



TRAILWALKER

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE — MAINTAINING 1,629 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS

MARCH/APRIL 2006

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It's the start of something BIG

Trail U Volunteers Will Rebuild and Restore Trail Network on Bear Mountain

Plans are approved, the first trainings are scheduled, and work will be getting underway this spring at the Trail Conference's new Trail University at Bear Mountain State Park. (See page 9 for the schedule of outdoor training sessions.)

Already, some 100 individuals have indicated an interest in the Bear Mountain trails project, says Trails Director Larry Wheelock. But hundreds more will be required over the next five+ years that it is expected to take to complete the ambitious program of trail building, rehabilitation, and ecological restoration on one of the most frequently hiked mountains in the country.

The project's goals are to improve the quality of the outdoor experience on Bear



Experienced trail builders Eddie Walsh and Chris Ezzo will be among the faculty teaching novice and advanced courses in trail work at the Trail Conference Trail University on Bear Mountain.

Mountain for visitors of varied expertise, and to recruit and train trails volunteers who may then become involved in trail work elsewhere in the New York/New Jersey region. "We are getting more and more requests for assistance in building and maintaining public foot-paths than ever before," says Executive Director Ed Goodell. "One of our goals at Bear Mountain is to increase the number of trained trail volunteers who then

will work with existing trail crews and help keep our region's trails open and properly maintained for public enjoyment."

The project at Bear Mountain is distinctive among Trail Conference projects, not only in its scope, but in the mix of trails that will be worked on. The Major Welch and Appalachian Trails, on the north and south faces of the mountain respectively, will be built to typical moderate-use hiking

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TC Land Buys Further Protect Shawangunk Ridge Trail

3.5 Miles of Rail Trail Secured in Mamakating

In the final days of December 2005, the Trail Conference concluded a long and complicated purchase of more than 140 acres in Mamakating, NY (Sullivan County), from LaFarge North America, Inc. The acquisition protects a key section of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail, which uses the abandoned rail bed on the property. Funds for the purchase were provided by capital campaign gifts to the TC Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund.

The land abuts the Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest and contains 3.5 miles of a scenic rail trail that runs through the heart of the forest. This old abandoned rail bed starts near the junction of Route 209 and Ferguson Road north of Wurtsboro. It con-

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Company's Coming: ATC Biennial Conference in Our Region in '07; Planning Underway

By Jane Daniels, Ramapo '07 Conference Chair

The New York/New Jersey Trail Conference will be hosting the biennial meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy July 13-20, 2007, at Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ. This seven-day event gives hikers from all over an opportunity to take relevant workshops, go on excursions, attend concerts, talk with fellow hikers, and, of course, to hike. The conference location rotates among the hiking clubs that maintain the Appalachian Trail. The NY/NJ Trail Conference last hosted it in 1983, in New Paltz, NY.

Hosting clubs recognize that the meeting is an opportunity to show off their region, including "their" sections of the AT, other local hiking trails, and local recreational opportunities. Over the past 18 months, I have slowly assembled a steering committee comprising chairs of committees that will plan hikes, excursions (to historical, environmental, and cultural sites in both New York and New Jersey), workshops (for example, we have no qualms about inviting our guests to learn new skills by helping out on the Bear Mountain project, which will be well underway at the time), a youth program in conjunction with the Weis Ecology Center (to prepare our next generation of trail builders and to allow parents time to enjoy their vacation), and entertainment (evenings will not be just for sitting), as well as to take care of "house-keeping" duties such as marketing, registration, food, housing, and signs.

The theme of the '07 conference is *Always a Step Ahead*, which reflects the attitude of both the ATC and NY/NJ Trail Conference. (Both groups have been

forerunners in the work of protecting and maintaining hiking trails.) Taking that theme to heart, both the hikes and excursion chairs already have formed committees, which are meeting to develop those portions of the conference. A website, www.Ramapo2007.org, is up and running and a brochure is available.

The ATC Biennial Conference typically attracts 1,000 guests. We would like to attract people who have never before come to one of the conferences. Pete Kohlberger, hikes chair for the event, notes, "We're assembling a great program of varied hikes for people of every level and ability. It's going to be fun to show off the wonderful

trails we have to our visitors." And Carolyn Canfield, excursions co-chair, remarks, "There is so much to see and do in the area, the committee has to pick out what we hope are the excursions that will interest people the most. This way non-hiking spouses can enjoy the event."

At present, we need volunteers to serve on the youth program, marketing, finance, hospitality, workshop, and entertainment committees and to help plan those parts of the conference. We encourage our member clubs to consider helping in one of these areas, staffing the committee with club members or offering to supply volunteers

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NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

Mission Statement

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, founded in 1920, is a federation of member clubs and individuals dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community. The Conference is a volunteer-directed public service organization committed to:

- Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails.
- Protecting hiking trail lands through support and advocacy.
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is a federation of 99 hiking and outdoor groups, and 10,000 individuals.

FROM THE CHAIR

Playing Favorites

Playing favorites is something we are taught not to do. But when it comes to hiking trails, well, that is an entirely different story. I admit that I play favorites among hiking destinations, and I thought that I would share three of them with you.

I am a bit partial to views and even more inclined to like ones that go to or have views of water. Trails that offer views of the Hudson River is where I really play favorites, and without a doubt my all time favorite is the Camp Smith Trail. The views along the trail change with the seasons. I have seen the view from Anthony's Nose in all seasons and all times of day, even at night. Hiking with others along the Camp Smith Trail makes that hike all the more enjoyable. It's why I choose to lead a hike

there each September for the Hudson Valley Ramble. The views never fail to impress, and I love to see people's reactions when we finally arrive on the top of Anthony's Nose. Having lunch there before resuming hiking is a wonderful way to relax.

Another favorite place is Rockwood Hall, just north of the Tappan Zee Bridge. The unmarked carriage roads in this former Rockefeller estate circle the property and offer views across the Hudson River to the Palisades. It is small enough that you, a friend, and a picnic lunch can hide in the shade of a tree away from the other visitors. Yet it is large enough that you can visit it many times and find still other interesting spots. The exotic species of trees, wide paths, and sweeping views make it an enchanting way to spend the day.

A third place I love is the bike path that goes north from Upper Nyack. Expect to see lots of people along the path as it winds its way along the edge of the Hudson River at the base of the Palisades. Hearing and seeing the water rip rap on the shore is relaxing even in winter. On hot summer days, the wind from over the water is cool and refreshing.

The reasons that make a destination a favorite vary. For some it is the view, for others it is a particular experience. But whatever the reason, sharing your favorite hike can make it more special. Consider sharing yours by writing an article for the *Trail Walker* about a favorite place that you like to hike. Turn to page 10 to learn about a favorite hike from another TC member.

—Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors

Letters

New LNT Fire Guidelines

In reference to your article "Overnight on the Shawangunk Ridge" (Jan/Feb *TW*, p. 10): In the last paragraph, about camping, the technique mentioned for building a "leave no trace" campfire is outdated; it was last used about five years ago. We are going to produce a DVD in the near future showing the Leave No Trace updated skills on building a low impact campfire.

—Bob Russo
 LNT Master Educator
 Outdoor Ethics Academy
 Staten Island, NY

Editor's Note: The LNT website (www.lnt.org) lists these tips for minimizing campfire impact in the backcountry:

- Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

More to Thank

October 15 was indeed a successful and fun day in Byram Township ("Byram Highlands Charity Hike," Jan/Feb *TW*, p. 6). I recruited and oriented the hike leaders (most had never been on that section of the Highlands Trail). In addition to 20 Trail Conference volunteers, 18 Byram residents led hikes. These 38 were supplemented by members of the hunting club that leases the property. All these leaders should get a big round of applause.

—Bob Moss, Bloomfield, NJ

Send Us Your Thoughts

The *Trail Walker* welcomes letters to the editor. Send them via email to tw@nynjtc.org or mail to:

Trail Walker Editor
 NY/NJ Trail Conference
 156 Ramapo Valley Road
 Mahwah, NJ 07430

Conference, PIPC Honor Harriman Trails Author

William (Bill) J. Myles, 92 years old, is a frequent, if unseen, companion for many hikers in our region. He is the author of the "Harriman bible"—*Harriman Trails: A Guide and History*—a guidebook that has familiarized countless hikers with the marked and unmarked trails of this popular park. Earlier this year Bill was honored by the Trail Conference and by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) for this important contribution to the hiking community.



Award-winning *Harriman Trails* author Bill Myles (left) with Trail Conference board member Daniel Chazin.

The Trail Conference's William Hoeflerin Award was presented to Bill in January, when a group of long-time friends and hikers visited him in Hackettstown, NJ, to celebrate the occasion. The award was presented by Dan Chazin, a Trail Conference board member who edited Bill's book. A second award to Bill—a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service, bestowed

by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission—was presented by Pete Heckler, who serves as the Trail Conference's West Hudson South Trails Chair.

In his presentation on behalf of the Trail Conference, Dan noted that Bill spent many years researching the trails in Harriman State Park and their history and preparing a thick, handwritten manuscript. The first edition of *Harriman Trails*, published in 1992, sold out quickly. It was followed by a revised printing in 1994 and a second edition in 1999. Bill has donated the royalties from his book to the Trail Conference. (Currently, Dan is working on a third edition of the book, which will incorporate many recent relocations and newly marked trails in Harriman.)

Naomi and David Sutter, who graciously hosted the event for the Trail Conference, provided a cake decorated with delicious depictions of Hessian Lake, Bear, and Dunderberg Mountains—and even a tiny replica of Bill's trademark red hiking beret.

Although his vision has been diminished by macular degeneration, Bill still projects a sharp wit and image in his jaunty red beret. His advice to everyone: "Whenever you are hiking and encounter a split in the trail, take the lesser traveled route. You never know what you may find."

National Trails Day Saturday, June 3, 2006



Clubs: Send your NTD event to tw@nynjtc.org by March 15 for listing in the next issue of *Trail Walker*.

From the Executive Director

Conservation Investing: Another Path to Trail Lands Protection



The Trail Conference decided to build a land acquisition program only when it became clear that, unless we acted decisively, many long distance greenways would otherwise succumb to encroaching development. To the degree we have been successful, it has been due to the financial support of people who wanted to be part of protecting the landscape for future generations.

As a result of this support, we have been involved in transferring approximately 1,600 acres, we own another 1,600 acres, and control the options and contracts on another 1,000.

Cash donations to the revolving Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund

remain the best way to support our acquisition program. But two recent TC protection successes—our first land purchase in New Jersey made possible by a loan from a TC member (see Jan/Feb *TW*) and the seller-financed deal in the Shawangunks on which we just made our final payment (see p. 7)—illustrate other financing strategies that help protect land. The conservation investments made by these two lenders were low cost, low risk ways for them to play a pivotal role in protecting a property.

