Catskill’s Bearpen Peak Purchased by New York State

Trail Conference and Adirondack Mountain Club Partnership Successfully Interested State in Acquisition

In June, Bearpen Mountain in Greene County, one of the 36 Catskill High Peaks over 3,500 feet, was purchased by the State of New York to be added to the “forever wild” lands of the Catskill Forest Preserve. The Trail Conference and the Adirondack Mountain Club were the principal advocates for the Bearpen purchase.

The acquisition of Bearpen Mountain has long been a priority of hiking and outdoor recreationists. At 3,600 feet, it dominates the landscape, with steep, rugged topography and forested slopes, and serves this beautiful mountain, guaranteed to develop access to a popular Catskill view of Hunter Mountain, West Kill, and other Catskill High Peaks. It dominates views in the upper Schoharie and Delaware River Valleys. The name Bearpen is likely to have derived from the practice of hunting bear during the 1800s by constructing traps built with stone or logs. The “bearpens” would trap the bear until the hunter arrived. Curiously enough, though Bearpen was identified as an “exceptional resource” in the state’s Open Space Plan, it was one of a handful that were not owned by the state.

The 1,185-acre parcel will be added to the adjacent 700-acre Delaware-Greene Reforestation Area and managed by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Neil Woodworth, counsel to the Adirondack Mountain Club and the NY-NJ Trail Conference, presented the Governor with a copy of the New York Walk Book. Neil represented both ADK and the Trail Conference in gaining the Governor’s attention for support of this long-sought land acquisition. Governor Pataki has aggressively supported the campaign for open space protection during his administration.

Kennard Grant Bolsters Safety Training for Trail Crews

The New York - New Jersey Trail Conference is pleased to announce a generous gift of $8,000 from the Charles W. Kennard Foundation. The money will allow us to establish a regular schedule of safety refresher training for our trail crew members and leaders, and to support general Conference operations. This gift, together with $75,000 donated to the Trail Conference late in 1998, earmarked for several Appalachian Trail projects, a new interpretive sign and training for our trail crew leaders, totals $82,500 received from the Charles W. Kennard Foundation within the past 12 months.

The Trail Conference will use part of the Kennard gift to begin a program of regular safety courses for our volunteer trail crew members. Chainsaws, and winch/rigging systems, are accepted tools nowadays for trail crew work of building and repairing hiking trails. As such, workers using this equipment need to maintain a high level of skill in operations and awareness of safety for these specialized tools.

Peter Kennard, Foundation secretary, continued on page 14

National Trails Day

continued on page 14

Development Threat Not Over for Sterling Forest

After a 13-year struggle to protect the New York portion of Sterling Forest, a major success was accomplished with 135,000 acres becoming state park land. Now we face the destiny of the remaining acres that will shape the gateway of this important public land. Sterling Forest Corporation has filed an application to develop the 2,874 acres of land it retained after the sale that created Sterling Forest State Park last year. The proposed community includes 2,518 residential units, with 1,000 of them being part of an age-restricted gated community. The plan also calls for a nine-hole golf course and 467,500 square feet of retail and office space dispersed over the wooded mountainous section south of Route 17A. Further south, along Route 8, another community of large homes would be built around a 18-hole golf course. Many residents and much of the commercial space continued on page 12

continued on page 11

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Keep Traditions Alive

For more than years I cannot remember hiking clubs have been gathering each Palm Sunday at St. John’s in the Wilderness in Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park, meeting new friends, reminiscing with old ones and telling stories with old Trail Conference legends like Bill Horfelen, Elizabeth Levers, Eric Reiss and others.

Although most of the hikers of those early days are gone now, this yearly event still continues. For about 15 years now, though, this event’s attendance has been slowly declining.

We hikers are not doing the right thing by not participating in this annual event.

If we do not remember our hiking heritage we risk the work of past hikers who blazed the trails we walk today. For this reason, I urge all clubs to restore and continue these traditions by scheduling hikes for these events.

Hope to see you all next century on Palm Sunday.

Ruger Coco
Putnam Valley, NY

An Expensive Hike

We spent the Memorial Day weekend backpacking in northern New York. Our first night was spent at a shelter on the AT in Wawayanda State Park. Our second night, after a somewhat grueling hike, was spent at Terrace Pond. On our final morning, while finishing breakfast, we were greeted by two NY park rangers who informed us that we were illegally camping, and then proceeded to write us each a $71.00 summons.

We told the rangers that we are experienced, environment-respecting backpackers that nowhere on our Trail Conference map did it mention anything about this camping restriction. We were told that the regulations were posted at the trailhead, and of course, they were “just doing their job.”

Upon our return to the car I looked at the list of regulations posted. It was quite a long list. Buried in the middle was indeed: “Camping is allowed by permit only in designated areas.” We paid the fine.

Perhaps we depend on our Trail Conference maps too much. We use them for their wealth of information, as well as for navigation. PLEASE include a note on the next printing of the North Jersey Trails maps telling everyone of the camping restrictions. If there are other areas where similar restrictions apply, please note it on those maps as well. Our Memorial Day weekend Bearfort/Wawayanda trip was our most expensive backpacking trip ever.

Regina & Michael Gelfer
Mahopac, NY

AN OMISSION

Our apologies to the Appalachian Mountain Club for an omission on our front page article in the July/August Trail Walker about AMC’s new book Nature Walks in New Jersey, by Glenn Scherer. While the article was laudatory, the fact that AMC is the publisher was not mentioned. We regret this omission.

Indefinite Trail Closings on Storm King Mountain

See Trail Conference’s West Hudson Trail Map #7
PIPC Parkland on Storm King Mountain

All Storm King trails are closed.

Due to recent fires brought on by drought, Palisades Interstate Park Commission has discovered some unexploded ordinances. Experts have been brought in to review the complete geography of such ordinances and determine when it will be safe for trail re-opening. All five parking areas are closed.

No hiking in this area until further notice.
**National Trails Day: A Day to Celebrate and Demonstrate**

Over 100 people gathered for the event at Long Pond Iron Works State Park overlooking the Monksville Reservoir in Ringwood, NJ, with local officials, trail volunteers and conservation leaders among them. Demonstrating the importance of the Highlands as a region of local and national importance, Agriculture Under-Secretary James Lyons (r.) and Senator Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) chose National Trails Day to unveil support for efforts to preserve the Highlands with a $750,000 commitment for an expanded study of the four-state Highlands Region (PA, NJ, NY, CT). Lyons and Torricelli also presented the NJ Department of Environmental Protection with a $120,000 Forest Stewardship grant for environmental mapping of the Highlands.

In the afternoon, Scenic Hudson hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and hike celebrating a new trail in the New York Highlands and the partnership that made it possible. A 490-acre parcel in Orange County, known as Indian Hill, connects Harriman State Park with Sterling Forest State Park. This property has been acquired by Scenic Hudson and is managed by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PPC). The Trail Conference has worked closely with these two organizations to build and maintain a 3-mile Indian Hill Loop Trail with a spur that connects to the Appalachian Trail. In the future, the state is likely to acquire Indian Hill as additional park land.

