



# TRAIL WALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE... MAINTAINING OVER 1300 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001

*Site is closer to the trail systems*

## Trail Conference office relocates to Mahwah, NJ

Effective February 1, 2001, the offices of the NY-NJ Trail Conference will be closer to the trails and parks in which the organization is active. Moving into an office suite in a small commercial building at 156 Ramapo Valley Road (also known as Route 202), just north of its intersection with Route 17, this new Trail Conference office location marks the beginning of a new era.

Incorporated in New York State, the Trail Conference has been located in midtown Manhattan since we first opened an office in 1970.

The move was driven in part by the threat of increasing rents in Manhattan and by the need to better respond to situations with trail-land partners as identified in our strategic plan. Although other Manhattan locations were considered, the Trail Conference board of directors decided to explore in earnest alternatives to a New York City office. This new office location places the Trail Conference in closer proximity to the majority of our membership and more centrally to our trail systems.

"This is an exciting time of change, and not without some anxiety," says Trail Conference President Gary Haugland. "Leaving the City may seem to some like a callous break with our past. But we are seeing it as a move to strengthen our future. It will be challenging to rethink how we do business from this new address, and we trust it will make us more effective in doing our trail advocacy work in New Jersey."

Our new, second-floor office has wonderful views overlooking the Ramapo River from the back windows—quite a change from looking at the city skyscrapers in midtown Manhattan! Under the trees at riverbank's edge is a great spot for a picnic in nice weather—an added perk.

Board members Paul Bell, John Gunzler, Tom Humbach, and Bill Mishler anchored the relocation committee, scouring sites from Jersey City northward to Tarrytown and Tuxedo, NY. Fellow Board member Pete Heckler actually found the Mahwah space.

Office hours will remain the same, weekdays from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Our new telephone number is 201-512-9348; our new fax is 201-512-9012. Our web site and e-mail address remain the same.

### Volunteers: we need you in Mahwah!

With our new location, we need some new local volunteer help around the office, on either a steady basis or on-call. Can you help? We need folks to:

- answer telephone inquiries about the trails or hiking in general. We need coverage all day, everyday—but perhaps you can help out for a couple of hours one day a week. If we can get several people giving a few hours one day a week on a regular basis we can arrange full coverage.
  - stuff envelopes for mailings, and/or map sets into plastic baggies (on call as needed).
  - pitch in with general office work.
  - help organize our filing system, and files, better.
  - word process to update our many forms and brochures.
  - enter data on our computer systems.
  - be our computer repair technician and "help desk" reference (on call).
  - be our librarian—follow up on overdue books (a few hours once a month).
  - suggest something you would like to do.
- Let us know what you would like to do and your availability. E-mail our volunteer coordinator at [office@nynjtc.org](mailto:office@nynjtc.org) and we'll get back in touch with you.

## Two grants support computer upgrades, membership recruitment, and volunteer recognition

The Trail Conference is pleased to announce receipt of two foundation grants to upgrade our computer equipment and other necessary technology.

A foundation donor, which wishes to remain anonymous, generously contributed \$35,000—\$25,000 of which is earmarked to assist with the Trail Conference's three-year revolving upgrade of computer hardware and software. The Hyde and Watson Foundation donated \$5,000 for purchase of needed computer equipment.

"We are deeply appreciative of these grant awards because they recognize the infrastructure and communications needs of the organization," commented Anne Lutkenhouse, Trail Conference Projects Director. "It takes many resources to perform our mission, some far removed from the earth and shovels of the trail work itself. With these grants, our foundation donors have given us vital tools with which to manage information, and communicate with, recruit, and recognize our volunteers."

### Grants will aid Strategic Plan goals

In mid-2000, the Technology Committee of the Board of Directors recommended a three-year program to upgrade our office computer hardware to enable optimum networking with the new database, and to improve office technological systems to enhance productivity. The Board approved this plan. Grant funds from our anonymous donor foundation will cover the costs of this three-year program.

In this, the first of the three-year cycle, we replaced two computer workstations and upgraded essential office software, including Windows 2000 Operating System and the upgrade for QuickBooks accounting program. In the second and third

*continued on page 8*

## Celebrating NJ's Millennium Trail

On a stunning golden October 21st, the Highlands Trail was feted as New Jersey's Millennium Legacy Trail with the opening of another 20 miles of trail to the public. Hikes of various lengths in and around Spruce Run Recreation Area in Clinton, NJ, followed the ribbon-cutting, over which Trail Conference President Gary Haugland, Highlands Trail Chair Bob Moss, and NJ Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Robert C. Shinn presided. Celebrants included many of the Trail's partners who have teamed with the Trail Conference to build this nationally-recognized trail.

*Greg Marshall, Director of the Division of Parks & Forestry of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and his wife Judy (foreground) joined one of the hikes celebrating the opening of new sections of the Trail.*



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**TC's  
Big  
MOVE**

The Trail Conference office will be closed M-F, January 29-February 2, inclusive, for the purpose of moving. We apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you for your patience.

## TRAIL WALKER

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Nora Porter *Managing Editor*  
Paul Leikin *Advertising Manager*

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### NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

#### Mission Statement

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, founded in 1920, is a federation of member clubs and individuals dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community. The Conference is a volunteer-directed public service organization committed to:

- Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails.
- Protecting hiking trail lands through support and advocacy.
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is a federation of 88 hiking and outdoor groups, and 10,000 individuals.

from the president's notepad...

## A Peek into the Future

by Gary Haugland

For many years now I couldn't wait for 2001 to arrive. Not because the year signals the true start of the millennium but because of the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. (I also anxiously anticipated 1984, but that's another story.) I wanted to see how closely the science facts matched the science fiction of one of my favorite movies. And the answer—not all that close.

The Trail Conference is charting a course to a very different future; the hallucinatory space journey and the menacing computer named HAL have been relegated to high-tech entertainment archives. Many of us have replaced our fascination with lunar settlements and excursions to outer space with deep concerns about suburban settlements and incursions into our dwindling open space. Science still plays a central role in this future. As an article in this *Trail Walker* reports, the Trail Conference has brought together a committee of science advisors to help us chart a more environmentally sound and scientifically informed direction to our trail work. Though we realize the need to protect our parklands and forests, wetlands and

ridgelines for future generations, we haven't always recognized that our trails had an impact as well. We are learning, and with help we can change our attitudes.

It means more work, but the payoff will be great. And it will take a different kind of volunteer than we have traditionally sought, one interested in science and willing to keep abreast of new ways to protect the environment—and still maintain an accessible trail network. Now that we are moving our office out of midtown Manhattan, many of our long-time office volunteers living or working in NYC will not be able to continue as they had. This is our deepest regret about the decision to move. Now we need a new cadre of volunteers who will come to Mahwah, New Jersey, to help us out. We know you are out there—let us know who you are and what you can do. Elsewhere in this *Trail Walker* you will read about openings in several areas for volunteers who are able to both supervise other volunteers and coordinate trail activities. There are extraordinary rewards to accompany this hard work, not limited to the satisfaction of a

job well done. Together, we are leaving a legacy of trails for future generations who will need—even more than we—to find respite and rejuvenation in the outdoors and who will have to be committed to protecting the biodiversity in our richly varied but threatened region. A recent article in the *New York Times Magazine* suggested that volunteerism may be doomed: people just don't take the time or have the inclination to do that anymore. If that prediction is borne out then the Trail Conference could be in trouble. After all, we have based our entire existence on the central role played by our volunteers. We need to continue our tradition of volunteerism—to do the trail work, of course, but also to sit on committees and participate in public hearings, to answer phones and send out action alert letters, to bring scientific knowledge to bear on our work, to serve on the board of directors as they chart the course for the future.

So you see, there are lots of ways to volunteer your time, your talents, your passions. Drop us a line, send us an e-mail, give us a buzz, and let us know what you can do and how we can help you do it. Our future depends on it. And rest assured that 2001 has arrived: your message will come to us bounced off a communications satellite somewhere in outer space.

## L · E · T · T · E · R · S

### Carrying on the Vision

I wanted to write and let you know that I am extremely touched by the generous donation of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference to our project which keeps *Wilderness Ethics* before the hiking public.

By putting a copy of our book into the hands of those who labor in behalf of the backcountry, we know we are reaching an influential community of stewards who can do much good.

Please know how very much your gift means to me. It not only honors Guy and helps to carry on his vision, but it also ensures the health of our beloved mountains and wild places.

Laura Waterman  
East Corinth, VT

### Thanks from Scenic Hudson

Scenic Hudson wishes to thank the Trail Conference and its volunteers for the splendid work they have done in building and blazing the Indian Hill Loop Trail and spur leading to the Appalachian Trail on our property in Tuxedo, NY.

In addition, we want to extend our thanks for your work in constructing a

second loop, the Southfields Furnace Trail (blazed red), which is off the yellow-blazed Indian Hill Loop and leads to the historic Southfields Furnace on the Indian Hill property.

Steve Rosenberg  
Land Preservation Director

### Maps to the Rescue

Many thanks from New York State Office of Parks and Recreation and the Taconic Search and Rescue Team for your gift of your East Hudson and Taconic trails map sets.

