Conference hires first NJ Field Representative

Expands our commitment to NJ volunteer programs and parks

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has expanded its staff with the hiring of its first-ever New Jersey Field Representative. Conference West Hudson trail crew leader Larry Wheeler was selected as the NJ Field Representative, and began work in mid-October at the four-day-a-week position.

This staffing expansion reflects the Trail Conference’s commitment to improving its presence and effectiveness in New Jersey, and to providing better assistance to our trail volunteers.

“The Trail Conference is delighted to welcome Larry as our first New Jersey staff,” remarked Conference Projects Director Anne Lutkenhouse. “The job’s inaugural year requires strong knowledge of trail work and volunteer labor issues, knowledge which Larry keenly possesses. We are confident that Larry will be an effective facilitator in furthering our mission in New Jersey.”

Larry’s key responsibilities will include coordinating a needs assessment for trails in each park, leading to developing an action plan for each park or trail system; improving trail stewardship and communications with park agencies representing the Conference at agency and colleague organization meetings; developing a broader base of member involvement; and developing a management committee for the Fanny Highlands Trail Network.

Larry, a Trail Conference life member, joined the Conference in 1986, and began trail work shortly thereafter. He has been a West Hudson trail crew leader since, and has been a West Hudson trail crew leader for the past two years.

New TC editions include hardcover for the 'Gunks


We are also proud to announce that, for the first time, the Scenes and Walks book, with its outstanding sketches of the scenic Shawangunks, will be available in a hardcover edition—a perfect Holiday gift!

Harriman Trails, which contains a detailed description of the numerous marked and unmarked trails in Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park, was last updated in 1994. Since then, there have been a few final bangs of his gavel!

His were years of incredible growth for the Trail Conference, expanding our responsibilities for hundreds of miles of trails, both north and south; building and strengthening our diverse partnerships; and introducing us to new land protection strategies. Such a transition in leadership will be difficult enough, but our long time executive director extraordinaire, JoAnn Dolan, is also leaving us in the hands of new leadership.

Conference Præsident Gary Haugland

Hiking into the new millennium

by Gary Haugland

When you read this I will have assumed the title of President of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. This is an incredible privilege, one that I could not have foreseen as I began my volunteer work some fifteen years ago when I represented the New York Section of the Green Mountain Club on the Orange-Rockland Appalachian Trail Management Committee and became a trail corridor monitor.

Since, at that time, Elizabeth Levers chaired the committee, I was introduced to the many facets of trail work by a volunteer without peer. Tirelessly and relentlessly she pursued whatever had to be done to keep the AT experience intact. She organized work trips and, slight as she was physically, lugged the tools and hardware and bags of cement with everyone else — and returned to plant saplings when the work was done. She wrote an endless stream of letters, of thanks and of protest, and got people to do her bidding without making them feel “used.” You see, it was not about her. We were not doing anything for her. It was all for the trail and for the Trail Conference and for hikers everywhere. She was a great mentor to a lot of people, myself included.

I stand before you at a crucial juncture in the history of the Trail Conference. Neil Zimmerman has decided to step aside as president after 12 years — though not without a few final bangs of his gavel!

For a seasonal hike to celebrate this time of year for expansive views, see page 3.

For a seasonal hike to celebrate this time of year for expansive views, see page 3.

For details, see page 3

From the President’s Notepad

HOLIDAY SEASON.

Help celebrate her 19 years of service and contribute to a special fund for trail stewardship. For details, see page 3.

WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

For a seasonal hike to celebrate this time of year for expansive views, see page 3.

Learning to walk by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Extraordinary JoAnn Dolan is also leaving us in the hands of new leadership. For details, see page 3.

For details, see page 3.
High Praise Indeed

I received my September/October issue of the Trail Walker a few days ago, and just had to write to let you know how great it looks! Every change – from the paper to the typeface to the layout – is a huge improvement. Congratulations on making a great publication even better, and best of luck to you as you lead the Trail Walker into the twenty-first century.

Alice Tufel
New York, NY

Alice Tufel is a former editor of the Trail Walker. Thank you, Alice.

A Note of Appreciation

I love walking and the beauty and wonder of nature. But I belong to very few organizations, I am definitely not a “joiner.”

A few years ago I discovered your books and really got into hiking. I also felt moved to join. I haven’t been disappointed. You are a class operation. It’s felt moved to join. I haven’t been disappointed. You are a class operation. It’s a wonder of nature. But I belong to very few organizations. I am definitely not a “joiner.”

Jennifer Suero
Karl Zimmerman's honors included a bid of good-natured roasting, led by Master of Ceremonies Christopher (Kim) Ellerman, former president of the Open Space Institute. Neil Woodworth and Jo Benton, Counsel and Executive Director, respectively, of the Adirondack Mountain Club, presented Neil with club outerwear. Palisades Interstate Park Commission Deputy Director Kenneth Kiesler conveyed congratulatory letters from both NY Governor George Pataki and NJ Governor Christine Whitman, saluting Neil’s leadership of the Trail Conference.

In late September, 240 Conference members and friends gathered at Bear Mountain to celebrate our trails heritage and to honor outgoing Conference President Neil Zimmerman’s 12 years of leadership.

Honoring Neil Zimmerman

All photos by Dan D’Emico

Karl Board, New York Projects Director for the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, presented the most appropriate “leaving” gift of the evening - he aptly gave Neil “the boot,” a well-worn hiking boot gilded for the special occasion. On a more serious note, Karl also presented Neil with the National Park Service’s “Conservation Hero” award.