Our sincere thanks go to the following who supported our efforts to raise funds on National Trails Day for the American Hiking Society's National Trails Endowment. As of July 10, over $500 was contributed.

Times and people...they are a changin’

You will notice a new and more modern look about the Trail Walker in this issue. We are pleased to welcome Nora Porter as our new Designer and Managing Editor. Nora has previously designed publications for the Trail Conference, including the New York and New Jersey Walk Books, and has done editing and design work for a number of organizations in the Hudson Valley. We want to thank special people who have improved our Trail Walker and applied their well-honed skills with devotion for the past ten years, especially Managing Editors, Alice Tufel, and Designer Tom Fenton.

The Trail Walker is only a reflection of change. The nuts and bolts transformations are subtle, and taking place through the creation of a Strategic Planning process for the organization.

As we enter a new millennium, it is natural to take stock, issues and pressures that we encounter on behalf of our 1300-mile network of foot trails are vastly more complex than ten years ago. Our parks are in crisis as they wither from lack of adequate funds for stewardship and management; land development increasingly threatens our trail corridors and landscapes, and conflicting trail uses compromise the hiking experience. A dedicated Board and staff have devoted several re- treat days, and countless hours in task force meetings, to develop a clear mission and vision statement as guidepost, and to establish concrete future plans for each project area within the Conference. To best garner the necessary resources to address issues and protect our trail lands, we must look at innovative approaches and more sophisticated support systems. You will be hearing more about Strategic Planning in future Trail Walkers.

All of you have received a personal invitation to attend a gala dinner dance on September 26 to celebrate trails and honor our Trail Conference President, H. Neil Zimmerman. Neil will step down from his office in October after a 13 years of intensely devoted service. During his tenure, his leadership and vision have resulted in expanded hiking trail maintenance responsibilities; new trails such as the bi-state Highlands Trail, the Long Path North extension, and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail. Neil has forged strong partnerships with state agencies and colleague organizations and has made land protection a priority. He will be missed in his capacity as president, even as we are confident of strong leadership within the organization. But, Neil has promised to stay very involved with the Trail Conference!

And yes, at this important juncture, when we are developing a strategic plan for the Trail Conference, it is timely for me to develop my future plans as well. I have advised the Board of Directors that I will be stepping down as executive director on or before December 31, 1999. After nearly 20 years of working with the Trail Conference, I will be moving on to pursue personal goals. I have seen enormous changes within the organization over the years, and I am proud to have had a role in its growth. It has been a constant source of inspiration for me to work with such a passionately committed and talented corps of volunteers and staff. The opportunities of working and building friendships with members and colleagues has been extremely enriching. Another gift has been my deepened connection to the land in our region—physically, intellectually and spiritually.

I am working closely with the Board on a transition. A Search Committee is now accepting applications and appreciates members passing along the posting below regarding the position.

—JoAnn Dolan, Executive Director
Chainsaw Certification Course November 13 - 14

The section of the Long Path from the western end of Mud Pond to its junction with the High Point Trail (see the Trail Conference’s Shawangunk Trails map B9, grid G-2, shown below) has been closed by the landowner. Please do not trespass on this private land. When a re-route is established, notice will be published in the Trail Walker, and noted on our website at www.nyntc.org.

Frank Bouton Shelter Dedication September 18

Volunteers from the Ramapo Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, recently constructed a hike-in shelter on Table Mountain in the Catskills. The site is known as the Bouton Memorial Shelter in honor of the late Frank Bouton, an avid and active member of the hiking community. Please join us in honoring his memory as we dedicate the shelter on Saturday, September 18. The shelter is on the Peckamoose Table Trail, about 3.5 miles from the Denning Trailhead parking area—a moderately strenuous hike. Carpools will form at the Harriman railroad station on Route 17, north of the Red Apple Rest, at 8 am. Two groups, ‘A’ and ‘B’, will leave at Denning around 9 am for the hike in. A brief dedication ceremony is set for 1 pm. Be prepared for a possible wet crossing of the East Branch of the Neversink, as bridges are out. For more information call George Shredy at 914-986-6807 or shredy@warwick.net. Rain date: Oct. 2—same times and place.

Low Impact Use Program Presented

In May, on Morris County Park Commission’s Trail Day students from St. Benedict’s Preparatory School in Newark, NJ, a Trail Conference member organization, presented a public program on low-impact use at the Mahlon Dickerson Reservation. St. Benedict’s Prep School annually presents a leave no trace/low impact program to youth group leaders who take their charges onto the AT in New Jersey. This training is part of our New Jersey AT Committee’s management of group use.

Students Steve Cordova, a senior, and Terrill Harris, a junior, and faculty member Didier Jean-Baptiste performed a skit presenting the story of three bumbling guys who break every Leave No Trace rule imaginable while going on an overnight backpacking trip. The program was geared towards the younger kids in the audience, who happily pointed out the mistakes that the “guys” made during their “trip.” Steve, Terrill and Didier pointed out what they overlooked, so everyone learned something while enjoying themselves.

This low-impact program attracted the largest crowd of the day, and participants took home a Leave No Trace booklet that went into more detail and included some games to help them review the principles.

Our thanks to Steve, Terrill and Didier for their energies to present this important public education program!

20-Year Effort to Protect 2,100-Mile Appalachian Trail Near End

The Appalachian Trail land protection program, the most complex land acquisition program in the National Park Service’s history, is so near to its conclusion — with only 26 miles not yet in public ownership — that in this federal fiscal year 1999, Congress and President Clinton agreed to an unusually large $15.1 million appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, intended to acquire the final lands needed to bring the entire AT route into public ownership by the end of 2000.

This “final appropriation” brings to an end 20 years of federal funding, which began with the 1978 amendment to the National Trails System Act, mandating that the National Park Service put the entire footpath and a corridor of lands surrounding it into public ownership. Since the project began, annual Congressional L WCF appropriations totaling $120 million have purchased more than 350,000 acres, preserving more than 3,500 miles of the AT in a corridor average of 1,000 feet in width. During this time, the AT enjoyed bipartisan political support of an amazing longevity in the world of congressional appropriations.

The 1999 appropriation bill contains $8.1 million for the Park Service and $7 million for the Forest Service to complete their protection programs without having to return to Congress to request more funds. By the end of 2000, the Park Service will protect the remaining 14.4 miles of trail, and the Forest Service, 11.5 miles.

Typically 1,000 feet wide, the AT corridor was “preserved the entire Appalachian ridgeline from Maine to Georgia,” and in doing so, preserved the essence of the hiking experience. It has also given wild flora and fauna a fighting chance to survive the pressures of rampant development. Research suggests that the corridor provides critical habitat, supports the range’s biodiversity, and may even play a role in species migration.

Land Gifted to Appalachian Trail in Hudson Valley

The Open Space Institute and Scenic Hudson have donated a total of 308 acres of undeveloped land in two parcels to the Appalachian Trail for enhanced corridor and viewshed protection.

