience than scuffing through leaves. Footprints in the snow show animal activity that you would miss in another season. Evergreens with a light dusting of snow remind you that the world still has some color. The crisp air is a refreshing break from indoors. You see and feel the world in a different light when you are outside in winter.

When I first started hiking, someone told me to think like an onion – dress in layers, which allows you to shed clothing as you warm up. This advice is even more valuable in winter. You don't want to be soaked with perspiration when you stop for



GEORGETTE WEIR

a rest. Wearing a hat cuts heat loss to your extremities, and taking it off can help cool you off. A friend of mine uses the phrase "cotton kills," a grim reminder that cotton fabric draws heat away from the body. Whenever I see someone hiking in cold weather wearing a cotton sweatshirt or a pair of jeans, I grimace. As a knitter I am

more than a bit biased towards wool. Wool warms and will keep you warm even if wet.

What people like to bring along on a winter hike varies a great deal. Consider me a wimp, but I don't mind carrying the extra weight of a thermos, knowing that I will have something hot to drink at lunch. I also take along a computer mouse pad to sit on at lunch. Having gotten wet feet, I frequently carry an extra pair of socks, which have served as mittens on several occasions.

I enjoy winter hiking, but not all day because even a 15-minute lunch break makes me cool off too much. Therefore I go to parks within a half hour of my home, even if the park has only a few miles of trails. I can enjoy my fun outside and then return home to a mug of hot chocolate or mulled cider—other pleasures of the cold-weather season.

—Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors



On the Job

The Trail Conference announces new jobs for two familiar faces and welcomes two new colleagues to the office and field.

Josh Howard, nee Erdsneker, has a new name following his marriage to Melissa, nee Andrews, and a new job at the Trail Conference: director of membership and development. Josh previously served as operations director, and before that, as volunteer director.



Elizabeth Bleiweiss has assumed the job and title of operations director. Liz has been with the Trail Conference for more than a year as accounting and operations manager.

Brenda Holzinger joined the Trail Conference in late 2006 as our new conservation and advocacy associate. She will work with Bill O'Hearn, conservation and advocacy director, to expand the conference's conservation and advocacy programs in New Jersey and New York.

Brenda has a diverse background that includes environmental policy, advocacy, and higher education. She was a legal and policy analyst for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and worked with citizens groups in upstate New York. On the academic side, she has taught a variety of courses in politics and environmental and public policy at Princeton, Cornell, Fairleigh Dickinson and William Paterson

Universities, and served as senior director of academic affairs at New York Law School. Brenda has advanced degrees in government and public policy, and a law degree from Rutgers-Camden.

Brenda is currently the conservation chair of the Adirondack Mountain Club North Jersey Chapter and a volunteer photographer for the Mohonk Preserve. She is a native of New Jersey, although she has also spent time in California and the Finger Lakes area of upstate New York.

Brenda loves to be outdoors and is an avid hiker, showshoer and cross-country skier who hits the trails throughout northern New Jersey and southern New York whenever she can.



Matt Townsend joined the Trail Conference's Bear Mountain Project team in mid-October as a Student Conservation Association Hudson Valley Corps intern. Matt comes from Olean, NY, where he completed an Eagle Scout project in 1999 and has been working as a professional landscaper for five years. Matt also completed a B.A. degree in environmental studies at the University of Buffalo. Matt will be working on the Bear Mountain Trails Project until July 2007.



Who Does What

Committee Chairs & Vacancies, 2006-07

The following appointments have been approved by the Board of Directors. For information about getting involved in a Trail Conference committee, contact Heidi Adami, adami@nynjtc.org, 201-512-9348.

Administration	Herb Hochberg
Communications	Vacant
Conservation & Advocacy	Seth McKee
Membership & Development	John Gunzler, Mary Smart
Legal Volunteer	Chris Connolly
Nominations	George Becker, Denise Vitale
Publications	Daniel Chazin
Science	Anne Osborn
Strategic Planning	Bob Boysen
Technology	Walt Daniels
Trails Council	Pete Heckler
AT Conference 2007	Jane Daniels

Trail Committees

AT – Dutchess/Putnam	Jim Haggett
AT – Orange/Rockland	Gail Neffinger
AT – New Jersey	Gene Giordano
North Jersey	John Moran
West Jersey	Bob Boysen
Central Jersey	Ellen Cronan
Catskills	Peter Senterman
East Hudson	Vacant
Highland Trail	Gary Haugland
Long Path North	Vacant
Long Path South	Jakob Franke
Metro Trails	Liz Gonzalez, Joe Gindoff
West Hudson - South	John Mack
West Hudson - North	Jim Gebhard
State Trails Council	Gary Haugland – NY

Re "Interpreting Trail Blazes"

In the November/December edition of the *Trail Walker* Letters you stated, "Triple blaze: Marks a trailhead. When the point of the pyramid is on top, this indicates the start of a trail; when the point is at the bottom, this marks the end of a trail." Perhaps it's just semantics, but a trail's start or end will depend on the direction traveled. Would it not have been more accurate to say that the former marks the outside terminus (defined as "either end of a transportation line or travel route") of a trail and the latter marks the inside terminus?

—Donald Hecht
via email

Letters to the Editor

More on the Triple Blaze

Occasionally, a trailhead does not have a convenient broad tree at hand; and trying to paint the usual triple configuration on a slender or thin tree often results in a crowded blob. When the trailhead only has a narrow tree for blazing, the practice is to paint the three blazes in a vertical line—yes, on both sides of the tree!

—John Bleninger
Trails Supervisor for Black Rock Forest

Errata

Regarding the front page photo taken on Schunemunk Mountain, in the November/December issue of the *Trail Walker*, and the implied vandalism shown by the displayed street sign which may have been stolen; this should not in any way indicate any support or encouragement for this type of activity by the Trail Conference and our volunteers. The Trail Conference has always been in the forefront of efforts to combat such vandalism, whether graffiti, trash, shelter destruction, or theft.

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www.NYNJTC.org

From the Executive Director

What's in a Look?



I hope you are enjoying the new look of the *Trail Walker*. In addition to full color pictures, it includes some tweaking of the Trail Conference logo for the first time in more than 15 years. This is the result of an online survey about the Trail Conference that we conducted last spring in which our primary goal was to gauge how well we are communicating our mission and programs to our members. Exactly 1,193 members participated in the online survey. Here are some of the things they said:

- Among a variety of reasons for being associated with the Trail Conference, 80% listed "to support hiking, trails, and/or open spaces in New York and New Jersey." 30% were volunteers and 36% were donors.
- Most of our members are also members of other outdoor organizations. People who responded that they were also members of the Appalachian Mountain Club amounted to just over 50%, to the Sierra Club just under 50%, and those responding that they were a member of either the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Audubon Society, or some Other Hiking Club amounted to about 30% each.

- We were pleasantly surprised that the vast majority of respondents were very well versed in the various facts and activities of the Trail Conference. Only two items received less than 90% recognition: "runs workshops to train volunteers" (83%) and "is a federation of more than 100 hiking and outdoor clubs" (71%).
- Our three most consulted publications are hiking maps (81%), *Trail Walker* (77%), and hiking books (45%). Only 32% reported that they regularly visit our website. The mix of opinions about the website were represented well by the following consecutive entries: "Website is difficult to use. I have alot of trouble finding info" and "I think the web site is very user-friendly and full of helpful information!"

What's in a Name?

We also asked people about the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference name and circular logo. Two-thirds of the respondents felt the name and logo are strongly identified with the organization. But when asked if the Trail Conference should change its name, 58% said "Maybe," with the word "Conference" identified as the most problematic part of the name. Reasons people gave for revising the logo included "looks dated," "doesn't say enough about the organization," and "hard to read."

In the final analysis, we decided to keep the name the same and tweak the logo. Everyone recognized that the word "Conference" is an anachronism and might be

better understood today if replaced by "alliance," "coalition," or "federation." But the current name has served for 86 years and we wanted to protect the accumulated goodwill that history provides.

