Highlands Trail is New Jersey’s Millennium Trail!!

At an October 21 White House ceremony, the Highlands Trail was named New Jersey’s Millennium Legacy Trail by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Stretching from the Delaware to the Hudson River, the Trail, nominated by Governor Christine Whitman, is just 40 miles from Manhattan and provides New Jersey communities organized public access to a rich wildlife habitat located in the most densely populated state in the country. Along the Trail, historically-significant sites link it to the American Revolution and the Civil War. The 100-mile New Jersey portion of the Trail, which is about 50% complete, connects to a similar pathway in New York.

In citing the Highlands Trail as a Millennium Trail, the Washington, DC-based Rails-to-Trails Conservancy noted, “The Highlands Trail was selected because it is an extraordinary trail connecting the northern part of the state. Also, it is located in an area seen as a major priority by open space protection advocates in an increasingly urban part of our country.”

“The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is thrilled to have the Highlands Trail recognized by the White House Millennium Council as a nationally-significant recreation resource. We are creating the Highlands Trail to offer a way for people to explore firsthand the natural, historic, and cultural treasures of this rugged, water-rich region, and thus gain an appreciation for its preservation as open space,” said Anne Lutkenhouse, Trail Conference Projects Director, who prepared the nomination application.

The Highlands Trail was born in July 1992, when the NY-NJ Trail Conference and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation/New Jersey Highlands Coalition, riding on the release of the USDA Forest Service’s NY-NJ Highlands Regional Study about the national significance of the Highlands region, applied for technical assistance from the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. This proposal asked for help to begin evaluating the concept; seek local support and research; and plan potential routes along an envisioned 170-mile-long hiking trail connecting the Hudson and Delaware Rivers and traversing the 1.3 million acre Highlands physiographic province.

Jan Hesbon named new Executive Director

After a nationwide search and over 100 applicants, Jan Hesbon—a Conference Life Member and an active volunteer with our Rockland and Orange Counties’ Appalachian Trail Management Committee—has been selected as the Trail Conference’s new Executive Director.

Jan’s wealth of fundraising experience, his knowledge of the Trail Conference, its mission, programs and services, and of the regional issues and agency and colleague organization players were key factors in his selection as the Trail Conference’s chief operating staff member.

Trail Conference President Gary Haugland summed up the Search Committee’s enthusiasm, “I am thrilled that Jan will become our next Executive Director. He will provide the leadership skills and knowledge base to guide the Trail Conference in the directions that Jo/Ann Dolan began during her tenure. And I know that his passionate love of our trails and intimate understanding of our volunteers will make this organization grow stronger as we face the challenges of the future.”

On accepting his new position Jan commented, “Of all my experiences in the non-profit world, my work with hundreds of volunteers, members, and donors has been the most rewarding, so I am very happy to be returning to the work of volunteerism through the Trail Conference. The many challenges faced by the hiking community due to urban sprawl are enormous, and I believe the Trail Conference will grow stronger as we face the challenges of the future.”

Anonymous Foundation Awards

$10,000 grant

Supports training workshops, volunteer recognition

The NY-NJ Trail Conference is delighted to announce receipt of a $10,000 grant, awarded recently by a foundation which prefers to remain anonymous. The grant will fund training workshops—for volunteers’ trail skills, both specialized and basic, and leadership development—and recognition activities to honor our volunteer workers.

“The Trail Conference deeply appreciates this grant award, which will permit us to better honor our volunteers. Since we are in the ‘people business’ as much as the trail business, investing in our active trail workers literally is an investment paid to the trails,” commented Conference Projects Director Anne Lutkenhouse.

Specialized skills training above and beyond trail building and maintenance skills—such as winching and rigging operation, crosscut saw operation and maintenance (for trail maintainers in wilderness areas), and chainsaw safety certification—is increasingly important so we can respond to trail maintenance challenges and new trail building opportunities. Such training is also much valued by Conference members, as it honors the volunteers’ commitment to providing the best they can to the regional hiking trail network.
From Groundwork to Ground Work

Happy New Year/Decade/Century! Millennium/whatever. No need to get too caught up in the debates about the meaning of the date; the fact is a big chunk of time is behind us and the future lies before us. We have been besieged with historical trivia in the last few months. Why we didn't poll our members to name the 100 best trails of the century I'll never know! But history is the theme of this article—history as the groundwork for the future.

On a beautiful day last autumn I had the pleasure of attending the dedication of a new trailside kiosk commemorating Raymond H. Torrey. Torrey, who died in 1938, was a key figure in the formative years of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference—one of our Founding Fathers, so to speak. (If you need a visual aid, he's the guy in the knickers on our 75th Anniversary T-shirt design.)

The day also honored another key figure in the Trail Conference's history, one who has dedicated much effort to keeping Raymond Torrey's memory alive—Meyer Kukle, Meyer, who has returned faithfully every year to the site of the Torrey memorial etched in the stone atop Long Mountain, has made me keenly aware of the importance of celebrating our history as we move forward.