In April, through its land acquisition affiliate, the Beavercreek Conservancy, OSI purchased a 16.6-acre parcel just south of South Mountain Pass Road, which it plans to transfer to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Complementing this transaction, earlier this year OSI and Scenic Hudson gave another Hudson Highlands parcel, a 7.2-acre tract known as the Sinston land, to the National Park Service.

“The Open Space Institute has been a significant partner in Appalachian Trail land protection efforts in the Hudson Valley,” commented Walt Daniels, the Trail Conference’s AT area supervisor in Putnam County.

The 36 acres, bought with a $180,000 grant from the Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Fund for the Hudson Highlands, is bordered on the south by Camp Smith, and on the west by Hudson Highlands State Park and the AT corridor, and contains three 800-foot peaks along a prominent ridgeline which offer views of the Hudson River and the Hudson Highlands. The Trail Conference will work to lay out and construct link trails through the new purchase to existing trails in the area.

The Sinston land is a steep wooded ridgeline, first acquired by OSI and Scenic Hudson in 1986 as part of a 300-acre assemblage, also with funding from the Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Fund for the Hudson Highlands. OSI gave 200 of those acres to the National Park Service in 1986 to re-route a portion of the AT through southern Putnam County, NY, where the Trail approached the river. The remaining 72 acres—the Sinston land — was since determined as valuable for AT corridor and viewed protection including the Hudson River and Bear Mountains, resulting in this year’s second donation. The AT crosses the Hudson River on the Bear Mountain Bridge, which is just west of the Sinston Parcel.

Thank you to Open Space Institute and Scenic Hudson for its generous Appalachian Trail land donations.
CATSKILL 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 Stermann in care of the Conference office, or at psterman@nyserc.org.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED
Short term projects with the Publications Committee
The Publications Committee is seeking volunteer hikers to help on short-term projects that need to be completed within the next few months. Openings for:

- Field checks: take an assigned hike to field check the accuracy of written descriptions, and possibly also take some photos on the hike. Some assignments can be done via public transportation.
- Landscape photographers: a need for taking photos to accompany text for various Conference publications. Some assignments can be done via public transportation.
- Graphic arts and cartography: There is an ongoing need for sketch cartography (an example of such a map is in the Trail Conference’s membership brochure.) Please be prepared to submit some samples of your work.
- Publications Committee members: the committee seeks new members to help with the overall publications process, including developing our publications policy, managing projects, advertising, and marketing. It meets every other month.

If you wish to participate in any of the above, visit our web page at nynjtc.org/involved.html and look for the information on publications or call Jane Daniels at 914-247-1320.

GET INVOLVED

TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES

Trail Maintenance Workshop offered in Western New Jersey
The annual trail maintenance workshop will be sponsored by the Trail Conference on Saturday, October 2, 1999 at the Cross Estate of the Morristown National Historical Park in Morristown, NJ.

Conference members, members of Conference clubs, and people from nearby communities interested in maintaining hiking trails are welcome to attend. Field work will be done on hiking trails in and around the Jockey Hollow section of the Park. The day will begin with bagels and coffee at 9:00 a.m. The sessions are slated to begin at 9:30 a.m., and will include classroom lectures and discussion, as well as field work. Take-home materials are included. At 3:00 p.m., all participants will join together for socializing and the chance to sign up for volunteering. Sessions will be held rain or shine. There is public transportation available from Manhattan to Morristown.

Maintenance “101”
This training session teaches basic techniques, maintenance standards and the kind of problems to expect and how to solve them. You should take this class if you are interested in becoming a maintainer or enhancing your skills.

Construction and Restoration
Hiking trails are built with switchbacks, sidehilling, steps and waterbars; erosion repair and stream bridging may also be needed. Workshop participants will restore a section of a trail by constructing these features. If you have wanted to help on a trail crew or do some heavy repairs on a trail, this is the workshop for you.

Advance registration is required, and class size will be limited. To attend the workshop, fill out the coupon below and send it to the Conference office by September 25, 1999. There is a $4.00 per person registration fee. A confirmation packet will be sent to all registrants. Sign-up is first come, first served, and past workshops have been over-subscribed, so send in your registration early!

Dress for outside work: clothing that you don’t mind getting wet, dirty or both; bring lunch, water and any other snacks. Bring appropriate tools, if you have them, for the workshop you plan to attend. Basic maintenance tools are hand clippers, hammers, pry bars and shovels.

Registration Form

Western New Jersey Trail Maintenance Workshop
Saturday, October 2, 1999

Please check the session for which you want to register:
- Maintenance “101”  ❑ Construction and Restoration
- I have enclosed a check for $ (participants at $4.00 per person), payable to the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City/State/Zip ______________________
Day phone ( ) ______________________
Even phone ( ) ____________________
e-mail ____________________________

Do you currently maintain a trail?
Yes  ❑ No  ❑
If yes, do you work as an individual or as a club?

Name of club, if applicable:

Name of trail you maintain:

I will be arriving by train and will need a pick-up from the station.
I have questions and would like someone to call me.

Return to: NY-NJ Trail Conference, Trail Maintenance Workshop, 232 Madison Ave., #822, New York, NY 10016

Storm King State Park #1

New Jersey Trail Crew
What & Where: Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in NJ’s parks and forests. Bring lunch, work gloves and a beverage.


Long Path - Catskill Forest Preserve
What & Where: Help create a 3-mile relocation of the Long Path between Mt. Tremper and Silver Hollow Notch in the Catskills, a wild and rugged section of the Forest Preserve.

When: Worktrips begin this fall.

Leader: Bruce Warden, 914-657-8348 or e-mail: walksalot@aol.com

I am a trail maintainer.
People sometimes ask me...
- “Where is a good spot to...?”
- “Can you tell me some history?”
- “I’m planning a hike. Can you tell me...?”
- “Where is the best place to hike in New York? Or New Jersey?”
- “What’s the best trail?”

I’m not a good travel guide, but...I can tell you where the eroded spots are.
I can tell you where the off-road vehicle encroachments are. I can tell you where the wet spots are. I can tell you where to find the most litter. I can tell you what spots need to be relocated. If somebody complains, I know the exact section they are complaining about without being there (provided it is on the AT in Orange County).

I am a trail expert.
- Mike Rea
AT Oversee, Orange Co., NY

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If you wish to participate in any of the above, visit our web page at nynjtc.org/involved.html and look for the information on publications or call Jane Daniels at 914-247-1320.
Our Members

- A reminder that EMS Club Day will be Thursday, October 28, when Trail Conference members will receive a 25% discount on purchases made in EMS stores. Be sure you have your membership card handy when buying. If you have lost your membership card, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Trail Conference office and request a new one.
- Congratulations to New Jersey Appalachian Trail Management Committee chairman Paul DeCoste for his recognition by the New Jersey State Park Service as the NY-NJ Trail Conference Volunteer of the Year. He was recognized for his volunteer leadership of the AT, coordinating the efforts of agencies and volunteers for the Pochuck Bridge and relocation project, and making Vernon, NJ, into a trail town.
- Congratulations to Raymond Wilkin who completed his Long Path End-to-End education project, and making Vernon, NJ, trail of the Year. He was recognized for his commitment by the New Jersey State Park Service chairman of the Appalachian Trail Management Committee.
- A reminder that 1017, or e-mail gscherer@warwick.net.