The Trail Conference maps, with their clarity, color, contour lines, detail and accuracy facilitate immeasurably the navigation of our search teams, especially at night when the majority of our searches are conducted.

All team members and select Park Police Officers are issued these maps to work with them at all times. The maps are, therefore, a significant contribution to our activities and are much appreciated.

Marc Talluto, Team Leader  
Taconic Search and Rescue

## Delegates' and Membership Meeting February 8

All Trail Conference members  
invited!

All Trail Conference members are invited to attend the next meeting of hiking club delegates on Thursday, February 8, 2001 at the Seafarers and International House, 123 East 15th St., in Manhattan (corner of 15th St. and Irving Pl., one block east of Union Sq.).

The meeting starts at 7 P.M. Please join us for a social hour, beginning at 6 P.M., 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 either in New York City or at Fort Lee Historic Park on the New Jersey Palisades, provide wonderful opportunities to share hiking and conservation news, discuss issues, and help guide the TC's future work and activities.

We look forward to seeing you!

**Public transportation to the Seafarers House:** subway lines 4, 5, 6, N, R and L to 14<sup>th</sup> St./Union Sq. Or bus lines 6 and 7 (Broadway); lines 1, 2 and 3 (Park Ave.); and lines 102 and 103 (Third Ave.).

## Trail Conference's Science Advisory Committee Holds First Meeting

Nestled amid the rugged hills and sprawling reservoirs of northern New Jersey, the Weis Ecology Center was the perfect setting for the inaugural meeting of our newly formed Science Advisory Committee. On a crisp November morning, scientists from a variety of backgrounds met to discuss how the Trail Conference can become more responsive to the environmental issues that these knowledgeable individuals present.

Over the last few years, some general concerns have become evident to the Trail Conference. Exotic and invasive species are proliferating in trail lands, habitats are being fragmented and shrinking, and many species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and plants are being identified as endangered or threatened. We want to be better stewards of the natural environs where trails are located, and to be more aware of potential negative impacts on places wherever wish to build new trails.

Attending this first meeting was an eclectic array of individuals willing to share their expertise about, and their passion for, the natural world. The meeting was co-chaired by Joan Ehrenfeld, Professor of Ecology at Rutgers University, and Trail Conference President Gary Haugland. Other members included: Michael Batchler, ecologist and consultant; Steve Clemants, botanist at Brooklyn Botanical Garden; Patrick Cooney, botanist with the Torrey Botanical Society; Matt Gompper, biologist at Columbia University; Chris Harmon, land steward for The Nature Conservancy; Robert Masson, natural resource monitor at Morristown National Historic Park; Laura Newgard, environmental scientist and a Trail Conference trails supervisor; William Richardson, hydrologist with the NYC Watershed; and Lance Risley, Professor of Ecology at William Paterson University.

The Trail Conference was also represented by Walt Daniels, experienced trail supervisor, Appalachian Trail Conference board member, and chair of our Technology Committee, and Sandy Parr, chief of our New Jersey Trail Crew.

Gary Haugland spelled out the reasons for forming this committee and offered some goals for discussion: 1) developing methods of assessing trail and hiker impacts in sensitive areas, 2) producing guidelines for trail construction and maintenance, 3) educating Trail Conference members and volunteers about environ-

mental issues, 4) establishing better communication between the TC and land managers on scientific issues, and 5) developing volunteer-centered activities including research and education.

Joan Ehrenfeld then laid out the areas of concern that this committee should consider. Committee members were invited to amplify this list based on their knowledge and interests. This included threatened and endangered species, exotic

and invasive species, use of trails by animals, effect of trails and hikers on habitats, wetlands management, potential land management conflicts, need for local expertise, monitoring ecosystem health, educating the hiking community, and getting students involved in research.

After some lively discussion, the group recommended the following actions:

- 1) First, to start a program of educating trail users. Members will write articles for the *Trail Walker* and the TC web site specifically addressing environmental issues. Future trail maintenance workshops will include sessions of scientific interest, starting with the next one in May;
- 2) The committee will review present guidelines and policies and make recommendations to make them more ecologically informed;
- 3) The Trail Conference will become more closely involved with experts in particular areas who can participate in the training of volunteers;
- 4) The woods are perfect laboratories for scientific research. The committee will establish partnerships between institutions of higher learning and the TC;
- 5) Trail problem reporting procedures will extend to reporting ecological problems along the trails.

What does this mean for Trail Conference members?

Not only will there be more channels for expanding your knowledge about trail-side science, there will be increased opportunities for protecting habitats, identifying and removing invasive species, teaching responsible hiking behavior, and in general becoming better stewards of the lands that the hiking trails traverse.

We are excited about this new direction. It presents us with new ways of living up to our mission, and we have never shied away from the ever-changing challenges of trail work. Thanks to all who participated. 🍃



A public information sign on the Gertrude's Nose Trail in Minnewaska State Park Preserve educates visitors about natural resource protection.

PTERIDIER



## Celebrating NJ's Millennium Trail

continued from page 1



Within Spruce Run Recreation Area, the Highlands Trail (left) features long views over the Spruce Run Reservoir.

Below: Robert C. Shinn, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and keynote speaker, noted with pleasure the continuing results of the successful partnership between the Trail Conference and the State Park Service, as the Highlands Trail continues to grow and become a reality.



Photos by Dan D'Errico

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Naturalist Stephanie Fox (right) led an interpretive hike along the trail in Spruce Run Recreation Area following the ribbon-cutting. Among hikers learning about the area's flora and fauna were (left) Robert C. Shinn, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and (center) Al Gomolka, superintendent of Cheesecake State Park.

## 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 1,300 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 212-685-9699, or by email: [info@nynjtc.org](mailto:info@nynjtc.org), and someone will contact you.

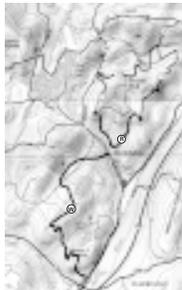


# TRAIL NEWS

## Pioneer Trail Closed

The Pioneer Trail has been closed by the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area due to its close proximity to Bald Eagle wintering habitat and safety concerns about a section where a mud slide bared a rock ledge near the river.

## New Wildcat Mountain Trail opened Connects Routes 17A and 17 junction with the Elk Pen



The Wildcat Mountain Trail, Sterling Forest State Park's fourth new hiking trail, was finished and opened to the public in October. It provides a footpath link between Harriman-Bear Mountain and Sterling Forest state parks, starting in one and ending in the other.

From its southern terminus near Route 17A, the 3-mile-long trail climbs Wildcat Mountain, affording a broad vista to the south and east. It then proceeds north at an elevation of about 1,000 feet, providing views of Sterling Forest to the west and the Indian Hill property to the north, and then descends to terminate on Old Orange Turnpike (County Route 19) just across from the historic Southfields Furnace. (See the Trail Conference's Sterling Forest Trails map, northeast corner, and Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails map #4, grid B-3.)

At that point, a hiker can access the Southfields Furnace Trail, taking that trail to the Indian Hill Loop Trail, which connects to the Appalachian Trail on Mount Arden (a little west of Agony Grind and Route 17). Thus a hike of about 8 miles—from the Route 17A and 17 junction to the Elk Pen in Harriman-Bear Mountain—is now possible with the opening of the Wildcat Mountain Trail.

The parking lot off the southbound service ramp to Route 17A from Route 17

holds about 30 vehicles. Short Line busses serve the Route 17 corridor, too. The Sterling Forest State Park Information Center is about 1/4 mile south of the trailhead on Route 17.

Mark Kassop and Mary and John Mack will maintain the Wildcat Mountain Trail. Our deep thanks to all who have contributed to the development of this beautiful new footpath.

*Pete Tilgner and Suzan Gordon  
Trail Supervisors  
Sterling Forest State Park*

## Storm King State Park trails still closed

Even though the Army Corps of Engineers completed their ordnance clearing project on the hiking trails in Storm King State Park, the trails are still closed—pending a review by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission of the Corps of Engineers' final report.

The Army investigated 235 items within one foot of the trail surface and destroyed 21 ordnance—fourteen 75 mm shells and seven artillery shell fuses. The threat was not theoretical!

The Trail Walker will report whenever the PIPC announces that public access is again permitted.

## New parking lot in Black Rock Forest

Hikers are reminded that there is a new primary parking lot for the main entrance to Black Rock Forest since their new Science Center was constructed. Hikers

now park on the main forest entrance road shortly after its junction with Route 9W. The Duggan Trail begins at this parking lot and takes hikers to the Reservoir Trail. The parking lot that was just short of the Upper Reservoir is now closed to the public. (See the Trail Conference's West Hudson Trails map #7.)



## Hard Rock @ Black Rock

The next time you visit Black Rock Forest be sure to check out the beautiful new stone staircase leading from the Duggan Trailhead parking lot to Reservoir Road. Constructed over this past summer, this project was the result of the combined efforts of students from The Fieldstone and Storm King Schools along with the help of Forest Manager John Brady and four teachers from Fieldstone. Many thanks to these members of the younger generation for a job well done.

