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Connecting People With Nature

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COMPLEMENTARY NEW BOOK AND MAPS

SHOW UNSEEN KITTATINNIES AND DELAWARE WATER GAP

A new book and new maps of the Kittatinny Mountains and Delaware Water Gap together present the most detailed information ever compiled about the ample, stellar outdoor attractions of the area.

Published by the non-profit New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, both the four-map set and the 220-page book cover all the blazed trails from High Point State Park on the New Jersey-New York border near Port Jervis, NY, to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Pennsylvania, south of the Route I-80 Delaware River bridge, near Stroudsburg, PA. While they are available separately, both book and maps are entitled *Kittatinny Trails*.

The book's volunteer author, 64-year-old Robert L. Boysen of Hope, NJ, is a breast cancer survivor who has cycled both the length and breadth of the United States. He was riding an average of 7000 miles a year including while on chemotherapy, but has recently cut back to about 1500 miles per year in favor of another passion, hiking. Boysen is the Trail Chairperson of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's West Jersey region.

The *Kittatinny Trails* book includes trail maps that can be used to plan a variety of day

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hikes leading to 200-foot waterfalls, hidden swimming ponds, scenic vistas, abandoned mines, historic landmarks, and even a ghost town. The book also includes photographs, innovative charts for choosing a hike, elevation profiles showing relative steepness, and advice on where to park and how to get to the trailheads. In addition, it provides an interesting introduction to the history, geology, plants and animals of the region. When used as complement to the new *Kittatinny Trails* maps, which show the topography and more detail than the book's maps, the two products make for a dynamic duo for planning and exploring.

The new maps and book, which help to draw ecotourists and their dollars to the area, are not just used by hikers, but by mountain-bikers, cross-country skiers horseback riders, hunters and fishing enthusiasts. However, rules of use of national and state parks, and private preserved lands, apply differently to the various users. Some of these rules appear on the reverse of the map.

The waterproof, tear resistant, color map set includes such popular destinations as High Point State Park, Stokes State Forest, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Worthington State Forest. On the reverse is extensive, useful written information, some excerpted from the Trail Conference's definitive hiking guide book, the *New Jersey Walk Book*, which features a chapter on the Kittatinnies.

The new maps and book show 11 miles of new or extended trails, and three entirely new trails: Crater Lake, Hamilton Ridge and Pioneer, all in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. A total of 58 trails are profiled in the book and shown on the maps.

The Trail Conference had published another book on the region, *Hiking Guide to Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area*, last revised in 1994 and now out of print. However, this earlier book had less than half the pages of the new *Kittatinny Trails* book, much more rudimentary and less accurate maps, and no trail selection guide, elevation profiles or photographs. The new *Kittatinny Trails* maps represent the fourth edition of the map, and hadn't been substantially revised since 1997.

The volunteers of the Trail Conference maintain some 122 of the 140 miles of trails in and near the Kittatinnies, without cost to taxpayers or park users. The next trail crew workdays are Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, October 2, beginning 9 a.m. There are seven workdays following these two over the course of this Fall. For more information on the trail crew work days, call (732) 937-9098.

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Volunteer trail work can have unexpected rewards. Kittatinny trail crew chiefs Monica Resor and David Day, of Highland Park, met on a trail crew work day and were married this month.

The new *Kittatinny Trails* maps and book are part of an unprecedented flurry of publishing activity at the Trail Conference. The organization is publishing more new maps and books in a one-year span than ever before. It has or shortly will be publishing new maps for Sterling Forest, the Shawangunks, North Jersey, the Palisades and the area known as East Hudson that lies primarily in Putnam County, NY. The Trail Conference has also recently released another new book: *Hiking Long Island*.

The *Kittatinny Trails* maps, “made by the people who made the trails,” retail for \$12.95. The *Kittatinny Trails* book (ISBN 1-880775-38-7) retails for \$18.95. Both are available at many bookstores and sporting goods shops. They are also available online directly from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, at <http://www.nynjtc.org>, along with information on membership, member discounts for maps and books, and ways of volunteering. A special combination price of \$27.80 for the map and book is available for those who purchase online.

Founded in 1920, the non-profit New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, based in Mahwah, N.J., represents 100 hiking clubs and environmental organizations consisting of over 100,000 members. Run primarily by volunteers, with only a small professional staff, the Trail Conference seeks to:

- Build and maintain hiking trails using volunteers.
- Protect hiking trail lands through advocacy and land acquisition.
- Educate the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

Chances are, if you have ever used a path in the metropolitan area of New York and New Jersey, it was among more than 1,600 miles of trails built and maintained by Trail Conference volunteers.

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