For & About

Trail Maintainer Patches Awarded
Five-year Service “Rockers” Awarded to 61 Trail Maintainer Patches


Our Members

- Word about our latest appeal letter requesting donations to support the Conference’s Trail Land Protection Program.
- New Jersey Appalachian Trail Committee members: Glenn Scherer, George Lightcap and Jean Leblanc have produced a brochure: Workshop without Walls: Teaching Writing on the Appalachian Trail, a teacher’s guide to field trips on the AT to inspire student writing of all kinds. This pamphlet was produced with an Outreach Grant from the Appalachian Trail Conference. For more details, or to request a copy, contact Glenn at 771-756-1017, or e-mail g.scherer@warwick.net.
- Our New Jersey Appalachian Trail Pochuck Creek pedesitrian bridge in Vernon Valley is the subject of a recently-issued US Forest Service publication: A US Forest Service Wood In Transportation Program. Entitled “Design and Construction of the Pochuck Quagmire Bridge, A Suspension Timber Bridge,” the 124-page document is available free of charge by contacting the US Forest Service’s Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry Wood In Transportation Information Center, 180 Canfield St., Morgantown, WV 26505. It will likely be distributed nationwide to all regional Forest Service offices.
- The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference would like to thank the Catskill 3500 Club for its generous contribution to the Adirondack Mountain Club-Trial Conference stewardship partnership, earmarked specifically for Catskill issues. For the third year in a row, the 3500 Club has made a substantial contribution supporting the efforts of Neil Woodworth on half of the Catskills and NYS Parks. The Club is a member organization of the Trail Conference and is the only member organization specifically dedicated to Catskill hiking and conservation issues. The 3500 Club maintains a Catskill action alert email list. If you would like to be added to this list to be informed of Catskill issues, please send an email to Howie Dash at howedash@aol.com.
- The first Internet e-commerce site to specialize in women climbers, hikers, backpackers and other outdoor woman is MountainWoman.com – debuted in June. The site carries equipment, clothing, helpful tips and product reviews.

Club Nominees
Ted Hider, Jr., John McLaughlin (Appalachian Mountain Club/New York North Jersey Chapter), Gladys Brown, Brett Cason, Myron Clement, Stacey Durgin, Melanie Herr, Micah Herr, Lindsey Hickman, Nomi Johnson, Kenneth King, Stephanie King, Greetel Loevenhirsch, Peter McGuire, Jeffrey Maendel, Jabelle Magee, Christy Lynn Rhoads, Maria Shirley, Terry Wilt, Eric Wright (Catskill Bruederhof Communities).


This year’s Torrey Memorial is very special — on this 60th anniversary of this tradition’s birth, we’ll unveil a beautiful new hiker interpretive signboard at the trailhead, honoring both the Long Path and Raymond H. Torrey.

The ribbon-cutting for the signboard will start at 10:00 a.m. at the Long Mountain hiker parking lot on Route 6 in Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park. Following this, at about 1:30 we will hike to the Torrey Memorial atop Long Mountain, arriving in time for the brief 1:30 p.m. ceremony and communal social.

As always, the hiker’s assembly atop Long Mountain will be a festive recognition of our communal “roots.” Come early for the unveiling. Arrive at the Memorial via any trail route, but do plan to join us on October 31st.

Beauty is not just on the trail. Sometimes it walks right in the door! Vincent Cheung, our former student aide, has moved on to Pratt Institute to study art. But Vincent returned to help out over the summer and, as a parting gift, presented the Trail Conference with a wonderful painting that brings the magnificence and serenity of our trails right into the Conference office. Many thanks, Vincent, for your very generous and beautiful gift. We’re all very proud of you!
The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu: An Andean Hiking Destination

By Anne Latkenhouse

The Inca Trail, a path palpitating with a sense of mystery deep in the Peruvian Andes. Hiking this world-renowned trail to Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas, is a very doable, 4-day, 30-mile, classic high-wilderness adventure route across two high passes. Each day yields lush cloud-forest and a cornucopia of flowers and hummingbirds beneath snow-capped peaks, with visits to more-and-more complex, well-preserved stonework-cribbed-trail-clinging-to-mountainsides-one associates with this trail. As the valley began to narrow, we stopped at another Quechua community to partake of a “Trail store,” a thatched-roofed lean-to shielding some young men and their dahls of river-shelled water containing bottles of mineral water and Coca-Cola! Thus fortified, we reached the lookout to the enormous, terrace-clad ruins of Llactapata village. Here we first felt the hair-raising reality that we were actually walking in the footsteps of the Incas. Continuing on under views of the snow-capped Nevado Veronica (18,865 feet; the highest peak in the Urubambas), we finished the easy day hike to set up camp in preparation for Day 2, reputedly the most strenuous.

That night, the stars of the Southern Cross were so plump and fuzzy, and so seemingly near, we felt we could reach up, pluck them from the sky, and place them on our sleeping bags.

Next morning as we left the desert-like environment, the trail quite suddenly grew steep and switch-backed, the path bare of vegetation as the valley narrowed. Breathing became something of which I was very aware. We climbed steeply for 5 hours or so, through plateaus hosting different ecosystems: a forest layer, and then a cloud-forest rainforest where vegetation closed in, giving us precious shade and cooler temperatures. The natural soil “steps” switch-backed relentlessly over, around and through tree roots sucking the energy from our legs, while flowering plants and birds surrounded us. Still feeling the effects of some stomach distress, and relying on rehydration solutions for bodily fuel, this was a difficult trail for me.

Yet something kept drawing me upwards to the 13,776-foot Warmiwanusqa pass—a decisive point on the journey; since I was far behind the group, I could gaze upward to see humans atop the pass silhouetted against the blue Andean sky. Seeing the goal, I felt a sense of camaraderie.

And ever so slowly, I did reach the pass and reunion with my fellow hikers. Having earned the view of glacier-clad peaks across the valleys, I felt the realization to my very bones that we were deep in a pristine environment and wonderfully far from civilization.

After lunching in the lee of the pass’s picturesque, we began a short,却 steep and rocky descent along a well-marked trail to our next camp in a forested valley. It seemed a perverse trail route: having achieved the height of the pass to immediately begin descending. We would later learn this was for Incan strategic protection purposes.

Day 3 began with a short, steep climb out of the valley bottom, but this was noticeably less steep than yesterday, or is it that our bodies have risen to the physical challenge and are now stronger?

Before cresting the second pass’s 12,650-foot elevation, we passed a couple of

**Annual Membership Meeting Set For October 16**

**Step into the 21st Century with the NY-NJ Trail Conference**

Meet new friends, hike a bit, and hear about the NY-NJ Trail Conference. If you are planning to be a member of the Conference next year, this meeting is the place to find out about the opportunities the Conference offers. This meeting, open to all NY-NJ Trail Conference members, is an opportunity to present news about their clubs to all of the Conference's member clubs. Club representatives will have the opportunity to set up information tables and present news about their clubs to all participants. The interchange of ideas will establish some guidelines for our future relationships, what the Trail Conference can do for our member clubs and what our member clubs can do for the Conference.

