The NY-NJ Trail Conference Web store—the Hikers’ Marketplace—is now up and running. We’ve entered the 21st century!

Browse the new electronic Hikers’ Marketplace to see the range of Trail Conference maps and guidebooks that are available for purchase. You’ll find full descriptions of our maps, guidebooks, and other items. Buying your selections via the web store is quick and easy.

And the store is more than just maps and guidebooks! Non-Members can join the Trail Conference through the Hikers’ Marketplace, and then take advantage of member prices. Current members can also use the Hikers’ Marketplace to both renew their memberships and make donations.

You can enter the store from the Trail Conference’s home page—http://www.nynjtc.org. Just look for “Hiker’s Marketplace” on the menu. Remember, as members you can use the Members’ section of the Marketplace.

To purchase items from the store, you need a Mastercard, Visa, or American Express card. Rest assured that your credit card information is fully protected and encrypted through the use of modern Web security methods and software.

For those of you who don’t wish to send credit card information through the Web, you can still browse through the Hikers’ Marketplace to see which items you wish to order, then either:

- print a copy of the order form from the Web and mail it to the Trail Conference office, or
- use the Order Form on page 8 of this issue, or phone your order into the Trail Conference Office at 212-685-9699.

Special thanks to Trail Conference member Dave Bertollo for his energies to get our web store up and running.

$10,000 American Express Company grant to aid Highlands Trail

The NY-NJ Trail Conference is very pleased to announce receipt of a $10,000 grant from the American Express Company to further develop the Highlands Millennium Trail in New Jersey.

The Highlands Trail was designated New Jersey’s Millennium Trail in October 1999 by the nationwide Millennium Trails program, a partnership among the White House Millennium Council, U.S. Department of Transportation, and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, in cooperation with other agencies and organizations.

The American Express Company is a major financial supporter of the Millennium Trails program.

Of the 50 designated millennium trails across the country, only selected trails were considered for an American Express award.

“We’re giving grants to states where American Express’s employees and customers live and work,” noted Bob Moss, Highlands Trail Committee Chairman. “We also think the Highlands Trail is an exciting project.”

“This grant will enable the Trail Conference to enhance the vision and mission of the Highlands Trail to benefit the present and future constituents well into the new millennium,” noted Bob Moss, Highlands Trail Committee Chairman.

Our thanks to the American Express Company for their support.

Celebrating East Hudson Conservation

A Celebration of Conservation in the east Hudson Valley was held on September 23, hosted for the Trail Conference by Anne and Fred Osborn at “Cat Rock,” their home in Garrison. The event featured two speakers from among our partners in the east Hudson area: Joe Martens, President of Open Space Institute, and Chris Davis, President of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. Above, three wonderful land conservators and Trail Conference members conferring about recent achievements in the Hudson Valley: Dr. Margaret Johns, Klara Sauer, and Anne Sidamon-Eristoff. See page 3 for more coverage.
One Hundred Years Old and Still Growing

This month my notepad is a mixed bag of news—some about change, but mostly about celebrating stability.

The announcement of Jan’s leaving has made us all pause to inventory the changes he has helped bring about in his brief stint as Executive Director. From implementing our strategic plan and new data base, to enhancing our fund raising and publications capacity, together we have grappled with major changes in the Trail Conference. And in light of skyrocketching rents in midtown Manhattan we will likely need to move our office sometime in the next year and a half.

Too much change you may think. No argument from me. Yet at the same time we are celebrating our 80th year of serving the public through our program of building and maintaining footpaths. We are proud of our legacy over these 80 years, of the partnerships that have developed and of the successes we have shared in protecting open space.

But there is an even more impressive milestone being celebrated this year. It is the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Palsadies Interstate Park Commission. (We call them PIPC; rhymes with tipsy.)

Geography must be objective

In his recent review of the book Cattail Trails—A Ranger’s Guide to the High Peaks (September/October 2000 Trail Walker), Pete Senterman says the book “has done a great disservice” by including chapters on Platte Clove and Kaaterskill Clove. Senterman says writing about the closes would “only encourage their overuse,” and will also “only invite trespass and possible injury,” as some areas are privately owned, and the terrain can be quite steep. Even though geography may at times deal with the subjective, its aim is to establish objective truth. As author Edward Henry apparently set out to write a book on geography, omitting information on the two, vastly famous closes would be illogical and a notable disservice to readers, who might find the information useful in ways that Senterman, and indeed nobody, can predict.