A crucial factor in deciding whether or not the Trail Conference can protect a parcel of land is whether we have cash to buy and hold it until a public entity is prepared to buy it from us. As a way of stretching our funds, we often use loans. Normally we first ask for seller financing. If the seller is unable or unwilling to provide this, we may then go to a nonprofit

or individual interested in putting their available funds to work conserving land.

Working with conservation lenders can take several forms. A private lender may be willing to make a direct loan to the Trail Conference, with the loan money secured by the land. The Trail Conference pays interest on the loan, and the lender gets repaid several years later or when the land is sold to the state.

We have arranged loans of \$200,000 and \$300,000 in this manner. In one case, an individual loaned funds from a self-directed IRA account at a discounted rate. In the other case, a foundation loaned funds at below market rates in what is known as a program-related investment. In both cases, the entities preserved their capital assets and achieved their conservation objectives in “have your cake and eat it to” scenarios.

Another approach we may take is to combine several private lenders who could lend smaller amounts of money into a pool of loans for a particular property. Each lender would make a loan for a portion of the total amount. The loans

might be of different amounts and even different lengths of time. All the loans would be secured by the same property. This approach would enable participation by individuals whose resources are more limited.

A final way for private individuals to help the Trail Conference acquire land is to serve as “guarantors.” In this scenario, the Trail Conference would borrow from a lender that requires a guarantee of liquid assets (rather than land). The money of the guarantor stays in their own account, but remains liquid and is used to “guarantee” the amount that the Trail Conference has borrowed.

In addition to outright donations, we are hopeful that more foundations and individuals will want to work with us on conservation investments. These arrangements would allow us to stretch our precious cash further, to do more deals to protect more land and build more trails for all to enjoy. Call or email me if you might be interested in this approach.

—Ed Goodell, goodell@nynjtc.org

TC Maintains 14 of 100 “Top Trails” in US

DANIEL CHAZIN

*A view of #1 trail:
Breakneck Ridge*

In February, an Internet-based trails information company, Trails.com, released its list of 100 Top Trails in North America. Fourteen of the trails are ones maintained by Trail Conference volunteers.

“This does not surprise me,” says Trails Director Larry Wheelock. “We have hundreds of miles of wonderful hiking which is very accessible to a vast public.”

At the top of the list of most popular trails was our region’s own Breakneck Ridge Trail. “It’s a great trail,” says East Hudson Trails Supervisor Josie Gray of Beacon. “I love the challenge of the climb and the scrambles, and even more so because you don’t have to work hard for very long before you reach some incredible views.”

Of Trails.com’s 100 top trails, 14 are in New York State, and 11 of those are maintained by Trail Conference members. Four trails in New Jersey made the list, of which three are TC-maintained trails.

In addition to Breakneck Ridge, the list of most popular trails in the New York/New Jersey region includes the Appalachian Trail, Anthony’s Nose, the Long Path in Palisades Interstate Park, trails in Harriman, Bear Mountain, and Hudson Highlands State Parks, and, in the Catskills, loop hikes over Slide Mountain and Indian Head.

Trails.com’s list includes trail systems as well as individual trails and is not limited to footpaths, though most of the trails on the list are designated hiking trails. Other trails on the list are mountain biking trails.

SPRING TRAILS WORKSHOPS

Sign up now for the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference annual spring trails workshops. Participants may register for any combination of three courses:

Saturday, April 15 GPS & GIS for Trail Management

This course will provide a basic level of skills for using Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographical Imaging Systems (GIS) units and technologies to aid in trail layout, design, and inventory as well as for maps and other publication work. Registration will be limited to 20 students. If you can bring your own GPS unit, please indicate this on your registration form.

Location: Trail Conference office in Mahwah, NJ

Saturday, April 22 Maintenance 101:

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

Location: Sterling Forest State Park, Visitors Center and Trails

Sunday, April 23 Construction/Restoration:

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

Location: Sterling Forest State Park, Visitors Center and Trails

Registration

Advance registration is required for all courses, and class size is limited. Conference club and individual members, as well as non-members, are welcome. Members of the Trail Conference must include a \$5 per person registration fee. Non-members must include an \$8 per person registration fee, which will be credited toward first-year membership dues if you join the Conference at the workshop. Only one fee payment per person is required to apply for any combination of the three courses.

Each day will begin with bagels and coffee/tea at 8:30 am. Lectures will begin at 9 am, to be followed by discussions and

fieldwork. At 3:30 pm, all participants will return for group socializing and certificate distribution. The workshops will be held rain or shine.

To register for any of the courses, complete the Registration Form below and send it to the Conference office by April 14, 2006. Sign-up is on a first come, first served basis; past workshops have been over-subscribed, so be sure to send in your registration early. An information packet will be sent to all registrants.



EDDIE WALSH

Learn while you work in the woods: a crew digs into a side hilling project.

Be prepared: For those attending the Maintenance 101 and Construction and Restoration courses please remember to dress for outside work in clothes that you do not mind getting wet or dirty; bring lunch, water, and any other drink or snack you fancy. If you have them, bring any tools appropriate for the workshop for which you register. Basic maintenance tools are hand clippers, loppers (long-handled branch cutters), and small bow or pruning saws. For the construction/restoration session, the tools will be provided by the Trail Conference.

Registration Form: Registration can also be done online at www.nynjtc.org/workshops/index.html

Trail Maintenance Workshops

- Please check the session(s) you want to attend:
- April 15: GPS & GIS for Trail Management
 I will bring my own GPS unit.
 - April 22: Maintenance 101
 - April 23: Construction/Restoration

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Day phone _____ Eve. Phone _____

Do you currently maintain a trail? Yes No

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

Name of club, if applicable: _____

Name of trail you maintain: _____

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

Return by April 14. One form per person. Registration fees—\$5 for Trail Conference members, \$8 for non-members—are per person (one or more courses), not per course, payable to NY-NJ Trail Conference. Send mail registrations to: NY-NJ Trail Conference, Trail Maintenance Workshop, 156 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430.

Trail Crew Schedules

Early Spring 2006

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.

WEST HUDSON SOUTH CREW

Leaders

Chris Ezzo (Crew Chief): 516-431-1148, musicbynumbers59@yahoo.com
 Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563, brian@grandrenovation.com
 Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324, clganz@earthlink.net
 Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792, rmarshall@webtv.net

April 27 (Thursday)

Brooks Lake, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
 Leader: Bob Marshall

April 29 (Saturday)

Brooks Lake, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
 Leader: Chris Ezzo

May 6 (Saturday)

Brooks Lake, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
 Leader: Claudia Ganz

May 11 (Thursday)

Menomine Trail, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
 Leader: Bob Marshall

May 13 (Saturday)

Brooks Lake, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
 Leader: Brian Buchbinder

WEST HUDSON NORTH CREW

Leaders

Denise Vitale (Crew Chief): 845-738-2126, WHNTrails@aol.com
 Dave Webber: 845-452-7238, webberd1@yahoo.com

All skill levels and newcomers are welcome. Since we are still a relatively new crew, we provide training each work trip. If you would like to volunteer with us, please contact Denise Vitale.

April 22 (Earth Day) (Saturday)

Sweet Clover Trail, Schunemunk State Park
 Leader: Denise Vitale

Place stepping stones over small drainage area and build rock steps in slope leading to the stream. Meet: 9:30 at Taylor Road parking area.

May 13 and 14 (Saturday and Sunday)

Mine Hill Trail, Black Rock Forest

Leader: Denise Vitale

Rock work to address erosion issues near the trailhead. Meet: 9:30, place TBD.

EAST HUDSON CREW

Leaders

Walt Daniels, 914-245-1250
 Michael Bongar, 914-788-0616
 MaryAnn Massey, 914-967-8774
 Josie Gray, 845-831-5786
 Patrick McGloin, 631-223-2164

We make a special effort to arrange pickups at the nearest Hudson Line train station. Call Walt Daniels if you are interested in being on-call for mid-week work trips.



WALT DANIELS

Weekdays, TBD

Leader: Walt Daniels

Projects vary; see work areas below.

April 8 (Saturday)

Camp Smith Trail, Westchester

Leader: Patrick McGloin

Waterbar construction. Meet: 9 am at Peekskill train station.

April 29 (Saturday)

Wilkinson Memorial Trail, Sugarloaf Mtn., Hudson Highlands State Park

Leader: Josie Gray

Waterbar construction. Meet: 9 am at Cold Spring train station.

May 6 (Saturday)

Kitchawan Preserve, Westchester

Leader: Michael Bongar

Trail relocation. Meet: 9 am at Croton train station.

WEST JERSEY TRAIL CREW

Leaders

David and Monica Day
 732-937-9098, Cell: 908-307-5049
 Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
www.trailstobuild.com

All trips begin at 9 am. There is usually a walk to the work site, so please be there on time. Call or email leaders for meeting place details and other questions. Heavy rain in the morning will cancel; if in doubt, call leaders between 6:00 and 6:30 that morning.

April 15 (Saturday)

Dunnfield Creek Trail, Worthington State Forest

We will resume construction of the new section of trail to reroute around the area washed out by Hurricane Ivan.

April 29 (Saturday)

Dunnfield Creek Trail, Worthington State Forest

We will continue work on the reroute around the washout.

NJ HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW

Leader: Glenn Oleksak,
 973-283-0306, glenno@nji.com

First Sunday of each month

Trips start at 10am. Call, email, or check NY/NJ TC website calendar for directions and details of work trip.

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.

THE METRO CREW

Leader: Joe Gindoff,
 718-672-3855, joeghiker@aol.com

All trips start at 9 am. Parking, car pooling, and mass transit is available.

March and April Staten Island Greenbelt

We will work with the Greenbelt crew in grading one section of trail and then addressing erosion in other sections. These are all easy trails with easy access. Tools and training furnished on all trips.

April 29 (Saturday)

The first of three scheduled trips to Pelham Bay Park, our newest trails in the Metro area. We will join the Friends of P.B.P. in restoring all foot trails.

NORTH JERSEY WEEKDAY CREW

Leader: John Moran, johnjmoran@earthlink.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.

SHAWANGUNK RIDGE TRAIL & LONG PATH CREW

Leaders

Jakob Franke: 201-768-3612
 Eric Meyer: 845-647-4638
 Malcolm Spector: 212-245-0360, mbspecs@aol.com

April 29 (Saturday) Rain date, April 30

Shawangunk Ridge Trail

Rehabilitating a section of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail in Mount Hope, NY (Otisville). Meeting place is where the Guymard Turnpike crosses the railroad tracks, at 10 am.

