

NEW YORK NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE TRAIL MAINTENANCE IN 2011

By Jeff Senterman



Left: Lean-To Caretakers at Shandaken Brook Lean-To. Right: Long Path Reconstruction at Platte Clove Preserve

The Catskill State Park is home to over 300 miles of public hiking trails, 80 miles of snowmobile trails, 34 miles of horse trails and 30 lean-tos located on the state-owned, Forest Preserve lands. That kind of network does not just take care of itself and many of the hiking and recreational trails throughout the Catskill Region are maintained by people just like you. An army of volunteers spends thousands of hours clearing trails, repairing erosion and working with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) staff to improve our trail networks.

The New York New Jersey Trail Conference coordinates much of this work on hiking trails with our volunteers and member clubs maintaining about 200 miles of trail and 26 lean-tos. Our volunteers spend several thousand hours a year maintaining and improving these resources. We partner with the DEC and other hiking and trail organizations like the Catskill 3500 Club, the Rip Van Winkle Hikers and the Catskill Mountain Club to provide resources and volunteers where needed. In the past our team has rebuilt lean-tos, constructed miles of new trails and kept hundreds of miles of trails open to the public. In addition, the Trail Conference works directly with communities, counties and other local organizations to improve recreational trail access through our Community Trails Program.

2011 was an exciting year for trails in the Catskills, with a number of different newsworthy items occurring throughout the region. One of the most exciting events was the Trail Conference's hiring of a Catskill Region Program Coordinator. This position al-

lows the Trail Conference to provide trail services directly to the region, coordinate with partners, and to manage our volunteer effort in the region, all in an effort to improve trails and help the regional economy by promoting recreational trail use and connections.

Other events in 2011 include a number of different Trail Crews working throughout the region. Through the summer-long efforts of the Rip Van Winkle Hikers Club, the Pine Hill-West Branch Trail was cleared. A Trail Conference crew, along with staff from the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, began reconstructing an eroded section of the Long Path through the Center's Platte Clove Preserve. Smaller crews tackled the many blowdown from winter storms and later in the season, from Hurricane Irene. The Trail Conference continues to work with the DEC on a number of exciting trail relocations and we continue to work on our lean-to rehabilitation and reconstruction program.

Hurricane Irene caused extensive damage to some trailheads and trails in the region. Thanks to a large group of volunteers, organized by the Catskill 3500 Club and the Trail Conference, following the closure of the park's trails by the DEC, we inventoried the status and condition of every trail in the Catskills within a few days, which allowed the DEC to reopen trails that had not suffered damage. Repair and reconstruction work continues and will continue through next season.

In 2012 we are looking forward to new trail construction, continued trail maintenance, growth in the trail crews that help tackle large trail projects, training opportunities through our



Kaaterskill Rail Trail Work

Trails University program, and to continued cooperation between the many organizations and agencies that help maintain and improve the Catskills trail networks.

I am looking forward to sharing this information here and look forward to you joining us on the trails. It does not take any special talent, just a desire to help give back to the trails and the Forest Preserve that we all love and enjoy here in the Catskill Mountains.

Jeff Senterman was formerly an Assistant Forest Ranger for the DEC in Greene County, graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from Lyndon State College, spent a decade in the environmental planning field and is currently the Catskill Region Program Coordinator for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

The New York New Jersey Trail Conference partners with parks to create, protect and promote a network of over 1,800 miles of public trails. We offer volunteer opportunities for people who love the outdoors, as well as publishing detailed hiking maps for the Catskill Region, along with a number of other regions. For more information on our maps and our Catskill Community Trails program please visit our Web site at www.nynjtc.org/catskills and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NYNJTC. CatskillRegion.

Planning a Weekend or Family Gathering in the Catskills?

Stay with us!

*We offer affordable residential
and meeting facilities in a
beautiful setting only
two hours from New York City*



The Catskill Mountain Foundation has extensive and affordable facilities for artistic residencies, corporate retreats, and private events in a spectacular natural setting only two hours from metropolitan New York.

**for more information visit our
Web site: [www.catskillmtn.org/
facilities/index.html](http://www.catskillmtn.org/facilities/index.html)
call: 518.263.2073 or email:
imperialef@catskillmtn.org**

Looking for Angels!

Please consider becoming a Sustaining Angel and be a dynamic partner in the Catskill Mountain Foundation's arts-based economic development work.

Sustaining Angels is designed to help us establish a broader base of consistent support, locally, regionally and beyond. Achieving our goal will bring crucial benefits to our area—new opportunities for local business owners, a revitalized economy, and a richer cultural environment for our community that will attract many new visitors.

For more information or to become a Sustaining Angel please contact: Candy McKee at mcckee@catskillmtn.org

HIDDEN INN

Since 1893
Restaurant and Tavern
Surrounded by the Western Catskill Mountains

Lunch
11 am - 4 pm
Saturdays and Sundays

Dinner
5 pm - 9 pm
Tuesday - Sunday

www.HiddenInn.com

10860 Hwy. 18, Main Street
South Kortright, NY 607-538-9191

FISK★ANTIQUES

Delaware County, New York
State Highway 28 Corridor

116 Fisk Road Bovina, NY 607-832-4544
74 Main Street Delhi, NY 607-746-9300

Friday-Sunday
11 am - 5 pm or by appointment
Holiday Mondays
11 am - 5 pm

*Always Buying, Selling and
Accepting Consignments
Visit Our Website for Info*

FiskBarnAntiques.com

THINGS ARE BUZZIN'

Gourmet Honey (30+ flavors)
Homemade Jellies & Jams + Gourmet Salad Dressings
Herbal Teas + Pancake Mix
Custom Baskets + Pure Maple Syrup
Beeswax Candles + Natural Beauty Products

THE ULTIMATE CHEESECAKES!
Deluxe, Chocolate, Chocolate Amaretto
Kahlua, Amaretto Cream

TELL US WHERE - WE'LL SHIP IT THERE!
LIPS Pick-up & Drop Off Service Available*

HONEY YEAR ROUND Browsers Welcome

Not affiliated with United Parcel Service

**OPEN FRI - MON
9AM - 5PM**

(518) 263-4150 **★FREE HONEY DRIPPER
WITH THIS AD**

Traphagen's Honey

Route 23A, 1 mile west of Hunter Post Office