The View No More

By Glenn Scherer

September 12th: I woke up feeling the need for a walk. I drove out to Longhouse Road, strapped on a water bottle, and started through the woods on the Appalachian Trail toward Bearfort Ridge.

I’ve walked the Trail in this part of northern New Jersey often, but it was as quiet as I’ve ever heard it, with only crickets and crows, the squeaking of my boots, and the silence overhead utterly without planes.

The witch hazel, the only tree to flower in autumn, hadn’t blossomed yet, but its leaves were trimmed in yellow. I crossed a dry creek bed where there should have been water. We were 12 weeks into a drought, with some leaves already turned and fallen.

In a mile, I reached a valley that has changed from hickory forest to beaver pond in the past two years. This dry summer, the pond had changed yet again, becoming a sedgy meadow. The beavers had moved on. Without their pond—their home, the pond had changed yet again, being a dry creek bed where there should have been water. We were 12 weeks into a drought, with some leaves already turned and fallen.

I climbed steeply and reached a spot where drab gray billion-year-old bedrock gave way to puddingstone—a gorgeous purple conglomerate imbedded with white quartz. Now I was on Bearfort Ridge, probably named as a last stronghold of black bears in pioneer days.

This ridge isn’t tall by Appalachian Trail standards, but is high enough. Just before I stepped beyond the trees at the summit, I wanted to stop, turn back, not see. Then I pushed through the last bear oak and staghorn sumac. I knew right where to look at the far edge of the folded green hills. But there was only smoke and a goldfinch.

The Twin Towers were gone. On the far horizon, half an outstretched fist south of the Empire State Building, the blue sky was wounded by billowing smoke. Standing on that ridge that morning, I knew the rescue workers hadn’t even begun to count the dead. I found a spot next to a pitch pine and sat.

I had hiked to this vista with my wife Marty only the week before and seen the Towers. How could we have imagined then that we would never see them again? Memories rose with the smoke. I recalled taking my brother’s family to the Trade Center Observation Deck on a crisp December morning 25 years ago. We had looked off toward the Highlands and I had pointed to this ridge.

On another Twin Towers visit, I had watched the Dalai Lama’s saffron-robed monks make a circular sand painting, a fragile peace mandala in the Trade Center lobby. Now the unspeakable violence that drove the Tibetans to sanctuary in America had come around the world to us.

In the past, spotting most human-made structures—housing developments or transmission towers—from the Appalachian Trail had detracted from my hiking experiences. But not the Twin Towers.

continued on page 7


Update Your Library with the Seventh Edition of the “Hiker’s Bible”

Didn’t one just come out? you ask. In the past it was at least ten years between Walk Book editions. Why so soon for the seventh edition? (The sixth edition was published in 1998.) Well, first of all, the wonders of desktop publishing make it feasible to produce a new edition in a short period of time. In light of the extensive trail changes that have taken place within the past three years, we decided that our members should have the opportunity to obtain a current, up-to-date version of this classic book.

A special feature of this new edition is a collection of new, world-class illustrations by Jack Fagan, professor of geology (retired) and outstanding illustrator, who is already known to many of you as the author and illustrator of Scenes and Walks in the Northern State Parks. Of course, we have also retained many of the sketches by Robert L. Dickinson, a member of the triumvirate that produced the first edition of the Walk Book in 1953. Fagan’s sketches give the book a refreshing, updated appearance, while those by Dickinson preserve the historical ambience that is very much a part of the Walk Book.

All chapters have been updated, and three chapters have been substantially re-

continued on page 6

Heave, Ho! A New Bridge Goes Up in the Catskills; LP Is Rerouted

The new route and stream crossing are already recorded on the recently published 2001 edition of the Catskill trail map for the area (see Trail News description of the relocation). But the bridge itself was erected by a crew of six during one intense Saturday in September.

Senterman notes that he decided early on to build the bridge “historically,” using the King Post design of the original Overlook Road bridge pictured in 19th-century books about the region. He adds, “Of course, I didn’t realize how much work

continued on page 2
Too Many Hikers Are Outside Our Ranks

As I looked over Trail Walker columns by previous Trail Conference presidents to ready myself for this writing task, I was amazed at how one could relate a variety of topics to hiking. I was also reminded of the variety of people who hike and the changes that have occurred during the 33 years that I have been hiking.

Consider the demographics of hikers, for example. In 1968, there were far more men who hiked than women—I would guess about 80 percent of hikers then were male. In 2001, the day-hike groups that I pass on trails seem to be closer to 60 percent male and 40 percent women; some hiking clubs are predominantly women. I have also noticed more young people hiking lately. Typically, they are not members of hiking clubs, but go out on the trails solo or with friends.