Raymond Torrey helped lay the groundwork for what we are today by helping to develop the organizational framework of the Trail Conference. Formed in 1920 as a federation of hiking clubs and individuals dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community, the Conference has grown exponentially since Torrey's death, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission's visionary General Manager Major William A. Welch, who was reponsible for laying out the trails in Bear Mountain, Harriman, and many other public lands and expanding hiking possibilities. Along the way, we have been mobilized to action by grassroots organizations dedicated to protecting our natural resources. Regional and national land conservation organizations have lent crucial financial and technical support.

And the technology at our disposal has changed exponentially since Torrey's time. We have discovered new tools to help us in our ground work—tools often located far off the ground in satellites. We employ Global Positioning Systems to map parklands and trails with extreme accuracy and GIS technology to add layers of additional information. More and more of us use internet-based communications such as e-mail. The Trail Conference website reaches an audience far larger than Torrey's Evening Post. And computers are indispensable to the word processing and desktop publishing tasks that bring you the Trail Walker. You can be certain that Torrey also would have taken advantage of these technological advances.

So when you see the name Raymond Torrey, think of the groundwork he laid, and the ground work remaining for us. There are many new and exciting ways to volunteer your talents to the Trail Conference. We still need people to do the real ground work like building and maintaining trails, but increasingly we need more specialized skills. When you receive your revised Volunteer Data Sheets consider carefully how you can best contribute to the mission of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

Conference helps underwrite new interpretive signs in PIPC parks

Hikers will find three new interpretive signs at key trailheads in Minnewaska State Park Preserve and Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park, cooperative funding projects organized by the Trail Conference. In addition to the Wildmere kiosk, dedicated at right, which was funded by the Charles W. Kennard Foundation; Furthermore, the publications program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund; and the NY-NJ Trail Conference, two other new signs grace Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park trails.

At the Long Path trailhead to the Torrey Memorial atop Long Mountain, off Route 6 in the northern part of the park, hikers will find a sign interpreting the history of the 340-mile, bis-state Long Path hiking trail, and the trail's champion Raymond H. Torrey, co-founder of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. The Charles W. Kennard Foundation graciously donated the funds for this project.

On the Appalachian Trail, near the Trailside Museum and Nature Center, a double-panelled kiosk depicts a historic and inspirational trilogy from the park's amateur and professional community's first section of the AT right in the park. Torrey trailhead to the Trail Conference, the genesis and growth of the NY-NJ Trail Conference as the leadership organization for hikers' interests, and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission's visionary General Manager Mayor William A. Welch, who was responsible for the design and building of the park. This sign was made possible by a grant from Furthermore, the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and an anonymous donor. The Palisades Interstate Park Commission staff provided technical, design, and construction services for all three signs.
TORREY MEMORIAL

October 31, 1938. Five hundred people gathered atop Long Mountain, to scatter the ashes of Raymond H. Torrey, and to dedicate the monument carved in the rock.

Seven one years later, on October 31, 1995, 70 people gathered at the newly built information kiosk and interpretive sign for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the base of Long Mountain parking lot, a Long Path trailhead. The sign celebrates the 140-mile Long Path hiking trail and its champion, Raymond H. Torrey, as well as the history of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and its partnership with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

Meyer Kukle displays his award.

T O R R E Y    M E M O R I A L

Among those continuing the Torrey tradition: (l. to r.) Ken Kreuser of the PIPC, Meyer Kukle, Peter Kennard, and TC president Gary Hanando.

Update on Land and Water Conservation Fund legislation

When Congress adjourned late last year, a draft budget bill which recommended more than $450 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), including—for the first time in five years—$40 million in state matching grant money for the upcoming fiscal year 2000, was recommended out of a House of Representatives committee. Recommended funding for both the federal and statewide LWCF in the draft bill nearly doubled from an earlier amount proposed. This shows how important the LWCF is—doubled from an earlier amount proposed.

It’s not over yet: What you should still do

Congress reconvenes this month and both the Senate and House will begin considering final LWCF legislation. We need to continue to express support for LWCF to our members of Congress. Take a minute to call or write your senator and representative and urge them to support full, permanent funding of both federal and statewide LWCF programs. Also, call or write and say thank you to New Jersey Reps. Jim Saxton (R-10), Rush Holt (D-12th) and Frank Pallone (D-6th), and New York Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-7th), who were so instrumental in getting this legislation through a House committee.

New Life Members. The Trail Conference welcomes four new life members, to our growing “family” of 7450: Norman Reicher and Bob Reiss from New Jersey, and from New York, John A. Huke and Emanuel Ieracles-Anastos, newborn grandson of Ben Frankel, who joins his cousins (left to right) Abraham Jack Levy, Joseph Levy, Sylvia Hagen Frank, and honor and grandfather Ben Frankel, Jeremy Frank and Ethan Bernard Levy—all given Life Memberships when they were born. Emanuel is “at present no fit hiker as he sleeps all day and stays awake only at night,” according to Ben. An individual life membership is $400, and a joint life membership (two adults at the same address) is $600. Next time you renew, we hope you’ll consider becoming a “War.” Your money goes directly into the Outdoor Fund, our trail lands protection fund.