May 13 (Saturday) and May 14 (Sunday)

Blue Trail at Sam's Point

Leader: Malcolm Spector

Help clear and reopen the Blue Trail at Sam's Point. Meet at the Sam's Point Visitors Center in Cragmoor, NY, at 9:30 am. Bring work gloves, beverage and lunch, clippers and/or loppers if you have them.

APPALCHIAN TRAIL WORK WEEKEND IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

Leaders

Jane Geisler, 845-677-9909
 Ollie Simpson, 845-298-8379

April 29-30 (Saturday, Sunday)

Help on the AT in Dutchess County, between County Route 20 and the Connecticut state line. Mid-Hudson ADK plans various projects, including brush clearing and erosion control. Pre-registration requested for one or two days; can stay overnight at Wiley Shelter. Contact either leader for info and to register. This is a good chance to use your new skills learned at Maintenance 101.



Hasenclever Trail, Again

The Jan/ Feb issue of *Trail Walker* incorrectly reported that the entire length of the Hasenclever Iron Trail has been closed owing to toxic pollution. In fact most of the five-mile route remains open except for about 3/4 of a mile in the Peters Mine area. It is possible to hike the eastern 3/4 of a mile in combination with the blue-blazed Manor Trail in Ringwood Manor. It is also possible to hike the western three miles or so as an out-and-back hike of about six miles, or, for experienced hikers, in combination with the Sterling Ridge Trail/Highlands Trail and several unmarked woods roads in the area.

Meanwhile, as of the deadline for this issue of *TW*, it appeared likely that the Peters Mine area would be designated a federal Superfund site, closing the trail through that area for the foreseeable future.

Shawangunk Blue Trail, Clarification

The reopened Blue Trail connecting High Point in Sam's Point Preserve with the Smiley Carriageway in Minnewaska State Park (See p. 4, Jan/Feb *TW*) IS NOT the portion of the Long Path that once extended from Verkeerder Kill Falls to Mud Pond.



That section remains closed by the private landowner. The map below indicates the section of the Blue Trail that is newly opened.

Although this trail is not now officially part of the Long Path, it can be part of a detour around the currently closed section of the LP as follows:

Follow the High Point Trail (red blazes) north to High Point. At the site of the old fire tower, turn right on the Blue Trail. This trail is in the process of being refurbished and is currently blazed with old blue blazes and flags.

In about three miles, turn right on Smiley Carriageway, taking it all the way to Stony Kill Carriageway; turn right toward Lake Awosting. Near Lake Awosting turn left on the black-blazed Peters Kill Carriageway, which crosses the Long Path.

The entire detour is close to 10 miles and should not be attempted without a proper map (NY/NJ TC Shawangunk Trails map 104).

Palisades Interstate Park Alpine Approach Road Closed

Due to a significant rockslide in mid-December, Alpine Approach Road from Park Headquarters to the Alpine Boat Basin and Picnic Area is closed until repairs can be made. Until repairs are completed, there is no vehicle access to the Alpine Boat Basin and Picnic Area. For foot access, hikers can park at Park Headquarters and hike down the Closter Dock Trail to the Shore Trail. Notice will be placed on the PIPC home page, www.njpalisades.org, when the road has been reopened.

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Group Aims to Restore Mount Beacon Fire Tower

by George Profous

The Mount Beacon Fire Tower has been sitting atop 1650-foot South Beacon Mountain since 1931. The mountain it sits on, as well as the city below it, gets its name from the fires that were set on the mountain as beacons to signal the coming of British ships on the Hudson River. Before the tower was closed it provided stunning views of the Hudson River, from the spires of New York City's skyscrapers to Albany. From the tower you can follow the Hudson River's silver sliver winding its way north to Poughkeepsie and Kingston.



The trails up Mount Beacon cross dark hemlock woods, mountain laurel, chestnut oak forests, and the remnants of an incline railway and 1902 casino, ending at a stunning blueberry and boulder summit (more reminiscent of some peaks in the Adirondacks).

It's an unusual hike, one that includes such human influences as ATV widened trails, dilapidated machine parts, invasive species around the remains of the old casino, and the tower farm on North Beacon Mountain. Put it all together, and you have

a wonderfully diverse mix of nature, industrial America, beautiful and historic views, and a birds-eye view of the Hudson Valley's cities and landscape.

Because of its special relationship to the City of Beacon, the Hudson River, and American history, restoration project committee members gathered together in late 2001, after receiving a warning from the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) about the tower's impending demise. The structure, a 60-foot Aermotor Tower identical to four of the five fire towers in Catskills that have been restored since 1998, was surplus, put on sale back in 1987, and has been deteriorating ever since.

Today it needs a complete restoration from the footings to the cab, estimated to cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000. With so much experience with similar towers, we know what needs to be done. Otherwise, its days are numbered. The committee has applied for an Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement from DEC and is working with adjacent landowners to assure access for the reconstruction.

The committee welcomes new members. It meets at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Beacon City Hall, lower level classroom. Volunteers are needed for publicity, fund-raising, and construction. The goal is to provide a unique destination by saving a tower with which so many Hudson Valley residents have grown up and which can easily be reached by train from New York City, Poughkeepsie, and points north—promoting tourism, science and history education, hiking and the economy.

Mount Beacon is a place where you can watch the interplay of two dynamic forces—natural and human—in a vivid landscape setting. For more information, visit www.beaconfiretower.org or contact John Hupe at john@beaconfiretower.org or (845) 430-9473.

George Profous is a senior forester with DEC in New Paltz.

From the Advocacy Director: Dennis Schvejda

ATVs: Progress in New York, Your Help Needed in New Jersey

Curbing illegal ATV use and reducing their impacts on hiking trails continues to be a priority for the Trail Conference. In New York State we've made great progress, while in New Jersey opportunities seem to be slipping away. First the good news from New York.

Last year the TC-ADK Partnership helped accomplish a number of important goals, among them:

- the re-establishment of a dedicated ATV Trail Development, Enforcement, and Stewardship Fund;
- an increase in ATV registration from \$10 to \$25 annually, with the \$15 increase dedicated to the ATV Fund;
- mandatory point-of-sale registration.

This year the TC-ADK Partnership is continuing to work with Assemblyman Morelle on his ATV Trail Development and Maintenance Fund legislation, to provide funds for ATV trail development and maintenance on private or municipally owned lands. No funds would be used for ATV trail development on state-owned lands. The partnership is also working closely with Assembly staff on strengthening enforcement measures and increasing penalties for ATV trespass violations.

The partnership is also awaiting the completion of an ATV policy for state lands, as the Dept. of Environmental Conservation is continuing to review public comments. This policy is not a new law, but clarifies current laws and specifies criteria that need to be considered for environmental impacts.

Now for New Jersey, where in the words of a public official, "ATVs aren't on the radar screen."



In a previous column, I noted how NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Brad Campbell was reviewing proposed "comprehensive" legislation that was expected to close the point-of-sale loop-hole whereby an ATV may be purchased without registration, insurance, car-size license plates, training, or an ATV operator's license. Just as with a motor vehicle, the proposed legislation would require these credentials at purchase in the dealership. Registration fees would in part be used to fund enforcement efforts to help end the plague of illegal use on our public lands. Unfortunately, the clock ran out on these initiatives as a new administration took office in Trenton.

With the new governor, Jon Corzine, comes new staff. DEP Commissioner Brad Campbell has been replaced by Lisa Jackson, and Marty McHugh, Director of Fish & Wildlife, who developed the draft legislation, has been replaced by Dave Chanda. While Governor Corzine, Ms. Jackson, and Mr. Chanda have excellent conservation credentials, ATVs apparently are not on their agenda and "to do" list.

Gov. Corzine's Environmental Transition Team and Commissioner Jackson received a list of recommendations from

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ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

A Record Year for NJ Green Acres

New Jersey's Green Acres Program preserved 38,000 acres during 2005, making it the program's most successful year since its inception in 1961. In the Highlands, the Green Acres Program acquired more than 15,600 acres for permanent protection. Since 1961, the Green Acres Program, together with public and private partners, has acquired and protected more than 597,000 acres of open space. New Jersey has more than 1.3 million acres of protected open space, including restored and improved municipal, county, and non-profit parks.

Pataki Wants 20% More For Environmental Protection

New York Governor Pataki's 2006-07 Executive Budget will include a 20 percent increase for New York's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), which would raise total funding for the program from \$150 to \$180 million—more than seven times

the level in 1994 and the highest level in state history. The EPF supports projects to protect open space, reduce pollution, create and expand state and municipal parks, and preserve farmland. Legislation has also been introduced by Senator Carl Marcellino and Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli, chairmen of their house's Environmental Conservation committees, to increase the fund to \$225 million for the 2007-08 fiscal year and \$300 million the year after. Since Pataki took office in 1995, New York has invested \$586 million to acquire and preserve more than 932,000 acres. In addition, 22 new state parks have been opened, providing greater public access and opportunities for recreational activities.

Highlands Trail Section Protected in West Milford

The State of New Jersey has finally taken title to West Milford's so-called redevelopment zone, 400 acres east of Echo Lake. With the Highlands Trail crossing from

east to west, the Trail Conference teamed up with other conservation organizations to wage a multi-year effort opposing a proposed golf course and hotel complex. The land is now part of Norvin Green State Forest.

Silas Condict Park to Quadruple in Size

An \$11 million deal to preserve 1,252 acres in Kinnelon will quadruple the size of Silas Condict Park, allowing for the creation of a major trail for hikers and equestrians from Silas Condict along Route 23 to Newark's watershed, and eventually to the county's Craigmear facility in Rockaway Township and as far as Tourne County Park and Jonathan's Woods in Boonton Township and Denville.

First Phase of Adirondack Land Deal Completed

The first phase of a plan to turn more than a quarter million acres of private Adirondack forest land over to the state has been

completed, permanently protecting and opening up 41,000 acres to the public. The New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation will pay \$5.5 million from the Environmental Protection Fund, the first of three phases that will preserve 257,000 acres of International Paper Company land from development and open it to public recreation. The remaining two phases are under contract and expected to close in 2006. The agreement is the state's largest conservation project.

NJ Legislature Fails to Act on \$75 Million Park Funding Bill

Attempts to provide \$75 million in capital improvements for New Jersey's park system have hit a brick wall. Wrapped in with stem cell research funding, the legislation wasn't acted on during the lame duck session. Capital park funding has been an annual issue, with funds woefully short. Back in 1998 the Trail Conference produced a report, "Our Parks in Crisis," and formed a partnership/coalition, "Pride in Our Parks." We will continue to press for funding during the next legislative session and urge Governor Corzine to make this a priority.

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Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

Become an active part of the Trail Conference family. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC, contact the designated person or Operations Director Joshua Erdsneker, either by email volunteers@nynjtc.org or call the office (201) 512-9348, ext.13, and he will find a way to get you involved.