Card Wh., Executive Director of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, welcomed all to Bear Mountain, reminding us that the Trail Conference began here in 1920. Then-Trail Conference VP Gary Haugland presented Neil with an original pen and ink sketch by Jack Fagan, author and artist of Scenes and Walks in the Northern Shawangunks, and a Congressional citation from Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-20th). In his remarks, Neil recalled that the seeds of his Trail Conference service were sown in 1974 when he won a car in a raffle. To make use of it, he left Manhattan on weekends and “discovered” hiking in the wild lands of New York and New Jersey. The rest, he said, is history, but he did admonish all to “be careful if you win a car in a raffle!”

In late September, 240 Conference members and friends gathered at Bear Mountain to celebrate our trails heritage and to honor outgoing Conference President Neil Zimmerman’s 12 years of leadership.
When the leaves have dropped to the earth, the whole new world of vistas unfold for the hiker, revealing scenes previously hidden by the leafy guise of greenery. To avail of the season, may we suggest the following hike in Putnam County’s Clear Lake Scout Reservation. The seasonal ridge-top views of the lake and hills complement the rolling terrain and stone-fence-lined old woods roads, their contours depressed by the weight of countless heavily loaded wagons. The route is also great for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Hiking in Clear Lake Scout Reservation is particularly nice in the leaf-off season when views are more open. Proceeding into the southeastern section of Fahnestock State Park, the camp is owned by the Westminster-Putnam Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Under terms of a conservation easement, only the northern and western parts of the reservation are open to the public for hiking. Hikers must stay away from the area used by the scouts near Clear Lake. Pertinent intersections are clearly marked with signs saying: STOP – NO PUBLIC ACCESS. The area is not open to pets or bicycles. Bushwhacking is also prohibited. Most of the major intersections have maps of the area posted on large signs.

This 6.4-mile hiking circuit — following blue blazes, then white/blue blazes, then white blazes — begins in the southern portion of Fahnestock State Park, at the junction of Bell Hollow and Sunk Mine roads, where there is limited parking. See Trail Conference map #3, grid E-3. Please note: Sunk Mine Road is a rough, unmaintained road and is not plowed during the winter.

About 300 yards south of Bell Hollow woods road along Sunk Mine Road, the Blue Trail turns off to the right (north) from the Candlewood Hill Trail (red); it proceeds along a woods road for 0.2 mile and then turns sharply left off the road just before a gate. The trail climbs steadily until it reaches the ridge-top at 0.6 mile, where there is a wide, but seasonal, view.

At 1.0 mile there is an open view of Clear Lake below. Continue on the Blue Trail straight ahead. You pass one end of the Purple Trail at 1.5 miles. The junction with the Green Trail, which leaves the Clear Lake property almost immediately and proceeds left (north) into Fahnestock to connect with the Three Lakes Trail, is at 1.9 miles. From here, the Blue Trail follows a woods road heading south. You’ll pass the White Trail branching off to the left at 2.1 miles, and the other end of the Purple Trail on the right at 2.4 miles. Shortly after crossing a stream, the start of the Blue Trail which is open to the public ends at the junction of the Blue-White Trail at 2.6 miles. Turn left onto the Blue-White Trail. At its end, at 2.9 miles, turn left onto the White Trail and continue until it ends at the Blue Trail, at 4.5 miles from the hike’s beginning. Turn right onto the Blue Trail, and retrace your route along the ridge top southward to your car.

**Helpful Hiking Hints**

- You always need water when hiking. Take at least a liter and drink it as you go!
- Snacks help to keep your energy level up.
- It’s always a good idea to let someone know where you are going to hike, and when you expect to be back. Smart hikers do this no matter where they go.
- This trail is a footpath only – no bikes or horses.
- Sturdy, comfortable shoes which are broken in to your feet are best.

- Remember to bring clothes for all possible weather conditions forecast for that day. Being able to add, or subtract, clothing layers makes your journey much more comfortable.
- Now that autumn is here, daylight comes sooner – so start hiking in the morning, and take a flashlight just in case.
Extending my Trail Conference experience

The turn of the century—and certainly the millennium—brings about a desire to envision the future. What we know for certain is that in the next century, land will become precious, and that pressures on that land will intensify as populations grow. The Trail Conference's widespread trail network serves as an early warning system, alerting us to the destruction of wild places and to the opportunities to preserve these “oases of sanity” before it is too late. The Trail Conference is preparing for the challenges of this new century and in the Conference tradition along with your support, it will uphold our trail legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Many of you have asked about my reasons for leaving the Trail Conference, knowing that this organization has been such an important part of my life. Actually, I am envisioning my personal future work as a natural extension of my past Trail Conference experience.

Before I married my husband, Paul, he was a Conference volunteer and introduced me to the organization. I began volunteering as well, and then served as Executive Director twice over the past 19 years—first in 1980-85 and then again in 1991 until now, with part-time consulting in between.