## Speak Up Now for the Catskill Forest Preserve!

In mid-January, 2001, you will have the best opportunity in 20 years to speak up for the Catskills. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is drafting unit management plans (UMPs) for many beautiful areas of the both the Catskill and Adirondack Forest Preserves. These plans will determine how our Catskill Forest Preserve will be managed for decades to come. The DEC has scheduled six public meetings around the state to hear your opinions. The NY-NJ Trail Conference and the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) asked DEC for out-of-park hearings so that all New Yorkers would have the same opportunity to be heard as those fortunate enough to live near these marvelous lands.

These hearings are the perfect opportunity for Trail Conference members to have their say. Maps and information will be available at the meeting locations. Attendees will be able to talk to the DEC planners about their hopes and concerns for the areas listed and to make verbal or written statements. Written statements may be submitted after the meetings.

Perhaps you want some more hiking trails in the Shandaken Wild Forest. Maybe you've had difficulty enjoying cross-country skiing in the Catskills because certain

# THE VIEW FROM ALBANY

*By Neil Woodworth and Margaret Carr*

trailheads haven't been plowed. Or perhaps you've seen an all terrain vehicle (ATV) in use on a favorite hiking trail in Sundown Wild Forest, even though such use is prohibited.

**N**ow is the time to voice your thoughts and concerns about how the Forest Preserve could be managed. Any new trails or other user facilities must be included and approved in a UMP. This is your chance to speak up for:

### The Niagara Falls of the Catskills

A major planning issue for the Catskills is how to address the heavy foot traffic and slope scrambling at Kaaterskill Falls. Management of this area is being addressed in the UMP for the Kaaterskill—North Mountain Wild Forest.

Kaaterskill Falls is one of the most striking natural features in the state. It has two great tiers: the upper falls drops 175 feet and the lower drops 85 feet. The falls see a great deal of day use because it's less than a half mile from Rt 23A. From spring

to fall, a constant stream of tourists visit the area. Once to the base of the falls, many are inclined to scramble up the steep slopes to a high point or to the top. Due to their geology of unstable shale and limestone, the slopes suffer from a tremendous amount of erosion. Established trails have been difficult to maintain because of this instability.

Management options to address the slope include: building a cement staircase and platform to a high point for viewing; building a natural rock staircase to a high point; or building a simple platform and posting signs that prohibit hiking to the top. Clearly, none of these proposals is a lasting solution to the erosion problem at the falls, but with an educated public and enforcement, perhaps one of these ideas will curtail the use problems. How do you think the area at the falls should be managed? What kinds of overuse have you seen or experienced there?

### Wither Our Wild Forests?

The DEC is being asked to widen many snowmobile trails throughout the

Adirondack Forest Preserve. Some snowmobile clubs and local governments have asked for reconstruction of snowmobile trails so that the wider, faster models can use backcountry trails. These groups are also asking for grooming of trails by tracked grooming machines. This could result in 10-15 foot wide snowmobile trails, since Class A tracked groomers require

*continued on page 10*

Statewide UMP Meeting Dates	
<b>NYC: January 23</b>	Warwick Hotel, 5-9 PM 65 West 54 <sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY
<b>New Paltz: January 24</b>	DEC Regional Office/New Paltz, Rooms 2,3, 5-9 PM 21 S. Putt Corners Rd., New Paltz, NY
<b>Albany: January 25</b>	Guilderland Town Hall, 5-9 PM 5209 Route 20, Guilderland, NY
Meetings will also be held in Buffalo on 1/16, in Rochester on 1/17, and in Syracuse on 1/18. For info call 518-449-3870.	
UMPs for Halcott Mountain, Shandaken, Kaaterskill-North Mountain, Cherry Ridge & Middle Mt., Dry Brook Ridge, Windham High Peak, and Hunter Mountain Wild Forests, and Westkill and Indian Head Wildernesses are in the pipeline.	

# GET INVOLVED

## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

### Field checkers and/or editors

The Trail Conference is currently working on preparing a new edition of the *New Jersey Walk Book*. Anyone interested in assisting with field checking or editing should contact Daniel Chazin at 201-836-7019, or dchazin@aol.com.

### Regional trails supervisors and trail committee leadership sought

Are you interested in enhancing hiking opportunities in the network of trails the Conference maintains? The Trail Conference needs people who are interested in becoming more involved with trails, interacting with park managers and helping to solve trail issues and problems.

As a volunteer trails supervisor or trail committee chair, you will have broader responsibility than a trail maintainer. You can also have more influence on a regional system of trails. Volunteer leadership positions require a larger time commitment than that of a trail maintainer, but the payoffs can be great! Both types of volunteer jobs allow one to acquire a broader picture of hiking trails. Training is provided.

Look at the Trail Conference's web page [www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/vol.html](http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/vol.html) for these job descriptions. If you have questions about the New Jersey positions, please call 973-823-9999 for Larry Wheelock, the Trail Conference's N.J. Field Representative, or Anne Lutkenhouse at 212-685-9699 about those in New York.

### Fun with GPS

Volunteers are needed in all areas to help acquire field data with the Trail Conference's recently acquired hand-held GPS units. These extremely light, easy-to-use units will be used to collect track data to be placed on our map sets. Help the Trail Conference to update its maps while performing your favorite pastime—hiking. To volunteer or for more information, contact John Jurasek at [jurasek@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jurasek@worldnet.att.net).

## TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES



### ❖ NORTH 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, January 14, February 11.

**Leaders:** Sandy Parr, 732-469-5109; Dick Warner, 201-327-4945.

## Roving chainsaw crew forming in Harriman: leader(s) sought

The Trail Conference is seeking volunteers to form a new roving chainsaw crew to operate within Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park.

The crew will respond to the backlog of downed trees from Tropical Storm Floyd, and handle new blowdowns, on a steady basis—supplementing the work of the park's trail maintainers. Ike Siskind, a Conference Trails Supervisor in Harriman, and Pete Heckler, West Hudson Trails Committee Chair, are spearheading this

initiative.

We are also seeking volunteers willing to lead such a crew.

To participate, volunteers must be certified by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission as a volunteer chainsaw operator. The Park has hosted two training courses already; if enough non-certified folks respond to this call, another training course can be arranged.

Fill in the coupon below to let us know of your interest.

*I'm willing to participate lead (circle one) in the Harriman-Bear Mountain Roving Chainsaw Crew.*

*I'm available to work:* weekdays \_\_\_\_\_ weekends \_\_\_\_\_

*I own a chainsaw:* Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Eve phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: NY-NJ Trail Conference, Attn: Chainsaw Project  
232 Madison Avenue, Room 802, New York, NY 10016

## How to get your hiking permit for Pequannock Watershed trails

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with check or money order and the appropriate fee to: NWCDC, 223 Echo Lake Road, P.O. Box 319, Newfoundland, NJ 07435. Include your telephone number, a photocopy of a current NY-NJ Trail Conference membership card (or photocopy of a hiking club membership card), and a list of the license plate number(s) of the vehicle(s) that will be used on the NWCDC property. This information will expedite the application process.

**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 if possible). You will receive the original and a copy of the Special Permit to sign. Return the original and save the copy to display on your vehicle.

**Individual Permit:** Includes spouse and children under 18 years of age.

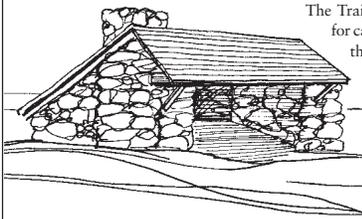
Permits are available now. Secure permits early in the year to derive the most benefit. (Permits are always issued for the current calendar year, regardless of the month.) The permit includes an updated trail map, parking decal, and a list of regulations, including the locations of areas where hiking is not allowed during hunting seasons.

For further information: 973-697-2850.

### FEE STRUCTURE

Newark resident.....\$4  
Newark Senior Citizen.....\$2  
Non-Newark resident.....\$8  
Non-Newark Senior Citizen.....\$4  
Club Group.....Free  
Duplicate [permit for 2<sup>nd</sup> car.....\$1  
(Duplicate is non-transferable)

## Catskill lean-to caretakers wanted



The Trail Conference has responsibility for caretaking many of the lean-tos in the Catskill Forest Preserve. Some vacancies are available for these caretakers. Find out more by completing the coupon below and returning it to: Lean-to Supervisor Elie Bijou, 920 East 17th Street, #608, Brooklyn, NY 11230, or by contacting him at [treasure\\_tower@prodigy.net](mailto:treasure_tower@prodigy.net).

### ADOPT A CATSKILL LEAN-TO

*I would like to know more about adopting a lean-to in the Catskill Forest Preserve.*

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: day (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ eve (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

# HIKERS' BOOKSHELF



**Reading the Earth: Landforms in the Making**, by Jerome Wyckoff. Adastra West Inc. Publishers, 1999. Softcover, \$29.95.