As author Edward Henry apparently set about which had poison ivy on it.

A key word.

One of the most challenging days of the year is when the kids are for a hike. The sections of the trail we walked were along. I was impressed with the recent constructed boardwalk leading to the Pochuck Bridge. Paul has been an AT trail maintainer for twenty years, six of those years as committee chair. During that time he oversees the volunteer efforts to construct Pochuck Creek AT bridge, and six-foot sections of boardwalk.

Letting children lift rocks is not without some element of danger, particularly from snakes in our area which like to hide beneath them at times. Hide and seek is a game that means the children are for a time out of sight. Not so good unless Mom and Pop are familiar with every inch of the area and are sure the kids confine themselves to it. Follow the leader: a great game, but Mom or Pop should be leading. Talking to a woods fine, if the youngster has learned to tell worms from snakes.

“Hugging a tree,” fine, I guess, but I know of a little guy named Johnny who recently “bugged” a tree on Goose Pond Mountain which had poison ivy on it.

So let the little ones explore, but keep in mind the woods are not without dangerous places and animals. Caution is the key word.

Bob Schultz
Richmond Hill, NY

Paul DeCoste honored

On Saturday, September 30 I had the privilege of hiking the New Jersey section of the Appalachian Trail from Warwick Turnpike to the Pochuck Bridge. This was a special hike to recognize the work of Paul DeCoste who recently “retired” as the Chairman of the Trail Conference’s New Jersey Appalachian Trail Management Committee. It was an ideal day for a hike of this quality.

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Richmond Hill, NY
Departure of Trail Conference Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference announced that Jan Hesbon has left his position as Executive Director effective October 25, 2000. Jan informed the Board that an extremely attractive professional opportunity came to his attention, and it was an offer he could not pass up. He will serve as Director of Gift Planning for the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation.

In expression of his commitment to the future of the Trail Conference, Jan agreed to be considered for an open seat on the Trail Conference Board of Directors. “I do this for two reasons,” said Jan, “though under one name: continuity. I have some unfinished objectives that I wish to continue pursuing collaboratively with the Board, and I also wish to help provide some continuity with our partners—sister organizations this year. Trail building is a way to channel our partnerships toward the common goals of trail lands protection. It is the sharing and acceptance of diversity that has made the Trail Conference so powerful an organization in the 21st Century.

My Decision to Leave as Executive Director

When I was appointed Executive Director of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in December 1999, I envisioned I would work with the Board, the Committees, and other volunteers to move the Trail Conference forward into the 21st Century. In my mind, I had no timeline about how long or how short a time I would be the Executive. I was presented with an opportunity of a lifetime to work with the American Civil Liberties Union. Securing planned gifts from bequests, trusts, and other estate plans has been my profession for nearly 20 years, and I could not look away from this opportunity. My connections to ACLU go back to when I began working closely with Jan on all facets of Trail Conference operations, and I have many accommodations in his short time at the head of the Trail Conference and we are glad that he will continue to be actively involved in our future.

I have enjoyed my short time as your Executive Director, and have many fond memories. I treasure the many friendships that I have made in the Trail Conference since my first introduction as a volunteer nearly eight years ago. I look forward to meeting you again on the trails that you have built and protected, and I hope that I will now have more time to hike, as I had before becoming your Executive. Thank you for a wonderful term as your Executive Director, representing the best trail lands protection organization in the bi-state region. Trail building is a means to an end; the end is protecting open space, and I am happy to be a small part in that effort.

- Jan Hesbon

Celebrating East Hudson Conservation

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- Jan Hesbon

Where there’s a Will, there’s a Trail

When we build them, you hike them. We’ve been building and protecting trails for 80 years for at least four generations of hikers since 1920. That’s 3,500 miles in New York and New Jersey to date. Help us keep building for the next generation by naming the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in your will. A bequest makes a wonderful gift, and it lasts beyond one lifetime.