Delegates’ Meeting February 3rd

All Trail Conference members invited

All Trail Conference members are invited to attend the next meeting of hiking club delegates on Thursday, February 3rd at the Seafarers and International House, 133 East 15th Street, in Manhattan (corner of 15th Street and Irving Place, one block east of Union Square). The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Please join us for a social hour, beginning at 6 p.m., for a chance to share refreshments and chat with hiking club representatives.

Although each member club or organization of the Trail Conference designates a delegate to act as liaison to the Conference, individual Conference members are always welcome at delegates’ meetings. Meetings, held in New York City or at Fort Lee Historic Park on the New Jersey Palisades, provide a wonderful opportunity to share hiking and conservation news, discuss issues and help guide the Trail Conference’s future work and activities. We look forward to seeing you there!

Public transportation to the Seafarers House: subway lines 4, 5, 6, N, R and L to 14th St./Union Square. Or bus lines 6 and 7 (Broadway); lines 1, 2 and 3 (Park Ave.); and lines 102 and 103 (Third Ave.).
Off-road, Allis Trail Extension connects AT and Sterling Ridge Trail

Sterling Forest State Park has taken a big step for safety and aesthetics by eliminating a 2-mile road walk along Route 17A, a curving mountain road way. The blue-blazed Allis Trail is now within the newly-acquired park land, paralleling the roadway. The Allis Trail is a connecting link between the Sterling Ridge Trail and the Appalachian Trail. Additionally a new parking area has been opened along Rt. 17A at the northern termini of the Sterling Ridge Trail, opposite the Allis Trail Special thanks to all Conference members whose creations this important addition: Steve Buffalowksi for flagging the trail connection route, work-shop leaders Pete Tillner and Susan Gordan (who are also the Conference’s Trails Supervisors for Sterling Forest State Park), and crew member Ginny Livsey, Tom Murray, Warner Johnston, Mike Okamoto, Roel Hammer.

Maps of the lands open for hiking are sent to you with your permit. There are no trails on these lands. The permit is valid through May 31, 2000, at which time a comprehensive permit system may be in place. To request the permit, contact: Hiking Permit Manager, NYC DEP Stewardship Program, 71 Smith Ave., Kingston, NY 12401.

Catskills Back Country Hiking Advisory

Hikers should be aware that trails in the New York Forest Preserves (Catskills and Adirondacks) were hard hit by last autumn’s Hurricane Floyd, and may still be in damaged condition. There is still potential for downed trees, loose falling rocks, and debris. Caution is advised. Department of Environmental Conservation staff have been taking appropriate actions to address any hazardous situations that may have resulted.

Catskill Land Planning to be Completed

In October, New York Governor George E. Pataki announced a strategic plan to complete unit management plans for all forest preserve lands in the Catskills and Adirondack Parks during the next five years. A unit management plan (UMP) must be completed before any recreational facilities, such as trails, camping sites, or parking areas, can be constructed within the two parks. The plans involve an extensive analysis of the natural features of an area and the ability of the land to accommodate public use. In the Catskills, the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for developing unit management plans and ensuring they conform to the requirements of the Catskill State Land Master Plan. One new staff person is slated to be assigned to DEC to work on the 5 remaining UMPs in the northern Catskills which need to be completed.

Long Path bridges out

The footbridge over Horse Chock Brook and the bridge over the east branch of the Minnisceongo Creek were washed out as a result of Hurricane Floyd. A route of the trail is planned around the Minnisceongo Creek. Caution is urged when crossing Horse Chock Brook until the bridges can be replaced.

Some Catskill watershed lands open for hiking

On National Trails Day 1999, some of New York City’s Catskill watershed lands were opened to hiking. Hikers need a permit, which is free, to hike, snowshoe, or cross-country ski on any of the designated New York City Watershed parcels.

How to get your mail-in hiking permit for Pequannock Watershed trails

- Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with check or money order with the appropriate fee to: NWCD, 243 Echo Lake Road, PO Box 239, Newfoundland, NJ 07435. Include your telephone number, a photocopy of a current NY-NJ Trail Conference membership card, and a list of the vehicle plate number(s) of the vehicle(s) that will be used on the hike.

- Group Permit: Hike leader must send a letter of request two weeks in advance. Indicate the date of hike, number of persons in group, and intended trail(s). Include contact name, address and phone number (use club stationery when possible). You will receive original and copy of a Special Permit to sign. Return original and save copy to display on vehicle.

- Individual Permit: Includes spouse and children under 18 years of age. Permits are available now. Secure permits early in the year to derive the most benefit. (Permits are always issued for the current calendar year, regardless of the month.)

- The permit includes an updated trail map, parking decal and a list of regulations, including the locations of areas where hiking is not allowed during hunting season.