The Trails Need Legal Aid

The Trail Conference is having growing success in opening public lands to hiking in New York and New Jersey, but now we need help in reviewing, drafting, and negotiating the legal documents that will let us ensure our members' access for the long term. We are setting up a committee to help with this work. While some background in insurance/indemnity issues is a plus, it is your keen legal mind and zeal for the hiking community that would be most welcome. (This opportunity is open to law students.)

Be a Hero(ine)

It all started five years ago when the Trail Conference moved its office from New York City to Mahwah, NJ. When the carefully accumulated files reached their new home they had been shuffled and reshuffled beyond recognition. Despite all our efforts, we have never recovered from that experience and fully reorganized our important files (especially the executive director's files!) Our new year's resolution is to finally get our files organized so we can be a more efficient and effective organization. We need a brave soul who can come in on a regular basis to help us tame our unruly files. You will be ably assisted (and worshiped) by the staff, starting with the executive director.

Adopt a Trail

The heart and soul of the Trail Conference is trail maintenance. We are looking for individuals, couples, and families who are willing to adopt a section of trail. Maintainers usually visit their section of trail twice a year, keeping it passable by cutting

back brush, making sure it is well marked and free of trash, and submitting bi-annual reports of their work. We have opportunities in Fahnestock State Park, Hudson Highlands State Park, Westchester County, Black Rock Forest, the Long Path, Shawangunk Ridge Trail, the Catskill Forest Preserve, and parts of western New Jersey.

Volunteer Recruitment Specialist

The Trail Conference is a volunteer powered organization. The ability to recruit and place volunteers in positions of need is essential to the organization's ability to survive. Recruitment Specialists will work with the staff and other volunteers to increase the number of volunteers that are active with the Trail Conference.

Committee Assistants

Each Trail Conference committee is seeking an individual to serve as committee administrator. Responsibilities include overseeing the taking of minutes, coordinating meeting time and location,

distributing meeting minutes and agendas, and coordinating the collection of volunteer hours and recognition. Contact Jane Daniels by email, jdhiker@optonline.net, or call the office (201) 512-9348 for more information.

Trail and Hiking Information Experts

The Trail Conference strives to offer the public and our members the highest level of customer service. To do so, we need your help. We seek volunteers both to come to our office to answer phones or to answer hiking related questions from their own home. If you are willing to answer questions from home, let us know what areas you would be willing to field questions about; we can email you the caller's contact information and question. Interested volunteers do not need to be all-knowing about hiking in our area, just willing to look up information and take a message if they don't know the answer. Please contact Catherine Gemmell at (201) 512-9348 or office@nynjtc.org for more information.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE *The Stalwart Duo*

Caroline Lavanhar and Mona Reynolds look like the all-around outdoor athletes they are. They favor bicycling ("last summer we followed the Danube, eight days on a bike"); hiking (Mona's favorite hike is on Schunemunk Mountain; Caroline favors the Sterling Ridge Trail), and skiing. (Mona, an experienced alpinist, prefers downhill; Caroline enjoys cross-country).

They volunteer as trail maintainers, taking care of the Loop Trail around Sterling Lake, near their homes. When interviewed in January, both were about to leave for ski trips out west. They planned to link up in Colorado.

"The kind of volunteers who keep the Trail Conference going."

But on Tuesdays, the two are often found in a less strenuous setting: the Trail Conference office. They sit at a big table, fold brochures, assemble map sets, and chat amiably with staff and each other. The great thing about folding and stuffing envelopes, they agree, is that they can enjoy conversation as they do the work.



DANIEL CHAZIN

Volunteers Caroline Lavanhar and Mona Reynolds at work in the TC office.

These long-time neighbors, friends, and outdoor enthusiasts from Laurel Ridge, Tuxedo, NY, have been reliable office volunteers for the Trail Conference ever since the organization moved to Mahwah. "We came to the open house," Mona recalls, though she is not sure whether she was, at the time, a member. (Caroline says yes.) "It was something new in the area, and we wanted to see what was happening."

Evidently, the facilities and people made a good impression. The two have been coming to the office nearly weekly ever since. "We were needed," says Caroline.

"We do whatever they want us to do," Mona adds. "Volunteering is in our blood."

"Stalwarts," Conference president Jane Daniels calls them. "The kind of volunteers who keep the Trail Conference going."



Co-ed Teen Group Formed for Fun and Trail Service – New Members Invited!

Hike 'n' Serve Venture Crew #100, sponsored by the Friends of Glen Gray and with technical support from the Trail Conference, is a Boy Scout division open to young men and women aged 14-20 who have completed the eighth grade. The group, to date composed of dynamic teenagers from Essex, Bergen, and Rockland Counties, pursues outdoor adventure, trail maintenance training, service, and fun. An Adirondack canoe trek is planned for summer 2006.



HIKE 'N' SERVE VENTURE CREW #100

Four of the founding adult supporters of Hike 'n' Serve Venture Crew #100 are (L to R) Maureen Edelson (NY/NJ Trail Conference), Bill Badinelli (BSA-Hudson Valley Council), Judy Murphy (NY/NJ Trail Conference) and Chuck Rogers (BSA-Greater New York Councils).

The concept of the crew was first advertised in the *Trail Walker* in July 2005, and drew a strong response from NY/NJ Trail Conference adults who believe in training the next generation of outdoors people and maintainers. The crew's girls and guys have said that meeting new people and having new adventures are some of their reasons for joining.

The group's recent winter camping trip was just the type of adventure the crew members wanted. The challenging, stormy weekend featured a hike of the Old Guard Trail (Camp Glen Gray) led by member Andy Petersen, and offered the young adults instruction in fire-building, first aid, and GPS navigation.

Adult leaders were Bill Badinelli of West Nyack and Judy Murphy of Glen Ridge, both Trail Conference members. Gary Ferwerda of the Boy Scouts of America - Northern NJ Council provided GPS instruction.

To join or for more information, contact Maureen Edelson at (973) 632-4895 or visit www.glengray.org.

New Staff at TC New Staff at TC New Staff at TC New Staff at TC New Staff at TC



Development Director: **Maureen Edelson**

Maureen (Mo) Edelson brings a background in business, fundraising, and volunteer organizations to the Trail Conference. Most recently, she managed the northwest Bergen County area for the Boy Scouts of America, Northern NJ Council. During her tenure with BSA, she formed Hike 'n' Serve Venture Crew #100, a co-ed group of teens focused on trail maintenance and fun (see above). She developed her husband's business, Montclair Physical Therapy, and was a securities analyst for Smith Barney. She is married to Todd Edelson and has two sons: Ken, a senior at Montclair High School, and Ian, a freshman at Emory University. Maureen is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, a Chartered Financial Analyst, a Rotarian (Ridgewood), administrator for two Scout units, and enjoys hiking and reading.



Cartographer/GIS Technician: **Allison Smith**

Allison Smith of Northvale, NJ, has a graduate degree in museum and field studies from the University of Colorado-Boulder, an undergraduate degree in zoology and biological aspects of conservation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is near completion of a certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from UW-Madison. She has worked at The Field Museum in Chicago and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Her interests include travel, birds, fossils, scientific illustration, and, "of course," hiking. Allison takes over from Eric Yadlovski, who was the first person to staff this position for the Trail Conference and who is now doing similar work for the Meadowlands Commission in New Jersey.

Tracking The Wild Invasives

Like to hike but trail building not your thing? Want to learn plant identification and how to use a Global Positioning System (GPS)? This volunteer opportunity is for you!

The Trail Conference and Rutgers University are looking for 60 hikers who are interested in learning how to use a GPS device and helping to identify common invasive species in state park lands. In return, these volunteers will be offered extensive training in plant identification and the proper use and care of GPS devices.

USDA funding supports this Trail Conference, Rutgers project.

This is the beginning of a three-year project supported by the US Dept. of Agriculture, which aims to better understand the spread of invasive plants in forested parklands that have high conservation value and high levels of public use. There is very little information about this in our region, which makes it difficult for park managers to determine the magnitude of the problem or how to manage it.

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

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NJ Reps Support US Conservation Tax Plan

All 13 members of the New Jersey delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives have signed onto Rep. Saxton's Conservation Tax Incentives letter. Rep. Saxton's staff worked with the NY/NJ Trail Conference to draft a NJ Delegation Letter to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas and Ranking Member Charles Rangel. The Senate had passed new tax incentives for conservation in the Tax Relief Act of 2005. The bill provides for extending the carry-forward period for tax deductions from 5 to 15 years and raising the cap on conservation deductions from 30 percent of a donor's income to 50 percent, and to 100 percent for farmers and ranchers. This is a big improvement since late January, when the Joint Committee on Taxation recommended the elimination of most tax deductions for conservation donations. If realized, this would have dealt state and private land conservation efforts a serious blow. Whether or not these incentives actually make the cut and become law remains to be seen.

Farewell to NJ DEP Commissioner Brad Campbell

NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection Commissioner Brad Campbell, a strong proponent of Highlands preservation, has been replaced by Governor Jon Corzine's nominee, Lisa Jackson. Commissioner Campbell was very accessible, and worked with the Trail Conference on issues ranging from ATVs to Camp Todd and Sterling Forest. We thank the commissioner for his good work, and wish him well.

In a novel approach for scientific research, the field data will be collected by volunteer "citizen scientists" drawn from the membership of the Trail Conference and member clubs. Also, an explicit part of the research is to test whether hikers can collect accurate data regarding invasive plants. **We're betting that Trail Conference volunteers will indeed prove this to be true!**

The training portion of this project begins in May, so sign up soon to ensure your place. You can register online at www.nynjtc.org/science or speak with Catherine at the office, (201) 512-9348, ext.10. If you don't make it into this year's group, you will be first in line for the 2007 season.

The actual field work will occur during the months of June and/or July when teams of two will be asked to hike a two-mile trail segment while recording the invasive species and documenting the location with the GPS device. Plant identification training will be provided in collaboration with the Brooklyn Botanic Garden using their MetroFlora Database. Volunteers will be trained in the survey protocol, which basically consists of walking slowly along the trail, scanning the woods and noting the presence, identity, and density of any invasive species seen.



Learn how to track invasive plants that are changing our parklands.

Not a bad day in the woods!

The survey sites will be located in Harriman State Park and Ramapo State Forest. The research is being conducted in cooperation with Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) and New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection. The principal investigators are: Rebecca Jordan, Rutgers Assistant Professor of Environmental Education and Citizen Science; Joan Ehrenfeld, Rutgers professor, invasives expert, long-time Trail Conference member and contributor; and Edwin McGowan, PIPC science director and formerly of the Trail Conference.

If you are interested in participating this year or next, let us know at www.nynjtc.org/science or (201) 512-9348, ext. 10.