And, slowly, the ethnicity of hikers is changing. One sees more Asians on the trails now, for example, than in the past, though still not so many African-Americans or Latinos. Our Outreach program in Harriman Park aims to introduce hiking to people of these and other backgrounds by reaching out to urban families by previous Trail Conference presidents, I was amazed at how one could relate a variety of topics to hiking. I was also reminded of the variety of people who hike and the changes that have occurred during the 33 years that I have been hiking.

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Watershed Restrictions Are Counterproductive

The knee-jerk reaction of many agencies to the terrorist attacks of September 11 has been to prevent people from entering areas the agencies want to protect, e.g., the watershed areas where we have hiking trails. It should be obvious to all that reservoirs are basically unprotected against a determined foe. For those who do not value their life, crashing through a guardrail from an adjacent road is trivial. With monitored checkpoints and a strong perimeter, the airlines failed at protecting against hijackers. In the case of our open spaces, the good guys outnumber the bad guys at least 10 million to 1. It would be more cost effective to increase the hiking opportunities around the reservoirs so that there is a much greater chance of one of the good guys seeing suspicious behavior.

Walt Daniels
Mohagen Lake, NY

Steve Klein Passes Away

On any NJ Appalachian Trail work day, Steve Klein could be counted on to saunter up in his characteristic long red plaid flannel shirt, suspenders, and khaki pants (the same outfit in which his family buried him when he passed away this September).

Steve was a tireless volunteer: AT Overseer on Kittatinny Ridge’s north end, a mover-and-shaker who helped get Pyramid Mountain preserved as a Morris County Park, and an active volunteer fireman.

He was always ready with a witticism, his camera, or his chain saw (nobody cleared blowdowns with more enthusiasm). He was tenacious as a pit bull, regularly buttonholing park superintendents to get the AT materials he needed or privy moved.

In a time when AT maintenance is becoming increasingly standardized, Steve marched to a different drum. While doing a trail assessment on his section, we came on a crossing spot where the Trail swung right, separating itself from a wide woods road. Steve had been there before us, and knew exactly how to keep wayward hikers on the path. Beside the woods road was a sign scrawled in white paint on a scrap of lumber: “This ain’t the AT.”

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Glenn Scher
Highland Lakes, NJ

Letters are welcome. Send them to the TC office or to tw@nynjtc.org.
Our Work: As Important as Ever

By Edward Goodell

sites protected by the purchases. Accordin-
gal hundred acres of ecologically unique teral hundred acres of ecologically unique
former boundary of Minnewaska State Park.
ning Brook), numerous waterfalls, and sev-
eral of our favorite places. From the
nucleus of social networking and the
Stonetown Circular, a 9.6-mile length of
to the Sterling Forest Partnership
was there at the beginning of some of this region’s
successful conservation efforts.
thing under any circumstances and even
more so now. There was discussion about
how attitude and a positive outlook would
be very important in coping with such a
disaster. We were heartened by the idea
that our work might help give some the
solace they needed to carry on.
This conversation brightened my out-
look and that day I hiked the Nordkop
Mountain ridge at the southern tip of
Harriman State Park. All of northern New
Jersey, lower Rockland County, and, of
course, Manhattan spread out before me.
It was a disorienting scene. My frame of
reference gone, Manhattan did not look
like Manhattan anymore. It had changed
and so had we, in ways I could little imag-
ine. Even so, I felt lucky to have a trail so
near at hand and more committed to car-
ying out the tradition of good work at
the Trail Conference.

Staying a Step Ahead
Throughout our history of protect-
ing land, the Trail Conference has mobi-
lized grassroots efforts to successfully pro-
tect some of our favorite places. From
the landmark challenge at Storm King
Mountain to the Sterling Forest Partner-
ship, the Trail Conference has been there
and doing it. We were greatly inspired by
the strength of others more directly affected
by the tragedy. We were deeply concerned
by the tragedy. We were deeply concerned
about the safety and welfare of our mem-
bers and their loved ones. We talked about
the fact that our work, the work of the
Trail Conference, bringing people in di-
rect contact with wild nature, is a good

Annual Award Goes to Leadership Duo

Monica Resor and David Day of New
Jersey first met while hiking on the Four
Birds Trail in the Farny Highlands in the
mid 1990s. Not long after that they be-
came a familiar leadership pair for Bob
Marshall’s West Hudson Trail Crew.

While each had been an active hiker-
maintainer-builder before meeting, as a
pair they are virtually unstoppable. Dave’s
engineering background and Monica’s
management skills make for a truly dy-
namic trail crew leadership team. They
have even created a website for trail work-
ers: www.trailstobuild.com, with links to
crew schedules, hardware reports, and
other sites of trail maintainer interest.

This year, the Trail Conference hon-
ors and thanks this dynamic duo by be-
stowing on them the Hoeferlin Award,
given annually to volunteers who demon-
strate exemplary service to trail main-
tenance and management.