A grant from the Charles W. Kennard Foundation provided a two-day, advanced skills training course in bigline rigging techniques and safety. Trail Conference crew members Walt Daniels, John Graham, Mark Hudson, Peter Perricci, Dennis Kiel, Denise Vitali and Atlantic Highlands Chapter’s trail crew members under crew chief Bernie Strnger began to apply their skills when they installed 20 of the stockpiled rocks into place as steps. "These students" John Graham, Walt Daniels, and Larry Wheelock as they guide a quarried stone along the highline.

Catskill’s trails closed for 3 months

In October, New York Governor George E. Pataki announced a strategic plan to complete unit management plans for all forest preserve lands in the Catskills and Adirondack Parks during the next five years. A unit management plan (UMP) must be completed before any recreational facilities, such as trails, camping sites, or parking areas, can be constructed within the two parks. The plans involve an extensive analysis of the natural features of an area and the ability of the land to accommodate public use. In the Catskills, the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for developing unit management plans and ensuring they conform to the requirements of the Catskill State Land Master Plan. One new staff person is slated to be assigned to DEC to work on the 5 remaining UMPs in the northern Catskills which need to be completed.

Sterling Forest State Park Public Programs

Enjoy winter this year by joining the staff of Sterling Forest State Park for the Hike of the Month. Saturday, January 15, our destination will be Cedar Pond and on Saturday, February 19, the Sterling Fire Tower. Both hikes are rated moderate and 2-3 long. There will be stops along the way to enjoy the views and interpret the natural and historical features of the landscape. All participants should meet at 11 a.m. at the Sterling Forest State Park Information Center on Route 17A, just south of 17A, in Tuxedo, NY. The Hike of the Month is free, but registration is required. To register and for more information call 914-531-1907.
Volunteer Recruiting Workshop
Scheduled

The Trail Conference, like any volunteer-based organization, is always seeking active volunteers for its many programs and services. To help meet the challenge of finding volunteers and to help those who manage volunteers or volunteer programs within their member organizations, the Conference will sponsor a Volunteer Recruiting Workshop on Saturday, February 12, at 9 a.m. at Long Pond Iron Works State Park in Ringwood, NJ. Trail Conference Executive Director Jan Heshbon and Vice President Jane Daniels are presenting this free, three-hour, hands-on workshop.

Learn different recruiting techniques to find enthusiastic and competent volunteers, learn when and how to use them effectively, and how to provide a progression of jobs to keep volunteers interested and motivated. Attendees should bring their sense of humor, a willingness to experiment, and a list of jobs for which they need to find volunteers. The workshop begins at 9 a.m. Bagels and coffee will be available at 9 a.m. There will be a hike in the afternoon. If you plan to hike, bring a bag lunch.

Please register via the Internet at the Trail Conference’s website: www.nytrc.org/committee/member. If you do not have Internet access, please send the coupon below to the Trail Conference office. Travel directions will be sent with your confirmation letter. Public transportation is available via NJ Transit Bus route #197.

REGISTRATION FORM
Volunteer Recruiting Workshop
Saturday, February 12, 2000

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City __________ State __________ Zip __________
Phone: Day (______) _______ Eve (______) _______
E-mail __________________________________________

☐ I will be staying to hike.
☐ I will be arriving by NJ Transit Bus #197 and need a pick-up at Ringwood Municipal Building. Call me at (_____) _______ to confirm time and place.

Return to: NYNJ Trail Conference, Volunteer Recruiting Workshop, 232 Madison Ave., Room #82, New York, NY 10016.

SECRETARY RECEPTIONIST WANTED
Excellent word processing (70 wpm)
Great writing skills • Pleasant phone manner • Attention to detail

WANTED 5 days, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.


THE RIVER WALKER

He walks along the Hudson shore from Nyack to Haverstraw. Midst wild engulphing growth he views abandoned abodes, shrorn of roof, interiors forlorn. They are yet of pleasing form, their classic symmetry retained in indestructible stone.

Clearings reveal magnificent cliffs, quarried hills spared destruction by the munificence of a few men of means, and of dreams. Weathering and time have given the cliffs a russet hue, the patina of redemption. The WALKER shudders as he contemplates the consequences had quarrying gone on.

Tempted by the occasional footpaths to the river edge the WALKER finds small beaches littered with flotsam. Off shore are rotting pile of long-gone piers. Here rock and ice from the Hudson’s bills and nearby lakes were barged into the City’s insatiable maw. No more!

Near Haverstraw a historical marker stands where Benedict Arnold’s treachery occurred. As the Revolution triumphed, here also lies the battle for the preservation of the magnificent Hudson River Valley won significant victories.

Off shore the RIVER KEEPER minds its PCB’s and the resurgent fish as he cruises the healing stream. On shore the RIVER WALKER ambles on, alert for glimpse of eagle and returning deer.

- Paul Lekin

TRAIL WALKER  JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000  5
...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 who use and enjoy these trails.

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

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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 10016-2901. Make check or money order payable to the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 232 Madison Ave., Room 802, New York, NY 10016-2901.