TC LAND BUYS

continued from page 1

tinues south nearly to the old train station off County Route 171 above Main Street in Wurtsboro. The property is also adjacent to the county's D&H Canal Park east of the Wurtsboro Airport.

Years ago, the northern end of the land was used as a sand and gravel quarry, and there are still remnants of some of the old cement footings and walls. The property has since reverted to a more natural environment.



The Shawangunk Ridge Trail follows this now protected rail trail.

This acquisition has long been a high priority for the Trail Conference and for the state Dept. of Environmental Conservation. The Conference continues to pursue contacts with the additional rail bed owners north and south of this property and hopes eventually to include these properties into the trail as well.

This newly protected land is open to the public for hiking, bird-watching, and picnicking. No motorized vehicles are allowed. If you have any questions about the property, please contact Richard Benning at (201) 512-9348, ext. 24.

Final Payment on 135 Acres in Greenville

Also in December, the Trail Conference, with the assistance of the Golden Family Foundation, paid off the mortgage on another key parcel on the Shawangunk Ridge—the 135-acre Lindblom property near the New Jersey border.

The Trail Conference had purchased this impressive parcel in 2003 with a seller-held mortgage that required a large lump sum payment in December 2005. The Golden Family Foundation gave the Trail Conference a low interest loan that made the consummation of this purchase possible.

This acquisition safeguards the off-road route of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail in this area and adds significant buffer land to the trail as well. The property is located south and east of I-84 and offers impressive views south to High Point State Park in New Jersey and west across the Neversink River valley. It has road frontage on both I-84 (no parking allowed) and Old Mountain Road.

The Trail Conference is working with the town of Greenville to add a small parking area and SRT access point on land adjacent to Old Mountain Road.

The Trail Conference now owns more than 900 contiguous acres of the ridge in the towns of Greenville and Deerpark in Orange County. These lands were protected as part of our continuing effort to secure a public use trail corridor from Sam's Point in the north to High Point, NJ. If you have the means and interest to help the Trail Conference finance acquisitions such as these, please contact Edward Goodell. For more information, see his column on page 3.

START OF SOMETHING BIG

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trail standards. An accessible trail on the summit will be built to accommodate persons with disabilities. The trails on the popular east side of the mountain and near the summit will resemble what might be expected in national parks with high visitation rates. They will be built to accommodate heavy use, with some imported surfacing and consistently dimensioned rock steps. Overall, this is a project that offers an exciting array of trail construction and design methods to be employed and learned by experienced trail crew members and new volunteers alike.

Participants are being recruited from local communities, youth groups, trail building organizations, outdoor recreational clubs, municipal agencies, colleges and high schools, local and regional businesses, and individuals from the project's partner agencies (National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). Workshops will be taught by professional trail contractors, experienced volunteers, and Trail Conference staff, and are designed to give participants a comprehensive understanding of the disciplines and skills studied.

The first workshops will be offered in March if ground conditions permit, and will range from Basic Rock Work for the novice trail builder to Advanced Rigging, Pinning Structures in Bedrock Ledges, Dry-stone Cribbing, and Using Geo-textiles for the more experienced. Instruction will include hands-on workshops and apprenticeships in which the student-to-instructor ratio is kept low in order to optimize the transfer of skills. A comprehensive course catalogue, complete with course descriptions, prerequisite experience, and recommended curricula will be designed to encourage the ongoing and safe participation of volunteers in the project.

As the project progresses, restoration of the closed sections of trail will commence and additional training in current standards of ecological restoration of damaged recreational areas will be offered. Trailside interpretation relating to trail building, the AT, and open space protection will also be developed.

Trail U at Bear Mountain will gladly accommodate individuals who want to volunteer for only a day of trail work. Scheduled work days are listed on the project's website and are available through the course catalog and schedule from our office.

If you are interested in participating or know of other individuals or groups who may want to, contact the Trail Conference office (see below) for more information. This is the opportunity of a lifetime to be involved in an awesome trail project. Come join us and learn new skills, whether they are innovative trail specific techniques or revived ancient crafts.



For a complete project schedule, visit www.nynjtc.org/BearMountainTrails, or contact eddiewalsh@nynjtc.org, (201) 512-9348.

New Life Members

Sam Gellens

John and Karen Magerlein

Charles C. Nunn

Catherine A. St. Jean

Jennifer Wheary and Paul Walker

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



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IN MEMORIAM



Tom Dunn

Some people belong to an organization and are content with just paying their dues and carrying a membership card. Tom Dunn, who died in early December 2005, was not one of them. There have been few people who have done as much for the NY/NJ Trail Conference with little acclaim, preferring to quietly work "down in the trenches," where it mattered.

Tom was always looking for ways to enlist hikers into the ranks of maintainers. If you were new and showed up on one of his scheduled ADK hikes, he'd be sure to get to know you. He'd be sure you enjoyed your hike and tell you about some of the other great places to see in Harriman. His enthusiasm was contagious and before you knew it, you were planning to join him on some project. You'd probably receive free gloves to take home with you, maybe even a pair of pruning shears. I remember Tom buying "baseball" type caps from a vendor down in Atlantic City and then paying a seamstress to sew NY/NJ TC patches on them, rewards for a job well done. And refreshments? How about cream pies, pastries, soft drinks, even an occasional cold beer? One never knew what would come out of that cooler!

Always extolling the virtues of membership in the NY/NJ TC, he gave a gift membership to at least one hiker so he could legally become a trail maintainer. His license plate read "NYNJTC" and you could find his car in Harriman two or three times a week.

Tom was also handy with a chain saw, and I remember the first time I went out with him listening to the litany of safety precautions after he had completed the official chain saw course. He got so much pleasure planning exactly where to make the cut, how the log would fall, etc. Of course, he wasn't perfect and sometimes, it was necessary to carry out "Plan B."

He will be missed, but I know he will not be forgotten. Too many people have been touched by his kindness, generosity, and enthusiasm. We'll feel his presence on the trails, the invisible hiker in our midst.

—Phyllis Stewart



Meyer Kukle

Meyer Kukle, 85, of Dumont died January 19, 2006, at home. Meyer was a very involved and passionate former member of the NY/NJ Trail Conference board of directors. He was a leader of the annual hike to the Torrey Memorial on Long Mountain in celebration of Raymond Torrey, an original founder of the Trail Conference.

Meyer was an active member of the College Alumni Hiking Club, and was very well liked and respected. He was a mentor to several of us. He definitely will be missed."

Meyer is survived by his wife, Lenore; a daughter, Susan Kukle, and her husband, Archibald Perkins, of Guilford, CT; three sons, David of Tannersville, NY; Richard and his wife Mary of New York City; Peter of Bergenfield; and five grandchildren. Funeral arrangements were private. Donations in his memory may be made to Palisades Interstate Park Commission, NJ Section, Rt. 9W, Alpine, NJ 07620 for interpretive educational work.

—Bob Ward

Needed at Bear Mountain

Tools

- Shovels (Long and Short Handled)
- Wheel Barrows
- Stone working hammers and chisels
- Sledge Hammers
- 2-way radios
- Heavy gauge extension cords
- Tarps (all sizes are needed)
- Ladders
- And, Leaf rakes, watercoolers, ear-muff noise protectors, and safety glasses.

Crew Members

Groups, individuals, male and female, old and young, experienced and novice. For one day or many!

Video / Digital Media Technician For Trail Building Interpretation

We seek an individual with experience in video and digital media to film and edit time-lapse footage of sections of the trail being built. A great project for individuals, groups, or graphics media classes.

Volunteer Recruiters

To make phone calls, reply to emails, and do general outreach to groups.

Volunteer Crew Host

Person needed to host volunteers, organize snacks and rewards for participating volunteers, and/or manage base camp for overnight volunteers.

Training Coordinator

Correspond with visiting instructors, work with crew host to accommodate instructors. Serve as registrar for workshops and volunteer coordinators.

Webmaster

Manage Trail Conference webpages for Bear Mountain Trails Project.

If you are able to donate tools, can help us find corporate or business donors for the specialized items, or want to otherwise volunteer your time and effort, contact Eddie Walsh at (201) 512-9348, ext. 22, or eddiawalsh@nynjtc.org.

TRAIL NEWS

continued from page 4

Carpool to Minimize Harriman Parking Squeeze

Recently, an Orange County crew clearing road side lumber near the White Bar Trail parking lot on Rt. 106 in Harriman State Park, left debris obstructing the three most westerly spaces, reducing the already limited parking. Consequently, it is suggested that groups wishing to hike from that lot consider meeting and car pooling from either the commuter parking lot at the northwest corner of Rts. 17A and 106 or the hikers trail head parking area on the southwest corner of Rt. 17, at the base of the north-bound ramp leading to Rt. 106. Groups contemplating hiking from any limited parking areas in Harriman or Sterling Forest, might consider car-pooling from these sites.

Open Space Activists Honored

Dennis Schvejda, Trail Conference Advocacy Director, and his wife, Tina, were honored by their community of North Haledon in January. The couple received the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Service for their efforts to preserve the 95-acre High Mountain Park in the Preakness Range of the Watchung Mountains. Tina is executive director of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust, and the two are Life Members of the NY/NJ Trail Conference.



TRAIL U at Bear Mountain Trail Skills Trainings

To register for any of the workshops below, or for more info, contact eddiewalsh@nynjtc.org, call (201) 512-9348, ext. 22 or register online. All workshops will take place on a section of the new AT route. Directions, meeting places, and times will be given upon registration.

Project Overview and Orientation March 25 (Saturday)

Join us for an on-site review of the project and a walk-through of the new trail route. There may be light trail work opportunities in the afternoon. Meet in front of Bear Mountain Administration Building, near the great lawn.

Basic Rock Work Training March 26 (Sunday)

Topics covered include: mechanical advantage, simple tools for moving large rocks, safety considerations, proper body mechanics, and methods of reducing natural resource impacts.



Learn how to fly rocks at Trail U.

Rigging for Trail Work* April 1 and 2 (Saturday and Sunday)

Instructors: Lester Kenway (Bangor, Maine) with Eddie Walsh (NY/NJ TC)
Topics covered include: safety issues; equipment selection, care, and applications; calculating for safety and efficiency; mechanical advantage for pulling; and overhead zip and high-lines. There will be plenty of opportunity for hands-on practice on Sunday, plus a winch-cleaning clinic in the afternoon. Preference in registration will be given to participants attending both days.

Stone Splitting and Shaping Workshop* April 8 and 9 (Saturday and Sunday)

Topics covered include: proper use of tools to split and shape (dress) stone to desired dimensions (portable generator, electric hammer drill, hand star drills and single jack hammer, top quality carbide hand chisels, stone hammers, hand points, tracers, and rifling hammers). Participants are urged to attend both days.