For confidential information and legal language, contact the Trail Conference at 212-687-9695, or by email: info@nynjtc.org, and someone will contact you.
Long Path relocation in central Catskills

Almost 5 1/2 miles of new, off-road and in-the-woods Long Path are now open to the public in the central Catskills. The new segment begins on the Willow Trail 1.6 miles north of Mt. Tremper Fire Tower, and includes a mile walk through Warner Creek valley, and Edgewood Mountain, the 3000' summit of the ridge to the east of Stony Clove Creek Valley. The relocation replaces an 8.1 mile segment (Long Path Sections 18 and 19)—which included 6.5 miles of road walking—with 11.8 miles, only 1.4 miles of which is road walking. See the Trail Conference's Catskills Trails map #41, grids M-N, 4-5.

A new trail junction has been created on the ridge 1.6 miles north of Mt. Tremper and 1.8 miles northwest of Jessop Road. The existing Willow Trail from Willow to the junction has been remarked with yellow markers. The new Long Path segment is marked with blue markers.

Twenty-two volunteers spent close to 700 hours scouting, flagging, and finally cutting the almost 5 1/2 miles of new trail, which is part of a larger relocation that will eventually create a route from Phoenix to the Devil's Path on Plateau Mountain. The final segment will be included in the next revision of the Indian Head—Plateau Wilderness Unit Management Plan.

A very special thanks to all who pitched in: Doug Bowers, Jim Daley, Frank Dogil, Jerry Duma, George Forman, Pete France, Grace Gerow, Rick Gerow, Joe Herrod, Dale Hughes, Tom Lynch, Kevin McLoughlin, Regina McVay, Henry Mangione, Maurice Maurer, Stew Maurer, Pete Perricci, Jack Persley, Doug Senterman, Pete Senterman, Betty Taber and Bruce Warden.

Happy Hiking, hope you enjoyed using it as much as we did building it!

Maintainers sought

Joe Herrod is the Trail Conference's Catskill trail supervisor for this area; Pete Perricci is a new maintainer for one segment of the new trail. We are in need of volunteers to maintain other segments of this, and other trails, in the Catskill Forest Preserve. Please call Pete Senterman, Conference Catskill Trails Chairman at 845-221-4392 if you would like a trail maintenance assignment in the Forest Preserve.

New Side Trail in Indian Hill

Volunteers have completed a new side trail off the Indian Hill Loop Trail in Scenic Hudson-owned property in Southfields, NY, adjacent to Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park. The new trail, about 1 mile in length, heads south from the western viewpoint of the Indian Hill Loop to the stabilized historic Southfields Furnace, and then back to re-join the Indian Hill Loop Trail when it crosses the stream.

Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail errata

Oops! In the September/October issue, we showed erroneously the new relocation route of the eastern end of the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail. See the map excerpt below for the correct route of the trail. Also, please note that the B-D proceeds west jointly with the Timp-Torne Trail for .2 mile, not .02 as stated in the last issue.
Pochuck Boardwalk Still Growing...

Another 800-plus feet of boardwalk, this time on the west side of the Appalachian Trail Pochuck Creek Bridge in Vernon Valley, NJ, has been finished in Phase 3 of the approximate 1-mile relocation under construction. The Appalachian Trail Conference Mid-Atlantic volunteer trail crew, local Trail Conference volunteers, and volunteers from the New Jersey Builders’ Association literally tore through the construction once the rainy summer season ended. Project manager Wes Powers, regional maintenance chief for the NJ State Park Service, orchestrated the myriad details and the personnel into a well-tuned “machine.”

Congratulations on the progress on the Pochuck. Having been involved in this project for almost 10 years, I know how rewarding it is when all the pieces come into place and you actually see stuff happening on the ground. Also, Charlie McCurry (Wawayanda State Park maintenance chief) and Wes Powers (Regional maintenance chief of the NJ State Park Service) deserve credit—those two guys are amazing work horses.

—Glenn Scherer, N.J. Appalachian Trail volunteer

I’ve never encountered such hard workers! Yesterday [first week on site] the Mid-Atlantic trail crew worked from about 7 am to 7:30 pm! No one could ask for a better-tuned effort put together by Wes, Charlie, and the Crew. I feel a lot of love for how to show an adequate appreciation. All materials have been moved to the west side of the stream, the lumber cut to size and the “drilling” will be more than half complete by the time the crew leaves. We are well more than a week ahead of schedule!