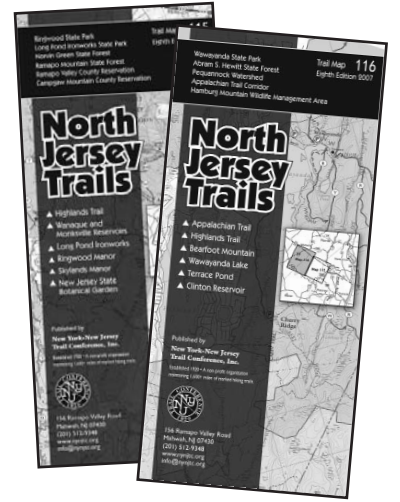
In the case of the logo, we decided that we could make more subtle tweaks, retaining the basic shape, color, and idea while improving the clarity and consistent usage with supporting graphics on our stationery and other communications. The biggest change was to remove the date of our founding, 1920, from the logo itself and make it a part of our tag line, *Connecting People with Nature since 1920*, to both improve the readability of the logo and emphasize the permanence of the mission.

These various changes make their debut with this issue of *Trail Walker*. Four-color photos also help us look up-to-date, and the fact that in recent years the costs of color printing have dramatically decreased make this choice affordable. Since *a picture is worth a thousand words* and digital cameras are ubiquitous, we should be able to better illustrate through color photos favorite hikes, the work of volunteers, and the results of advocacy and land acquisition. We invite you to be part of these changes by submitting your (high-resolution) photos of trail work, beautiful vistas, or your member club activities to tw@nynjtc.org.

— Ed Goodell, goodell@nynjtc.org



New North Jersey Trails Map Edition Available in January



The totally revised and now digitally-produced eighth edition of the North Jersey Trails map set will be available in January. In addition to providing a complete update, improvements to the previous, analog editions include a 16% expansion of the scale for increased clarity, inclusion of additional public lands, and the addition to the appropriate map back of an expanded, more useful map of Campgaw Mountain County Reservation.

The map datum is updated to NAD83. UTM grid lines are retained, with lines every 1,000 meters (0.62 mile), for convenient use with GPS units and for estimating distances. Contour lines have been improved from 100-foot to 20-foot intervals. To greatly improve convenience, Campgaw, Ramapo Valley Reservation, Ringwood State Park, Ramapo Mountain SF, Norvin Green, and the Wanaque and Monksville Reservoirs now all appear together on the single sheet of the expanded eastern map.

With exceptional help from many Trail Conference members and excellent cooperation of the parks, trail routes have been updated and corrected. Further, and very importantly, new sections of trail that close two gaps in the Highlands Trail are shown on these maps. Of course the maps continue to be printed on waterproof, tear resistant Tyvek.

Get up to date with this new edition! To obtain your new North Jersey Trails map set, see Hikers' Marketplace on Page 9, call 201-512-9348, ext. 11, visit www.nynjtc.org, or drop into the Trail Conference Office.

What Your Campaign \$\$ Have Accomplished

Exactly one year ago, we reported the successful conclusion of the Trail Conference's *Connecting People With Nature* campaign. That fundraising effort—the biggest in Trail Conference history—raised more than \$3.1 million (our target was \$2.5 million) to support three goals: to better protect and connect our region's trail systems through land protection; to increase our recruitment and training of volunteers for trail crews through rebuilding the historic trails at Bear Mountain; and to convert all our map-making capabilities to digital (GIS) tools.

What have we achieved in the year since toward meeting these goals?

- We have protected another 587 acres on the Shawangunk Ridge, including a parcel that will connect the Shawangunk Ridge Trail to the Delaware River Heritage Trail and one that secures 3.5 miles of rail trail.
- We have protected another 63 acres in New Jersey, to connect Stephens and Schooley's Mountain State Parks via the Highlands Trail (see story on page 1), with a closing expected on 11 more acres soon.

- We have protected an additional 200 acres along the Long Path in Greene County, just north of the Catskill Forest Preserve.
- We have proposed an extension of the Highlands Trail east of the Hudson in New York to the Connecticut state line and identified 10 targets and 1,138 acres for protection through purchase.
- We inaugurated the Trails University at Bear Mountain, sponsoring 32 workshops, 76 field trips, and matriculating 140 trails students between March 25 and December 1. By season's end, 450 linear feet of new trail, 1,200 square feet of crib wall, and 53 stone steps had been installed on the mountain.
- By year's end, six of our ten map sets had been converted into our Geographic Information System. In addition, our use of GIS data has become integral in identifying land for protection, analyzing viewsheds and potential impacts on them by proposed developments, designing new and relocated trails, tracking trail maintenance issues, and surveying invasive as well as threatened and endangered species.

The Campaign results continue to support the work of the Trail Conference as we move into 2007.

- We anticipate additional land purchases this year along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (NY), the Iron Belt Trail (NJ), the Long Path (NY), and the Green Pond/Rockaway Trail (NJ). We also anticipate property transfers to park agencies in New York and New Jersey that will bring funds back into our revolving Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund.
- Our Trail University class schedule at Bear Mountain is being prepared for another busy season (watch for the initial schedule in the next issue of *Trail Walker*).
- Our use of GIS technology has become standard operating procedure throughout our publications, trail support, and conservation and advocacy programs.

Once again, the Trail Conference thanks all those who so generously supported the campaign. These gifts live on in the trails and trail lands they make possible.

TC PURCHASES PROPERTIES *continued from page 1*

"Though these parcels are full of mature trees and include a beautiful stream, they are almost completely surrounded by new development," says Executive Director Ed Goodell. "We got them just in time, and this land is a key passageway for these two trails as they make their way through Morris County."

The Wozniak property, which includes 32 acres, closed on October 23, and the Rosewood piece (31 acres) closed on October 31. Still to come is the Westhampton tract (11 acres), which has been

held up by technical issues but should close in early 2007.

The protected land is heavily forested and contains habitat for nine New Jersey threatened and endangered species,...

"We could not have made this key acquisition without the support of the Morris County Park Commission, County Freeholders, Morris County Preservation Trust (MCPC); Washington Township; NJ DEP

Green Acres, and the owners themselves," says Conservation & Advocacy Director Bill O'Hearn. "Russ Felter of MCPC in particular has worked extremely hard to help this deal come together."

Funds for the purchase were raised as part of the Trail Conference's *Connecting People With Nature* campaign, which successfully concluded in December 2005. The Morris County Open Space Preservation Trust contributed \$500,000 to the campaign for this purchase; matching funds came from the New Jersey Green Acres Program. This land will be added to the Morris County Park system when the third transaction is completed.



Delegates Meeting Thursday, February 8

All members are invited to attend this meeting of hiking club delegates.

Where: Seafarers and International House in NYC; 123 E. 15th St. New York, between Third Avenue and Irving Place near Union Square.

When: Social hour 6-7; Business meeting 7-9

The meeting will include presentation of three Trail Conference initiatives:

- Trail Operations Review Committee
- ATC Biennial Conference at Ramapo College in July 2007
- Trail Conference Website Redesign

Public transportation: One block east of the Union Square/14th Street subway station, which is served by the Q, W, N, R, and L subway lines. Bus lines: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 101, 102, 103 stop nearby.

Conservation & Advocacy



From the Conservation & Advocacy Director:
William P. O'Hearn

Election 2006 Results: How Good Is the Good News?

In the aftermath of November's historic national election results, the conservation community in our area is asking, How well did we actually do? and What does it mean for us? This column is our attempt to examine the numbers based on our conservation and advocacy efforts for 2007 and beyond.

National

Somewhat lost in the national coverage of Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid are the departures of Rep. Richard Pombo, the former chairman of the House Resources Committee, and Rep. Charles Taylor, former chair of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, two key committees for federal policy and funding. They are being replaced by Nick Rahal (D-WV) and Norm Dicks (D-WA), who are both environmental champions.

Taylor, in particular, was vehemently anti-open space and took a personal interest in slashing federal Forest Legacy Program and Highlands Conservation Act funding that could have been used for key acquisitions in the New York and New Jersey Highlands region. On the whole, many key environmental committee chairs are moving from pro-development to pro-conservation leaders as the Democrats take over.

But there were some losses, too. Senate moderate Republican Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island was defeated, and on the House side we will miss Reps. Jim Leach (IA), Sherwood Boehlert (retired-NY), and Sue Kelly (NY-19th), although we

are confident that newly-elected John Hall will be an ally in the New York 19th district as well.