Reviewed by Glenn Collins

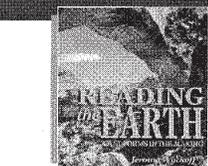
It's sad but true; the very word geology, when encountered on the printed page, often induces spontaneous drowsiness. But so richly adorned and so abundantly useful is Jerome Wyckoff's treatise on landforms that it is certain to mesmerize even the most geology-shy readers. This is a giant (352-page), colorful (556 photographs, mostly in color, as well as 75 drawings) and exhaustive (6,000 subjects and entries) tour de force of geology instruction. Unless they are geology geeks like me, most hikers have a modest but hardly overwhelming curiosity about the rocks on the trails they traverse; alas, this is an impulse that goes pretty much unsatisfied. Mr. Wyckoff's energetic tour of mountains and plains, river valleys and seacoasts, dunes and volcanoes will speak to any question a trail walker ever had. Though this work is intended for the average reader, its geological information is elegant, accurate, clear and concise.

Mr. Wyckoff—author of *Rock Scenery of the Hudson Highlands and Palisades*, which inhabits the bookcase of many regional hikers—is also the author of *Rock, Time, and Landforms* and *The Story of Geology*. As a publisher he helped develop the imperishable Golden Nature Guides and was managing editor of the *Harper Encyclopedia of Science*. This book has a geological adviser as well: Donald R. Coates, a professor of geology emeritus at Binghamton University. I wish this book had been available decades ago when I first became passionate about geology, as I combed through over-technical and badly illustrated tomes, panning for just the kind of nuggets this book offers so effortlessly. Indeed, I can easily imagine many beginning earth science students putting aside their deadly textbooks to learn from Mr. Wyckoff. I hope that geology-oriented teachers and college instruc-

tors will assign his work in lieu of the often soporific texts their students are compelled to read.

In his introduction, Mr. Wyckoff recalls the words of James Hutton, a geology pioneer in England, who described the surface of the earth as "the ruin of former worlds." One of the most gratifying things about hiking across the Bald Rocks at Harriman or the pebbled conglomerate of the Shawangunks is experiencing that science-fiction sense of traversing the remnants of long-lost mountains that once inhabited the New York region. Mr. Wyckoff validates that sense of wonder by presenting a staggering variety of landforms. He brings them alive with a collection of photographs, illustrations, maps and dissected views that are the best I've seen in a popular geology book. These images depict not only rocks, minerals and outcrops but also even temporary quasi-geological artifacts such as frost flowers (the spearlike crystals of ice that form in winter soil and can ultimately reduce mighty boulders to pebbles). This book presents photos from all over the world, but many of the images take as their subject the incredible geologic variety of the New York region, including shots of the Palisades (a buried sill of once-molten rock), the quarryable glacial sand deposits in Bergen County, and even the mystery of Tripod Rock in the Ramapos.

How does Mr. Wyckoff's book end? Why, mercifully, with a comprehensive index. So check out the definitions of terms like hoodoos, eskers, kames, and drumlins. Then you'll be able to annoy your future hiking partners by being more geologically literate than they are!



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Author and Photographer  
**Donald R. Coates, Ph.D.**  
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## WEB STORE A SUCCESS

As announced in the November/December 2000 *Trail Walker*, the Trail Conference's web store is now open, and is easily reached by clicking on the green Hikers' Market Place menu item on the left side of the home page.

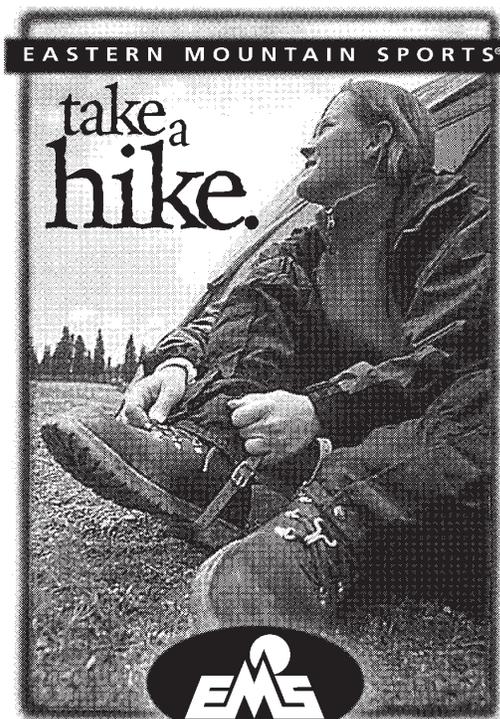
We have been pleasantly surprised at the sales we are getting so far. For our first three weeks we averaged three sales per day, taking in a total of \$1,869.30 in that period. And almost half of the sales were from non-members, very encouraging indeed.

Once we completely automate our internal processing, we will save a lot of time on office work, which means that the more people who renew their membership, make contributions, and purchase online

the more the Trail Conference will save.

## JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST

The Trail Conference occasionally sends out email notices, usually action alerts, to all—or a subset of—our members. If you did not get that e-mail, it is because: we do not know your e-mail address, you have changed your e-mail address since you gave it to us, or we made a mistake in entering it into our database (sometimes we have trouble reading handwriting, particularly zeros and ones). The easiest ways to get on the e-mail list or to correct an incorrect e-mail address are to fill out the form at the Conference's web site, [www.nynjtc.org/forms/memchg.html](http://www.nynjtc.org/forms/memchg.html), or to click on the Contact Us menu item where you will find a link to the form.



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FOR & ABOUT

# Our Members

❖ Our deep gratitude to Conference member **Duncan Douglas** for his unflagging efforts to have 7 informational kiosks for the Fanny Highlands Trails System made and installed. Duncan, president of the Morris Trails Conservancy, committed his organization and especially himself to this project which had been on our back burner for a couple of years. Conference member and Fanny Highlands trail designer Bob Rooke first proposed the project, and the Morris Land Conservancy had secured a grant to assist with the costs. It took 4 months of almost daily work to get everything done: all the approvals from the various land-managing entities, purchasing materials and supplies, encouraging the kiosk sign builder, scouting locations, digging holes for the posts, cementing the kiosks into place, and wrapping up all the paperwork. Duncan, you KNOW we couldn't have done it without you!! Thank you so much.

❖ Congratulations to Trail Conference president **Gary Haugland**, who was honored by the conservation organization Orange Environment for his work on trails in Orange County for the past 10 years. Gary started out as an Appalachian Trail maintainer, became a Long Path maintainer, then the crew chief for the Shawangunk Ridge Trail building effort, then moved into a trail supervisor position for the Long Path. Currently, his efforts are placed on supporting trail projects on Schunemunk Mountain, the Stewart Airport buffer lands, and Sterling Forest.

❖ More gratitude, and best wishes, to **Jim Palmer**, who is "retiring" as one of our New Jersey Appalachian Trail overseers. Jim has been active for 10 years in this position, anchoring our A.T. volunteer leadership in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Worthington State Forest. He's been especially busy with the Dunnfield Creek area trail rehabilitation project in the last couple of years. Jim, thank you for all your efforts, and enjoy more time for hiking!

❖ A reminder to Trail Conference members to carry your *signed* membership card(s) with you when you intend to make a purchase at one of the stores which participate in the Trail Conference's discount-to-members program.

❖ Congratulations to **Miklos Muller** who has been appointed Professor Emeritus at Rockefeller University.

❖ Backcountry cabin caretakers, and trail crew positions, are available for summer 2001 with the **Randolph Mountain Club**

in New Hampshire's White Mountains. The Randolph Mountain Club maintains 100 miles of trails in the Northern Presidential, and Crescent Range, areas of the White Mountains, and operates four backcountry shelters which are open all year and staffed on a caretaker basis. Application deadline is January 26, 2001. For further information, including application process, visit the Club's web site at [www.randolphmountainclub.org](http://www.randolphmountainclub.org).

❖ Registrations are now being accepted for the 2001 trail building and maintenance trips of the **American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacation program**. Now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, Volunteer Vacations sends team of citizen do-ers into America's backcountry to build and repair trails. The 2001 schedule of trips is now available; visit the website [www.americanhiking.org](http://www.americanhiking.org) for more details, or call Shirley Hearn, Volunteer Programs Manager at 301-565-6704, ext. 206.

❖ The **New Jersey Environmental Digital Library (NJEDL)**, recently made publicly available on the Internet at <http://njenv.rutgers.edu/>, contains a wide variety of heretofore unpublished materials about the environment in New Jersey, including: documents and reports, scientific studies, photographs, videos, and maps. The scope of the collection is broad, ranging from citizen information to sci-tech reports to photographic tours of New Jersey's outdoors.

While the information collection is still growing, much is already online in the form of full-text and images. The site also includes a comprehensive directory of New Jersey environmental organizations.

The NJEDL is being developed by the Scholarly Communication Center of Rutgers University Libraries through a grant provided by the Department of Environmental Protection.

## New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes six new life members to our growing family of 796: **William Frank**, and **LingLing Wang** from New Jersey, and from New York: **Robert Black**, **Glenn and Linda Ostrander**, and **Sal Sposito**, who became a Life Member in memory of his late sister, Catherine Ann Sposito.

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 "lifer."