—Larry Wheelock, Conference N.J. Field Representative

TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES

NORTH NEW JERSEY TRAIL CREW

What & Where: Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in NJ’s parks and forests. With all of these projects please call the leader in advance and come prepared with work gloves, lunch, water, and boots.

When: Sundays, November 12 and December 10.

WEST HUDDSON TRAIL CREW

What & Where: Trail repair and erosion control on the Timp-Torne Trail.

When: Sundays, November 4 and 11, and Thursday, November 16.

Sterling Forest State Park:


When: Sundays, November 12 and 19.
Leader: Bob Marshall, 914-737-4792.

WEST JERSEY CREW

Mt. Tammany/Worthington State Forest:

What & Where: “Return to Red Dot.”

Major trail rehabilitation project concentrating on rock erosion control structures on the Mt. Tammany Trail in Worthington State Forest at the Delaware Water Gap.

When: Sunday, November 5.
Meet: 9 AM at the Breakneck Ridge Trailhead, just north of the tunnel on Route 9D. Contact the Crew leader so they know how many tools to bring.

Leaders: Bernie Stringer, 914-583-5028, stringer@bm.net, or Wally Daniels, 914-445-2150, wdaniels@bethnet.net.

HIGHLANDS-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CREW

What & Where: New trail construction concentrating in the Lake Hopatcong, NJ area. Call the leader no earlier than one week before the scheduled date for all the details.

When: Sundays, November 5 and 19.
Leader: Bob Moses, 973-743-5203.

TRAIL WALKER

November/December
By Ed Walsh

Lists, lists, and more lists. As a “re-formed” peakbagger (Catskill 3500 Club through Northeast 111ers) I can attest to the fact that there is always another list of mountains to climb. Finished the 35 Catskill peaks? Then how about the Adirondack 46ers or the White Mountain 4000-footers? Or the 50 state high points? There’s always another list to complete.

The latest is presented in Peak Experiences, in which he describes the highest point in each of New York’s 62 counties—from Kings County’s 220-foot high point to Mount Marcy in Essex County over 5000 feet higher.

Fallen, an outdoor reporter for the Rochester, NY, Democrat and Chronicle, brings a refreshing writing style to the genre. Besides his extensive research, he writes with humor and offers personal anecdotes about each high point. He also offers directions to the trail head, a description of the view and nearby camping areas. Unique to this book is the description of alternative hikes. Five of the high points are on private property that welcomes hikers. Another 23 either require prior permission from the landowner or are posted against trespassing. In these cases the author lists an alternative hike to the nearest publicly owned high point. In most cases these alternative high points are within 50 feet in elevation of the actual high point.

If you hike to each of these county high points you qualify for membership in the New York State Summit Club, patch (of course) available for $2.00. The only caveat I offer to the reader is to research the overnight camping regulations before venturing forth on your own. When describing the high point in Orange County (Sunnysunck Mountain) the author mentions that overnight camping is allowed (Schunemunk Mountain) the author mentions the view and nearby camping offers directions to the trail head, a description of the view and nearby camping areas. Unique to this book is the description of alternative hikes. Five of the high points are on private property that welcomes hikers. Another 23 either require prior permission from the landowner or are posted against trespassing. In these cases the author lists an alternative hike to the nearest publicly owned high point.

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Treelands protection fund.

New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes six new life members, to our growing “family” of two. Jonathan Beard, Neil Block, Jill Brennan-Cook, Charlotte Fahn, and Justine and Brendan Monahan, all from New York.

An individual life membership is $450, and a joint life membership (two adults at the same address) is $600. Next time you renew, we hope you’ll consider becoming a “lifer.” Your money goes directly into the Outdoor Fund, our trail lands protection fund.

Country Dance New York, New York Pinewoods Folk Music Club, & the NY-NJ Trail Conference present

FALL FLING/EDFEST

A variety of workshops all day. Check the schedule for live music suggestions.

DANCING

Saturday, November 18th 10am-11pm

111 PS 189 East 70th St., NYC (across from the Dunbar, closer to subways)

Discounts for members of sponsoring groups; seniors; full-time students: all day - 9:30 am, 9:45 others; afternoon only - $12 members; 915 others. Bring clean, soft-bottomed shoes. Bring a goodie to share, if you like.