New York State

Statewide, all four of the New York League of Conservation Voters endorsed candidates—Hillary Clinton, Eliot Spitzer, Andrew Cuomo, and Alan Hevesi—won, and almost 90 percent of NYLCV candidates won, including big victories for Kristen Gillibrand in the U.S. 20th district and Michael Arcuri in the 24th.

Locally, a number of open space measures passed, including in Warwick, New Paltz, Beacon, Gardiner, Marbletown, Southeast, and Nassau County.

New Jersey

The biggest issues in New Jersey were the Senate election, where Bob Menendez won fairly easily, and Public Question No. 2 on dedicated funding for repairs and restoration of state parks, which passed by a margin of 60 percent to 40 percent.

This big win on Question 2 gives us momentum for bringing the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT) referendum before the voters in November. This campaign, already begun, aims to replenish the funding for the NJ DEP Green Acres and the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) Farmland Preservation Program.

Regarding local conservation issues, 21 out of 30 (70 percent) won, including in Andover, Cedar Grove, River Edge, Wantage, and Wyckoff, but we lost open space votes in some areas where we have trails, including Vernon and Newton.

Conclusions

So, what does it mean going forward? Nationally, we can now stop bad propos-

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Conservation & Advocacy News Notes

Another Obstacle for Belleayre Developer

Efforts to block development of the eastern portion of the proposed Belleayre Resort in the heart of the Catskills got a boost in October. According to an October 2006 letter from the Watershed Inspector General, the project poses an unacceptable risk to the quality of the Ashokan Reservoir and would undercut federal, state, and city efforts to avoid the need to construct a multi-billion dollar filtration plant to treat water from the Catskill and Delaware portions of New York City's watershed. EPA's Region 2 office has previously stated its opposition to any development on the eastern portion of the project site. This is encouraging news in the fight to persuade the developer of the Belleayre Resort to abandon plans for the eastern portion of the proposed resort. The Trail Conference-ADK Partnership strongly oppose any development on the eastern portion of the site because of the environmental and aesthetic impacts of a hotel and townhouses on the steep and prominent Belleayre Ridge. We have also raised concerns about the impact of the project on the Catskill Forest Preserve.

NJ Trails Plan Draft Due

The Trail Conference participated in a NJ Trails Plan Advisory Committee meeting where all of the fall feedback meetings data was distributed. 3,000 surveys were submitted, and summaries will be available on the NJTrailsPlan.org web site. Next steps include a draft plan out in January 2007, which will be reviewed by the advisory committee and then made available on the web site.

NJ Regional Master Plan Released

On November 30, the New Jersey Highlands Council released the draft copy of the Regional Master Plan, a comprehensive document that will control land use planning in the 860,000-acre NJ Highlands area. The plan calls for 65% of the region to be in the Protection Zone, 18% in the Conservation Zone (agriculture), and 17% in the Planned Community Zone. The RMP and supporting maps are available on the Highlands Council website (www.highlands.state.nj.us).

NY Open Space Plan Out

The 2006 NYS Open Space Conservation Plan has been released, and is available on the NYS DEC web site (www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/opensp/index.html). This is a huge document (the executive summary is 77 pages), and the Trail Conference will be analyzing it in December.

Trail Agreements with Private Owners: C & A Embarks on *Trail Support* Project

The Trail Conference's Conservation and Advocacy team, Bill O'Hearn and Brenda Holzinger, will now oversee all Conference *trail support* records, including trail agreements with private owners. It is probably not a surprise that our records have some gaps. Please contact Brenda at 201-512-9348, ext. 25, or holzinger@nynjtc.org if you have or know of some documents that should be added to our files.

C & A will work closely with Larry Wheelock, trails director, to insure that the Trail Conference secures the appropriate agreements and other documents necessary to support the trails on the ground. For example, the Trail Conference maintains liability insurance coverage for private landowners who formally allow hiking trails on their land. In fact, many of these trail agreements require the Trail Conference to secure liability insurance as a condition for hiker access. Consequently, managing these and other trail support documents is of central importance to the Conference's trail building and maintenance mission.

Bill and Brenda will also work closely with John Meyers, land acquisition director, to negotiate access agreements with new private landowners in support of the Trail Conference's expanding trails network. This means that if any of our trail maintainers or supervisors have any questions about the Trail Conference's access to and permission to cross private lands, they can contact C & A or visit us in the office.

New Tax Incentives for Land Conservation

By Brenda Holzinger,
Conservation and Advocacy Associate

Conservation easements provide a powerful tool for land protection. In August 2006, as part of the Pension Protection Act, Congress and President Bush significantly expanded the federal tax incentives for owners to donate conservation easements.

A conservation easement is an agreement by a private landowner to limit development on his or her land permanently and, in some cases, even provide public access to part of the land. In exchange for this agreement and the land's resulting decline in market value, a landowner may qualify for a tax-deductible charitable donation, which is usually equal to the difference between the land's value with and without the encumbrance. Preservation through

conservation easements protects resources for future public use while at the same time providing a method for landowners to pass land intact to their heirs.

The Trail Conference uses conservation easements to gain hiking access for our members to lands otherwise prohibited to the public.

Under the new law, a landowner who donates a conservation easement may now deduct up to 50% of his or her income in any year. This is an increase from the previous deduction limit of 30%; qualifying farmers and ranchers are now able to deduct up to 100% of their income. Also, landowners now have up to 15 years to take the voluntary conservation tax deduction, which is an increase from 5 years under the previous tax regulations. These changes to the federal tax law are significant because they make it possible for landowners with modest incomes to receive greater credit for their conservation easement donations. It is important to note, however, that these new incentives apply only to easements donated in 2006 and 2007.

In order to protect against potential abuses under the broadened conservation easement donation provisions, the new legislation also includes reforms that affect the appraisal process for donated property and tighten the rules for easements on historic buildings. The Land Trust Alliance (LTA), the national professional association for American land trust organizations, of

which the Trail Conference is a member, is spearheading an accreditation program also aimed at protecting against abuse of the conservation easement donation provisions. The Trail Conference joined the LTA's pilot accreditation program beginning in December 2006.

There is even more good news for landowners in New York State. This past summer, New York State officially adopted a Conservation Easement Tax Credit starting with the 2006 tax year. This credit is available to all owners of easement-restricted land, regardless of when the easement



An easement held by Scenic Hudson will soon carry the Highlands Trail across this farm land in Cornwall-on-Hudson. Storm King Mountain is in background.

was created, as long as the easement was wholly or partially donated to a land trust or a governmental agency. The tax credit will give New York State property owners with land restricted by a permanent conservation easement an annual rebate of 25% of the property taxes paid on that land up to \$5,000 per year. Eligible landowners will receive the rebate regardless of the amount of income taxes they owe.

Please contact Brenda at 201-512-9348, ext. 25, or holzinger@nynjtc.org if you are a landowner with any questions about conservation easement donations.



Hike 'n' Serve Venture Crew 100

Thanks
our mentors

Maureen Edelson
Bill Badinelli
Judy Murphy

and sponsors

NY-NJ TC
Camp Glen Gray

Teens, join us for co-ed fun
in the out-of-doors!
call 973-632-4895 for more info

Trail Crew Schedules

January - February 2007

For the latest schedules and additional details, go to nynjtc.org and click on "Trail crews/Work trips."

TBD = To Be Determined

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

NORTH JERSEY WEEKEND CREW

Leader: Sandy Parr, 732-469-5109

Second Sunday of each month

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

NORTH JERSEY WEEKDAY CREW

Leader: John Moran, thornburyhall@verizon.net

This crew will cover the NJ Ramapos, Ringwood S. P., Norvin Green S. F., and NJ Palisades area. Its purpose is to respond quickly to immediate needs, rather than to schedule definite events far in advance. If you're interested in being on call for this work, contact John Moran by email.

BEAR MOUNTAIN TRAILS PROJECT

Contact: Heidi Adami, adami@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 26

Trail work opportunities on Bear Mountain offered through the winter.