Registration deadline: April 5

Stone Cribbing Apprenticeship Level I* April 14 and 15 (Friday and Saturday)

This apprenticeship will cover the basics of building dry stone retaining walls to support a tread way and retain a hillside. Class size will be kept very small to insure optimal education.

Registration deadline: April 12.

Stone Step Construction* April 16 (Sunday)

This workshop will focus on rock step construction, incorporating rigging skills, stone shaping, and basic mechanical advantage and leverage, to set rock steps.

Registration deadline: April 13.

Stone Cribbing Apprenticeship Level I* April 28 and 30* (Friday and Sunday)

See above

Stone Cribbing Apprenticeship Level II* May 5 and 7 (Friday and Sunday)

Same as above, but taller walls may be constructed (up to 3') and some pinning into bedrock may also be incorporated to anchor the retaining walls.

Looking into the future* May 13 and 14 Rigging Workshop May 26, 27, 28, 29: Cribbing Apprenticeships with Peter Jensen and Eddie Walsh.

**These workshops are sponsored in part by funds from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and National Park Service Appalachian Trail Office.*

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November 21, 2005 to January 20, 2006

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*In memory of Alphonse Bauer
Susan Ketchum**

*In memory of Tom Dunn
John B. Blenninger*, Alberto
Caballero,
David and Naomi Sutter*

*In memory of Elizabeth Levers
Thomas J. Joyce*

*In memory of Meyer Kukle
Robert J. Jonas*

*In memory of Louis Spielvogel
Carol Davidson, Julian Orleans
In memory of Carl Spreen
David and Naomi Sutter*

*In memory of Sylvia Zatal
Ilene Zatal*

BEQUEST

The Estate of M. Jay Schwarz

MATCHING GIFTS

Unilever United States Foundation, Inc.
HP Employee Charitable Giving Program

SPECIAL GIFTS

*In honor of Daniel & Lynne Van Engel
Emily S. Van Engel*

**Members of the Raymond H. Torrey Society*

Bear Mountain Trail University Faculty

(as of February 2006)

Lester Kenway, Trail Services, LLC. Kenway's trail stewardship experience dates back three decades. He began as a trail crew leader in Maine and rose to trails supervisor of Baxter State Park, a position he held for 22 years. During that time, he pioneered a number of trail-building techniques that enabled crews to work with far more efficiency and much less impact. These techniques have become standard practice around the country. He currently serves as program coordinator for the Maine Conservation Corps.

Peter Jensen, Peter Jensen and Associates, LLC. Jensen started building trails with the AMC White Mountain Trail Crews in the mid 1970s. Since then he has managed the southern New England AMC trails program and for more than

15 years has worked as an independent trail contractor. Peter is the chief designer of the planned AT on Bear Mountain.

Eddie Walsh, Trail Projects Coordinator, NY/NJ Trail Conference. Walsh entered the trail world as a maintainer with the NY/NJ TC. Since 1993 he has worked extensively on trail projects with the Adirondack Mountain Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, Green Mountain Club, Maine Appalachian Mountain Club, and on the AT in the Smokies. He supervised the Twin Forts Steps Project, Popolopen Creek Bridge, Southfields furnace bridge, and Wappinger Greenway Trail Projects for the TC.

Larry Wheelock, Trails Director, NY/NJ Trail Conference. Starting as a volunteer with the West Hudson Trail Crew, Wheelock worked his way up the trail ranks, coordinating wilderness projects for the Sierra Club, leading trail crews in the Trail Conference region, and eventually into his current position with the Trail Conference.

Chris Ezzo, West Hudson Trail Crew Chief. Ezzo started trail work as a volunteer for TC crews as well as for ADK. A couple of years ago, Chris took on crew chief of the West Hudson Crew and has lead that group into one exciting project after another, including being major players in the Popolopen Bridge project and staying on top of the daunting task of repairing trails in Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park.

COMPANY'S COMING

continued from page 1

for a particular function. Later we will put out a call for people to help during the conference such as hike leaders and people to staff the registration and hospitality tables.

Although it is 13 months before the conference, it is not too early to think of getting the trails ready for those 1,000 guests. Blowdowns can happen anytime, but fixing up blazes takes time, and we would like every blaze on the AT to be freshened up. All trails that will be used for hikes need the same treatment.

For an opportunity to meet more of your fellow hikers and have fun in the process, consider helping when company comes to our region in July 2007. If anyone has more questions or would like someone to speak to their club about this event, please contact me at (914) 245-1250 or via email jdhiker@optonline.net.



FAVORITE HIKE



By Peter Beck

Coventry Pond Trail, Delaware Water Gap



PETER BECK

You'll enjoy a variety of natural and historical features on this easy short walk from the Millbrook Village Visitor Center. The route parallels VanCampens Brook, passes old stone walls, old roads, overgrown fields, varied flora, oaks, and spruce with the small Coventry Pond as the destination. Visit Millbrook Village, a recreation of a late-19th century rural community before or after your walk.

The beginning of the Coventry Pond Trail parallels VanCampens Brook, which is a clear, fast-running trout stream with several rapids and falls; very photographic. The trail follows the course of a dirt road built in the 1960s as part of the land preparation to build a house by George J. Busch, who also owned the Watergate Recreation Area. A few hundred feet after the gate, another old road heads off to your right; this is the driveway to an old home site and dead ends.



PETER BECK

History and nature mix on a walk to Coventry Pond. Top: Garris Mill.

Continuing, you will come to a seriously eroded area in the trail, the result of heavy rains in the spring 2005 that caused the stream to jump its banks. A little further along you will come to a log bridge over the stream. Look to the right of the stream and see the rocks and boulders moved by the force of the water. The rock pile along the stream bank was put there by the trail crew to keep the stream in its banks. Further along on the left you will see a clump of spruce trees and another old road, which once provided access to open fields.

Note, as you walk, the different types of stone walls. Some were built as field fences, some act as property boundary lines, some

are just piles of rocks cleared from field or road.

As you continue the trail will turn to the right, and on your left you will see an unnamed stream that feeds into VanCampens Brook. When you reach a grassy field, look on your left for a couple of poles in the grass and a herd path. This path will take you to Coventry Pond, which is a birder's delight owing to the surrounding wetlands.

If you walk the embankment to the left you will come to an outlet of the pond that is crossable. Continuing to the bulrushes will get you to a second pond. If you go around the pond to the right you will come to the primary outlet. Below this outlet is a marshy area with bulrushes. This is the source of water for the stream under the log bridge that you crossed in the beginning of the walk. Retrace your steps for your return route.

Length: About 2 miles round trip

Rating: Easy

Watch Out For: Ticks, bears, hunters, etc.

How To Get There: Take I-80 West in NJ to exit #1, the last exit in NJ. At the exit ramp stop sign, go right onto Old Mine Road for 12 miles to the intersection of Mine Road & Millbrook Road (CR602). Park at the visitor center, which is directly in front of you. Walk up Millbrook Road to cross VanCampens Brook, and go past Garris Mill until you come to a woods road with a gate on your left. The sign identifying this as Coventry Pond Trail is on the right just past the gate.

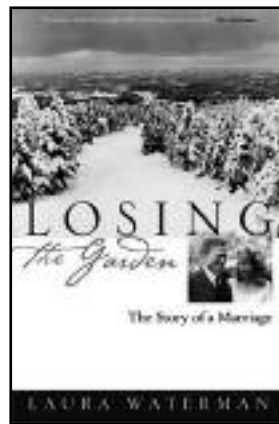
Resources: Maps: USGS: Millbrook, 1992, available on the web at <http://terraserver.microsoft.com>
Longitude -74.95238, Latitude 41.07965

NY/NJTC #16
(trail and pond not shown)

DWGNRA map - <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/parks/dewa/ppMaps/DEWAmapping1%2Epdf>

Learn about Millbrook village at www.nps.gov/dewa/InDepth/Spawning/stoCASH.html

BOOKNOTES



Losing the Garden: The Story of a Marriage

By Laura Waterman
Shoemaker & Hoard, 2005
Reviewed by Elizabeth Kelly

Laura and Guy Waterman are well known in the hiking community as coauthors of a number of hiking classics, including *Forest & Crag: A History of Hiking Trail Blazing and Adventure in the Northeast Mountains* and *Wilderness Ethics*, and were prominent advocates for White Mountain backcountry.

Upon opening Laura Waterman's new memoir, *Losing the Garden*, many readers will be familiar with the events that she unfolds: Guy Waterman—established jazz pianist, writer, climber, and environmen-

talist—set out with his wife to live off of their far-tucked Vermont homestead, giving up such conveniences as electricity and running water—in 1971. After nearly three decades of synergistic and interdependent marriage, Guy leaves Laura and their idyllic-seeming world to die in the New Hampshire cold on the summit of Mount Lafayette in the White Mountains.

Through chapters that feel more like long conversations over many cups of coffee, Laura confides in us through progressively revealing anecdotes just how she came to support her husband's plan to commit suicide. We celebrate Laura's personal victories—such as falling in love with Guy and with climbing—and admire her tenacity and stability as she sustains a livelihood in extreme conditions on her homestead with a similarly extreme mannered companion.

Through our growing concern over her own enmeshment with her husband's decisions and self-destruction, we befriend Laura as she confronts the issues of her childhood, such as her father's alcoholism, which affected her response to Guy's ill moods. Laura's delicate and clear style, laced with compelling, imagery-filled adventures of climbing and homesteading, keeps us engrossed in the unraveling of her marriage and of the heartbreaking suicide of her husband as she struggles to find her own, autonomous perspective.

ATV'S

continued from page 5

the Trail Conference. While the proposed priority list has yet to be released, sources tell me ATV legislation didn't make the cut.

On a positive note, Commissioner Jackson did acknowledge my request, and during an upcoming DEP meeting I'll make the case for ATV legislation. I've also spoken with Director Chanda, who had been unaware of the ATV legislative proposal. He's well aware of it now, and has promised to find and send the proposal to me for comment.

While the Trail Conference is using every opportunity to advance comprehensive ATV legislation in New Jersey, ultimately we need you, our trail maintainers and hikers to make the case by writing a letter to Governor Corzine and DEP Commissioner Jackson.

Your letter should be personal. If you maintain a section of New Jersey trail, describe its location and damage caused by ATV impacts. Hikers should likewise provide a personal account of how illegal ATV use is affecting the quality of your hiking experience and compromising park resources. Enclose photos of ATVs on the trails and of damaged lands.

Urge the governor and DEP commissioner to keep ATVs out of the parks and protect our trail systems by increased enforcement and through comprehensive ATV legislation that mandates point-of-sale registration, insurance, car-size license plates, education and training, and an ATV operator's license. Tell our public officials to use a portion of the registration fees to hire additional conservation officers.