Raising three children while serving as Executive Director has been a juggling act that all parents perform. In my case, my oldest son, Jamie, now 14, went into Sterling Forest since he was five months old. Peter, 11, accompanied me to hear Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt speak about saving the Torrey Memorial and Sterling Forest, and Thomas Sterling, 9, was five months old. Peter, 11, accompanied me to hear Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt speak about saving the Torrey Memorial and Sterling Forest, and Thomas Sterling, 9, accompanied me to hear Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt speak about saving the Torrey Memorial and Sterling Forest, and Thomas Sterling, 9, joined the other two to climb Long Mountain to the Torrey Memorial and cut ribbons at trail openings. I have been privileged to work with a very supportive Board of Directors, including two outstanding presidents, Don Derr and Neil Lieberman, now coming in twice a week. Paul and me to begin putting much thought into planning the next stage of Sterling Forest—with a focus on using the Sterling Forest landscape for a dynamic blend of field science and the arts. Working with others, like the Sterling Forest Partnership, there are tremendous programs already beginning. Using the great natural resources of the 15,000-acre park and the Appalachian and Highland Trails that run through the forest, a vision of Appalachian Trail founder Benton MacKaye's can become reality.

MacKaye envisioned 15 centers along the trail that would be a source of community life—places for recreation, recuperation and study. The communities served by Sterling Forest include the towns adjacent to the Park, as well as the greater metropolitan region. Only an hour away from the most important biological link in a major greenway lie many of the major science and art institutions in the country, with master teachers in their chosen fields.

For the first six months of the new millennium I plan to work with many groups on developing a strategic plan for educational programs at Sterling using the facilities at Arrow Park, the northern gateway to the Forest. Through creative and enriching programs, we hope to connect many more people to the larger landscape, and to engage people both young and old in the wonders of learning in the field. This next project builds on the opportunities I have had at the Trail Conference, and I welcome any ideas and support to make this next dream a reality.

I could not leave without a heartfelt thank you to so many. I have been privileged to work with a very supportive Board of Directors, including two outstanding presidents, Don Derr and Neil Lieberman. It has been a pleasure teaming with our small talented staff, who are crucial to the organization. I especially thank Projects Director, Anne Lutkenhouse, who has served the Conference for 13 years; Administrative Director, Judith Fulmer; and Trail Lands Coordinator, John Myers. The hundreds of volunteers who are the Trail Conference have been a constant source of inspiration and direction, and I am grateful for their friendship and advice. Office volunteers—like Paul Leiken, devoting one day a week for over 15 years, and Fred Lieberman, now coming in twice a week—have been like family. I will miss you all. To my colleagues from other organizations, and to state and federal agency partners, my sincerest thanks for the fun of conspiring to succeed. And thank you to all our funders who have placed their trust in the Trail Conference.

—JoAnn Dolan
Catatillo trails available
Want to be a trail maintainer in our NYS Forest Preserve? Some trails are now available for new maintainers. For information, contact Catskill Trails Chairman Pete Senterman in care of the Trail Conference office, or at psenterman@pirnie.com.

Long Path maintenance sections available
Want to be a Long Path trail maintainer? Some sections are available in Rockland County, NY. For more information, contact Long Path supervisor George Zobedel in care of the Trail Conference office.

Office Volunteer Help Wanted
Have you got time to spare? Come spend it with us! We have all kinds of office tasks that need doing, from special projects to stamping envelopes. We’ll find just the right job for your talents. Meet lots of people, have a cup of tea, and feel good! CALL THE OFFICE AT 212-685-9699 AND ASK FOR JUDITH.

TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES

HIGHLANDS TRAIL-NEW JERSEY
What & Where: Trail rehabilitation and erosion control on the Highlands Trail.
When: Sunday, November 7.
Leader: Bob Marshall, 914-737-4792.

HARRIMAN STATE PARK #1
What & Where: Trail rehabilitation and erosion control on the Arteln-Sheeridge Trail.
When: Thursday, November 18.
Leader: Bob Marshall, 914-737-4792.

HARRIMAN STATE PARK #2
What & Where: Trail rehabilitation and erosion control on the Timp-Toole Trail.
When: Sunday, November 28.
Leader: Bob Marshall, 914-737-4792.

Storm King State Park
Note: As of press time, it was not known when Storm King State Park would re-open after clean-up of ordnance. The following worktrips may be canceled if public access is still closed. Call the crew leader for the latest on status of these work outings.

What & Where: Trail rehabilitation and erosion control on a new trail.
When: Sundays, November 14 and 21.
Leader: Larry Wheelock, 977-823-0166.

Minnewaska State Park Preserve programs
Hike on the old Smiley Road. Saturday, November 27, 10 a.m. Come find out how our northeastern ecosystem is equipped to handle the rigors of winter. Explore newly revealed signs of nature and investigate how plants and animals deal with the incoming months of cold on this easy 2.5-mile hike. Meet Anna Niedzelski at the Nature Center. Minnewaska is located on Route 44/55, 5 miles west of the intersection with Route 209, near New Paltz, NY. Park Preserve Phone: 914-255-0732. Education Office Phone: 914-255-2011.

When: Sunday, November 7.
Leader: Bob Marshall, 914-737-4792.

Minnewaska #2: Hariman State Park #1
What & Where: Trail rehabilitation and erosion control on the Sheeridge-Arden Bridge Trail.
When: Thursday, November 18.
Leader: Bob Marshall, 914-737-4792.

Minnewaska State Park Preserve programs
What Happens in Winter? November 27, 10 a.m. Come find out how our northeastern ecosystem is equipped to handle the rigors of winter. Explore newly revealed signs of nature and investigate how plants and animals deal with the incoming months of cold on this easy 2.5-mile hike. Meet Anna Niedzelski at the Nature Center. Minnewaska is located on Route 44/55, 5 miles west of the intersection with Route 209, near New Paltz, NY. Park Preserve Phone: 914-255-0732. Education Office Phone: 914-255-2011.