**Slate of Candidates Announced**

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the Board of Directors of the NY-NJ Trail Conference, Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 16, in the New Jersey Section of the Pikes Interstate Park Commission.

This meeting, open to all NY-NJ Trail Conference members, club delegates, and their immediate families and invited guests, will emphasize strengthening ties to the Conference's member clubs.

Club representatives will have the opportunity to set up information tables and present news about their clubs to all participants. The interchange of ideas will establish some guidelines for our future relationships, what the Trail Conference can do for our member clubs and what our member clubs can do for the Conference.

The day begins with light refreshments at 9:30 a.m. The short business meeting begins at 9:30 followed by hikes between 11:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The day's events conclude with an after-hike reception beginning at 3:30 p.m. Hiking is a traditional part of our annual meetings. This year there will be an historic interpretive walk with Eric Nelsen of PIPC/NJ that will include a tour of the Blackledge-Kearney House (mistakenly identified with General Cornwallis). Additional hikes along the cliffs on the Long Path and close to the Hudson River on the Shore Trail will be offered as well. Early registration is recommended. Registration fee for the full day's events is $6 for adults and $4 for children under 14 years of age. Public transportation is available; details will be sent with your registration confirmation.
THE VIEW FROM ALBANY
CONSERVATION AND ADVOCACY REPORT

A Green New York Budget!
To paraphrase, it’s later, but it’s greener than ever. It’s a hiker’s budget to be sure. The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) and the Trail Conference lobbied hard for the green. The 1999 state budget appropriates $75 million, the largest amount ever budgeted, for buying new state park and forest preserve land. The money comes from both the Environmental Protection Fund and the 1996 Clean Water Bond Act—new money to finance additions to Sterling Forest State Park, extend the Long Path, create Schunemunk Ridge State Park and acquire key trailheads in the Catskill Forest Preserve. More significantly, this budget provides a means for caring for our wild lands.

A Stewardship Fund At Last
The Legislature approved $12 million for backcountry stewardship projects from the Environmental Protection Fund. State park managers will also receive some of this stewardship funding. For several years, ADK and the Trail Conference have lobbied for the creation of this land stewardship fund. This money will fund hiking trail construction and maintenance in the Catskill Forest Preserve and state parks, campground and campingground restorations, and trailhead parking. It can also be used to implement unit management plans, financing long deferred facilities to enable the public to reach and safely use the Forest Preserve and our wilder state parks.

This is a major infusion of money, a ten-fold increase in the amount of money available to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for maintaining trails, lean-to and backcountry facilities. This funding represents the achievement of a major goal of the ADK and Trail Conference advocacy partnership and it exists largely because of our lobbying efforts.

Our members wrote countless cards and letters to legislators and many even visited them. We kept the issue on the top of the state’s environmental agenda; it was our number one lobbying priority. Now, we will work to ensure the precious money is wisely spent. Thanks to everyone who helped us lobby this critical issue. You made the difference.

The budget also contains an additional $10 million dollars for state park and forest preserve facility projects from the 1996 Clean Water Bond Act. In 1999, this type of funding financed the work of ADK/Trail Conference trail crew in the Catskill Forest Preserve. An additional $1 million of General Fund money will pay for new trails and trailhead parking areas in Sterling Forest State Park and Putnam County’s new Wonder Lake State Park. Another $1.6 million will enable DEC to hire 35 new environmental conservation officers and 17 new forest rangers. Finally, $10 million from the State Parks Infrastructure Fund will enable the repair of the bricks and mortar parts of our state park system.

Lobbying For a New Schunemunk State Park
With Sterling Forest State Park now a reality, ADK and the Trail Conference are turning their lobbying energy to the creation of a new state park for Schunemunk Mountain. On May 15, Neil Woodworth met with Governor George Pataki and Secretary to the Governor, Bradford J. Rarig, Jr. to discuss the fate of Schunemunk.

Very popular with hikers, the Mountain’s rugged beauty, 8.5 mile trail system, and magnificent views should be part of our state park system. Pronounced “skun-uh-munk,” the name means excellent fireplace in the local Delaware tribe. This eight mile long ridge of conglomerate stone dominates the Moodna and Woodbury Creek Valley south of Newburgh. Nearly 1,700 feet high, the mountain offers a breathtaking ridge walk with views from the Delaware Water Gap, the Kittatinny Mountains, the Shawangunks and the Catskill High peaks. To the east, hikers can enjoy an excellent view of the Hudson River near Newburgh, Storm King Mountain and, closer at hand, mountains in Harriman Park and Black Rock Forest.

The Open Space Institute already owns much of the northern half of the mountain. A variety of private owners own other sections. Governor Pataki was personally familiar with the hiking trails on the mountain and strongly supported acquiring land there for a new state park. After this meeting, ADK and the Trail Conference provided the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) a detailed series of maps and property owner information to facilitate negotiations with landowners.

Taconic Crest Trail Protection Completed
In late May, the Department of Environmental Conservation completed the acquisition of lands and easements on some 3,573 acres along the Taconic Crest Trail in the Towns of Poughkeepsie and Berlin in eastern Rensselaer County. The acquisitions were facilitated by purchases of 1,878 acres from the Trust for Public Land and conservation easements over 1,695 acres, purchased from W.J. Cowie, a forest products company. These acquisitions bring the total state holdings to 3,500 acres along the 11-mile Taconic Crest Trail, with an additional 5,746 acres of lands protected by conservation and recreational use easements.

One of the parcels will provide, for the first time, a northern terminus and trailhead in New York State.

Ski Centers and Cell Towers
ADK and the Trail Conference successfully opposed legislation (A.6780/S.5199), which would have authorized the leasing of the state-owned Belleayre Ski Mountain to a private corporation. The Belleayre Ski Center is located on Catskill Forest Preserve lands. The bill clearly violated the state constitution’s “forever wild clause” which prohibits the lease, sale or private use for profit of Forest Preserve lands. While ADK and the Trail Conference are not opposed to upgrading the ski facilities, the granting of an exclusive franchise to a private corporation for use of the Preserve is forbidden by the state constitution and requires a constitutional amendment.

The Belleayre bill passed the Senate in mid-June. Fortunately, the state Assembly did not approve the bill. The bill sponsors, Senator John Bonaic and Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, have indicated that they may reintroduce the bill next session. They have indicated that they may seek a constitutional amendment in the 2000 session to privatize Belleayre or to remove the ski center from the Forest Preserve.

The legislature introduced industry-supported cell tower siting legislation this year (A.4105/S.2113, S.5956) which would have exempted proposed cell towers, their power lines and service roads from environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and classify them as "actions which will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment under any circumstances.”

The bill would have authorized cell towers virtually anywhere on public land without SEQRA standards, safeguards or public review process. It also purported to authorize the leasing of tower sites in the Catskill and Adirondack Parks, every state park and preserve, DEC wildlife management areas, county and town parks, and other numerous types of public land. After significant opposition from environmental groups such as ADK, the Trail Conference, Scenic Hudson and local governments, the Senate and Assembly decided not to act on the industry-favored bills in the 1999 session.