Five of the six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, of Raymond H. Torrey (left to right): Warren Millett, Laura Millett, William Torrey, Eileen Torrey, Raymond Torrey, Robert Torrey, Robert Millett, and Laura's dog, Jazz Millett.

## Torrey Memorial Hike attracts five of Raymond Torrey's grandsons

Photos by Val Callandro



Meyer Kukle, Conference honorary member and long-term steward of the annual hike tradition, confers with Carol Ash, Executive Director of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (above) and accompanies Conference President Gary Haugland on the Long Path to the top of Long Mountain (left).



The first Torrey Memorial hike of the new millennium returned to its roots—as 5 of Raymond Torrey's grandchildren joined Trail Conference members and friends.

The hike honors one of the Conference's co-founders, Raymond H. Torrey, as well as the Long Path, a trail Torrey championed and which is used to access the Torrey Memorial tablet atop Long Mountain in northern Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park. From the summit there are panoramic views over Turkey Hill Lake, Harriman Park, and the Shawangunks.

Held each year on the final Sunday in October, the Torrey Memorial event includes the hike to the mountain's summit, a brief ceremony, and a social gathering of hikers who meet on the summit via any number of trail routes. It relives the day in October 1938 when hikers gathered to scatter Torrey's ashes to the wild lands of Harriman where he labored so diligently to build and maintain the park's trail system.

Meyer Kukle, Conference honorary member who has championed the annual hike tradition for decades,

passed his coordinating role to fellow Trail Conference member Jules Orkin, who has vowed to keep the tradition alive.

Having Raymond H. Torrey's descendants join us was a serendipitous happening. In August, an inquiry via e-mail came from Warren Millett, who was looking for copies of the newspaper column his grandfather wrote in the 1930s. Mr. Millett's mother was Raymond Torrey's daughter. Needless to say,

since Raymond Torrey was a co-founder of the TC, our archives contain all the newspaper clippings of "The Long Brown Path," the long-running column he wrote for the *New York Evening Post*. Thus was the connection between the NY-NJ Trail Conference and RHT's descendants established.

Once Warren, and his cousins Bill and Bob, learned of the Torrey Memorial hike, they decided to gather as many Torreys as possible to attend—no small feat, since all 6 grandsons are widely scattered across the country. 🍃

*I had a great time at the Year 2000 Raymond H. Torrey memorial hike. (I wonder how many know that the "H" stands for Hezekiah!?)*

*Everyone made us feel welcome in short order, and helped me gain a greater appreciation of the impact my grandfather and all of his associates, and all past and present 'disciples of the long brown path,' have had on the continued availability of hiking opportunities for everyone.*

*If it were not for the mountain of records in the Conference office we would not know very much about our grandfather. We were aware of some of what he did—the NY Walk Book, and his legacy—but not to the extent we know now.*

*Thanks again for a great time and for the memory of my grandfather.*

—Warren Millett



Be Prepared! Give a Gift!

# Hikers' Market Place

NY-NJ TC member?  YES  NO  JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price

## Official Conference Maps

	Retail	Member	P/H	Total
<b>NEW!!</b> Sterling Forest Trails (2000)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+ .80	_____
Harriman-Bear Mtn. Trails (1995, rev. 1999)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+ .95	_____
<b>NEW!!</b> East Hudson Trails (1997, update 2000)	\$8.95	\$6.75	+ .95	_____
<b>NEW!!</b> West Hudson Trails (2000)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+ .95	_____
Catskill Trails (1998) & see combo	\$13.95	\$10.45	+\$1.10	_____
<b>NEW!!</b> Kittatinny Maps (4 N&S) (2000)	\$12.95	\$9.75	+\$1.10	_____
<b>NEW!!</b> Shawangunk Trails (2000) & see combo	\$9.95	\$7.75	+ .95	_____
South Taconic Trails (1988, rev. 1998)	\$4.95	\$3.75	+ .65	_____
North Jersey Trails (1998)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+ .95	_____
Hudson Palisades (1991)	\$5.95	\$4.75	+ .80	_____

## Books

Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) & see combo	\$10.95	\$8.75	+\$1.75	_____
<b>NEW - Hardcover!</b> Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999)	\$17.95	\$14.50	+\$3.00	_____
New York Walk Book (1998) & see combo	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$3.00	_____
New Jersey Walk Book (1998) & see combo	\$15.95	\$12.75	+\$3.00	_____
Iron Mine Trails: NY-NJ Highlands (1996)	\$8.95	\$7.15	+\$1.75	_____
Health Hints for Hikers (1996)	\$5.95	\$4.75	+\$1.75	_____
Doodletown-Hiking Through History in a Vanishing Hamlet on the Hudson (1996)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman Trails Guide (1999) & see combo	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$3.00	_____
Circuit Hikes in No. Jersey (1995, repr. 1998)	\$9.95	\$7.95	+\$1.75	_____
Long Path Guide to NY/NJ (1996)	\$9.95	\$7.95	+\$1.75	_____
Nature Walks in New Jersey (1998)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.50	_____
50 Hikes in New Jersey (1997)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills & Hudson River Valley (1992)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children - New Jersey (1992)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$1.75	_____
A.T. Guide for NY & NJ (1998) w/ 6 maps	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.50	_____
ADK Guide to Catskill Trails (1994, repr. 1998)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
Catskill Trails: A Ranger's Guide to the High Peaks	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
50 Hikes in the Hudson Valley	\$14.00	\$11.20	+\$1.75	_____

## Combo-Packs

Catskill (5 map set & book)	\$27.80	\$21.60	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman (2 map set & book)	\$22.40	\$17.55	+\$2.50	_____
NY & NJ Walk Books	\$32.35	\$25.85	+\$5.00	_____
Shawangunk Combo (4 map set & book) (2000)	\$17.90	\$13.95	+\$2.50	_____

## The Personal Touch

NY-NJTC T-Shirt Circle: L XL	\$13.95	na	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman Map Bandanna	\$6.95	\$5.25	+\$1.25	_____
Conference Logo Patch	\$2.50	na	postpaid	_____
Long Path Logo Patch	\$2.75	na	postpaid	_____
Conference Logo Decal	\$ .85	na	postpaid	_____

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\*\*Tax must be paid by NY residents on items & shipping. Thank you!

## TWO GRANTS SUPPORT COMPUTER

### UPGRADES

continued from page 1

years, additional computer workstations and software will be upgraded as necessary to keep current. In addition, as part of its technology enhancement, the Conference developed a Web Store, and upgraded the office telephone system to include voice mail.

The Morris County, NJ-based Hyde and Watson Foundation's donation enabled the Trail Conference to purchase a server to manage the membership and accounting databases. We also purchased FileMaker software for both the server and office work stations. Because most of our volunteers and agency partners are familiar with Microsoft Office, we bought copies for all the Conference work stations.

The Strategic Plan also calls for greater emphasis on volunteer recruitment, development and recognition, and \$10,000 from our anonymous foundation donor is earmarked to do just that.

A membership brochure is a vital tool for new member recruitment and volunteer development. With \$5,000 in grant funds, the Trail Conference re-designed

and printed 25,000 copies of this new 4-color, photo-filled membership brochure. It now concisely answers the question, "What is the Trail Conference and what does it do?" Potential members learn that the organization maintains public hiking trails, and that there is a role for every member to become an active volunteer. Samples of activities in which members can get involved with the Conference's work are part of the new text.

The remaining \$5,000 from our anonymous foundation donor will support ongoing volunteer recognition, hosting a series of regional get-togethers for maintainers, so that they may be recognized for their trail work and meet their peers in a social—rather than trail work—situation. The Trail Conference has eleven committees of active trail workers—representing about 800 volunteers—who care for 1,300 miles of trail. Being able to give a little something to our volunteers builds bonds that are an investment in this organization's continued service.

The Trail Conference deeply appreciates the support of our Anonymous foundation donor, and the Hyde and Watson Foundation, for these important infrastructure needs of our organization.

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Trail Partners: Jane and Walt Daniels, Joan James

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Roy and Mary Derstine's contribution to the Stony Kill Falls campaign, *in memory of their dear neighbor Bud Petersen.*  
Sal Sposito, *in memory of his sister Catherine Ann Sposito.*

## HEALTH HINTS FOR HIKERS

by Albert P. Rosen, M.D.

### Broken bones and lead poisoning

Osteoporosis, which is a loss of bone density due to insufficient intake of calcium, may be a cause of fractures on the trails.

There are 28 million Americans with osteoporosis, resulting in 1.5 million fragility fractures per year. The incidence is greater in women, and increases as they get older. Smoking, alcohol consumption, and lack of exercise all increase the risk.

Osteoporosis is the underlying cause in 90% of all hip and spinal fractures in women. Hip fractures can be life threatening. Twenty percent die within one year of the fracture.

All adults should ingest 1200 mg (milligrams) of calcium and 400 mg of vitamin D per day. Dietary intake of calcium is often too low to supply the daily re-

quirement. For example, many people drink coffee, tea, or soda. Very few drink milk which is an excellent source of calcium.