As of June 1998, portions of the Wyanokie Crest, Wyanokie Circular, Hewitt-Mine, and Mine trails have been closed to public use by landowner Sam Braen of Saddle Mountain Industries (a.k.a. VanOrden Quarry), in the Saddle Mountain area adjacent to Norvin Green State Forest in Ringwood, NJ (Trail Conference North Jersey Trails map 21, Grid 3 EF).

Skylands CLEAN, a local environmental and conservation advocacy organization, reports on the status of two of their efforts, now in the courts, to preserve the landscape and public recreational access in the New Jersey Highlands.

Outcome of cases will affect Highlands trails

Two lawsuits are underway in Ringwood, New Jersey, that may well determine the fate of several popular trails which until recently were in public use for 75 years. Many hikers have already discovered, much to their disappointment, that parts of the Hewitt-Butler, Wyanokie Circular, Mine, and Wyanokie Crest trails are now closed outside of Norvin Green State Forest, and access to the area known as the Pine Paddies has been cut off. This is the result of trail closings suddenly imposed by landowner Sam Braen, operator of the quarry in Ringwood.

The closings were in retaliation for efforts by residents and by Skylands CLEAN to end, or at least to scale down, the quarrying, which is taking place in a rural, residentially-zoned neighborhood. The closed trails traverse miles of beautiful mountainous forest. Because these approximately 400 acres are also zoned residential, there is the ever-present danger of development. The permanent preservation of these acres, popularly known as the “Wyanokie Highlands,” including Saddle Mountain, continues to be one of CLEAN’s goals.

After tremendous public pressure from Skylands CLEAN and residents, and based on major ongoing violations, the Ringwood Borough Council voted in May 1999 to deny a license renewal for the quarry. The quarry then filed suit against Ringwood. This case is expected to be heard by February 2000. CLEAN has successfully petitioned the court for intervenor status in this case, both to support the license denial and to serve as a watchdog, since the Borough has been less than enthusiastic about regulating the quarry. One of the motions we have filed demands that the trails be reopened.

In October 1999, Skylands CLEAN filed a lawsuit against the Borough of Ringwood, in an effort to nullify what CLEAN considers to be an improper zoning ordinance recently passed by the Borough. The ordinance is troubling in several key aspects, including the definition of steep slopes as those over 25% grade, wherein the State standard is 15%; provision for the granting of variances, under loose and vague terms, to allow for grading of steep slopes in preparation for development; lack of ridge protection; improperly small lot sizes for non-sewered, environmentally-sensitive terrain—to name but some.

Sam Braen’s Wyanokie acres come under this new zoning ordinance. The ordinance’s provisions are likely to serve as an inducement for landowners like Braen to develop their lands, which would forever destroy these historic trails. Skylands CLEAN is asking individuals and organizations for help. Your financial support is absolutely essential to help us pay for the legal and professional fees needed to continue these efforts. Contributions are tax-deductible. Checks should be payable to “Skylands CLEAN Legal Fund” and mailed to Skylands CLEAN, 153 Skylands Road, Ringwood, NJ 07456. If you have any questions or have professional expertise that might be useful in one of these cases, please contact CLEAN’s coordinator Kathy Baker at 973-964-7599 or by e-mail clean@skyclean.org. Please also visit our web site: www.skyclean.org. Help us to reopen, and permanently preserve, these irreplaceable trails.

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

Try www.nynjtc.org

Our new and improved website, designed by John L. Kolin and Walt Daniels, offers in-depth, timely information about NY-NJ Trail Conference activities, projects, trail issues and trails themselves.
H drives his car about 20 min utes south to the trailhead with the familiar white blaze, parks, shoulders his pack, gathers his maps, and sets off up the trail. The sky is overcast, trying to be blue. Leaves carpet the earth, a gentle breeze encouraging those that haven’t yet taken the plunge. It is warm for almost November, a few hardy bugs haven’t yet taken the plunge. It is warm and warm dwellings below. “Bad place to hurt myself,” he thinks. “Long ways Flexible). The current requirements for Long Path end-to-end recognition are to complete the 344 miles of the Long Path from the George Washington Bridge to NYS Route 146 near Altamont, NY. Most people do it as a series of hikes over a number of years; it’s not necessary to hike the trail in a single trip. After completing your hike send in a tally sheet to the Long Path End-to-End Committee, Ed Walsh, 11 Kweskinick Street, West Haverstraw, NY 10953. End-to-enders receive a patch and a certificate in October at our annual meetings. Non-members of the Trail Conference should include a $5 application fee. Tally sheets are available from Ed Walsh at the above address. Please send an SASE with your request.