Ideally, all trail maintainers in New Jersey and hundreds of hikers would send letters. If we are to get ATVs back on the "radar screen," we need you to be one of those writers. Your letter will definitely make a difference!



Please send your letters to:

Governor Jon Corzine
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Lisa P. Jackson
Commissioner
PO Box 402
401 E. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Please send a copy to:

NY/NJ Trail Conference
ATTN: ATV Letters
156 Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202)
Mahwah, NJ 07430

HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs



The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikers are welcome subject to club regulations and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Wear hiking boots or strong, low-heeled shoes. Bring food, water, rain gear, first aid kit, and a flashlight in a backpack. Leaders have the right and responsibility to refuse anyone whom they believe cannot complete the hike or is not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are relative terms; call leader if in doubt.

More than 90 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers' Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to NY/NJ Trail Conference.

Club Codes

Only those clubs with hikes offered in this issue are listed below. Please call numbers listed to confirm.

ADK-MH	ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter	RVW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
ADK-R	ADK Ramapo Chapter	SCNJ	Sierra Club, NJ Singles Section
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	UHC	Union County Hiking Club
MCPC	Morris County Parks Commission	UOC	University Outing Club
NYR	New York Ramblers	WEC	Weis Ecology Center
OSF	Outdoor Single Friends	WTW	Woodland Trail Walkers

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference Office. The deadline for the May/June 2006 issue is March 15, 2006.

March

Saturday, March 4

UHC. Watchung Trail Maintenance, NJ. Leader: Pre-register by calling Trailside at 908-789-3670. Have fun while giving back something to the trails; great way to meet new people while learning a new skill; no experience needed. Bring water, work gloves, bag for trash, any clippers/toppers you have. 9:30 am – noon. Snow on ground or severe rain/thunderstorm cancels.

WTW. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194; call to confirm. Meet: 10 am at visitor center. Moderate 5.5 miles.

ADK-R. Horse Chock and Limekiln Mountains Adventure. Leader: call 845-354-0738 for details.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Lee Fanger, 973-376-3160. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking, across from Millburn RR station. Moderately brisk 4+ miles; 2+ hours. Boots recommended. Rain, snow, icy conditions cancel.

Sunday, March 5

IHC. Pyramid Mountain, NJ. Leader: Eck Khoon Goh, 908-790-0939. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mtn. Visitors Center, Rt. 511, Kinnelon, NJ. Brisk 4-5 miles. Along the reservoir and up to Tripod Rock. Some rocky sections and several steep ups and downs. Hiking boots required.

Wednesday, March 8

MCPC. Mahlon Dickerson, NJ. Leader: call Morris County Park Commission at 973-635-6629 for further information. Meet: 10 am at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Moderate two hours. Experience the wonders of Morris County parks; for adults. Cost: \$2.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10 am at Trailside parking on Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. 4+ miles with some rocky trails, often muddy. Steady rain cancels.

Saturday, March 11

UOC. Birding Hike, Jamaica Bay, NY. Leader: George Pitcher, 732-246-3387. Meet: 8 am at first parking lot in Johnson Park, River Rd., Piscataway, NJ. Easy, flat 2 miles around the west pond. Brunch afterwards.

WEC. Women's Hike, NJ. Leader: Sanctuary Director, Karla Risdon. Meet: 8 am at NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ; call 973-835-2160 to register. Moderately paced 3 miles; out by 11 am. Join the group for hike to some of their favorite scenic spots. Possible carpool to trailhead. Cost: \$5.

ADK-R. Bald Mountain, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: call 845-729-4046 for details.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, W. Orange, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at Bramhall Terrace parking; call for directions. Moderate pace with some rugged footing; out by 2 pm. Eastern border of reservation to western border, and on to Old Short Hills Park.

WTW. Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Hermann and Marlene Memmer, 973-267-0539; call to confirm. Meet: 10 am at Madison Hotel, Convent Station. Easy 5 miles.

ADK-MH. Cross Country Ski at Fahnestock State Park, NY. Leader: Pete McGinnis: 845-454-4428, pmcgini@aol.com. Meet: 9 am at Apple Valley Shopping Center, Rt. 55 in LaGrange to carpool.

Sunday, March 12

SCNJ. Social Hike at Jockey Hollow, NJ. Leader: Dave Ogens, Bandit29@aol.com. Meet: 10 am at parking lot next to entrance at Wick Farm, Tempe Wick Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ. Moderate 5-6 miles. See where Washington camped in beautiful Watchung Mountains; children ages 10+ and friendly dogs welcome. Lunch/hot chocolate afterwards at local restaurant. Rain/snow cancels. Cost: \$3 non-members.

WEC. Social Hike for Ages 18-30, NJ. Leader: Environmental educator Tony DiLemmo. Meet: 11 am at NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ; call 973-835-2160 to register. Moderately paced; out by about 4 pm. Spend some time outdoors, unwind, and make some new friends! Locations TBA; possible carpool to trailhead. College student discount price: \$5.

IHC. Farny Highlands, NJ. Leader: Pete Beck, 201-274-4471. Meet: 10 am at Fisherman's parking lot, Split Rock Rd., Rockaway, NJ. Moderately strenuous 6 miles. Moderate ups and downs on either Four Birds or Split Rock trails. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

UHC. Somerset Environmental Center, Basking Ridge, NJ. Leader: Bob Keller, 908-580-1778. Meet: 10 am at the center; call for directions. Enjoy a level 4-mile hike on trails and boardwalks. Rain cancels.

Thursday, March 16

UHC. Dater Mtn., Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at Johnsonstown Circle; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 7 miles on Blue Disc, Victory, and White Bar Trails.

Saturday, March 18

UOC. Scherman-Hoffman Sanctuary, Morristown, NJ. Leader: George Strauss, 732-469-2935; call for meeting place and time. About 1.5 hour moderate hike through woods, one of Washington's encampments, an ornamental garden, and along the Passaic River.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Mimi Solomon, 973-379-3910. Meet: 10 am at Tulip Springs parking lot, Brookside Ave., Millburn. 4+ miles at moderate to brisk pace; for experienced hikers. Yellow Trail up through the pine forest.

ADK-MH. Young Members Hike at Silvermine, Harriman State Park, NY. Leaders: Dave Koehler 518-851-9089 Dave.NY3@verizon.net or Janine Schwartz 516-764-2887 littlemancraig@yahoo.com. Meet: call to register by 6pm, Thursday, March 16. Starting at the site of the former ski area, we will hike sections of the LP and AT. Mileage depends on conditions with a 7 mile max. Afterwards, conditions permitting, we may hike a bit up the old ski area and slide down (bring any sled or tube you have). Young Member Group hikes are geared for those in their 20s and 30s, but open to all.

ADK-MH. Iron Mine Walk, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Bob Ellsworth, 845-876-4534 or eggbert@us.ibm.com; leave a message and will return call. Register by Wednesday, March 15. Meet: 8 am in parking lot of McDonald's on Rt. 9, Wappingers Falls. 8 moderate miles. You will need clothing appropriate for conditions along with good boots, plenty of water, snack, and a lunch.

Sunday, March 19

IHC. Elk Pen Surprise, Harriman, State Park, NY. Leader: Roy Williams, 570-828-6207. Meet: 9 am at Elk Pen parking, Arden Valley Rd., Arden, NY; Harriman State Park. Moderately strenuous 6-8 miles. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

WTW. Farny Highlands, NJ. Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 862-219-5569; call to confirm. Meet: 9:30 am at Timber Brook Lake Rd. parking. Moderate 6-7 miles on Four Birds Trail.

WEC. Highlands Trail Pancake Hike, NJ. Leader: Don Weise. Meet: 9:30 am at NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ; call 973-835-2160 to register. Fast-paced, strenuous 8 miles. Through pitch pines and over bare rock summits of the Wyonokies, hitting as many viewpoints as possible. Return to Weis just in time for their famous pancake brunch (pre-register separately for brunch). Cost: \$5 members, \$8 non-members.

ADK-R. Okey-Dokey on Wyonokie, NJ. Leader: call 201-816-9465 for details.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: MaryDell Morrison, 908-684-5175. Meet: 10 am at visitors center parking lot; \$4 per person park admission fee. Scenic 4-5 miles in this historic national park.

OSF. Ramapo Reservation, NJ. Leader: Contact Lyne Ciccarelli, 862-268-0127 (cell). Meet: 11 am; call for more info. A moderate 4+ mile hike at the Ramapo Reservation, Skyline Drive, Oakland. Bring snacks and water; lunch afterwards.

Wednesday, March 22

UHC. Lewis Morris Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 am at Sunrise Lake parking; call for directions. About 5 miles; 2 hours.

MCPC. Bamboo Brook, NJ. Leader: call Morris County Park Commission at 973-635-6629 for further information. Meet: 10 am at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Easy two hours. Experience the wonders of Morris County parks; for adults. Cost: \$2.

Saturday, March 25

WTW. Hedden Park, Dover, NJ. Leader: Hermann and Marlene Memmer, 973-267-0539; call to confirm. Meet: 10 am at Ford St. entrance of the park. Moderate 5 miles.

ADK-R. Sterling Forest/Harriman Combo, NY. Leader: call 201-3574642 for details.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature Center, Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Moderate 4-5 miles. Mixture of level walking and some elevation gain on rough terrain. Steady rain cancels.

Sunday, March 26

WEC. Bearfort Ridge, Hewitt Forest, NJ. Leader: Charlie Toole. Meet: 9:30 am at NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ; call 973-835-2160 to register. Moderately paced 4.5 miles; out by about 2:30 pm. See great views of Greenwood Lake from Bearfort Mountain; lots of brooks and wetlands. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 non-members.

IHC. Black Rock Forest, Northern Loop, NJ. Leader: Jane Egan, 973-636-0809; call before 9 pm. Meet: 9 am at Tuxedo RR station, Rt. 17, Tuxedo, NY. 7 miles. Numerous lakes, views of Schunemunk Mtn. and the Catskills. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

UHC. Cheesequake State Park, Matawan, NJ. Leader: Jay Dibble, 908-289-8813. Meet: 10 am at Garden State Parkway commuter lot, Exit 120. Brisk 4-5 miles; flat and hilly, about 2.5 hours. Suitable for strong beginners.

Wednesday, March 29

UHC. Allamuchy State Park, NJ. Leader: Jeane and Don McLellan, 908-464-6246. Meet: 10 am at Allamuchy scenic overlook on I-80E. About 5 miles; two hours. Nice level hike with a beautiful lake.

Thursday, March 30

UHC. Ramapo State Forest, Oakland. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at upper parking lot on Skyline Dr. Moderately strenuous 8 miles on the Cannonball Trail to the Hoeflerin Trail, to Ilgenstein Rock; return on Yellow Trail.