One should approach calcium supplements carefully. A recent article in *JAMA* on these supplements declared that many contain lead. Examine the label and if in doubt ask your pharmacist. For example, Natural Oyster Shell Calcium 500 mg with vitamin D contains lead. Tums does not. Walgreen's calcium supplements are reliably lead-free whereas Eckerd's has lead. Also, just because it's "natural" doesn't mean it's safe.

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## THE VIEW FROM ALBANY continued from page 4

such width to operate and handle corners. The Trail Conference and ADK believe that the operation of these groomers on trails in the Forest Preserve is not consistent with the "forever wild" clause of the state constitution. Current law and policies limit these trails to a maximum of 8 feet. We do not know yet whether or not similar requests will be made for snowmobile trails in Catskill Wild Forests in the future.

Hikers use snowmobile trails in the warm months. While the Trail Conference and ADK are not opposed to snowmobile use in the Forest Preserve, we hope you will urge the DEC to stick to the current regulations which require that snowmobile trails have the same character as footpaths with a maximum width of 8 feet.

### Parking Lots, Stewardship and Illegal Use

There are many other management details that Trail Conference members may find important. While as issues may seem less than exciting, such details become critical in the day to day use and protection of the Preserve. For instance, the Prediger Road trailhead to the Indian Head Wilderness is in great need of an established parking lot: sometimes there are 15-20 cars parked along the road and on people's lawns to access this popular trailhead. If the DEC sees enough support, a parking lot will become reality for this area.

Also, voice your support for better stewardship of the Preserve. Funds for signs, informational kiosks, and proper trail conditions will go a long way in helping preserve these lands. Finally, let the DEC know of any instances in which overuse, vandalism, refuse dumping, or illegal use are occurring. This is the opportune time to raise these issues. DEC's management plans will hinge greatly on these current use patterns and problems.

### Revision of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan

DEC planners have also resumed work on revisions to the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (CPSLMP). The CPSLMP is the management blueprint that determines how wilderness and wild forest areas are managed for human use. It is an very important document for protection of the "forever wild" character of the Forest Preserve. For example, it is the CPSLMP that prohibits the use of all terrain vehicles on trails in the Forest Preserve. Amendments to the CPSLMP will greatly influence how the Catskill Forest Preserve is managed for the next 20 years. The Trail Conference and ADK support amendments to the plan that would prohibit mountain bike use on steep, single-track trails such as the Devil's Path on Hunter Mountain. We believe that mountain bike use should only occur on trails

that have been specifically marked to permit bike use. This policy revision would designate trails suitable for mountain bikes in the same manner as horse and snowmobile trails.

The Trail Conference and ADK support the creation of a new Wilderness Area encompassing the peaks in the Windham High Peak-Blackhead Range. We strongly support the provision in the current CPSLMP that applies Wilderness protections to all Catskill Wild Forest lands over 2,700 feet in elevation. This special protection is better known as the 2700-Foot Rule. About half of the Catskill High Peaks over 3500 feet are in Wild Forest Areas. The Trail Conference and ADK believe these special habitats, now designated as Important Bird Conservation Areas under state law, should be afforded the same legal protection as Catskill Wilderness Areas. Many of the mountain slopes and trails in areas currently protected by the 2700-foot rule have erosion-prone soils which need the additional limitations on motor vehicle and mountain bike use afforded by the Wilderness guidelines of the CPSLMP.

### Tell DEC: Keep the 2700-foot Rule!

Currently, the 2700-Foot Rule prohibits the use of snowmobiles and mountain bikes on trails such as the Spruceton Trail to the summit of Hunter Mountain. The special Wilderness status conferred by the 2700-Foot Rule also helped the Trail Conference and ADK convince the state Legislature to reject a scheme to convert the summit of Hunter Mountain into a massive ski center in 1996.

Some are now advocating for the repeal of this rule. We urge you to tell DEC planners at the UMP hearings to leave the 2700-Foot Rule in place. 

### Now, It's Up to You

These are just some of the issues we're facing as the UMP process is carried out. Please take advantage of the statewide meetings to learn about, and make comments, on the Forest Preserve. If you can't attend the meetings, please send us your comments and experiences. Your thoughts and ideas will provide us with insights. Some topics for your comments include: trail conditions, refuse or vandalism problems, wildlife/habitat, campsites, canoe carries, terrain and vistas, overuse/underuse, signage, parking and access, levels and patterns of use, unique features, and illegal use.

You can send us your recommendations on any of the Catskill units or on the revision of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan. For a list of Adirondack UMPs being completed, please call. Please e-mail your comments to: [mcarr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mcarr@nycap.rr.com) or [nwoodwor@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nwoodwor@nycap.rr.com); or write or call: ADK/Trail Conference Public Affairs Office, 301 Hamilton Street, Albany, New York 12210; 518-449-3870.

# Congress Passes "Un-CARA" Bill

In October, Congress passed and President Clinton signed the "UN-CARA." That's the Trail Conference and ADK's moniker for a budget bill (HR 4578) that is a poor substitute for the landmark Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) that we supported for the last two years. Only bits and pieces of CARA made it into this budget bill.

HR 4578, officially known as the Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement Act, eliminates guaranteed funding to the states for wilderness and park purchases. HR 4578 sets aside a much smaller amount and the money must be appropriated by Congress each year. For the past fifteen years, Congress has failed to fund the state land acquisition program portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Trail Conference and ADK supported CARA legislation HR 701/S.2123 and its Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) plan. This fund would have given back to the states money that was rightfully theirs. Congress promised back in the 1970s that these monies, which are generated by off shore oil leases, would belong to the states for open space and parks. Instead, Congress has been using the money over the years to offset budget deficits and buy federal lands.

The House passed the CARA bill we supported back in June 2000. Over sixty senators supported that landmark bill, but it was never put to a vote. Instead, the White House and budget appropriators negotiated a deal for the scaled down and temporary conservation funding measure as part of the large federal budget bill.

## A Poor Substitute for CARA

The Trail Conference and ADK supported language that would guarantee permanent land acquisition funding every year for all the states. The landmark CARA bill would have provided \$450 million to the federal government and \$450 million to the states for open space land acquisition, state parks, ball fields, and greenways. New York alone would have received \$28 million every year for wilderness and state park projects. By contrast, the approved budget bill provides New York with only \$4.7 million this year. There is no guarantee that any state will be given any funding for state land acquisition in a non-election year.

Under HR 4578, only \$90 million is to be divided among all the states, compared to the \$450 million that was proposed in the CARA legislation. While the bill protects this small pot of money from being spent for other things, it does not guarantee that even one dime is actually appropriated by Congress in succeeding years. Congress will have to go back to the drawing board each year to authorize

the level of funding for each state. New York and New Jersey and all the states will have to fight for their share every year.

To help offset the failed CARA bill, the federal budget will also include \$60 million for the Forest Legacy Program. This money could be used in New York to preserve working forests and open space, and pay for more canoe and kayak access. New York recently received Forest Legacy money for Sterling Forest and acquisition of a canoe put-in on the Hudson River Gorge.

## CARA's Future in Doubt

The Trail Conference and ADK, and many other environmental and recreation organizations nationwide, are looking into the possibility of resurrecting CARA when the new Congress convenes. CARA's future is obviously clouded by a very murky political situation in Washington as this article is written in mid-November.

Literally hundreds of thousands of groups around the country supported the old landmark CARA bill. The NYS Office of Parks and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation did a wonderful job of uniting many groups to support CARA.

Neil Woodworth served on a state Task Force of environmental and recreational group leaders to organize support for CARA. The job remains undone and we must convince Congress to do its duty and appropriate federal dollars to help the states buy lands like Sterling Forest, and the Hudson Highlands.



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continued from back page

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

**UHC. Palisades Interstate Park Ramble.** Leader: Micky Siegel 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 AM at the Englewood Boat Basin. A 5-mile ramble down by the river. Snack at the new park under the bridge. Call leader if in doubt due to inclement weather.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**RVW. Sugarloaf Mt.** Strenuous hike: 4 miles, 4.25 hours. Snowshoes and crampons required. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8 AM. Inclement weather date-following Monday. For more information call: 845-338-6263.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

**FVTW. Allamuchy Mountain State Park - Ski or Hike.** A nice level 6-7 mile hike with a beautiful lake for a lunch spot. Meet: 10 AM at Panther Valley "BOL" restaurant. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0766.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

**ADK-J. Thursday in the Woods.** Contact: Phyllis Key, 201-358-9252; 5-7 miles with ups and downs.

**FVTW. Mines. Mines. Mines.** See rarely visited mines deep within Hamtram; 7-10 miles. Some off-trail hiking. Meet: 10 AM at Skannatoti parking. Leaders: Dave & Naomi Suter, 973-778-0992.

### FRIDAY-MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16-19

**SC-AC. President's Weekend Cross-Country Ski Trip to Stowe, Vermont.** Ski trails of Trapp Family Lodge, Mt. Mansfield and the 60 K+ trails at Bolton Valley. Cozy inn, gourmet food and trails right outside. Bus departure Friday 6 PM. from Columbus Circle, Manhattan, with a stop in Plye, NY. Return on Monday after skiing, arriving NYC by 10:30 PM. Contact: Norman Paley, 718-668-1354.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**UHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble.** Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-9411. Meet: 10 AM at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. where it intersects with New Providence Rd. A steady moderate pace of 5 to 6 miles.