I am seeking information about the late Victor Martineck, who may have been a long-time NYNJTC member, for an upcoming exhibition of his paintings, letters, and artifacts at the Museum of the Hudson Highlands in Cornwall, NY. I’d love to talk to anyone who knew Victor, who can tell me stories about him (both good and bad), I know he was a complicated fellow), and who may have letters, artifacts, or paintings they would be willing to loan to the museum for the exhibition. Reply to David Noland, 914-354-3066 (days or evenings) e-mail at davidan@earthlink.net. Mailing address is Box 204, Mountainville, NY 10953.
**Be Prepared! Be Prepared! Be Prepared! Be Prepared! Be Prepared!**

**Give a Gift! Give a Gift! Give a Gift! Give a Gift! Give a Gift!**

### Hikers’ Market Place

**Official Conference Maps**

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### Books

**Scenes & Walks in the Northern Catskills**

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<td>$13.95</td>
<td>$10.45</td>
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<td>$6.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Taconic Trails (1998, rev. 1998)</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Jersey Trails (1998)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hudson Palisades (1991)</td>
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### Combo Packs

**Catskill (5 map set & book)**

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**Harriman (2 map set & book)**

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**Kittatinny Combo Maps (4 N&S) (1997)**

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**NY & NJ Walk Books**

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**Kittatinny Double (DWG guide & 4 map set)**

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**Shawangunk Combo (4 map set & book) (1999)**

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### The Personal Touch

**NY-NJ TC T-Shirt Circle L, XL**

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**75th Anniversary T-Shirt Circle M, L**

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**Harriman Map Bandanna**

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**Conference Logo Patch**

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**Long Path Logo Patch**

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**Conference Logo Decal**

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### Subtotal

Postage/handling from above, or $6.00, whichever is LESS*

*For New York Residents add applicable tax.**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED $**

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Reviewed by Nancy Z. Lock

Ian Marshall, an avid hiker and professor of English at Pennsylvania State-Altoona, has written an expansive, unique book about the literary history and geography of the Appalachian Trail. This book belongs to a relatively new form of literature termed “eco-criticism.” This survey of almost 20 works, some of which will be familiar to every reader and some of which, at least to this non-English major, are not at all well-known, is woven together with Marshall’s own personal observations from hiking the AT over the past twenty years.

In Story Line we find Cherokee myths, stories by Mary Nosulles Murfree, a writer of the late nineteenth century who focused on local rural society, as well as Robert Frost’s poetry, and the novel Pilgrim at Tinker’s Creek by Annie Dillard. We also find Evergreen’s (his AT trail name) concern for bringing along all the comforts of the “civilized” world but then retreats when he realizes that their enjoyment of the surrounding mountains is as genuine as his. The chapter on Thoreau’s Walden Woods is one in which Marshall’s technique of moving between his own exploration of a place and its literary companion works well. Here he hikes Mt. Katahdin and admires the beauty both of the natural world and the thunderstorm, much as Thoreau did one night when a fire tree suddenly blazed into flames.

At times I found this book engrossing, especially when being re-introduced to great American writers such as Thoreau and Hemingway. But at other times I was lost in a literary discussion that seemed much like a boring college English lecture. Then, I wished the author would return to the keen observations of the natural world that inspired these writings.

So if you want a very different armchair tour of the Appalachians, filled with lore, and can appreciate a serious literary focus, then you will enjoy Story Line.

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Our special thanks to all those who have contributed to the H. Neil Zimmerman Fund, established to support the permanent protection of trail lands in the region.

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TRAIL WALKER   JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2000
Highlands Trail is NJ’s Millennium Trail

The value of designation

Legacy Trail designation brings a number of benefits. The trail will receive a marker bearing the White House Millennium Council logo; it will be promoted in the media as an important part of the National Millennium Celebration; a map and description of the trail will be posted on the Millennium Trails website, where it will be featured as a “Trail of the Week”; a Trail map and description will be included on a new national trails database; assistance will be given to staging a major celebratory event on the Trail; and it will be included in a national event on National Trails Day 2000.

Designation will also generate greater public focus on the region that the Trail traverses, thus fulfilling one of the TC’s main goals in its development: to focus attention on the Highlands landscape and thereby increase preservation support through grass-roots activism. This is a natural extension of greater attention to Highlands preservation efforts. Just before Earth Day 1999, the Sierra Club named the NJ Highlands as one of 52 “Special Places in America”—one natural feature in each state with national significance worth saving for future generations.

Funds are increasingly becoming available for vital land preservation work. First, NJ Governor Whitman’s stable funding source, approved in the November 1998 election, authorizes $98 million a year for the next 10 years to acquire sensitive open space for permanent preservation. In addition, national efforts by many states and environmental organizations have put forward legislative bills appropriating full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to assist both federal and state governments with a pool of funds for preserving dwindling open space.

Honoring our past and imagining our future...

Millennium Trail selection criteria required that the trail chosen “honors the past and imagines the future” of America by reflecting the heritage and culture of the area it traverses while uniting public and private sectors in collaborative support. The Highlands Trail continues to be a cooperative partnership among volunteer trail clubs, community groups, private landowners, and public agencies, overseen by the Trail Conference.