Catskill High Peak Protection Strengthened
In addition to the Bearpen purchase, Governor Pataki announced the designation of 3,700 acres of State-owned land in the High Peaks of the Catskill Mountains as a Bird Conservation Area, focusing more attention on these critical habitats and the need for their protection. All Catskill peaks over 3,500 feet in Slide Mountain Wilderness (Ulster County), Indian Head and West Kill Wildemesses; and wild forest areas in the Hunter Mountain and Blackhead Range (Greene County) have been designated as Bird Conservation Areas.

The high peaks of the Catskills are extremely important to birds because of their unique habitats, which include mountainous, or subalpine, forests that remain cool and moist throughout the summer months.

The peaks are known to support birds such as the Bicknell's thrush and Blackpoll warbler, which nest at high elevations. These locations in the Catskills are the southernmost extent of the breeding range of the Bicknell’s thrush.
Hunting Schedules

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. 1 - Nov. 27
  - Firearms: Nov. 8 - Dec. 14
  - Muzzleloader: Dec. 15 - 21

- Coyote Season
  - Jan. 30, 2000 - Feb. 14

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.

NEW JERSEY

- Deer Season
  - Archery: Oct. 1 - Nov. 27
  - Firearms: Nov. 1 - Dec. 31
  - Muzzleloader: Dec. 15 - 21

- Coyote Season
  - Jan. 30, 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 for part of the deer season, including that portion of the Highlands Trail in the Forest. For details, 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, 518-457-3221.

Hikers’ Market Place

NY-NJ TC member? □ YES □ NO □ JOINING NOW

Please order by circled price

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glacial tarns offering excellent views of the Pumasills (puma's teeth) Mountains, as well as the deep gorges and steep ridges of the eastern Andes. Ahead of us lay the Royal Road, the 4- to 6-foot-wide, stonelaid Inca "highway," painstakingly unearthed—the more will-known image of the Inca Trail.

At one point, after we slithered through a narrow tunnel carved from the rock to allow walking behind a too-step-for-trail-building section, our local guide, without fanfare took out his red flute and sat down under a special tree to play some personal melodies. As the melancholy tones floated over me, I sat on the ancient stones to listen to the timeless sounds in this most appropriate of places.

Approaching our campsite just shy of Phuyupatamarka (City in the Clouds, Elev. 13,781), we were jolted from our reverie by the sight—far, far off in the distance—the few electric lights in Agua Caliente, the hamlet at Machu Picchu’s base, our destination at day’s end tomorrow. The Trail’s remoteness, and its human history seeping into my soul through each footstep, had so soothed my being I tried at the thought of having to leave it and return to civilization.

Up at 5:15 a.m. the next morning, we scrambled the final several hundred feet to view sunrise over Salcantay peak, the sun’s first light illuminating the fireresemble cut-work where snow and rock intermingle on the snowfields of the Pumasillos. Leaving camp, we descended down 5,000 steps cut into the mountain. The stairs, a more-recently discovered section of the Highway, seem to drop almost straight down through the lush vegetation of the orchid- and wild begonia-rich cloud forest. We learn the Peruvian secret to avoid leg muscle fatigue while descending: go down sideways.

We glimpse the Winay Wayna ruins far below, whose terraces, rooms and ceremonial baths clinging to the mountainside overlooking the winding Urubamba River. We share the path with donkeys on cargo treks led by Quechua children, then explore the ruins, the biggest and most complex on our way. After the precipitous descent, this section is quite flat, allowing plenty of time to pause and smell the heady scents of vegetation new to us.

Although an easy, short hike from Winay Wayna to the Llactapata Pass (Elev. 9,500), it takes longer than one expects since the trail traverses many canyons, covering more distance than the eye perceives. Just when you think you’ll never reach that first view of Machu Picchu, a stone staircase greets you around a slight bend and takes you to the Llactapata Pass for the first breathtaking view of the Lost City. Your jaw drops with wonder: the city is immense compared with other ruins we have passed, and yet, it is itself dwarfed by the enormity of the raggedly-sheer peaks towering overhead for 360 degrees.

We sat for a while trying to comprehend the magnitude before our eyes. The quest, the goal of our trek, lay before us, still an hour away. Yet this point also marks the end of the wildest part of our journey, and it is this very journey that resonates so deeply, and unexpectedly, in my core.

Hiking to Machu Picchu, if one is able, is the only way to arrive. It gives you four days to adjust your perspective, to “tune in” to another culture, and to share the commonality of walking experiences with the Incas of yore.

I discovered that while the Inca Trail was initially the means to an end, it became a life-affirming experience, a time away from our modernity, and distilled for me the essence of what is valuable and necessary for life—shelter, food and movement. It’s about as simple as one can get, and yet it took this journey to discover it at all.

THE INCA TRAIL continued from page 8

IF YOU GO:

I went with a pre-booked tour offered by a British company, Exodus Walking Holidays, American companies offer trips, too, all of which are usually porters, or horse-assisted. You can also make private arrangements in Cuzco, spoor of the moment, to hike the Inca Trail. This might be for the more adventurous.

N.E.A:

[1] Arrive in Cuzco (11,100 feet) at least several days ahead of hiking to acclimatize. The altitude is a real consideration.

[2] We went in winter (June - August). It was warm and sunny, a peak time for wild flowers and plants a bloom. Temperatures can drop to below freezing at night in camp (we woke up to frost one morning). Rain seldom falls during this season.

[3] Even at midday, clouds can obscure the sun and the apparent temperature is drastically reduced and the apparent temperature is drastically reduced. We discovered that the Inca Trail is ready for the Inca Trail.

[4] Arrive in Cuzco (11,100 feet) at least several days ahead of hiking to acclimatize. The altitude is a real consideration.

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[6] Even at midday, clouds can obscure the sun and the apparent temperature is drastically reduced.
would border Sterling Forest State Park.

This plan is currently going through the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process. In May, the Town of Tuxedo, which is the lead agency to make final decisions on the development plan, held a public meeting on the scope of the DEIS that the Corporation will be required to prepare for this new development. Many of the same issues were raised at the meeting that addressed the Corporation’s initial development plan prior to the creation of the state park. Problems such as inadequacy of the water supply and drainage from Sterling Lake and Blue Lake, sewage effluent into the Ramapo and Ringwood rivers, air quality, and the impact of infrastructure on adjacent forest and water habitats still remain.

To date, New York Governor George Pataki has heard very little from the public. If you want to see the remaining Sterling Forest land protected, now is a critical time to write or e-mail the Governor and strongly urge him to fulfill his commitment to protect all of Sterling Forest. Be sure to include your full name and mailing address to: The Honorable George E. Pataki, Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany NY 12242, or go.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us. A sample letter can be found on the Conference website: www.nysec.org.