Get Involved

Trail News

Route 23A closed
Catskill Trails Committee chairman Pete Senterman reports that Route 23A between Palenville and Haines Falls is now closed to all traffic. See the Conference’s Catskill trail map #41, grids O/P-3/4.

Todd Hole bridge out
The footbridge over Pepsipan Creek at Todd Hole was washed out as a result of Tropical Storm Floyd, interrupting access to the Torm from south of the creek. As of press time we have no timetable from the Palisades Interstate Park for its replacement.

Trail Walker November/December 1999
The Capture of Forts Clinton and Montgomery and the 1777 Trail

On the morning of October 6, 1777, under the cover of dense fog, 2,500 British regulars, Hessian Jagers, and New York Loyalists crossed over the Hudson River from Verplanck Point to Stony Point, marched 2 miles inland, and turned north towards Dunderberg for a 12-mile march to the twin forts of Clinton and Montgomery. Assisted by the local knowledge of the Loyalist Beverley Robinson, British General Sir Henry Clinton was executing a brilliant tactical move that would catch the Americans off guard, in an attempt to take the pressure off the extended British General John Burgoyne at Saratoga. The initial landing at Verplanck Point led the Americans, commanded by General Israel Putnam, to believe that Fort Independence above Peekskill was the British immediate objective. This left the twin Highland Forts of Clinton and Montgomery in jeopardy. The forts, situated on the south and north banks of the Popolopen Creek, across the Hudson River from Anthony’s Nose, were lightly defended by some 600 men. In the late afternoon, after a ten-mile slog, along what is now the 1777 Trail, between Dunderberg, Timp Tobe and Bear Mountain in the Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park, the British troops simultaneously overwhelmed the two forts.

By next day, the British had burned the stranded American vessels guarding the Hudson Highlands Narrows and destroyed an iron chain, boom, and chevaux de frise that had served as a river barrier, opening the upper Hudson River to British vessels. Fortunately for the Americans, other than sending a raiding party up the river which burned the state capital of Kingston, Sir Henry Clinton did not exploit this opening and ten days later General Burgoyne surrendered to General Gates at Saratoga. After twenty days, on the orders of British Commander-in-Chief General Sir William Howe, the forts were evacuated and British troops returned to New York City, so the victory was for naught.

Construction of the 1777 Trail

The Revolutionary War trails involved in the above historic events were first scooted and blazed in 1974-75 as a joint project of the Rockland County Boy Scouts Council, the Palisades Interstate Park, the Rockland County Cooperative Extension, and the Trail Conference. The route was determined by Jack Mead, Director of the Trailside Museum on the site of Fort Clinton, from British military records and maps drawn by Major Robert Esenwine, Surveyor General of the Continental Army. The first hike was on March 27, 1975, and was led by Brad Bobb, Captain of the Shore Guard, Orange County Militia, and John Walker of the 42nd Black Watch British Infantry Regiment.

For a full description of the 1777 Trail, see the New York Walk Book or the Harriman Trails Guide. —Tony Cundell
by Bob McElroy

Two free spirits proceed afoot into the wild hills and straddle the precarious woman’s land between folly and legitimate enterprise; an account of a Catskill 3500 Club aspirant’s successful blitz of the summits*

* Club qualification requires climbing the 35
Club aspirant’s successful blitz of the summits

“Just as I climbed more than a quarter of your summer peaks today. What if you could finish the other 25 in four more hiking days? Think about it. No aspirant has ever come within months of doing that.”

It was the summer of ’95, I was talking to my friend and 3500 Club hopeful, Chris Adams. Chris, a classically-trained musician and leader of a blues band, house builder, furniture maker, sailor, lover of wild places, and the most upbeat guy I ever knew, considered the idea for less than a second before jumping at it like a hungry trout.

For fun that day we had strode over nine 3500ers: Slide, Cornell, The Wittenberg Friday, Balsam Cap, Rocky, Lone, Perkamoose, and Table. The hike, with another 3500er added each year, is an annual ritual. This unusual behavior has spawned critics who consider us unresponsive to mountain beauty—two irreverent boors intent only in “scoring” points. We concede “irreverent” but emphatically deny that we are proaching arrogance, we set our sights on Bearpen, Vly, Thomas Cole, Black Dome, Black Head, Windham, and Kaaterskill High Peaks. High-spirited cries echoed for miles as we occasionally whooped with joy. (And for the sheer YAY-HOO! of it.) It was another day of car and bike moves. “Piece of cake,” we agreed at day’s end, shamelessly distorting reality.

Regardless of our earlier brashness, the final leg would be a stretch. The altitude gain alone was intimidating. To finish the game in style we would have to climb Rusk, Hunter, Southwest Hunter, Plateau, Sugarloaf, Twin, and Indian Head. And as feared, it WAS tough. We plodded up the switchbacks east of Stock Clove Notch with an unspeakable perception: we might not pull this off. Thunder and lightning spurred us along the heights. Finally and mercifully, Jimmy Dolan Notch, Only Indian Head to go.

“Why are we doing this, Chris?” I asked, as we limped up the side of the last mountain. His smiling answer: “Bob, look me in the eye and tell me you don’t love it.” *Disclaimer: Chris and Bob caution against trying this project without a doctor’s permission if you’re over 85.*

Our Members

▶ Our heartfelt thanks to Elke Dochterman for her gorgeous graphic designs of several publications. Elke designed a more visually compelling format for our Highlands Trail brochure, a format which will allow us to incorporate into the package the new sections of the Trail as they open. Elke also designed the program, on very short notice, for outgoing Board President Neil Zimmerman’s retirement dinner. And she contributed some thought-provoking advertisements for the Trail Conference to use in various media. Thank you so much, Elke.