Crews have been preparing for a winter season of work at Bear Mountain by stockpiling crushed stone for fill and surfacing on Perkins Memorial Drive. Winter work will involve moving material down the transport chute, moving finely crushed stone along the 400' high-lines, spreading surfacing over the newly constructed trail, and splitting stone for spring construction. No work dates are firmly scheduled since winter weather is highly variable, but you can stay posted as work trips are scheduled by getting your name on a phone and email list for winter outings.

West Jersey Crew Report for 2006

By Monica & David Day, Crew Chiefs

The West Jersey Crew worked in four different parks in 2006, engaging in projects that ranged from rock steps to side-hilling to boardwalk installation to clearing new trail.

The crew continued construction of the new Warren Trail in Jenny Jump State Park, clearing 1 1/2 miles of new trail and improving a steep ascent there with rock steps, side-hilling, and retaining walls. The crew completed an approximately 50-step rock staircase (begun in 2005) on the Dunnfield Creek Trail in Worthington State Park. In June, and continuing into the summer, the crew replaced 1,200 feet of boardwalk on the Appalachian Trail near Vernon (NJ). And, in the fall, the crew cleared and opened the new 2.8-mile long Willow Crest Trail in Swartwood State Park and rehabilitated a section of the Appalachian Trail in Worthington State Park.

We extend a hearty Thank You to all who worked on these projects in 2006: Jack Baccaglioni, Ian Blundell, Bob Boyle, Bob Boysen, Joy Boysen, Roland Breault, Susan Brudnak, Gordon Campbell, Dick Gerien, Gene Giordano, Jim Gregoire, Ben Hagen, Josephine Harkin, Bob Jonas, Colin Landes, Danielle Longo, Jerry Loughren, Gay Mayer, Keith McDermott, Frank McNulty, Bruce Meyer, Brian Mulraney, Steve Reiss, Check Rood, Steve Shyne, Bob Warren, Larry Wheelock, and

Joan Woolery.

We also extend a huge Thank You to the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection: Northern Region Supts. Steve Ellis and Bob Parichuk, Supt. Jessica Kruegel of Wawayanda State Park, Supt. Ernie Kabert of Worthington/Jenny Jump State Parks,



West Jersey crew members work a step into place on the Warren Trail.

Supt. Blanca Chevrefitt of Swartwood State Park—and their staffs—and to the New Jersey Forest Fire Service, which air-dropped our boardwalk materials into the remote fields on the Appalachian Trail.



CAN YOU STILL GET THERE

continued from page 1

- **Minnewaska State Park Preserve**, eight maintainers are needed.
- In **Harriman** and **Sterling Forest State Parks** another seven maintainers are needed.
- The **Metro** trails in **New York City parks** are always in need of a more maintainers.

There are always new positions coming along, so even if you don't see a position that interests you in the above list, please let us know what you're looking for and we will be sure to keep you posted when the right spot opens up.



Sterling Forest Made Whole!

The "hole in the donut" of Sterling Forest State Park has been protected!

575 acres in the center of the park that had been eyed for residential development have been purchased by New York State for \$13.5 million with the assistance of the Trust for Public Land (TPL). The closing occurred November 27.

The land had remained in the hands of the Sterling Forest Corporation (SFC) after New York State's 1998 purchase of the surrounding 14,500 acres from the developer. In 2005, SFC had proposed to develop 107 mini-estates on the property, a plan that many, including the Trail Conference, opposed citing negative impacts on water resources, wildlife, and the wilderness qualities of the surrounding state park.

The Trail Conference congratulates the many volunteers, including JoAnn Dolan, former Trail Conference Executive Director, who led this nearly two-decade long fight to preserve this extraordinary open space for the benefit of millions of people.

"It has been a long 15-month wait since the last Environmental Impact Statement hearing till this glorious news today," Ms. Dolan wrote in a celebratory message to members of the Public-Private Partnership to Save Sterling Forest. The Trail Conference and NY-NJ Chapter of AMC co-founded the coalition in 1988; it eventually counted 30 groups as members.

"Congratulations and thanks to Palisades Interstate Park Commission and Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and to TPL for grueling negotiations, to all the political support, to the scientists and expert witnesses, and to all the individuals and organizations who assisted and supported the protection of this core parcel in the center of a sterling park preserve."

Note: On November 9, 2006, SUNY Press released a new book chronicling the efforts to save Sterling Forest. Written by the late Ann Botshon, former coordinator of the Wallkill River Task Force and editor of the *Sierra Atlantic*, the quarterly newsletter published by the Atlantic (New York) Chapter of the Sierra Club, the book is titled *Saving Sterling Forest: The Epic Struggle to Preserve New York's Highlands*.



Trail News

Pedestrian Bridge Over Palisades Parkway Closes at Forest View Trail in Alpine

Due to a long-term construction project, the pedestrian bridge over which the Forest View Trail passes from U.S. Route 9W over the Palisades Interstate Parkway in Alpine to the trails near the Women's Federation Monument will likely be closed over the next several months. (During specific phases of the repair work on the bridge, it may reopen for up to several weeks at a time. PIPC will try to post this information on the Hiking page of its website, which also contains trail descriptions that should assist hikers in planning alternative routes. See www.njpalisades.org/hiking.htm.)

Hikers wishing to use the trails in that area can park at State Line Lookout (northbound PIP opposite Exit 3 in Alpine, also accessible to pedestrians and bicycles from "Old Route 9W" which begins at the state line on U.S. Route 9W), at Park Head-

quarters in Alpine (PIP Exit 2), or at the Alpine Boat Basin & Picnic Area (PIP Exit 2). Pedestrians can cross the Parkway at Alpine Approach Road, at the Closter Dock Trail trailhead, and at the entrance to Greenbrook Sanctuary. All-day parking is permitted at State Line Lookout; parking is limited to 2 hours at Rockefeller and Alpine Lookouts.

Shortline Schedule Change

Member Club AMC NY-NJ alerts bus-using hikers that Shortline has ended the 7:50 am weekend bus from Manhattan's Port Authority Bus Terminal to Suffern, Sloatsburg, Sterling Forest, Southfields, Arden, and the Harriman Railroad Station, access points for trails in Harriman State Park. The company now runs an 8:15 bus to Suffern and an 8:30 express bus (#401) to Sloatsburg and points north. AMC reports that the arrival times for the 8:15 bus are:

- Suffern, 9:06
- Sloatsburg, 9:12
- Tuxedo, 9:17
- Rt. 17A park and ride/
Sterling Forest, 9:19
- Southfields, 9:21
- Arden, 9:24
- Harriman RR Station, 9:28

To contact Shortline: 212-736-4700; www.coachusa.com/shortline.

Route 23A Reopens in Catskills

Route 23A in the Catskills, between Haines Falls and Palenville, is now completely reopened. (It was closed for much of 2006 when it was washed out by spring floodwaters.) Platte Clove Road, a seasonal highway from April 1 to November 1, is closed for the season. Hikers can park at the top or bottom of the road to access trails off the road.

1777 Trailhead Relocated

A little "revolutionary" spirit accompanied Carol Ash, executive director of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, when she cut the ribbon opening the new trailhead for the 1777, 1779, and Timp-Torne Trails in Harriman-Bear Mountain State Parks. The trailhead is on the east side of Route 9W at the new Fort Montgomery Visitors Center. A scenic extension to the trail, built by NY-NJ TC Trail Project Coordinator Eddie Walsh, now passes under Route 9W and takes pedestrians to the west side of the highway to the trails.



COURTESY PIPC

PIPC Executive Director Carol Ash opens new trailhead with a Revolutionary flourish.

Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and do not see an opportunity that suits you, contact Heidi Adami, either by email, volunteers@nynjtc.org or phone, 201-512-9348, ext. 26, and she will find a way to get you involved.

Trail Maintainers

We are looking for individuals, couples, and families who are willing to adopt a section of trail. Maintainers are expected to visit their assigned section a minimum of twice a year, keeping it passable by cutting back brush, ensuring it is well marked and free of trash, and submitting semi-annual reports of their work. We have openings on several of our Trail Committees (see article, page 1). Contact: Heidi Adami, volunteers@nynjtc.org, or 201-512-9348, ext. 26.