Info: Dancephone 212-459-4080 FolkFone 212-963-4099

CD-NY: www.cdny.org Pinewoods: members.aol.com/nypinewoods/club.html

In Black Rock Forest, work began on a new protection fund.

In the Zone: Epic Survival Stories from the Mountaineering World, by Peter Potterfield. The Mountaineers, 1996. c/o
tips, with index.

By Petah Digby-Lewis

This book is about people mostly in the Olympic league who take death-defying risks. Nonetheless these extraordinary lives are of awe-inspiring interest to ordinary people as well as having practical application in ordinary lives. The expression “in the zone” has particular meaning for mountaineers as well as more general applicability for sports people, performers, therapists, and so on. It refers to the experience most of us have had, at least ideologically, of being “totally focused... a state of mind where there’s nothing else to think about except the next move.”

Potterfield’s stories of these near-fatal climbing accidents is, to quote a jacket reviewer, “a compelling and somewhat revealing” (Erik). The book is compelling because the author not only dissectsa the attraction to and thrills gained from climbing, but also explores the reaction of climbers to their own as well as others mishaps. And, it is troubling because, to an onlooker, the psychology of many of the people doing this activity resembles that of a Russian Roulette player. The bottom line is that, ultimately, physical and psychological capability come second to luck in surviving a mountaineering accident.

When a mountaineering accident occurs there are two outcomes—instant death or a fighting chance. With luck, the climber is in an “uncharted region” in which he must do something, often in a split second, or die. Survival is a decision, which he must do something, often in a split second, or die. Survival is a decision, which he must do something, often in a split second; or die. Survival is a decision, which he must do something, often in a split second.

Aside from reporting harrowing tales of climbing, but also explores the reactions there are two outcomes— instant death or a fighting chance. With luck, the climber is in an “uncharted region” in which he must do something, often in a split second, or die. Survival is a decision, which he must do something, often in a split second, or die. Survival is a decision, which he must do something, often in a split second, or die. Survival is a decision, which he must do something, often in a split second, or die. Survival is a decision, which he must do something, often in a split second, or die. Survival is a decision, which he must do something, often in a split second.

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Congratulations to former Trail Conference Board Member Heather Amster and her family who welcomed daughter Grace Eleanor in August. She and her husband Rob, and their boys Henry and John moved to Suffolk County in April. They enjoy the "very beautiful" Long Island Pine Barrens.

Congratulations to the new Long Path End-Enders: Donna L. Pasternak (#819), Richard Rapold (#99), Bob Novick (#860), Peter McCann (#861), Henry Jenkins (#862) and Rick Taylor (#865). The members of the Palais des Enfers received their End-to-End certificates at the Trail Conference’s Annual Meeting in October. For aspiring LP End-Enders, contact: Richard Greve, supervisor Ed Walsh, himself an End-to-End, has put together a small Backpacker’s Guide to the LP, available for $4, which lists motels, restaurants, grocery stores, post offices, etc. near the trail. It’s similar in content to the AT Thru-hikers Companion. You can reach Ed at 11 Kwiecienidzki Street, West Haverstraw, NY 10993-1410.

Conference Life Member Richard Greve is again leading a trip to England, rambling along North Downs Way and Cotswold Way in late May/early June 2001. This non-commercial trip for the Outdoor Club of South Jersey (a Conference member organization) will be leisurely paced with daypack while enjoying local history and culture. Richard is a 14-year veteran of United Kingdom hiking and a 2,400-mile: For details, send a legal-size, self-addressed, stamped envelop to Richard Greve, 115 Dawes Dr., Mt. Holly, NJ 08060. Informational packets on long-distance walks in the British Isles and Ireland are available from Richard, too, including Pennine Way, Coast to Coast, Offa’s Dyke, Pembrokeshire Coast Walk, Dales Way, W. Highland Way, Southern Uplands Way, St. Cuthbert’s Way, Wicklow Way, and Dingle Way. Send $1 to cover mailing for each packet ordered.

The Thendara Mountain Club seeks new volunteers to help monitor Native American heritage sites in Harriman State Park. The program began two years ago and approximately 50 stewards monitor these prehistoric sites in the 34,000-acre park. Stewards are the eyes and ears of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and are helping to preserve these valuable assets for future generations. Volunteers must attend a class, get a permit and wear a white hat, red vest and black hat. To learn about this program, the facilities at Camp Thendara on Lake Tiorati, or joining the Thendara Mountain Club may contact Val Catajar at 316-958-2641 or via e-mail at vcatajar@aol.com.