▶ We also extend our deep appreciation to Dan D’Errico for all of his professional photography services. Dan cheerfully accepts our requests to document Conference events of all shapes and sizes. In August, he was up at the crack of dawn to join us with Jacques d’Ambrose—only Dan was dancing around people instead of to the music! We kept him out late one Sunday night to record festivities of outgoing Board President Neil Zimmerman’s retirement dinner. Thank you again, Dan.

▶ Warmest greetings to Ken Lloyd, a long-time, dedicated Appalachian Trail maintainer in New Jersey with the Woodland Trail Walkers. Ken’s health has prevented him from continuing his beloved trail maintenance activities. Ken, we miss you on the trails but know you are “out there” in spirit with us.

▶ Flat Rock Brook Nature Center in Englewood, NJ has a series of autumn programs to enjoy this November. Every Wednesday morning there is a Fall Stroll for Seniors, about one hour long and a mile in length. Every Tuesday evening (weather permitting) there is a two-to-three-mile-long Sunset Hiking Series for adults, targeted for beginners. All programs are free to Flat Rock Brook members, $3 for non-members. For more information, call Flat Rock at 201-567-1283.

▶ Flat Rock Brook Nature Center is sponsoring a 16-hour SOLO Wilderness First Aid course in New York City on Sundays, December 12 and 19. The course, not generally offered in NYC, costs $99, plus $20 for lunch and snacks. For details, visit their website at www.anschechesed.org/Pages/Outings/wfa.htm, or contact Michael Brochstein at Michael_Brochstein@MBAsystems.com.

▶ The Appalachian Mountain Club has a wonderful web database detailing the current efforts of the nationwide conservation community to revive Congressional budget appropriations for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Trail Conference is one of many organizations which have banded together to support full funding of this important program. Visit the website at www.outdoors.org to learn how you can generate congressional support for the Fund, so that it can help preserve open space such as the NY-NJ Highlands.

▶ The Mosaic Outdoor Mountain Club is sponsoring a 16-hour SOLO Wilderness First Aid course in New York City on Sundays, December 12 and 19. The course, not generally offered in NYC, costs $99, plus $20 for lunch and snacks. For details, visit the website at www.anschechesed.org/Pages/Outings/wfa.htm, or contact Michael Brochstein at Michael_Brochstein@MBAsystems.com.

▶ The Appalachian Outdoor Mountain Club is one of many organizations which have banded together to support full funding of this important program. Visit the website at www.outdoors.org to learn how you can generate congressional support for the Fund, so that it can help preserve open space such as the NY-NJ Highlands.
New York and New Jersey have announced their hunting schedules for large game, and times when firearms are permitted. We strongly urge hikers to wear safety orange clothing during these times. Dates listed are inclusive.

**NEW YORK:** Southern Zone (including Catskills)

**Deer Season**
- Archery: Oct. 2 - Nov. 27
- Firearms: Dec. 6 - Jan. 29, 2000
- Muzzleloader: Nov. 29 - Jan. 21, 2000

**Special High Point State Park Season:**
- Nov. 15 - 24

**Coyote Season**
- Jan. 29, 2000 - Feb. 14

Most of Ramapo Mountain State Forest is closed to hunting. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays in New Jersey. For more information about New Jersey hunting schedules, call 908-735-7040 or 609-292-6685.

Black Rock Forest closes to hikers from November 22 - December 14, including that portion of the Highlands Trail in the Forest. For denial, call 914-534-4517. For more information about New York hunting schedules, call the Office of Parks & Recreation, 518-474-0456, or the hunting, fishing and game licensing/sales office, 518-457-3521.

**NEW JERSEY**

**Deer Season**
- Archery: Oct. 15 - Nov. 21; Dec. 15 - 19
- Firearms: Oct. 15 - Nov. 21; Dec. 15 - 19
- Muzzleloader: Dec. 15 - 21

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park. However, it is allowed in parts of Storm King, Minnewaska and Sterling Forest State Parks. Contact 914-786-2701 for more details about hunting in these parks.

**Muzzleloader:**
- Nov. 29 - Jan. 21, 2000
- Nov. 15 - 24

**Firearms:**
- Dec. 6 - Jan. 29, 2000
- Nov. 6 - Dec. 14

**Archery, Westchester Co. only:**
- Oct. 2 - Nov. 21; Dec. 15 - 19

**Shawangunk:**
- Nov. 1 - Dec. 31

**Hunting Schedules**
- Nov. 22 - December 14, including that portion of the Highlands Trail in the Forest.
- For details, call 914-534-4517.
Winterwise — A Backpacker’s Guide

Reviewed by Roger Williamson

So, you just got back from a summer hike. And, aside from the bugs, the DEET, the heat, and the crowds of people, you had a great time.

So how about a winter hike? No bugs, no heat, no DEET, and no people. But, winter hiking and backpacking is a bit more involved than three-season stuff. Make a mistake in the winter and it is much more likely to be dangerous or even fatal. So how do you get started winter hiking? A good first step would be to read Winterwise — A Backpacker’s Guide. A great book for both beginners and experienced hikers alike, this book conveys the basic knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in cold weather.