Appalachian Trail Corridor Monitor

Looking to get off the beaten path? Monitors are needed to patrol and watch the Appalachian Trail Corridor to protect against misuse and illegal activities. Responsibilities include: walking the corridor boundaries two to four times per year, verifying boundary markers along the corridor boundary, reporting evidence of trespassing and misuse such as dumping, logging, ATVs, etc.; assisting Corridor Manager in handling problems discovered; and meeting trail neighbors and easement holders annually. Contact: Heidi Adami, volunteers@nynjtc.org, or 201-512-9348, ext. 26.

Can You Spare a Few Hours a Week?

Join the fun at our Mahwah office and assist with the packing of map and book orders, shipping membership cards, and processing membership renewals. Keep the Trail Conference's Orders and Fulfillment Department on track by lending us a hand. With a boom in memberships and book and map orders, we need your help. Interested persons should be comfortable working on a computer. Contact Gary Willick, either by email orders@nynjtc.org, or phone, 201-512-9348, ext. 11.

Online Hike Indexer

Hike of the Week (HOTW) Project Manager - Web based. Index the existing HOTW articles (approx. 180) to make information searchable on line; preferable but not essential to be computer savvy. (9-12 months project). Contact:

Heidi Adami, volunteers@nynjtc.org, or 201-512-9348, ext. 26.

New Jersey & New York Advocacy Committee Members

Make a political impact! Volunteer activists are needed to serve on the NJ and NY Advocacy Committees. Members will work with the Conservation and Advocacy Director to develop policy positions on ATVs, Highlands Council Regional Master Plan, Parks Referendum, and other hot issues. Contact: Brenda Holzinger, holzinger@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 25.

Have You Ever Wanted to Participate in a Scientific Study?

The Trail Conference, in partnership with Rutgers University, will be participating in the second year of a three-year study funded by the USDA to study the spread of invasive plants. Teams of citizen scientists will be used to collect data on invasive plants over an assigned two-mile section of hiking trail. Interviews and volunteer selection will commence this winter, and training sessions will be starting in the spring of 2006. Contact: Heidi Adami, volunteers@nynjtc.org, 201-512-9348, ext. 26.

Attention all Doctors, Nurses, EMTs

We are seeking your help to provide round-the-clock staffing of an infirmary at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Conference from July 13 – 20, 2007, at Ramapo College. Volunteers will be on-call to assist the conference guests for minor medical needs or to direct them to local facilities. Please help us by asking club or family members if they can put their skills to work for the Conference. Contact Rick Savino at 201-785-9950 or rjsavino@cs.com.

Wanted: Student Interns

Earn an internship with the Trail Conference and gain skills in trail building, managing volunteers, and the administration of projects both large and small. This is a great skills and resume builder! Some internships come with stipends, some may earn academic credit. To learn more about intern opportunities, contact Heidi at volunteers@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 26.

Other Opportunities:

- Tool Inventory Coordinator

Ramapo 2007 July 13-20 Save the Dates to Participate and Volunteer

As winter sets in, it is hard to think of summer, when the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference will host the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's biennial meeting, July 13 through 20 at Ramapo College. The location could not be better. (Close as it is to many trails and public transportation.) See www.ramapo2007.org

Over the last two years, the steering committee has been hard at work. Committees have decided what hikes, workshops, and excursions should be offered. As we move closer to the opening for registration, other components are falling into place: exhibits, entertainment, youth program, silent auction, and, of course, food. Housing will be in air-conditioned dorms. For the first time, participants can register online for the conference and can review the offered hikes, excursions, and workshops. The hand-made quilt pictured will be raffled.

The conference theme of Always a Step Ahead spotlights ATC and the Trail Conference's efforts, which are often in the forefront of volunteer-led trail management. This became especially evident when the National Park Service requested the names of volunteers in its parks with over 4,000 hours of service; ATC not only provided the most volunteers,



The Lap Quilt/Wall Hanging is called "Meeting Place" after the meaning of the Indian word *Ramapo*. The quilt is 53 1/2" wide by 64" long. It was created and quilted by Cheryl Winslow. Raffle tickets will be available at the Biennial Conference for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds go to the NY-NJ TC and the Appalachian Trail Museum Society.

but about half of the total. NY-NJ TC has four such volunteers in the Dutchess-Putnam Management Committee.

Plan to attend the event, whether for one day, two days, or the whole week. Attending can also mean helping out. With about 90 hikes scheduled, we need 180 leaders. If you are interested in hike leading, contact Pete Kohlberger at hikes@ramapo2007.org. There are other opportunities to help, including chaperoning people to and from excursions, (excursions@ramapo2007.org), helping at registration, or at entertainment venues.

Please join us.

—Ramapo2007 Steering Committee

Join Hunt for Invasive Giant Grass

While many herbaceous plants wither away as fall turns to winter, the depths of winter can be a very good time to survey for what is left—plants that persist in the winter landscape. One of these is the highly conspicuous and widespread common reed (*Phragmites australis*), an invasive species that colonizes open wetlands, where it often replaces a once complex plant community with a dense monoculture of this giant grass.

How widespread is common reed in the NY Highlands?

Has it reached the isolated interior wetlands of Harriman Park?

Where should we direct our reed control and management efforts?

A volunteer project seeks to answer these questions through a winter survey (January-March) of wetlands in Harriman State Park. This joint project between the Trail Conference and the Highlands Environmental Research Institute (HENRI) needs hardy volunteers to trek through Harriman's winter landscape and record the distribution of common reed within assigned survey blocks.

If you are interested in a winter adventure, please contact Heidi Adami, Volunteer Coordinator (201-512-9348, ext. 26 or adami@nynjtc.org), for further details.

Member Club Profile

The Trail Conference comprises 10,000 individual members and more than 100 member clubs with a combined membership of 150,000 hikers. We invite club representatives to submit photos from hikes or maintenance outings or other events (please set your digital camera for highest resolution). Email your photos, along with complete caption information to: tw@nynjtc.org; put "TW club photo" in the subject line.



University Outing Club

Mimi Wolin, president of the University Outing Club (UOC) centered in the New Brunswick area of New Jersey, has her hopes up. "We've had several members live to be over 100 years old," she says with a quiet laugh, concluding a list of benefits bestowed by the group's activities. "So we think that indicates a healthy lifestyle."

Those activities include day hikes of various levels of difficulty, canoeing, visits to museums, gardens, and historic sites, and occasional dinner meetings with speakers on topics related to the outdoors. "Exercise, fresh air, fun with a nice bunch of people—it's very healthy," says Ms. Wolin.

UOC was founded in 1931 by members of the faculty of Rutgers University. That academic connection lingers in its name, but Ms. Wolin notes that today, the club no longer is affiliated with Rutgers. Its 130 members come from all walks of life, with most residing in Middlesex or Somerset Counties.

In the course of its 75 years, the club has maintained a number of different trails,

including a portion of the AT in New Jersey. Today, it maintains trails closer to home, at the state-owned Six Mile Run Reservoir Site in Franklin Township.

UOC publishes a three-times-a-year newsletter called *The Cairn* ("We skip summer," says Ms. Wolin, "because so many people go away.") New members are always welcome.

George Strauss, a former club president, has been a UOC member since the late 1960s, when he and his family began participating in the group's activities. In October, he joined with some 20 other members for the club's 75th anniversary commemorative walk along the Raritan Canal towpath. "We were re-enacting the walk that was done on the occasion of the club's 50th anniversary," he said. "Twenty-five years ago, though, the hike was about 20 miles. This time we did half that. Somebody said we've gotten older and wiser."

For more information about UOC, including details on becoming a member, visit the club's website at www.universityoutingclub.org.

Science & Ecology

Bedrock Geology of the Hudson Highlands

By A.E. Gates, Ph.D.

The Appalachian Trail was started in the rugged terrain of Bear Mountain State Park and spread north and south. Hiking the AT in this area, or anywhere in the New York and New Jersey Highlands, invariably brings one into close contact with rocks—clambering up steep sections of trail, walking along bare outcrops along the tops of hills, squeezing between huge boulders along the trail. These rocks have a fascinating history that makes these encounters all the more interesting.

The reason that the terrain is rugged is the crystalline bedrock of the Highlands. The rocks of the Highlands are among the oldest on the East Coast, forming a link between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Green Mountains of Vermont. The history of these rocks began 1.3 billion years ago when a chain of volcanoes formed islands above a zone of down-going ocean crust, similar to Japan today. The islands were built by regular explosive volcanic eruptions

and destroyed by ocean waves, which built aprons of sediment around the islands.