April

Saturday, April 1

UHC. Watchung Trail Maintenance. Leader: pre-register by calling Trailside Nature Center at 908-789-3670. Meet: 9:30 am – noon. Have fun giving back to the trails while meeting new people and learning a new skill; no experience needed. Bring work gloves, trash bag, clippers if you have them. Snow on ground or severe rain/thunderstorm cancels.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Joan Lepseller, 908-273-4188. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 4-5 miles with some rocky trails. Okay for strong beginners. Steady rain cancels.

OSF. PEEC, NJ. Contact: Lyne Ciccarelli, 862-268-0127 (cell). Meet at 10 am sharp in the PEEC parking area. A moderate 4-mile hike on the Tumbling Falls Trail (orange). Bring snacks and water.

Sunday, April 2

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 – DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS. Set clocks ahead 1 hour.

WEC. Social Hike for Ages 18-30, NJ. Leader: Environmental educator Tony DiLemmo; call 973-835-2160 to register. Meet: 11 am at NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ. Moderately paced; out by about 4 pm. Spend some time outdoors, unwind, and make some new friends! Locations TBA; possible carpool to trailhead. College student discount price: \$5.

IHC. Ramapo Mountain State Forest, Oakland, NJ. Leader: Susan Clark, 973-962-0926. Meet: 9 am at upper parking lot, Skyline Dr. Moderately strenuous. We'll take various trails to the castle and lake.

UHC. Ramapo Lake, Oakland, NJ. Leader: Mickey Siegel, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 am on Skyline Dr., first lot on left at bottom on hill. Casual 4-5 miles; view beautiful Ramapo Lake.

Monday, April 3

UHC. Turtle Back Rock, South Mtn. Reservation, NJ. Leader: Cherryll Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Easy; about 3 level miles.

RVW. Blackhead Mountain(3940') and possible Black Dome Mountain, Catskills. For more information call: (845) 246-8616. Meet: 8 am. Strenuous hike: 4.5 miles, 6 hours. Inclement weather date-following Monday.

Wednesday, April 5

UHC. Crosslands, Bernardsville, NJ. Leader: Bob Stanton, 908-647-3559. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. About 5 miles/2 hours on carriage roads and trails in this beautiful old estate. Visit Audubon Center en route. Lunch along Passaic River.

MCPC. Schooley's Mountain, NJ. Leader: call Morris County Park Commission at 973-635-6629 for further information. Meet: 10 am at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Moderate two hours. Experience the wonders of Morris County parks; for adults. Cost: \$2.

Saturday, April 8

WEC. Women's Hike, NJ. Leader: Sanctuary director Karla Risdon; call 973-835-2160 to register. Meet: 8 am at NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ. Moderately paced; out by 11 am. Join the group for hike to some of their favorite scenic spots. Possible carpool to trailhead. Cost: \$5.

UHC. Cheesequake State Park, Matawan, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am at first lot on left after park entrance. Moderate 4-5 miles; some hills and wet spots. Mixed terrain of pine barrens, freshwater swamp, and sandy soils. Steady rain cancels.

UHC. Lewis Morris Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Lee Ousley, 973-292-3898. Meet: 10 am at Sunrise Lake parking lot. We'll hike various marked trails past Sunrise Lake and beyond.

Sunday, April 9

WEC. Sterling Forest North on the AT, NY. Leader: Don Weise; call 973-835-2160 to register. Meet: 9:30 am at NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ; Fast-paced, strenuous 8-9 miles. One of the most diverse and challenging sections of the local AT; several climbs, Fitzgerald Falls and a scenic lake. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 non-members.

IHC. Above and Along the Hudson River. Leader: Steve Rikon, 973-962-4149. Meet: 9 am at NJ PIP Headquarters, Alpine, NJ. Moderately strenuous hike from State Line Lookout north on Long Path, descend the Giant Stairs, scramble through to Shore Trail, then to Alpine Boat Basin; shuttle required.

NYR. Bull Mine Hill, NY. Leader: Don Recklies, 718-768-9036. Meet: 8 am at Port Authority bus terminal for 8:15 Short Line bus (or meet at Monroe Park & Ride). Bull Mine Hill, then Highlands Trail south to the AT, out to Greenwood Lake Village.

Monday, April 10

UHC. Oakdale, South Mtn. Reservation, NJ. Leader: Cherryll Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Easy; about 3 level miles. Join us on our annual search for the elusive bloodroot.

RVW. Twin Mountain. (3640'), Catskills. For more information call: (845) 246-7616. Meet: 8 am. Moderately strenuous hike: 4.4 miles, 6 hours. Inclement weather date-following Monday.

Tuesday, April 11

UHC. Farny Highlands, Hibernia, NJ. Leader: Jim and Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 am at Four Birds Trail South parking lot in Hibernia; call for directions. Moderate 6-7 miles; for experienced hikers.

MCPC. Sounds of the Night Hike. Leader: call Morris County Park Commission at 973-635-6629 to register and for further information. Meet: 7 pm at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Two hours. Join us as we learn about what "goes bump in the night" in the natural world. Cost: \$3; must pre-register.

Saturday, April 15

MCPC. The Budding Forest, NJ. Leader: call Morris County Park Commission at 973-635-6629 to register and for further information. Meet: 10 am at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Take a close-up look at tree and shrub buds as well as early wildflowers; appropriate for ages 12+. Cost: \$3; must pre-register.

UHC. Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ. Leader: Lynn Gale, 973-763-7230. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Some trails, some sidewalks; travel length of Newark's beautiful gem designed by Olmsted. We may see cherry blossoms as well as herons and cormorants.

Continued on back

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UCHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate 2 hours with some ups and downs. Beautiful park with stream and lake. Steady rain cancels.

Sunday, April 16

IHC. Holiday Hike on Sterling Ridge, NY. Leader: Larry Spinner, 845-356-5219. Meet: 9:30 am at Sterling Ridge Trail parking, Rt. 17A, Tuxedo, NY. Celebrate Easter and Passover in the woods on this moderate 8-9 mile hike. Views from the fire tower; back along Sterling Lake.

UCHC. Lewis Morris Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate hike with some ups and downs and rough sections. Always fun because we never know which trails will be open or what colors they will be blazed.

OSF. Stokes State Forest, NJ. Contact: Lyne Ciccarelli, 862-268-0127 (cell). Meet: 10 am at first parking area on the left. A moderate 3-4 mile hike at Tillman Ravine, Raymondskill Falls. Bring water and lunch.

Monday, April 17

UCHC. Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ. Leader: Cherryll Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Easy; about 3 level miles. Let's hope Mother Nature is on our side and we see cherry blossoms at their peak.

RVW. Wittenberg (3780') and Cornell Mountains (3906'), Catskills. For more information call: (845) 246-8546. Meet: 8 am. Strenuous hike: 9 miles, 7 hours. Inclement weather date-following Monday.

Wednesday, April 19

UCHC. Cheesequake Park, Matawan, NJ. Leader: Ben Sterman, 201-797-0468. Meet: 10 am at first lot on left after park entrance. Easy hike with some hills, some wet spots. Pine barrens, freshwater swamp, sandy soils; many species of birds and maybe pink lady's slippers. Park ranger will join us.

MCPC. Mahlon Dickerson, NJ. Leader: call Morris County Park Commission at 973-635-6629 for further information. Meet: 10 am at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Moderately strenuous two hours. Experience the wonders of Morris County parks; for adults. Cost: \$2.

Saturday, April 22

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832; call before 9 pm. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking, across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 5 miles in little over 2 hours with one steep uphill. Rain cancels.

Sunday, April 23

IHC. Trail Maintenance on Sterling Ridge Trail. Leader: Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9 am at south end of Sterling Ridge Trail, Rt. 511, Hewitt, NJ. Come on, we need everyone's help and it's fun! Another spring clean-up; bring lunch, water, good working gloves and clippers, if you have them (or can use tools provided by the club). Moderately strenuous trail clearing; no experience needed. Rain date is Saturday, May 14.

WEC. Stairway to Heaven, Wawayanda State Park, NJ. Leader: Charlie Toole. Meet: 9:30 am at NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ; call 973-835-2160 to register. Moderately paced 4.5 miles; out by about 2:30 pm. Short, but tough – less than 3 miles, but a 1-mile, 900-foot steep climb up the AT to some of the best views in the park. Slow pace. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 non-members.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Dave Bennett, 973-701-0248. Meet: 10 am at visitor center. Moderate 4-5 miles with some level walking and some elevation gain. Steady rain cancels.

Monday, April 24

RVW. Panther Mtn. (3720'), Catskills. For more information call: (845) 876-4738. Meet: 8 am. Moderate + hike: 7 miles, 7 hours. Inclement weather date-following Monday.

Saturday, April 29

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Joan Lepseter, 908-273-4188. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature Center, Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Brisk 4-5 miles; about 2 hours with some rocky trails. Suitable for strong beginners. Steady rain cancels.

ADK-MH. Backpack Five Catskill High Peaks, April 29 – 30. Leader: Russ Faller russoutdoors@yahoo.com or 845-297-5126 (before 9:30 pm). Day 1: Hike the trail up Peekamoose (3843') and Table (3847'). Bushwhack to Lone (3721') and then to the E. Branch of the Neversink River. (Approx. 7 miles.) Day 2: Follow the fisherman's path between Slide and Cornell Mtns. Then take the trail to Cornell (3860'), Wittenberg (3780') and Woodland Valley. (7.7 mi.) Some steep sections, but excellent views. Car shuttle required. Limited to 10 in good physical condition.

Sunday, April 30

WEC. Storm King Mountain, NY. Leader: Don Weise; call 973-835-2160 to register. Meet: 9 am at NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ. Fast-paced, very strenuous 8-10 miles. Explore the northern terminus of the 150-mile Highlands Trail; Storm King towers over the Hudson River and features views of the Catskills and beyond. Cost: \$5 members, \$8 non-members.

MCPC. Blooms and Blossoms, NJ. Leader: call Morris County Park Commission at 973-635-6629 to register and for further information. Meet: 2 pm at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Join a naturalist and stroll through the swamp learning to identify spring wildflowers. Cost: free, but must pre-register.

IHC. Reeves Ramble, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Roy Williams, 570-828-6207. Meet: 9 am at Reeves Meadow Visitor Center, Seven Lakes Dr., Slootsburg, NY. Has spring arrived in Harriman State Park? Moderately strenuous; route depends on trail conditions.


UCHC. Garrett Mountain, Paterson, NJ. Leader: Walter Koenig, 973-684-5528. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Casual hike with splendid views of historic Paterson; optional lunch at Libby's Diner and visit to Paterson Falls after the hike.

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