As the author points out, the French mountaineers have a saying, “The mountain is there tomorrow.” This is a good basic primer, written with subtle humor, and is a great addition to any outdoor library.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDS

Applications now available for the Elizabeth Levers Memorial Fund for youth projects

Earlier this year, Elizabeth and Gary Tallman, co-founders of Elizabeth Levers, established the Elizabeth Levers Memorial Fund with a gift of $10,000, as a tribute to Liz Levers’ deep interest in nurturing the next generation of trail workers and environmentalists. (See July/August 1999 Trail Walker for announcement.) The Tallmans’ hope is that this memorial fund helps Liz’s work to continue.

Recently the Trail Conference received two large additions to that fund, with a gift of $4,000 from Ken Lloyd, and $1,000 from Thomas Joyce. Combined with other smaller gifts, the Levers Fund has grown to $16,100. This funding can go a long way to support a variety of youth participation projects.

This fund provides the means to encourage the involvement of young people in trail work. By making the effort to involve youth, the Trail Conference can pave the way for active volunteer commitment in the future as well as offering a positive experience that will make them life-long supporters of our trail lands.

Trail Walker November/December 1999
Annual autumnal membership meeting

More than 100 people attended the Conference’s Annual Meeting in mid-October. This year’s event took place at the Alpine, NJ, boat basin pavilion, on the shores of the Hudson River on the NJ Palisades. At the brief business meeting, Conference members and member club delegates elected New Jerseyans Paul Bell, a banker, John Gunzler, a businessman, and William Mishler, a controller; and Malcolm Spector, an attorney from Manhattan, to the Board for three-year terms. During a special focus session on TC member clubs and organizations, 8 presidents highlighted their group’s activities. To round out the day’s events, after the meeting attendees hiked along the Long Path and Shore Trail in the glorious afternoon autumnal sunshine.

Change of Address?
If you are moving or have recently changed your address, please provide the information requested below in the Trail Conference office, in order to ensure that you continue to receive your Trail Walker and other important mail.

Name: ________________________________
OLD Address: ___________________________
City/State/Zip: ___________________________

NEW Address: ___________________________
City/State/Zip: ___________________________

NEW Phone (day)______________________ (eve)____________________

Mail completed form to: NY-NJ Trail Conference, 232 Madison Ave., Room 802, New York, NY 10016

We must also change with the times. I am dedicated to introducing the joys of hiking trails and the work of protecting them to the increasingly diverse populations living in New Jersey and New York. I am dedicated to developing rewarding trails for persons whose mobility is compromised. And I am dedicated to a more constructive dialogue with other trail user groups.

Hiking into the New Millennium continued from the front page

Rockland County legislator Harriet Cornell, seen here flanked by outgoing and incoming TC presidents, received a Trail Conference Trail Partner Award for her "outstanding contributions to the development and protection of the Long Path in Rockland County and her role in protecting Sterling Forest." "Susan Gerhardt, volunteer trail supervisor for Minnewaska State Park Preserve; office volunteer Fred Liberman; George Cartam, AMC’s West Hudson trails supervisor; and trail crew members Bob Reed and Harry Smith received William Hofheinz awards of appreciation. Leo Rothschild Conservation Awards were given to John Gabbard, Executive Director of Sterling Forest Partnership, for his contributions to the preservation of Sterling Forest and the Appalachian Trail corridor, and to Robert Angus, an attorney who serves as TC legal adviser and volunteer for trail lands protection projects. Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation received a Corporate Partner Award for its role with the Trail Conference's future plans for the future.

For 5 years and has served as an assistant leader on Sierra Club worktrips in the West. He also graduated from the Student Conservation Association’s Wilderness Work Skills training, a week-long course in high-caliber trail building and repair skills. For the past two summers, he has been the seasonal trail crew leader for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, working closely with both National, State, and Park service officials.

The Trail Conference will not have an office in New Jersey, at least for this year; Larry will work out of his home in Vernon, NJ. To reach him, write to Larry Wheelock, NJ Field Representative, PO Box 1849, McAfee, NJ 07434, or call 973-823-9999. (See Change of Address.)

Hunting is a passion. In an impromptu advocacy speech, she highlighted the increase in the number of hunters and the impact this has on the environment. She also discussed the challenges faced by hunter safety programs, particularly in rural areas. The audience was encouraged to continue their support of the hunting community.

There are many challenges ahead: — taking care of the old trails, building new ones, and insuring that they will be available when your grandchild takes his or her first hike. We will continue our tradition of producing the best hiking maps and user-friendly guidebooks for this region. I am dedicated to supporting our member clubs, and especially the individual volunteers who do such a great job of maintaining our network of trails. And I am dedicated to strengthening our existing partnerships with parks, land trusts, and environmental organizations, and forging new ones to further our mutual goals.

There are many challenges ahead: — building more trails, more bridges, and better maintenance.

Welcome to everyone who is starting to hike this coming season. May your trails be well marked, the weather pleasant, and your spirits high. Enjoy the beauty of nature and the peace of the trails.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at my office in New Jersey, at least for this summer.