The Highlands’ iron-ore laden hills have given rich and long-lived service to the independence and history of the United States. Ringwood Borough’s iron-ore industry began in 1740, fueling the colonists’ needs for arms and ammunition during the Revolution. Iron mines and forges dotting the region produced cannonballs, while the famed West Point Iron chain across the Hudson River was cast from Highlands ores. Revolutionary War battles were fought throughout the Highlands because of these ore reserves as well as the area’s strategic significance to New York City. Gen. Washington over-wintered his headquarters there for several years. Mahlon Dickerson, a military general, NJ governor, and Secretary of the Navy under President Andrew Jackson, owned one of the largest mines in the country, in Succasunna.

The Highlands Trail was envisioned as a small-scale model of the “Greenway Spine” concept: a foot trail forming the backbone of a recreational hiking system with other trail networks feeding into, or off of, it—much like ribs attach to the spinal column. Already, the Farry Highlands Trail Network serves as an example of this concept. The Farry system, a planned 50-mile hiking trail network branching off the Highlands Trail, has 30 miles open for public use, bringing communities’ local trail resources into a more regional network, which can permit wider exploration and recreation. Other proposals for trails and trail systems to connect with the “ spine” include the Ridge and Valley Trail, the Liberty-Water Gap Trail, and municipal systems.

The Trail Conference would like to thank the growing list of sponsors to the Highlands Trail project over the years: National Park Service’s Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance program, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (NJ-03) for the original application for RTCA funding. We would also like to thank our funders: Eastern Mountains, Wickers, Inc.; Recreational Equipment, Inc.; Open Space Institute; Rural NY Grant Program; Conservation Fund’s American Greenway Development Awards Program; Campsnort; Alli inter-active; Sierra Club; our agency partners: NJ Department of Environmental Protection—Divisions of Parks & Forestry, and Fish, Game & Wildlife; Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation; Townships of West Milford and Washington; Morris County Park Commission; North Jersey District Water Supply Commission; Palisades Interstate Park Commission; Passaic and Warren Counties, and private landowners.

Governor Whitman submitted three trails as finalists to the Washington, DC-based panel which made the final selection. The other two were the Liberty-to-Water Gap Trail, a combination of both existing and envisioned trails stretching across the state from Liberty State Park to the Delaware Water Gap, and the Batona Trail, a 50-mile, long distance trail in southern New Jersey’s Pine Barrens. The Trail Conference, a collaborative effort of the White House Millennium Council, the US Department of Transportation, and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, seeks to recognize, promote, and stimulate the US trail movement. Each of the 50 Millennium Legacy Trails—representing 47 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands—embodifies the essence of the themes of history and future within a state’s boundaries.

There are two other types of Millennium trails: the 12 Flagship Trails which encapsulate our history and hope for the future on broad national themes (the Appalachian Trail is one) and the 200 Community Millennium Trails—those trail projects registering for National Trails Days 1999 and 2000.

$10,000 grant funds volunteer programs

Three thousand dollars of this grant will cover costs (food, travel, leader’s salary) associated with hosting a professionally-led, volunteer trail crew to our region. This format allows local Conference members to learn new, and bolster existing, skills by working side-by-side with these visiting experienced leaders.

Another three thousand dollars will permit the Trail Conference to sponsor additional trail maintenance, chainsaw certification, and leadership development courses, especially in the western New Jersey region where efforts are underway to strengthen the presence of the Trail Conference. The Volunteer Recruiting Workshop announced in this issue (see page 3) is the first workshop to be offered through this grant.

Although so many active Conference trail volunteers do their service for the love of it and the sense of giving, receiving acknowledgment is still important for morale. While the Trail Conference puts its limited dollars primarily into direct trail work or trail protection, literally investing in the ground, it nonetheless wanted to recognize in a more broad way our cadre of volunteers. Four thousand dollars of this grant award is earmarked for volunteer acknowledgment to honor the volunteers of the Trail Conference’s 11 trail committees, and five committees—the maintainers and committees—the maintainers and committees who literally are the heart and soul of our services and mission. To say “Thank You,” a series of regionally-located “socials”—picnics, small receptions, or similar—are planned, since volunteers are widely dispersed in both states. If funds allow, a small mention of thanks might also be possible.

Millennium Trail

About 50 contiguous miles of the Trail are open from the NY/NJ state line to Mahlon Dickinson reservation in Morris County. Heading south from the state line, the Trail passes through Wanaque, Wildilke Ridge, and Sparta Mountain Wild-Path Management Areas; Long Pond Ironworks State Park and Abram S. Hewitt State Forests; Mahlon Dickinson Reservation, and private lands. Other trail sections have been built in southern Morris and Hunterdon Counties. We expect to announce public access to these later this spring. The Warren County route is progressing through the land acquisition phase as the county’s open space preservation program acquires property. Most recently, the county closed on the Marble Hill property, the anchor point for the Highlands Trail on the Delaware River.

For the Highlands Trail description and maps pamphlet to sections currently open, send a self-addressed, stamped (55 cents) envelope to the Trail Conference office, requesting the Highlands Trail packet.
THE SILENT KILLER

by Albert P. Rosen, M.D.