**HHC. Ralph Stover State Park.** Meet: 10 AM sharp at Frenchtown Bridge parking lot. Leader: Judy Moore, 908-782-1782. Starting at High Rocks, 5-6 miles. Wear hiking boots, dress in layers, bring water and lunch. Snack stop after hike.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**GAHC. Ward's Pound Ridge Reservation.** Average to easy hike; possible cross-country skiing. Leader: Wolfgang Hahn, 212-631-8254; call ahead requested. From NYC take Saw Mill River Parkway to Katonah, continue east on Rt. 35 to Cross River. Meet: Museum Parking lot at 10 AM. Non-members \$2.

**LIGTC. Frozen Ponds Sighting.** Meet: 10 AM. 10 miles - moderate - some hills - Info: Nicholas, 631-586-3396. See McKinley, Hidden and Honeyuck ponds on this hike up and over the Plankonkoma Moraine and back. Bring lunch and liquid; snow or shine, but rain cancels. E: nicholas@htrmail.com.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**FVTW. Pyramid Mountain.** Meet: 10 AM at the Kinnelon baseball diamond town park a couple of miles north of the park office on Butler-Boonton Road. We'll start at north end of Pyramid Mt. and see Tripod Rock and other glacial erratics; 5-7 miles. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**FVTW. Ramapo Mountain Goose Bumps.** Bundle up for a 7-10 mile romp through part of Ramapo Mt. State forest. We'll visit Camp Yaw Paw at Cannonball Lake and a variety of attractive trails. Meet: 10 AM at Parking lot #2, top of hill. Leaders: Al & Jane Leigh, 973-471-7528.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**UHC. Jockey Hollow Ramble, Morristown.** Leader: Mae Deas 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 AM at the Jockey Hollow Visitors Center. A \$4 per-person admission is charged to those without park passes. Enjoy a brisk ramble in this beautiful park where Washington's army camped during the brutal winter of 1779-80. Steady rain or snow cancels but if sufficient snow on ground, will cross-country ski instead.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**UHC. Ramapo Lake Ramble.** Leader: Micky Siegel 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 AM on Skyline Dr. at the first parking lot on the left on the bottom of the hill. Very scenic hike; well worth the commute. View the beautiful Ramapo Lake. Bring your lunch to eat at a 20-minute rest stop. Call leader if in need of additional directions or in doubt due to inclement weather.

**LIGTC. Peaking the Northern Hills.** Meet: 10 AM. 7 miles - moderate - hilly. Info: Nicholas, 631-586-3396. Explore newly-designated Cold Spring Harbor State Park and our Nassau-Suffolk Trail. Bring lunch and liquid, snow or shine, but rain cancels. E: nicholas@htrmail.com.

**HHC. Schooley's Mountain.** Meet: 10 AM at Clinton, NJ commuter parking lot. Leader: Dick Nichols, 908-835-8192. A tour of Schooley's Mountain Park, 4-5 miles. Good boots necessary. Bring water and snack. Lunch stop afterwards.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

**RVW. Eagle Mt.** Strenuous bushwhack: 8.4 miles, 5.5 hours. Snowshoes and crampons required. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8 AM. Inclement weather date-following Monday. For more information call: 845-246-7987.

## MARCH

### SATURDAY, MARCH 3

**GAHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ.** Leader: Mathias Wuethrich, 908-253-9042. Please call ahead. Meet: 10 AM at Visitors Center.

**HHC. Washington Crossing Towpath.** Meet: 10 AM at Remington Outlet Center. Leader: Phil Tunison, 608-466-3602. Hike north from Washington Crossing, NJ and return through Titusville, 4.5 miles. Bring water and snacks

## C L U B C O D E S

**ADK-J** Adirondack Mountain Club, North Jersey Chapter. Contact: Rob Lehmann, 201-529-1154.

**FVTW** Frost Valley Trail Walkers. Contact: Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Mon. 3 mi., Tues. 6-7 mi., Wed. 5 mi., Thurs. 7-10 mi., Fri. ramble up to two mi.

**GAHC** German-American Hiking Club. Contact: Evelyn Hoyer, 718-457-8319.

**HHC** Hunterdon Hiking Club. Contact: Lud Bohler, 908-788-3941.

**LIGTC** Long Island Greenbelt. Contact: L.L. Greenbelt Trail Conference, 516-360-0753.

**MSC** Miramar Ski Club. Contact: Jay Schwartz 212-673-7132.

**OC** Outdoors Club. Contact: ALANHKAYE@AOL.COM; The Outdoors Club, PO Box 227, Lenox Hill Station, NYC 10021. Free schedule on request.

**RVW** Rip Van Winkle. Contact: Fred Backhaus, 914-246-5670.

**SC-AC** Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter Outings Committee. Contact: Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter Outings Committee: 718-370-2096.

**UHC** Union County Hiking Club. Contact: Herb Chertock, 908-464-8289.

The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikers are welcome subject to club regulations and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Wear hiking boots or strong, low-heeled shoes. Bring food, water, rain gear, first aid kit, and flashlight in a backpack. Leaders have the right and responsibility to refuse anyone whom they believe cannot complete the hike or are not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are relative terms; call leader if in doubt.

Many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the *Hikers' Almanac*. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, send an SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference, 232 Madison Ave., Rm. 802, NY, NY 10016.



# HIKERS' ALMANAC

## JANUARY

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1

**LIGTC. New Year's Day Hike.** Meet: 9:45 AM at the Great River LIRR Station. Easy to moderate, flat 7.5-9.5 miles. Info: Nick, 631-586-3396, 8-11 PM, iv, msg., or E: nichlasserrano@hotmail.com. An out-and-back hike through the grounds of Bayard Cutting Arboretum and Connetquot State Park; heavy rain cancels; bring food and water.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

**FVTW. Jockey Hollow.** A 6-7 mile brisk walk around the perimeter of this Morris County park. Leader: Mary Dell Morrison, 908-684-1173. Meet: 10 AM at Jockey Hollow.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

**ADK-J. Thursday in the Woods.** Contact Phyllis Key, 201-358-9252; 5-7 miles with ups and downs.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

**OC. Bronx River Parkway.** Meet: 10:15 AM at Grand Central Station Info Booth. Leader: Salvatore Varbero, 718-420-9589 between 8-10 PM. 5 level miles to Scarsdale. Bring food and water. Service fee \$3 for non-members.

**LIGTC. Stillwell and South.** Meet: 8:30 AM at Stillwell Woods parking. Moderate, varied 7 miles. Info: Steve, 631-261-7885. Hike the Nassau-Suffolk Trail to Northern Pkwy. and back; lunch and liquid; rain cancels.

**UHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble.** Leader: Mary Sive 973-746-3986. Meet: At 10 AM in Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. A moderate ramble of 3 to 4 miles. Rain or ice cancels.

**SC-AC. X-Country Skiing.** We ski wherever the snow flies, either Saturday or Sunday. Expect 8 moderate miles. Beginners can rent equipment, take a lesson at the ski center and ski off together or on their own. Drivers especially needed to provide rides. Leader: Roy Silverfarb, 212-877-5921.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

**LIGTC. Family Winter Fun Hike.** Meet: 10 AM at Great River LIRR station. Easy to moderate, flat 3, 7 or 9 miles. Info: Nicholas, 631-586-3396. Hike in Bayard Cutting Arboretum and Connetquot State Park, arranged so you have a choice of distances. Bring lunch and liquid; we hike snow or shine, but rain cancels. E: nichlasserrano@hotmail.com.

**UHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble.** Leader: Mae Deas 908-233-6641. Meet: At 10 AM at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave., as it intersects with New Providence Rd. Enjoy a brisk ramble on marked and unmarked trails. Steady rain cancels, but if enough snow on ground, cross-country ski instead.

**GAHC. Teatown Lake Reservation.** Hike, with museum visit. Leader & info: Evelyn Hoyer 718-457-8319 & Manfred Janowski 914-428-4573. Meet: 10 AM approximate 1 mile west of the junction of Taconic Pkwy & Route 134.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 8

**RWW. Taconic Skyline.** Moderate hike. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 AM. Inclement weather date is following Monday. For more information call 914-246-5670.

**RWW. Halcott Mt.** Strenuous bushwhack: 4.5 miles, 4.5 hours (snowshoes and crampons necessary). Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 a.m. Inclement weather date is following Monday. For more information call 914-246-8546.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

**FVTW. Wewayanda.** We can only hike this swamp trail in drought or freeze: 6-7 miles. Meet: 10 AM at the Visitors Center. Leaders: Lisa Caplan & Bob New, 973-744-0325.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

**FVTW. Old Short Hills Park, Millburn.** 5 miles on a potpourri of trails, quite hilly. Meet: 10 AM For information, call Cheryl Short, 973-239-0212.