Here's hoping that the only Y2K bug you have to contend with is the one that makes you itch to take a hike in the New Century.
NEW HC BOOKS
continued from the front page

HIKERS’ ALMANAC
continued from back cover

DECEMBER
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12
NYHC Stone Arabia Hours and Woods. Leader: Debra Button-Safford, 718-270-1285, 7 pm. Meet: 7:15 pm, Spring Street railroad underpass near 54th Street. Trailhead begins just beyond the underpass. Bring water, wear travel shoes. Ringing Rocks will be remembered.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16
FVTW. AT in Otisville. Leader: Bill Mooney, 360-692-8085. Meet: 7:30 am, to arrive 8:30 am. Bring tea, coffee and an entre. The AT is sectioned on weekends near its eastern terminus.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18
HOCM. Jacob Riis-Mercury. Leader: Sherri Churchman, 908-460-8208. Meet: 7:00 am, Jacob Riis Park Visitor Center. Bring water and snacks. Hiking boots recommended.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23
FVTW. AT at Station. Leader: Bill Mooney, 360-692-8085. Meet: 7:30 am. To arrive 8:30 am. Bring tea, coffee and an entre. The AT is sectioned on weekends near its eastern terminus.

THURSDAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 - 26
MSC. Christmas old-new, new at lodge in Woodstock, NY. Call 212-327-9753 for information.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30
HHC. Kaaterskill End to End. Leader: Jennifer, 315-662-9365. Meet: 8:30 am, Kaaterskill Railroad Station, NY. Five days may be short, but there’s still enough time for the 4.6-mile stretch road along the Kaaterskill trail. A mix of nopine and Evergreens provide a backdrop on Castleton Old Road. One of the many hiking routes in Catskills.


TUESDAY - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28 - JANUARY 1
MSC. New Year’s old-new includes a hike in our cabin in Woodstock, NY. Call 212-327-9753 for information.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28
FVTW. Jacob Riis. Leader: Mary Gilchrist, 908-694-1713. Bring snacks around the perimeter of the Morris County park. Bring hiking sandals.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30
HHC. Appalacchian Trail FDR – RR 30 Canaan Lake, NY to Downtown Road. Leader: Bob Messerschmidt, 908-832-6976. Meet: Train. Anthony Wayne Recreation Area (head parking area). Harmony Park, NY. Hike from Canaan Lake, NY north along the AT to the D & R Greenway of this railroad, including walk past scenic Lake Denmark. In addition: the AT travels along the lake on its eastern side, the old Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center and the old Mohonk Preserve, has been rewritten to take into account all the new trails and nature on Mountain Rest Road. Chapter 9, covering the trails in the magnificent Shawangunk Mountains, but also over 150 pen-and-ink sketches which capture the special beauty of this area — has been updated on Mountain Rest Road. Chapter 9, covering the trails in the magnificent Shawangunk Mountains, but also over 150 pen-and-ink sketches which capture the special beauty of this area — has been updated on Mountain Rest Road.

The new edition of the AT through the Menomine Trail, has also been significantly improved by using new computer processes. Jack Fagan’s Scenarios and Walks book — which features not only descriptions of the trails in the magnificent Shawangunk Mountains, but also over 150 pen-and-ink sketches which capture the special beauty of this area — has been updated to reflect recent trail changes. Chapter 4, covering the Bonnington area of the Mohonk Preserve, has been rewritten to take into account the trail and access changes which have resulted from the closing of the old Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center on Mountain Rest Road. Chapter 9, covering the Sams Point/Westkiller Kill Falls vicinity, has also been updated, and several new trails created by Jack Fagan have also been added.

For prices, see the Hikers’ Marketplace order form on page 8.

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NEW TC BOOKS
continued from the front page

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NEW TC BOOKS
continued from the front page

STILL COMING
THURSDAY - SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 - 5
HC. Patriots Path, Loop & Short. Leaders: C. Charles & Anita Frost, 908-362-4908. Loop: 3 miles, Short: 0.5 miles, Speedwell Lake parking lot. Meet: 9:15 am. Some will hike the 1.5 miles from the parking lot to Speedwell Lake and the 0.5 mile to Speedwell Lake. Shuttle required. Mostly level on the Speedwell Lake path. Rainy day can cancel.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
UCHC. Patriots Path, Loop & Short. Leaders: C. Charles & Anita Frost, 908-362-4908. Loop: 3 miles, Speedwell Lake parking lot. Meet: 9:15 am. Some will hike the 1.5 miles from the parking lot to Speedwell Lake and the 0.5 mile to Speedwell Lake. Shuttle required. Mostly level on the Speedwell Lake path. Rainy day can cancel.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

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Hikers’ Almanac

NOVEMBER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

HRC. Wall Brook Run in Frontenac: Leader: The Dictionary, 718-886-3063. Meet: 9 am, Prospect Park Loop. A low-key and general foliage walk, with nice foliage formations. Easy to follow.

WTT. Garret Mountain: Leader: Catharine Sever, 718-760-0646. Meet: 10 am, starting on north parking lot, followed by a up and down walk. Bring bread and water. Fairly easy.

LIGTC. Stiff Woods and South Leader: Leader: Bob MacEarth, 718-886-3063. Meet: 9 am, South Woods parking lot. A strenuous walk along the South Woods Trail. Trail is less busy, but a good walk.


SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7
GAGC. Anthony’s Nose/Appalachian Trail. Peak Outlook, NY. Guides: Leader Henry Legacy, 610-968-0306. Meet: 11 am, Peak Outlook parking lot at south junction of Bear Mountain Rte. EASY.