A recent “Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report” issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) listed six deaths, all in Georgia in March 1999, caused by carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning associated with camping. In the first incident, four people were found dead in a zipped-up tent: a 51-year-old man, his 10-year-old son, a 9-year-old boy, and a 7-year-old girl. A propane gas stove, found still burning inside the tent, was assumed to have been brought inside for heating.

In a second incident, a 14-year-old man and his 7-year-old son were found dead in a zipped-up tent located in a group campground. A charcoal grill, found inside the tent, had been used outside for cooking then brought into the tent to provide warmth.

Between 1990 and 1994 there was an average annual of 50 fatal CO poisonings occurring inside tents or campers. The CDC advises campers not to use fuel burning equipment such as lanterns, camp stoves, cooking heaters, or charcoal grills inside tents, campers, or other enclosed shelters. Opening tent flaps, doors, or windows is insufficient to prevent the buildup of CO concentration.

Unfortunately, carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless and gives no warning. To prevent hypothermia, the CDC recommends adequate clothing and bedding and the consumption of extra calories and fluids when exposed to the cold. All backpackers and overnight hikers take heed and wear a hat!

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Hikers’ Almanac

JANUARY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

UTC: Garvan's Point and Minnow Ponds. Leader: Roland Chaputte. Meet: Take Exit 9 of I-95 at top of planting, meet in front of Town Court. If rain Friday night, please call ACT. 718-769-3250 before 5:30 p.m. for rainout. No rain, no canceling. 718-769-3250.

OC: Long Branch to Lookout Point. Leader: Mike Puder, 718-435-0320. Meet at Bay Pines across from the LIRR station, telephone booth. Use Stanhope Road to Watchung, turn right onto Watchung Ave., telephone booth. Tocasa Boys' Mountain Club shall be on your right.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8 OR 9

Leader: Don Weise, snow, call leader for additional directions. TMC. Arden Hot Spots. climb the Watchungs, and pass the Cedar Grove Reservoir. 718-435-4994. Meet: Call leader. Walk through the parks of Essex County, of water and lunch. $5 for non-members, $4 for members.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9


MONDAY, JANUARY 10

FVT. Shapleigh's Ridge, Town of Esopus. Meet: 8 a.m. at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot (rte 9K), Saugerties, Saw-mills, Wate-ridge. Walk and/or run. Depends on conditions, snowshoes and crampons may be necessary. 3 hours. The views from Mill Hollow will be clear and distinct.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

SV: Headwaters Highlands at Archibald's. Leader: Donald Wishart, 516-265-2446. Meet: 9 a.m. at parking lot; 500 feet from access road. Rain cancels. Call to confirm. 516-265-2446.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

HHC. Delaware River Ice Formations. Leader: George Bishop 973-727-2032. Meet: 8:30 a.m. at Parking Lot. Please plan- ning and ice conditions. Dependent on day, south of Dutchess County is the start. Hiking, birds, water cool.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

UTC: Sandtoch диск в выезде на старой дороге на северо в Вест-Милл. 718-201-8376. Meet: 9 a.m. at parking lot; 500 feet from access road. Rain cancels. Call to confirm. 718-201-8376.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

FVT. Allamuchy Mountain State Park-Ski or Hike. Leader: Pete Rigotti, 718-769-3814. Meet: 8 a.m. at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot (rte 9K), Saugerties, Saw-mills, Wate-ridge. Moderate 8.25 miles, 5.5 hrs. Depending on snow conditions, snowshoes and crampons may be necessary. Inclement weather date-following Monday. For more information call: 914-246-5664.

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

HHC. Taconic Creek Hike. Leader: Judy De Liz, 212-399-7293. Meet: 10 a.m. at parking lot; 500 feet from access road. Rain cancels. Call to confirm. 212-399-7293.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

RVW. Graham Mountain. Leader: Peter Wolff 973-239-0766. Meet: 10 a.m. at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot (rte 9K), Saugerties, Saw-mills, Wate-ridge. Moderate 4.5 miles, 3.5 hrs. Depending on snow conditions, snowshoes and crampons may be necessary. Inclement weather date-following Saturday. For more information call: 914-246-4145.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

RVW. Matapan Rock, Ramapo fire tower and old castle to be seen on this hike. Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-5921. Meet: 10 a.m. at parking lot; 500 feet from access road. Rain cancels. Call to confirm. 212-533-5921.

MONDAY, MARCH 7

HHC. Rambling Road Hike, PA. Leader: Mike Puder, 718-435-0320. Meet: 8 a.m. at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot (rte 9K), Saugerties, Saw-mills, Wate-ridge. Moderate 3 miles, 2.5 hrs. Depending on snow conditions, snowshoes and crampons may be necessary. For more information call: 914-246-5664.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14


CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Note: All hikes are run by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. To confirm a hike, call the number listed. Hikes may be cancelled due to weather.