Volunteers have started organizing an Appalachian Trail Museum to help preserve the history of the Trail. A site for the museum has not been chosen but it may be located somewhere in the vicinity of the Appalachian Trail Conference headquarters in Harpers Ferry, WV. Items having a solid connection to the AT are now being collected for future displays. Volunteers to help with time and ideas are also sought. Current information and updates on progress will be posted on the ALDHA website at For further information please contact: Larry Luxenberg, 914-634-0581, hiker798@aol.com; Carla Lafleur, 415-737-8053, hr@map.com, or Tim Messereich, 914-297-9573.

Flat Rock Brook Nature Center in Englewood, NJ will host a leisurely, 1 mile long, low-impact walk on their trails led by an experienced trail guide on Wednesday, November 8 from 10-11 a.m. The changing season of fall and the transformation of trees will be covered. Free for members, $5 for non-members. To register, call 201-567-1285.

The Appalachian Trail Conference’s 33rd Annual Meeting will be held at Shippensburg University, in the Cumberland Valley of south-central Pennsylvania, from July 13 to 16, 2001. Under the theme “Preserving Nature’s Heritage,” the week-long gathering features hiking and backpacking trips of various difficulties on the AT in southern and central Pennsylvania and Maryland; excursions to regional historic, natural resource, and cultural sites; workshops on a variety of trail maintenance and management topics; and a rich selection of evening entertainments. The Cumberland Valley overlooks the Blue Ridge Mountains, and is an area deep with history, including living history in the horse and buggies that carry local Amish farmers to town. Registration information will be available in the March issue of the Appalachian Trail News, and on the Appalachian Trail Conference and Keystone Trails Association web sites.

Antrak and the East Coast Greenway Alliance have teamed up to forge an unprecedented intermodal network connecting Antrak’s passenger trains to 2,600 miles of bikeways and trails in 15 states and the District of Columbia. The East Coast Greenway links east coast cities from Maine to Florida through a continuous network of trails, bikeways and recreational paths. Antrak plans to begin with a pilot program of limited service between Richmond, VA, and Boston by Spring 2001 on the Twilight Shoreliner. Current plans call for specially equipping baggage cars with easy-on and easy-off access and bike racks—without requiring the removal of the front wheels—on selected trains. Antrak already accommodates bicycles on these three train routes: the Adirondack, the Ethan Allen, and the Vermonter.

EnviroOne.com announced the release of a most comprehensive environmental search engine and vertically integrated commerce portal—a diverse and complete environmental community on the Internet. EnviroOne is an example of a new concept in Internet resources, the vortal. EnviroOne combines a vast number of links, continuously updated news from around the world, and various features that are designed to support a thriving community of environmental professionals and concerned citizens. Free email, chat rooms, bulletin boards, and group discussions are aimed at providing a place to interact with others within the environmental community. Visit them at www.EnviroOne.com.
Several months ago the Wall Street Journal had an article with the headline “Of Krazy Glue: A little dab will do for those unkind cuts.” Several years ago I attended a seminar on wilderness medicine in which the speaker advised closing cuts with a dab of Krazy Glue. Since then many dermatologists have been using it for minor lacerations.

Elmer’s Products Inc., the manufacturer of Krazy Glue, has not sought approval from the Food and Drug Administration for such usage. In fact, the label has a warning that it is an eye and skin irritant. It sells for about $2.00, and on sale it can cost much less. My nurse has been using it for years and swears by it.

Dermatologists who have used Krazy Glue state they have no problems with the product. The way to use it is to clean the area, let it dry, or dry it with a cotton sponge or sterile gauge pad, and apply a thin layer of the glue.

We now have a product called Dermabond which is available by prescription only and sells for about $20.00 an ounce. So put a tube of Krazy Glue into your first aid kit and take the money you save and invest it in a money market fund.
Campaigning To Replace the Environmental Bond Act

The NY-NJ Trail Conference and the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) have been working with various environmental groups across the state to devise a plan for a new source of funding for the environment. The land acquisition portion of the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act has essentially been exhausted.