After a long time, the ocean basin closed and another continent, Amazonia (South America), collided with the volcanic chain to form the Grenville Mountains around 1.05 billion years ago. These were probably the longest and highest mountains ever on Earth. It is the roots of these great mountains that we see today in the Highlands.

Almost immediately after the collision, a huge fault system developed in the area. This system transported land masses laterally (strike-slip), similar to the way the San Andreas Fault is active; it was active until about 980 million years ago. These events helped to build the supercontinent Rodinia in which all continents joined together to make one huge landmass.

The enormous collision buried the rocks of the Highlands to about 35 km depth, folding them upon themselves like a rug folded over on the floor (see photo). All rocks became the banded metamorphic rock called gneiss, and layering of this rock was nearly flat. The rocks were cooked to such high temperatures (800°C) that they began to melt. Today we can see evidence of this melting in thin veins of white rock cutting across or along the gneissic banding. The volcanic rock was converted into strongly black-and-white banded gneiss. The sedi-

ment aprons were converted into gray-layered gneiss with rare or no black banding; these are by far the most abundant.

The South American rocks are variable but typically have a lot of mica (shiny speckles) and garnets (red spots), weather red, and smell of sulfur, or have pale green and pink colors with a lot of white veins.

In places, rug-type folds are visible. Mag-

ma locally intruded these rocks after they turned into gneiss and now form plutons. Typically, they are either granite, white with sparse pink and black spots, or diorite, with a dark salt and pepper texture.

It is easy to distinguish the rocks affected by the later strike-slip event, because in sharp contrast to the early near horizontal layering, these rocks are almost vertically layered. The gneiss looks stretched out in these zones. Associated folds with this event are upright and arch-like (see photo). Where magnetite (iron) mines line up across the area, they tend to be associated with these faults. Where they are isolated, they are more likely to have formed early through volcanism or the main collision.

The last rocks to have formed in the area are pegmatites. These light colored rocks contain huge minerals, many of which have a salmon color. These rocks intruded as magma after all other activity ceased, so they show no banding or layering. The story thus told by the rocks along our trails makes hiking all the more interesting!

A.E. Gates is Professor in the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Rutgers University



Early rug-like fold.



Late arch-like fold.

CONSERVATION & ADVOCACY

continued from page 4

als and legislation. It also means that we have the potential for bringing real federal dollars to our open space acquisition efforts, which we haven't had for several years. This will take time, and the federal budget is still very tight, but we have a chance and can start working on key parcels that are appropriate for federal dollars.

Because the Senate margin is so razor-thin, we can't expect major changes in federal policy any time soon. Better committee and subcommittee chairs like Hillary Clinton (Subcommittee on Superfund and Environmental Health), Barbara Boxer, and Jim Oberstar will move environmental legislation, but getting it passed and signed by the President will be tough.

In New York, Cara Lee of NY Nature Conservancy (a colleague of ours on the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition) was appointed as a Co-Chair to Governor-Elect Spitzer's Energy and Environment Policy Advisory Committee, one of 13 transition committees to guide the new administration as it takes office. Preliminary signals from the new administration are that they will continue to support active acquisition of open space, and will move ahead on key pieces of environmental legislation.

In New Jersey, there is no new administration, so the focus is on the GSPT referendum and using the pro-open space vote to lay the groundwork for ATV legislation that protects our investments in public land. The environmental community also needs to bring this "green mandate" to our work on the NJ State Trails Plan and the NJ Highlands Regional Master Plan, both of which are being rolled out over the next few months.

On the whole, these dramatic changes have brought the environment back to the forefront of the public's awareness, and our job is to keep it there.

Sources: EarthJustice, NY League of Conservation Voters, Environmental Advocates of NY, Land Trust Alliance, and Trust for Public Land 'LandVote' database.



2006 NY-NJ TC AWARDS

continued from page 1

and improvement of our region's premiere long distance trail system. For over a dozen years, Jakob has continued to labor in every capacity—as maintainer, supervisor, crew leader, and chain sawyer—for the upkeep and extension of the LP and its Shawangunk Ridge Trail connector.

Gay Mayer

Beginning as a rock-solid member of the weekend West Hudson Trail Crew over a decade ago, Gay Mayer is now also a mainstay on Bob Marshall's Thursday outings as well as West Jersey Trail Crew work trips. Gay's stalwart devotion to the trails and the outdoors helps explain how so relatively few crew workers have accomplished so much. In the words of West Jersey crew chief David Day, "No job is either too big or too small for Gay to undertake. He always brings a genuine enthusiasm and joy to working on whatever the project at hand is."



Gay Mayer was "on the job" when he got his award from Chris Connolly.

PAUL LEIKIN EXTRA MILE AWARD

For exceptional commitment to 3-5 year project

Herb Chong and Ruth Rosenthal

The behind-the-scenes efforts of Publications Committee members Herb Chong and Ruth Rosenthal have substantially contributed to the editorial excellence for which TC maps and books are noted. With a versatile background as cartographer, programmer, and photographer, Herb was the computer wizard behind the TC's pioneering digitally-produced Sterling Forest map; editor of the most recent edition of the

Long Path Guide, and producer of vista-filled color note cards for sale in the Hikers' Marketplace. Ruth, as book manager and cartographer, has been at the forefront of maintaining the highest standards of editorial quality, and shepherded the 2005 revision of the *New York Walk Book* as project manager.

Al Poelzl



Al Poelzl signs his work in Fahnestock.

Officially the maintainer of most of the 4-mile Perkins Trail in Fahnestock State Park for 11 years, Al Poelzl has contributed mightily to the care of all the park's footpaths. As he has in recent years, Al roams the trails several times weekly to chain-saw blow-downs, leaving his trademark initials and date of removal. On a personal level, he has also nurtured good relations with a private owner through whose land an important Perkins Trail segment passes. Al's enthusiasm marks him as a model trail maintainer who walks the extra mile, and beyond.

NEXT GENERATION AWARD

To individuals age 21 or younger who are making significant contributions to trail building/protection

Dan Hausner

Dan Hausner got his first taste of trail-building as a Suffern high schooler working on the Twin Forts staircase with his parents. Since then, he has pursued a solo career with the West Hudson South Trail Crew on the Brooks Lake Trail and other work trips, but he has truly come into his own on the Bear Mountain Trails Restoration Project. Dan logged in more than 80 hours on the Appalachian Trail by summer, and continued his Trail University studies there in the fall on an internship. Dan impresses everyone he works with, and is on his way to graduating as a master trail-builder.

Aaron Benjamin

Although he graduated from New Rochelle High School just this past spring, Aaron Benjamin is already a veteran trail-builder. Aaron first worked with the TC on the Wappinger Greenway Trail project and then moved onto the Bear Mountain Trails Restoration Project—on each project he logged more than 40 hours of service.

CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD

For outstanding service to the hiking community

Campmor

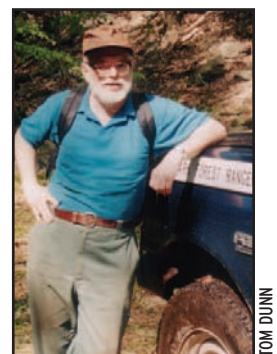
Campmor's implementation of a point-of-sale program enabling its customers to sign up for TC memberships in-store has achieved remarkable results—since 2004 more than 40% of new TC members have joined as a result of the Campmor initiative. The success of this innovative program testifies to the power of partnership on behalf of trails and hiking, and the Trail Conference thanks Campmor for its ongoing strong support.

HONORARY MEMBER

For long years of service to the Trail Conference

Bob Marshall

Bob Marshall's accomplishments as the TC's non-pareil trail crew leader are too many to recount, but there can be no doubt that all hikers are deeply indebted to him. Over a dozen years as West Hudson Trail Crew Chief, he oversaw the preservation and upgrading of the footpaths in most New York state parks south of the Catskills. Even after stepping down as crew chief in 2003, he has continued his trail-blazing career, now 22 years strong, as leader of the popular Thursday work trips. Bob's legacy is not merely measured in trail miles built and restored; his ability to nurture and inspire a whole new generation of crew leaders and workers by virtue of his unstinting dedication, legendary expertise, and quiet air of command is incalculable.