Sterling Forest State Park Master Plan in Process

Meetings were held in May to gather public input on defining the scope of the Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Sterling Forest State Park. Overwhelmingly, the meeting participants urged that Sterling Forest be preserved as an intact forest with the watershed and valuable habitat protected. Representatives of the NY-NJ Trail Conference were among those who urged local recreation use minimal impact recreational use with minimal disruption of the forest. Conference executive director, JoAnn Dolan, presented oral and written scoping comments, requesting among other things, that the DEIS include a detailed statement of the visual and noise impact of development on the Appalachian Trail and the trail systems in Harriman State Park. Conference volunteer, Walt Danies, raised the issue of illegal motorized vehicle use that will inevitably take place within fragile sections of Sterling Forest if homes adjoin parkland.

Public Voice Needed Now

Recently, New Jersey Governor Christine Whitman has received over 4,000 letters of citizens state over the continued threat of Sterling Forest development degrading the Ramapo River and the quality of drinking water in New Jersey. Keep sending letters!

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Sterling Forest State Park

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Dear Dr. Rosen,

I’m writing in response to your column in the March/April 1999 Trail Walker, to let you know that Band-Aid’s Blister Relief cushions work wonderfully! Before they came along, I’d tried everything: molekin, gauze, tape, polypropylene sock liners, etc. Band-Aid’s Blister Relief cushions are the only product that have consistently prevented me from developing blisters. Once applied, they usually adhere to the skin for at least a couple of days — even if you take a shower.

I highly recommend them. I’ve found that all drug stores carry them, though. In the NYC-Westchester area, Duane Reade and some CVS stores carry them.

Otherwise, they can also be ordered by catalog (a somewhat more expensive option) from Lab Safety Supply, at 1-800-316-0785.

I hope that those of your readers who have suffered as I once did will take heart now.

Sincerely,
Jean M.

Dr. Rosen replies: “Certainly sounds like a 4-star review!”

T-shirt Design Contest

Attention all budding artists and creative sorts: HELP DESIGN our new T-shirts. We are looking for new design ideas for our T-shirt. (Our 75th anniversary was almost 5 years ago!) Submit your ideas before September 30 (only one entry per person) and we will publish the 5 best designs in the next issue of the Trail Walker for our members to vote on. We are offering an incentive of $15 to the winner and $10 for the runner-up. Only stipulation: you must identify NY-NJ Trail Conference in the design.

Sterling Forest State Park Programs

Sept. 12. Fall Wildflowers and Herbs in Sterling Forest, 1-4 p.m. The iron industry of Sterling Forest was crucial to the outcome of both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Come see the remains of this great industry of the Highlands. We will carra-
vian to some of the mine sites and furnaces in the Sterling Forest area and hear about the heyday of iron production in our back-
yard. SF Partnership members free, non-members $4.

Oct. 3. Sterling Forest Iron Mines and Furnaces, 1-4 p.m. The iron industry of Sterling Forest was crucial to the outcome of both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Come see the remains of this great industry of the Highlands. We will carra-
vian to some of the mine sites and furnaces in the Sterling Forest area and hear about the heyday of iron production in our back-
yard. SF Partnership members free, non-members $4.

Oct. 10. Sterling Forest Graveyard History, 1-4 p.m. Tombstone restoration spe-
cialist, Roger King, will take us to sev-
eral historical graveyards and recount early American events related to these sites. Meet at the Red Apple Rest. SF Part-
nership members free, non-members $4.

Oct. 16. Sterling Forest Fall Colors and Migrating Hawks, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy the autumn hues on an easy 4-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail from Mount Peter to Lakes Road. Hike leader Jeffrey Hunter will take us to the Mount Peter hawk watch station to try to catch sight of some of the thousands of raptors that migrate south at this time. Then on to the Pinnacle and Cat Rock for views of the Ster-
ling Forest fall colors. Meet at the top of Mount Peter on Route 17A, between Greenwood Lake and Warwick, NY. Bring binoculars and lunch. No fee.

Porches on the rocks near the shelter on the Suffern-Mahwah Mountain trail in Harriman State Park, the Trail Conference staff enjoy a gorgeous day on their annual employee hike. Staff pictured clockwise: Administrative Director, Judith Fulmer; President, H. Neil Zimmerman; Student staff: Kent Young, Michael Fung, Vincent Chong, Kathy Huang; and Office Manager, Jeff Henry.

Ron Busse, perhaps best known as the most precocious painter of trail blazes ever, died earlier this year at his home in Mary-
land. Ron participated in Appalachian Trail relocation worktrips from 1979-90, helping to build the permanent route of the Appalachian Trail in Dutchess County, NY. We fondly remember Ron as an “ac-
complice” of Elizabeth Levers on all va-
riety of AT worktrips. A quiet man, he could be depended upon to pitch in any-
where. Ron was also a long-serving Dutchess County AT local management committee member and a member of the Trail Conference’s East Hudson trail crew. He also held membership in the Appala-
chian Mountain Club and Green Moun-
tain Club.

Bob Maloney

On Sunday, June 6, National Trails Day, Bob Maloney passed away at the beginning of the Interstate Hiking Club’s annual meeting hike. He was reclining on a rock outcrop along the Long Path north of the junction with the Menominee-Nawahunta Trail when he drifted off to sleep, never to regain con-
sciousness.

Bob was an avid hiker and skier. He was an active member of both IHC and Frost Valley Trail walkers, and served as IHC treasurer for the past 3 years, mak-
ing a major contribution toward revital-
izing the club.

We’ll remember Bob for his rare abil-
ity to speak his mind without offending, and dry sense of humor that never came at anyone’s expense. We feel fortunate to have hiked with him.

-Mike Selender, President, IHC

Looking for a new trail to hike or up-to-
date information about your favorite trail?

Try www.nyntc.org

Our new and improved website, designed by John L. Kulp and Walt Daniels, offers in-
depth, timely information about NY-NJ Trail Conference activities, projects, trail issues and trails themselves.
currently have under a request-basis ar-
rangement with our state and federal
agency partners.

Winch rigging systems also demand
high levels of experience and exposure to
a variety of applications to improve op-
erators’ safety. With the Kennard Foun-
dation donation, the Trail Conference will
bring in experienced trainers on a regu-
lar schedule to transfer their field-earned
knowledge to our trail crew members.

“The Kennard Foundation well un-
derstands the variety of skill training our
volunteer trail crew members require, and
has been very supportive by earmarking
portions of two generous grants to meet
those needs,” said Anne Lutkenhouse, Trail
Conference Projects Director. “The
Foundation’s investment to provide on-
going safety skill training to our volun-
teers, and general operations support, as-
sures a legacy of trail care and improve-
ments well into the new century.”

The Trail Conference is deeply ap-
preciative of The Kennard Foundation’s
gift.

With the acquisition of Bearpen
Mountain, the State has now protected
the northwestern-most high peak in the
Catskills. This wonderful new addition
to the State Forest system will provide
outstanding recreational opportunities for
hikers, campers, hunters and all those who
would like to enjoy fantastic panoramic
views of the Schoharie Valley and the
Huntersfield Mountain range.

The State purchased the property for
$940,000, using Environmental Protection
Fund (EPF) resources. The EPF supports
more than a dozen State and local envi-
ronmental programs, including the con-
servation of priority open space projects
identified in the State’s Open Space Con-
servation Plan.