This 1996 Act provided $150 million for the state acquisition of important open space resources by DEC and OPRHP. Over each of the past four years, roughly $30 to $40 million has been appropriated annually from the bond act for land acquisition projects. It also has provided state land stewardship funds for hiking trail work. The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) provides approximately $30 million each year for open space purchases. Together, these two sources have provided roughly $70 million for open space projects. However only $3 million in unappropriated open space funds remain in the bond act, meaning that New York State needs to replace this $40 million/year funding stream simply to maintain its current open space protection program.

New York has used Bond Act funds on a number of important and enduring open space projects, including Sterling Forest, Fahnestock State Park and the Champion Rivers fee and easement project, Plateau and Bearpen Peaks in the Catskills, and the Whitney Canoe Area, to name a few.

We are exploring ways to increase the level of tax dollars flowing into the dedicated Environmental Protection Fund as a long-term way of replacing the bond act.

Fight for Federal Land Fund Continues

This summer and fall, ADK and the Trail Conference asked their members to write to members of Congress in support of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). In July, a Senate version of the bill passed out of committee. That bill differs substantially from the House version and other Senate bills that have been introduced to date. Under the new Senate bill, New York would get significantly less than originally thought.

ADK and the Trail Conference asked our New York House and Senate congressional delegation to work with House members from populous states like California and New York to negotiate a fair share of these conservation funds for New York and New Jersey. At press time President Clinton had signed a fiscal year 2001 Department of Interior appropriations bill which in all likelihood will replace the CARA legislation. This appropriations bill included $430 million for Federal Land and Water conservation program, $90 million for state water and Water Conservation Fund, and $20 million for Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery program.

Jet Ski News

Governor Pataki signed into law the personal watercraft regulatory bill, giving communities the power to regulate or prohibit the use of personal watercraft on the state’s lakes and rivers. He also signed a bill requiring a substantial reduction in the amount of water and air pollution emitted from new personal watercraft. This jet-ski pollution control law will greatly improve the water quality of lakes in the Adirondacks and throughout New York. Trout, loons, swimmers, and canoeists will all benefit.

The View from Albany

Conservation and Advocacy Report

By Neil Woodworth and Margaret Carr

...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 to 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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<th>Category</th>
<th>Regular</th>
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* two adults at same address

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
DAY PHONE EVENING PHONE
E-MAIL
Check one: new member renewal

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.

Tax-deductible except for $4.00
Hikers' Almanac

continued from back page

OUR TOWN EDITION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

ADK-J. Thursday Ramble. Contact Betty 201-358-9252 before 9 pm on Wednesday evening.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

ADK-J. Thursday Ramble. Contact Betty 201-358-9252 before 9 pm on Wednesday evening.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

NYHC New York Hiking Club.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

NYHC New York Huling Club.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

NYHC New York Huling Club.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

NYHC New York Huling Club.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

NYHC New York Huling Club.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

NYHC New York Huling Club.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

NYHC New York Huling Club.
Hikers’ Almanac

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2
ADK-MH. Bashbish Falls. Leader: Nick, 631-586-3396, 8-11 PM. Meet: 9 AM at the parking area off Route 23. 3.6 miles of hiking along a mostly rocky trail. Free admission.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

MP. Northern Preserve Ramsey & Scramble. Leader: Roy Counter. Meet: 9 AM at New Providence Presbyterian Church. 4 miles of hiking along a mostly rocky trail. Free admission.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5
LIGTC. North Lake Escarpment Trail. Leader: Bill Helfrick. Meet: 9 AM at the parking area off Route 299. 5.2 miles of hiking along a mostly rocky trail. Free admission.

November 9


November 18


December


continued on page 11

You can help buy a piece of the Gunks!

We must raise $100,000 by the middle of January toward the purchase of a 100-acre parcel or we will lose it to development.

Stony Kill Falls is the fourth great waterfall of the Gunks.

Private land comes within a few hundred feet… Stony Kill Falls is barely protected.

We are also buoying access! Once acquired we will build a biking trail to the falls!

We need your help now before the seller makes a deal with another private party,… and we need your gifts for beyond what we have asked for in the past.

Please make your check payable to the NVNTC — earmarked for Stony Kill Falls.