TOM DUINN



Use Your IRA to Make a Tax-Free Gift to the Trail Conference

The new *Pension Protection Act* lets you make an annual gift to the Trail Conference from your IRA entirely tax-free. This great opportunity allows your charitable distribution to satisfy all or part of your required minimum IRA distribution for the year. You can use your IRA to make your charitable gifts this year and avoid tax on your required IRA distribution.

Some restrictions apply:

- You must be 70 1/2 years old
- Tax benefits apply for gifts up to \$100,000 per person
- This tax free distribution is only available for 2006 and 2007. According to the law, after that, this window of opportunity will be closed.
- Your gift distribution must be directly to the Trail Conference

• Only outright charitable gifts can be made (not to a donor advised fund or income gifts such as charitable gift annuities)

You should consult with your financial adviser or accountant to see how the Pension Protection Act can help you.

To inform the Trail Conference that you are making an IRA distribution, please contact Joshua Howard, the TC's Membership and Development Director, at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 13.

Byram Township's Second Annual Fall Charity Hike a Big Success

On October 21, more than 700 individuals traveled to Hudson Farm in Byram Township, Sussex County, NJ, to hike a 3.1-mile section of the Highlands Trail and raise money for Byram's schools, fire department, emergency squad, and initial response team. The event was sponsored by the Hudson Farm in conjunction with Byram Township, with the help of the Trail Conference, which provided hike leaders—and the Highlands Trail itself.

As he did last year, Hudson Farm owner and Trail Conference life member Peter Kellogg pledged to give \$1 per year of age of each participant to their choice of any of

the four beneficiaries. Hikers who finished their walks were given Monopoly money to distribute among the four local groups, who in turn exchanged the play money for real dollars.

The Trail Conference thanks its volunteers for maintaining the trail and leading the hikes, its members for attending the event, hike organizers Marie Raffay and Bob Moss, Byram Township elected officials for actively supporting the hike, and Peter Kellogg for his generosity in hosting this innovative charity event.

"This is a unique hike that encouraged the public to get out on a beautiful section of the Highlands Trail while it generated \$27,000 for local charities," said Trail Conference Conservation and Advocacy Director Bill O'Hearn, who manned an information table at the hike. "It has grown from 500 hikers last year to 700, and I hope it introduces even more people to the Highlands Trail next year."

Trail Work Leads to Award for John Moran

Congratulations to John Moran, chair of the North Jersey Trails Committee and member of the board of directors of the Trail Conference, who in October received the Friends of Glen Gray Conservation Award.

John, a Glen Rock resident, became trail supervisor for the entire Ramapo Valley County Reservation at the time Camp



Glen Gray was transferred to Bergen County in 2002. He led a group effort to rehabilitate and integrate Glen Gray trails into the surrounding trail network, particularly the Old Guard and

Millstone Trails. John participated in the creation of the Schuber Trail, which connects contiguous Scout camps and Ramapo Valley County Reservation.

John recognized the need for footbridges to link trails or to create four-season use in wet areas, and led teams, including Scouts and Scout troops, to build four bridges. He has also supervised Scout reblazing of the local Millstone, Schuber, Yellow, and Yellow-Silver Trails. In addition, John has provided very helpful descriptive and historical hike information to Camp Glen Gray and its guests.

Although John oversees safe and aesthetic access for thousands of people to all of northern New Jersey's backcountry, his favorite place to hike is the Old Guard Trail, at Camp Glen Gray.

—Maureen Edelson

I N M E M O R I A M



Berthe and Bill Myles

The hiking community lost two esteemed friends in recent months: Berthe and Bill Myles. Berthe passed away August 1; Bill, October 15. The two met on a hike and married in 1977. Berthe, a widow when she met Bill, was the mother of three daughters, eight grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. Bill, author of the much loved *Harriman Trails*, is survived by two daughters, three grand-children, and six great-grandchildren.

The two made a striking couple, Berthe standing at 4'9" and weighing less than 100 pounds, Bill at 6' and 200 pounds, yet they seemed equal in energy and love for the outdoors and other people. They leave behind many friends, including their hiking companions in AMC, the Union County Hiking Club, and the Trail Conference. Long-time Trail Conference guidebook editor and current Publications Committee Chair Daniel Chazin worked often with Bill and writes the following remembrance.

Remembering a Trail Conference Author
William J. (Bill) Myles, author of the popular guidebook, *Harriman Trails: A Guide and History*, died on October 15, 2006, at the age of 93. Bill was active for many years in the Union County Hiking Club, leading hikes for the group, and serving as its president and treasurer. But his most enduring contribution to the world of hiking is his comprehensive guidebook to Harriman State Park — the most popular hiking destination in the New York metropolitan area.

For many years, the Trail Conference had been looking to publish a guidebook to the trails and points of interest in Harriman. About 17 years ago, when Bill submitted the manuscript of his book to the Conference, I was asked to review it. I immediately recognized that it reflected many years of careful field-checking and research, relating not only to the trail routes themselves, but also to the history of the

trails and the roads, lakes and mines in the park. I was glad to report that we had finally found a Harriman guide worthy of publication by the Trail Conference!

Soon afterwards, the process of editing began. I hiked most of the trails, following Bill's descriptions, and made recommendations for changes. Over a period of about two years, Bill and I exchanged a constant flow of correspondence. This was before the days of e-mail, of course, so everything was done via U.S. Mail. My letters were typed on a computer and printed out, but Bill never learned how to use a computer—or even a typewriter, for that matter! His letters were all handwritten, as was the manuscript for the book that he submitted to the Trail Conference. (Of course, the manuscript was inputted into the computer by a group of volunteers.) Finally, in 1992, the book was completed and sent to the printer.

Since then, the book has appeared in three editions, and more than 16,500 copies have been sold. It remains one of the Trail Conference's best-selling books, and a revised edition is scheduled for publication in 2008.

We will always treasure Bill's encyclopedic knowledge of the trails in Harriman and his willingness to share his knowledge with others. His book remains an enduring tribute to his long and productive life.

—Daniel Chazin

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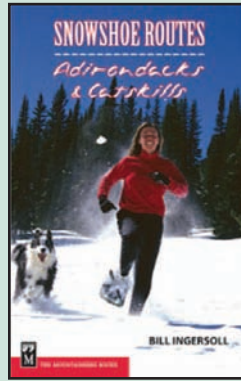
Novartis employees were Trail Conference volunteers for a day in October.

Thirty-five employees of Novartis pharmaceutical company in East Hanover, NJ, volunteered for the Trail Conference as part of the company's Community Partnership Day on Thursday, October 5, 2006. Eleven of the employees cleared the way for a new connector for a section of New Jersey's Millennium Trail—the Highlands Trail between Windbeam Mountain and Norvin Green State Forest in Ringwood, NJ. Trail Conference members Robert Jonas, Estelle Anderson, and John Moran led the team. The other 24 Novartis volunteers made the trek to Bear Mountain, NY, and spent the day working with Trail Conference staffers Eddie Walsh, Carol Petricevic, Dan Hausner, and Heidi Adami to clear a quarter-mile segment for the new Appalachian Trail route on the south side of the mountain. Both groups were enthusiastic, energetic, and ready to "dig in" for the day; they are also excited to work with the Trail Conference on future projects. This was the first coordinated effort between the Trail Conference and Novartis, which holds a Community Partnership Day annually.



Book Review

Snowshoe Routes: Adirondacks and Catskills



By Bill Ingersoll
The Mountaineers Books, 2006
Reviewed by John Kolp

If you are a hiker who hasn't gotten around to trying snowshoeing yet, put it on your agenda for this winter. If you are an experienced snowshoer, you already know how great it is to spend a real winter's day in the woods. Wherever you are on this spectrum, you will really appreciate Bill Ingersoll's excellent and thoroughly informative guide book. Ingersoll, an Adirondack Mountain Club member from Utica, worked with the late Barbara McMartin on the Discover the Adirondacks series and is now the publisher of that pioneering guidebook series. He knows the Adirondacks and Catskills intimately, and his trail descriptions encourage you to take full advantage of the freedom of movement snowshoes allow to explore the backcountry.