**FVTW. Alpine Boat Basin.** 8+ miles on the Long Path from Alpine Boat Basin to 9W at Lamont-Doherty with return on shore trail. Leaders: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10 AM at Alpine Boat Basin, Palisades Parkway to exit 2, south on Palisades Park Dr., sharp left.

### FRIDAY - MONDAY, JANUARY 12-15

**MSC. Martin Luther King Ski and X-C ski weekend,** by bus, at our own lodge in Watsfield, VT. Call 212-978-9309 for info.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

**RWW. Slide Mt.** Strenuous hike: 6.5 miles, 5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 AM. Inclement weather date is following Saturday. For more info call 914-246-4145.

**LIGTC. River Ramble.** Meet: 9 AM at Great River LIRR station. 6.5 miles, easy to moderate, flat. Info: Tom or Sheri, 631-567-9484. Follow the Connetquot River from Lakeland Park to Westbrook, through spectacular Connetquot State Park Preserve. Good hike if you're looking to extend your range gently; rain cancels; we'll cross-country ski if ground is snow-covered; bring snack and liquid.

**UHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble.** Leader: Bob Hagon 908-788-8360. Call right before hike between 7 and 9 PM only. Meet: 10 AM at Seely Pond picnic area near Valley Rd. and Diamond Hill Rd (New Providence Rd.). A brisk ramble of 6 miles finishing about 1 PM. Rain or snow cancels.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

**OC. Hardscrabble Wilderness Area.** Meet: Take 9:48 AM Harlem Line express train from Grand Central Terminal to White Plains (check schedule as time may change a few minutes.); then board bus W15. Fare: Buy a one-way ticket and ask for a transfer to Bee-Line bus, \$5.50. Leader: Rolande Chapeau. Mountain hike in a new area with babbling brooks, 6-7 miles. Some ups and downs (no climbing!). Bring water and lunch, and wear hiking boots. No smoking on hike.

**LIGTC. Winter Workout.** Meet: 10 AM at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1000 Washington Ave. 8 miles, moderate, hilly. Info: Nicholas, 631-586-3396. A challenging figure-eight hike on the Walt Whitman Trail network. Bring lunch and liquid; we hike snow or shine, but rain cancels. E: nichlasserrano@hotmail.com.

**UHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble.** Leader: Dot Berreman 908-464-9546. Meet: 10 AM at the Elmidae parking lot, west side of Brookside Dr., north of Glen Ave., Millburn. Moderate ramble.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

**FVTW. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation.** 6-7 miles with views, lake, hemlock and swamp. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10 AM at picnic area.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

**ADK-J. Thursday in the Woods.** Contact Betty Heald, 201-967-2937; 5-7 miles with ups and downs.

**FVTW. Ramapo Circular.** 7-10 mile hike with several Boy Scout lakes, Matapan Rock, Ramapo fire tower and the old castle. Moderately strenuous; traverses both east and west sides of Skyline Dr. Meet: 10 AM at Skyline Dr. parking lot #2. Leaders: Charlie & Anita Kientzler, 973-835-1000.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

**LIGTC. North Shore Special.** Meet: 8:30 AM at Cold Spring Harbor Trailhead. 14 miles - strenuous - varied - Info: Steve, 631-261-7885. Hike the Nassau-Suffolk Trail to Northern Pkwy. and back; tough hills; lunch and liquid; rain cancels.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

**GAHC. Long Island Pine Barrens, Manorville, NY.** Average level hike; DEC fee \$3 + non-members \$2. Leader: Henry Loddigs, 718-889-1052. Meet: on Rt. 111 south of Long Island Expressway Exit 70, 10 AM.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 22

**RWW. Rusk Mt.** Strenuous bushwhack: 3.5 miles, 4.5 hours (snowshoes and crampons necessary). Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 AM. Inclement weather date is following Monday. For more information call 914-246-7158.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

**FVTW. Kay Environmental Center, Chester.** 6-7 miles along the Black River in a beautiful wooded park. Meet: 10 AM. For information, call Cheryl Short, 973-239-0212.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

**OC. Tuxedo Circular.** Meet: 8:45 AM at Hoboken, NJ train station. Leader: Oliver Wayne, 201-840-4145. Moderately difficult circular, about

8 miles. We'll be out in time to take the 4 PM return train. Varied terrain, mostly hilly. No beginners. Bring lunch and water.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

**ADK-J. Thursday in the Woods.** Contact Betty Heald, 201-967-2937; 5-7 miles with ups and downs.

**FVTW. Silvermine and Beyond.** 7-10 miles, some off-trail hiking and exploring of obscure sites. Meet: 10 AM at Silvermine parking lot. Leaders: Dave & Naomi Sutter, 973-778-0892.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

**UHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble.** Leader: Dot Berreman 908-464-9546. Meet: At 10 AM at the Bramhall Terrace parking lot. A moderate 4 mile ramble using unusual trails.

**LIGTC. Smithtown Winter Walk.** Meet: 9:30 AM. 6 miles - moderate - flat - Info: Andy, 631-696-8089. See woods, streams and Miller Pond on a brisk winter walk along the L.I. Trail; bring snack and liquid; rain or heavy snow cancels; meet at our Office.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

**UHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble.** Leader: Ed Leibowitz 201-332-1709. Meet: 10 AM at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. where it intersects with New Providence Rd. A steady moderate pace of 4-5 miles.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

**FVTW. Jennings Hollow, Ringwood.** A Sterling Ridge circular, 6-7 miles. Remains of an old flywheel and ironworks. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799.

## FEBRUARY

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**ADK-J. Thursday in the Woods.** Contact Phyllis Key, 201-358-9252; 5-7 miles with ups and downs.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**UHC. South Mountain Ramble.** Leader: Mimi Solomon 973-763-6449. Meet: 10 AM in Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. A brisk ramble along the yellow trail and the white (unless there is too much snow.)

**LIGTC. Pine Trail Amble.** Meet: 9 AM. 3 to 4 miles - easy - flat. Info: Charlotte, 631-929-1035. An easy Pine Barrens walk, good for beginners; meet at Pine Trail Preserve lot. Bring snack and liquid; rain or heavy snow cancels.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**GAHC. Palisades & Hudson River Shoreline, NJ.** Average to easy hike. Leader: Helly de Liz, 201-592-6377; call leader beforehand. Meet: Linwood Park Shopping Ctr., west side of Rt. 9W in Fort Lee, NJ, at 10 AM. Non-members \$2.

**UHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble.** Leader: Bob Keller 908-233-0699. Meet: At 10 AM at the Trailside Nature and Science Center

parking lot on Coles Ave. where it intersects with New Providence Rd. A moderate ramble 4-5 miles. Steady rain cancels.

**LIGTC. Weld Preserve Walk.** Meet: 10 AM. 7 miles - moderate - flat. Info: Nicholas, 631-586-3396. A trail and beach walk in a Nature Conservancy sanctuary; bring lunch and liquid; we hike snow or shine, but rain cancels; meet at the preserve. E: nichlasserrano@hotmail.com.

**OC. Croton Point Park.** Meet: Take 9:57 AM Metro-North train from Grand Central Terminal to Croton-Harmon. Leader: Rolande Chapeau. Easy level walk, 7-8 miles with great views of the Hudson Valley. Bring lunch and hot drink, dress warmly. Service fee \$3 for non-members who are not hiking.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**FVTW. Patriots' Path, Morristown.** 3-mile hike along the old Rock-a-Bye Railroad and the Whippany River. For information, call Cheryl Short, 973-209-0212.

**RWW. Windham High Peak** from Burnt Knob and Peck Rd. Moderate hike: 6.1 miles, 5 hours. Snowshoes and crampons may be necessary. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8 AM. Inclement weather date following Monday. For more information call: 845-246-7616.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

**FVTW. Jockey Hollow, Morristown National Park.** 6-7 miles from Jockey Hollow to Crosslands to the Audubon Center and back along the river. Meet: 10 AM at Jockey Hollow Visitor Center parking lot. Leader: Joe Brownlee, 973-635-1171.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

**FVTW. Ramapo Mountain State Forest.** A 5-mile tour of Ramapo Lake and the surrounding Ramapo Mountains. Meet: 10 AM in first parking lot. Leader: Mickey Siegel, 201-797-7054.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**ADK-J. Thursday in the Woods.** Contact Betty Heald, 201-967-2937; 5-7 miles with ups and downs.

**FVTW. Bear Mountain/Popolopen Circular.** A great view from Bear Mountain followed by a cool walk through Popolopen Gorge: 7-10 miles. Meet: 10 AM at Bear Mt. Inn. Leader: Amie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3894.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

**UHC. Garrett Mountain Ramble.** Leader: Mary Sive 973-746-3986. Meet: At 10 AM at the first parking lot inside the park at the start of a one-way road. A moderate circular of this park near Paterson has splendid views.

**RWW. Thatcher Park, Helderbergs, Albany County.** Cross-country ski/snowshoe. Moderate outing: 4 miles, 4 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8 AM. Inclement weather date following Saturday. For more information call: 845-246-4145.

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