...thanks to the volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. Join
and help support the organized volunteer work of building and maintaining foot
trails. Get discounts on maps and guidebooks, a subscription the TRAIL
WALKER, and learn to do trail work. Add your voice to the thousands of hikers
in our region!

I want to join the NY-NJ Trail Conference in the category indicated:

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<thead>
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<th>Individual</th>
<th>Joint/Family</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>$21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>$45</td>
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<td>Benefactor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$600*</td>
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* two adults at same address

Make check or money order payable to the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail
to 232 Madison Ave., Room 802, New York, NY 10016-1901.

Tax-deductible except for $4.00

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continued from back cover

MONDAY, 27

BWI. Mr. Gaylord Adams, Alternate, Via Union Brook. Hike: 4 miles; N 40-70 min. Nice fall scene; nice weather. Free shuttle.

TUESDAY, 26

FVT. Skyline Manor. Leader: Mr. Thomas McHugh, 718-767-8730. Meet: 7:30 pm Skyline Manor main. A 3-mile hike with trees and woods.

SATURDAY, 30

IFC. East Of The Hudson. A strenuous all day hike. The IFC-UNHBreakfast Woodchucks trail connection. Join us for a spectacular and challenging hike with a great view of the Hudson River and Mount Hamilton Mountain. AIC members. Meet at Archery/Hameln Road parking area of the Blue Hill & the Clarks Lake Dam. Rain cancels. For more information call: 718-727-9933.

THURSDAY, 11

HC. Skyline Drive Ramble. Leader: Ed Fantasia, 212-619-3436. Meet: 7:30 am near Skyline Dr., online on the yellow heritage trail maps. Free shuttle to Skyline Drive entrance. A nice walk of 4-5 hours along the Skyline Parkway Trail in the historic, Carrodegg Valley. Some rocky sections. Rain cancells.

SATURDAY, 24

IFC. West Mountain and Tempa Torne. A moderately strenuous all day hike. Bring lunch, 2 quarts water and your camera. Hard walk. Suitable for all ages. Meet: 7:30 am at the Hiking Hill parking lot. A 10-mile round trip to Breakneck Ridge and trails beyond. Rain cancels. Meet: 9 am at the Hiking Hill parking lot. Easy for beginners, moderate for families. All ages welcome. Call leaders: John McCarren, 908-224-3938; call between 4pm & 9pm. Bring water and food; hiking shoes or boots are recommended. Please call the leaders with any questions or concerns before the hike.

NOVEMBER

THURSDAY 4

IFC. Warren Long Path Circular. Leader: Mr. Thomas McHugh, 718-767-8730. Meet: Millbrook parking at 10:30 am. A 10-mile hike of the Long Path. Rain cancels. Meet: 9 am at the Millbrook parking lot. Hotel recommended: Best Western at Latham. Call leader: John McCarren, 908-224-3938; call between 4pm & 9pm. Bring water and food; hiking shoes or boots are recommended. Please call the leaders with any questions or concerns before the hike.

MONDAY, 4

NYHC. Long Path Palisades to Alpine Leader: Mike Miller, 718-767-9235. Meet: 10 am the Alpine parking lot, end at the George Washington Bridge and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

SATURDAY, 1

HC. Appalachian Trail #12: West Mombasha Rd. to Arden, Leader: Fred Backhaus, 718-761-7496. Staten Island. Rain cancels. Meet 9 am at the Hiking Hill parking lot. Bring water and food; hiking shoes or boots are recommended. Please call the leaders with any questions or concerns before the hike.

THURSDAY, 14

HC. Appalachian Trail #12: West Mombasha Rd. to Arden. Leader: Fred Backhaus, 718-761-7496. Staten Island. Rain cancels. Meet 9 am at the Hiking Hill parking lot. Bring water and food; hiking shoes or boots are recommended. Please call the leaders with any questions or concerns before the hike.

SATURDAY, 3

HC. Appalachian Trail #12: West Mombasha Rd. to Arden. Leader: Fred Backhaus, 718-761-7496. Staten Island. Rain cancels. Meet 9 am at the Hiking Hill parking lot. Bring water and food; hiking shoes or boots are recommended. Please call the leaders with any questions or concerns before the hike.
HILERS’ ALMANAC

SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY, 2
ICHI. Anthony Wayne Circular. Leader: Arnold S. Raymond, 917-530-3106. Meet: 11 am at Anthony Wayne parking area near the northeast end of the Palisades Interstate Parkway. Skating conditions depend on the weather, so check the Anthony Wayne website for more information. All are invited. Meet near the Anthony Wayne parking area.

SATURDAY, 4
HIC. Enid Smith Walk. Leader: Ruth Bloom. 212-327-0515. Meet: 10 am at the Route 208 parking area near the south side of the Palisades Interstate Parkway. A pleasant, easy, short walk through a forested area with plenty of wildlife. Suitable for families. Meet at the Route 208 parking area.

SUNDAY, 5
ICHI. Old Croton Aqueduct to Tibbetts Brook. Leader: Sandra Yarwood, 718-444-3005. Meet: Broadway and 203rd to 11 am, street level. A 1-mile walk along the Old Croton Aqueduct from the Old Croton Park to Tibbetts Brook. Bring wine to Giovino's.

SUNDAY, 6
NYHC. Appalachian Trail Day hike. Leader: Peter Wolfe, 973-795-8216. Meet: 10 am. An 8-mile walk along the main trail, which will be easy, with several side trips to the ridges. Bring your lunch and plenty of water. Car needed. Call Peter before you call us to arrange for transportation.

HIC. Mountain Preserve Day. Leader: John Leary. 718-383-8844. Meet: 9 am at Grandview Falls parking area. Bring your lunch and plenty of water. Call John or John Leary before you call us to arrange for transportation.

NYHC. Crocus Memorial Park State Park. Leader: Sir John Leary. 718-383-8844. Meet: 10 am at the parking area. Bring your lunch and plenty of water. Call John or John Leary before you call us to arrange for transportation.


RFW. Blackhead Mt. Loop. Leader: Chris Zelas. 917-530-3106. Meet: 9 am at the old A&P parking lot, Rt. 51, West Milford just before road starts. Bring your lunch and plenty of water. Car needed. Call the leader & he may be able to arrange transportation for you.

SUN., 7
FTV. Jenny Jump State Forest. Leader: Chris Zelas. 917-530-3106. Meet: 9 am at the Jenny Jump State Forest. Bring your lunch and plenty of water. Car needed. Call the leader & he may be able to arrange transportation for you.

SUN., 8

SAT., 11

THURSDAY, 17
FTV. Jenny Jump State Forest. Leader: Chris Zelas. 917-530-3106. Meet: 9 am at the Jenny Jump State Forest. Bring your lunch and plenty of water. Car needed. Call the leader & he may be able to arrange transportation for you.

SAT., 19

SAT., 26

SAT., 27

SUN., 28

SUNDAY, 19

JULY

SUNDAY, 17

THURSDAY, 21

SUN., 28

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. ALWAYS CALL THE LEADER BEFORE CALLING THE CLUB.

TRAIL WALKER
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September/October 1999

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