The book divides the Adirondacks into nine regions and the Catskills into three, with a total of 65 well described trail routes pretty evenly divided across those areas. The routes range from a two-mile, one-hour scoot around Alder Lake in the Catskills to a 21-mile, two- or three-day winter camping ascent of the state's highest peak, Mount Marcy, from the Upper Works.

A very handy Quick Reference Guide lists all the hikes by difficulty rating (Easy, Moderate, Difficult, and Most Difficult), distance, hiking time, whether they are suitable for families, feature panoramic views, or afford camping possibilities. Each route is numbered and cross referenced to a locator map and the route description. Ingersoll provides complete driving directions right up to the limits of the road crews' snow plowing, good schematic maps of his routes plus the relevant USGS map reference, starting elevation and high point, land management agency/emergency contact information, and his own photos illustrating most of the routes.

His introductory chapter is crammed with useful information: how to choose a snowshoe, what to watch out for with ice crossings, winter clothing and footwear, other gear, tips on winter camping (should you be tempted), and his "Ten Essentials" on navigation, sun protection (yup, you'll need it), insulation, illumination (gets dark early), fire, first aid, repairs, emergency shelter, nutrition, and hydration.

This is *the* indispensable book for the best snowshoeing experience in New York State!

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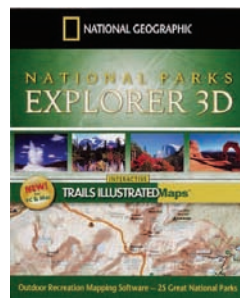
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GEAR CHECK

An occasional series that will review gear appropriate for hiking.



National Parks Explorer 3D
National Geographic, 2006
Reviewed by John Jurasek

From first glance, National Geographic's National Parks Explorer 3D computer mapping program (list price \$49.95) seems like a dream come true for map lovers and hikers alike. There are four levels of map detail in the program. They range from an overview map of the entire United States to an in-depth level for the 25 National Parks that are represented on the disk.

At the most detailed level, the maps are virtually identical to the hard-copy Trails Illustrated maps for their respective areas. There are 50-foot elevation contours along with hill shading. All major trails and points of interest are marked and well labeled. There are icons that delineate campgrounds, picnic grounds,

waterfalls, and the like. The convenience of this program is that you can print out a map of the area you want to hike and use that instead of buying the collection of full-size printed maps. The maps are much better than any of the free maps that are available on the internet.

The benefits of a computerized mapping program should be more than just printing out maps, however. You should be able to plot a projected hike and measure it. You should also be able to see an elevation profile and accumulated elevation gained. This program does all that and more. The relatively easy-to-use menus allow the user to not only create routes (hikes) but to view them in 3D as well. This way you can easily visualize your path. Various points of interest are also indicated on the map and the included park documentation explains all about them. You can even add your own annotations to the map for your reference.

Realistically, the most important aspect of a computerized mapping program is the ability to interface with a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. This is certainly possible with this program, and most GPS units are supported. You don't need to be a technophile to enjoy this program as the GPS Unit interface is very easy to use.

The only drawback that I found was that being a longtime user of this type of program, I am used to a much greater scale than this program provides. However, anyone who wants to enhance their hiking experience with or without a GPS unit will surely benefit from this very dynamic program.



Rating: 5 boots out of 5

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Favorite Hike



By Susan Puretze

A Snowshoe Hike in the Catskills



COURTESY SUSAN PURETZ

The author in the Catskills with her winter gear on her back.

One of my favorite snowshoe routes is on Windham High Peak. The trail, a segment of the Long Path, affords a moderate climb and allows for a great snowshoe outing while enabling me to have the experience of ascending one of the 35 Catskill peaks over 3,500 feet (it just makes it at 3,524').

Windham High Peak under a mantle of snow gives you the advantage of traversing a Catskill trail without contending with the numerous rocks and roots that ordinarily keep your eyes riveted to the ground.

The trail up the mountain from the parking area on Route 23 has lots of variety. Beginning with a walk over a wooden bridge and proceeding through a meadow, you reach the sign-in register—a must for all hiker/snowshoers. And then, suddenly the vista changes and you enter a forest of deciduous trees.

This fairly level stretch of terrain is just what your body needs for a gentle warm-up in preparation for the steeper ascents that you will be encountering. The total elevation gain for the trek is approximately 1,750 feet, but since that is spread over 3.3 miles, the major exertion is limited to two steep, but relatively short, uphills. The rest of the time you will have lots of opportunity to catch your breath and enjoy the scenery.

About 1.2 miles from your car, you will reach a lean-to, probably a bit too early in the outing to stop for hot chocolate. Near 2,800 feet elevation you duck (or crawl if the snow is real high) under a diagonal tree trunk that carries on it a DEC blue trail marker. At about 2,900 feet, you might get to see the dolmans (rock cairns built by anonymous hikers) on a stone wall on both sides of the trail.

Between the lean-to and the log is the place that is most special for me—the primordial spruce forest. For every season this particular copse of trees has its own mysterious personality.

A ways past this eerie/enchanting grove you continue through some rock scrambles—a challenge on snowshoes, but not daunting.

Higher and higher you go until you reach the 3,500-foot sign and then, before you know it, you've climbed 24 feet more and are at the summit. Continue onward and downward and you quickly arrive at one of the great Catskill view points; with any luck it will be a clear enough day for you to see Albany.

On a trip to Windham this past November (no snow shoes necessary, but lots of mud), a group of Rip Van Winkle Hikers had a back-to-our-roots experience. On the drive there we had to wait for a herd of cattle to cross the state highway! It caught us up short and increased our awareness of being "in the country" and in touch with nature. Imagine, modern machinery delayed by the gentle sway of nature.

Length: 6.6 miles round trip

How to Get There: Use NY-NJ TC Map 41, Northeast Catskills. Windham High Peak is the northernmost 3,500-foot peak in the Catskills. Trailhead parking is on the north side of Route 23, at the junction with Cross Road.

Susan Puretze is a co-author of The Woman's Guide to Hysterectomy and The Woman's Guide to Peak Performance and is the secretary of the Rip Van Winkle Hikers.

Member-Get-A-Member Drive

From March 1, 2007, through to the end of May 2007, the Trail Conference challenges its members to encourage their friends, colleagues, and others interested in high-quality hiking to become members. Each current member who sponsors a new member will become eligible for special recognition and prizes!

Many of our commercial partners have generously donated prizes. Top prizes include a mid-week, one-night stay with dinner for two in the Catskills at the Emerson Resort and Spa in Mt. Tremper, NY, and a two-night mid-week stay at the Minnewaska Lodge,

in the heart of the majestic Gunks, just near New Paltz, NY.

Check online at www.nynjtc.org/mgm for an updated prize list. The three individuals with the most new memberships will be awarded individual prizes in corresponding order: a Grand Prize, Second Place prize, and Third Place prize. All other participants will be eligible for prizes awarded in a raffle. For each new member you recruit, you will be given one chance in the raffle to win a prize. The more new members you recruit, the better your chance of winning a prize.

So ask your friends, family, and fellow hikers to join the Trail Conference. As members, they'll receive all the great benefits that you enjoy as a member: a free subscription to the *Trail Walker*, members-only discounts at leading outdoor retailers and other establishments, and support for the organization that keeps the trails open for you year after year.



New Membership Dues Starting June 1, 2007

At the Trail Conference Annual Meeting in October 2006, the Delegates voted to increase Trail Conference dues. As we all know, the cost of living has increased since our last membership dues increase in April of 2002. Consequently, so has the cost of doing business. Therefore, at the recommendation of the board of directors, the Trail Conference delegates, consisting of representatives from each of our member organizations, active member delegates, and delegates at large, approved a modest, yet necessary increase in membership dues.

The new dues will go into effect on June 1, 2007. Regardless of when your Trail Conference membership is set to expire, NOW is the best time to renew it. You'll be able to take advantage of special member-only discounted prices, and you'll be helping the Trail Conference at an important time, when open space and trail protection most need our attention and energy.

Act now. You'll be helping yourself and strengthening the Trail Conference in its efforts to protect and extend access to unspoiled nature.

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