MTW. Annual Trail Clearing on Schoenstatt Mountain: Leader: Charles Newlin, 718-886-3063. Meet: 9 am, Bear Mountain Ridge, Rt. 17, Southfields, NY. The main section of the Loop hiking trail is open but due to snow shaping, bring bread, lunch, gloves, and adventure. Be sure to hydropack your Ford. Please go easy and slow.

HHC. Trail Maintenance Day: Leader: Helmut Schneider, 973-778-0992. Meet: 9 am, Great Falls parking lot, Paterson. Enjoy some good times, while being able to appreciate the things that are great about the Loop. Meet at the parking lot and see if you can assist during the day.


SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
GAGC. Anthony’s Nose/Appalachian Trail, Peak Outlook, NY. Guides: Leader Henry Legacy, 610-968-0306. Meet: 11 am, Peak Outlook parking lot at south junction of Bear Mountain Rte. EASY.

WTT. Bear Mountain: Leader: Don Lee, 718-760-0646. Meet: 9 am, Bear Mountain Inn. Win a weekend out at a fair price, and there is no excuse not to be there! We will have a mini Copper Mount Conference in the morning and a Winter Hiker’s gathering. A great opportunity to network and enjoy a good day.

LIGTC. Stiff Woods and South Leader: Leader: Bob MacEarth, 718-886-3063. Meet: 9 am, South Woods parking lot. A strenuous walk along the South Woods Trail. Trail is less busy, but a good walk.

MTW. Peak Outlook: Leader: Mike Miller, 718-886-3063. Meet: 10 am, South Woods parking lot. A strenuous walk along the South Woods Trail. Trail is less busy, but a good walk.


SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14
UCHC. Indian Hill Loop: Leader: Howard Edlefs, 610-575-2136. Meet: 9 am, the Loop Parking Area, NY. We will attempt to hike a motivating route on the Loop, an easy trail along the Indian Hill Loop.


WTV. AT-YAVA State Trail to Mt. Pelee: Leader: Tom honey, 718-886-3063. Meet: 10 am, AT-YAVA. A good short hike to the top of the Pelee, then along moody trails towards the lake.

UCHC.  Hacklebarney State Park: Leader David Nee, 718-760-0646. Meet: 9 am, Barns Trail. Win a weekend out at a fair price, and there is no excuse not to be there! We will have a mini Copper Mount Conference in the morning and a Winter Hiker’s gathering. A great opportunity to network and enjoy a good day.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18
UCHC. Appalachian Trail: Leader: Nicholas Faller, 914-297-2752. Meet: 9 am, Reeves Meadow Visitors Center, Seven Lakes Drive, Shavertown, NY. An event to taste new wines of the region in the presence of their makers. End the day with local wines, a great view with friends.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
WTT. Farny Highlands: Leader: Mike Miller, 718-886-3063. Meet: 9 am, Farny Highlands. A 7-10 miler on the northern end of the Four Birds Trail including both Copperas and Fornarotto Ponds. A family walk with lunch at a covered bridge on the banks of the Hoosic River. Campers required is Student Backpacking may be required.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25
UCHC. Appalachian Trail (Till - Ardsford to Lake Tarbot): Leaders: Dave and Bill Milbank, 718-760-0640 or evandrew@comcast.net. Meet: 9 am, Appalachian Trail Parking. Appalachian Trail, NY. We continue our series of Appalachian Trail hikes on the 3rd Tuesday each winter morning from the Fire Tower Park. This section includes Indian Pond, The Laramie Seasons and Fingerboard Mountain

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4
UCHC. Friday Mountain, Catskills: Leaders: Mike Miller, 718-886-3063. Meet: 9 am, Friday Mountain, Catskills. A 75-mile hike on the northwest end of the Four Birds Trail including both Copperas and Fornarotto Ponds. A family walk with lunch at a covered bridge on the banks of the Hoosic River. Campers required is Student Backpacking may be required.

WTV. Farny Highlands: Leader: Bruce Lombardo B. Louise Frost, 914-297-2752. Meet: 9 am, Farny Highlands. A 7-10 miler on the northern end of the Four Birds Trail including both Copperas and Fornarotto Ponds. A family walk with lunch at a covered bridge on the banks of the Hoosic River. Campers required is Student Backpacking may be required.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9
UCHC. Appalachian Trail (Till - Ardsford to Lake Tarbot): Leaders: Dave and Bill Milbank, 718-760-0640 or evandrew@comcast.net. Meet: 9 am, Appalachian Trail Parking. Appalachian Trail, NY. We continue our series of Appalachian Trail hikes on the 3rd Tuesday each winter morning from the Fire Tower Park. This section includes Indian Pond, The Laramie Seasons and Fingerboard Mountain

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5
UCHC. Appalachian Trail (Till - Ardsford to Lake Tarbot): Leaders: Dave and Bill Milbank, 718-760-0640 or evandrew@comcast.net. Meet: 9 am, Appalachian Trail Parking. Appalachian Trail, NY. We continue our series of Appalachian Trail hikes on the 3rd Tuesday each winter morning from the Fire Tower Park. This section includes Indian Pond, The Laramie Seasons and Fingerboard Mountain

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5
ADK-MH. Indian Hill Loop: Leader: Howard Edlefs, 610-575-2136. Meet: 11 am, Tysto Pond. Win a weekend out at a fair price, and there is no excuse not to be there! We will have a mini Copper Mount Conference in the morning and a Winter Hiker’s gathering. A great opportunity to network and enjoy a good day.

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The official publication of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

Volume XVII. Number 6
ISSN 0879-1382
December/January 1999

Trail Walker