Monica has been an active AMC hikes
leader for many years, and began work-
ing with the Conference’s West Hudson
Trail Crew on the Howell Trail under the
guidance of Rockmeister Bob Reardon.
After taking a Wilderness Workskills
course with the Student Conservation As-
sociation in the mid-90s, she began lead-
ing trail crews herself.

David has helped create a number of
devices to aid in trail work. Among these
is the rock-bar sling carrier that crew
members thank him for every time they
have to carry a rock-bar into the backwoods.

David started working with the TC trail
crew on the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and
has never stopped pushing rocks around.

“...These days Dave and Monica con-
continue leading work trips for the West
Hudson Crew and have taken on the de-
telopment of a West New Jersey Trail
Crew. This new group proved its mettle
over the past two years with a nearly com-
plete restoration of the Red Dot Trail in
Washingtonville State Forest in New
Jersey.

Like the award’s namesake, William
Hoeferlin, one of the founders of the Con-
ference Trail Patrol, Monica Resor and
David Day are intrepid and inspiring vol-
uunteers. They continue to improve the
outdoor experience for hikers in our re-

What gives the Trail Conference its
ability to stay one step ahead in the con-
stant battle to protect open space is our
vast network of volunteers. Knowledge-
able, responsible users of the backcountry,
our volunteers act as an early warning sys-
tem about trail land threats and opportu-
nities. As open space becomes more scarce,
volunteers will play an even more crucial
role in how the Trail Conference meets the
challenges that lie ahead.

Bernd Kuchar’s volunteer service is a
good case in point. He is devoting his few
short months in the States to almost single-
handedly building the Shawangunk Ridge
Coalition website and the computerized
mapping system. His work is critical to our
efforts along the Kittatinny-
Shawangunk-Catskill greenway. This project involves monitoring and prioritiz-
ing hundreds of different property parcels
and environmental threats along the 25-
 mile unprotected gap north of the New Jer-
sey border. Bernd’s work is helping us man-
age this mammoth task and get the word
out. By the time you read this, the website
should be up and running at http://
www.shawangunkridge.org.

Having a voice about which lands are
protected and influencing how they are
managed is the focus of the Trail Confer-
ence in the 21st Century. We must under-
stand how the “green” pieces fit together
and expand our network of connecting trail
lands to maintain both ecosystem health
and access to pristine nature.

Despite any calamities we suffer—
natural or manmade—this interconnected
network of trail lands will always be im-
portant for the physical and spiritual val-
ues they provide us. That is why, no mat-
ter what happens now or in the future,
we will continue with the good work of the
Trail Conference.

Advocacy and Conservation

More Shawangunk Land Saved
The Open Space Institute in August
announced additional land purchases by
its affiliate, the Open Space Conservancy,
in the Shawangunks. The largest among
them is a 1,366-acre parcel on the west-
ern boundary of Minnewaska State Park
and northeast of the Sam’s Point Dwarf
Pine Preserve. Formerly owned by a Ukrai-
nian civic organization, the Shevchenko
property contains four major streams (the
Little Stony Kill, Mine Hole Hollow
Brook, Jumping Brook, and the Disappear-
ing Brook), numerous waterfalls, and sev-
eral hundred acres of ecologically unique
dwarf pitch pine barrens. Napanock Point,
two secluded valleys, a portion of Witch’s
Hole and Mine Hole Hollow, a stretch of
the historic Old Smiley Road, and the site
of a former monastery below Sam’s Point
known as Mt. Don Bosco are among the
sites protected by the purchases. Accord-

ing to OSI, the lands will be open to the
public for passive recreational use.

Stonetown Circular Protected
The Torrey Tract in New Jersey—
300 acres of rugged mountain terrain be-
tween Norvin Green State Forest and the
Wanaque Wildlife Management Area—is
now protected open space. The Trail
Conference contributed $25,000 toward
the purchase price of $1.1 million, com-
pleting the funding necessary for the land
save. The Stonetown Circular, a 9.6-mile
path long maintained by the Trail Confer-
ence, traverses the tract. Its steep slopes,
dense forest, wetlands, and trout streams
have long been a destination for local
hikers and anglers. Until its purchase in
August, this valuable open space was
slated for more than 175 homes. The
Passaic River Coalition, NJ Green Acres
Program, Victoria Foundation, and
Passaic County Board of Freeholders were
other partners in the purchase.

NY’s “Bare Bones” Budget
Zeroes Out Environmental
Protection Fund
New York State’s Environmental Pro-
tection Fund (EPF) was among the many
programs targeted by the legislature in its
tactical passage of a “bare bones” budget
in August. That budget, which aimed to
force Governor George Pataki to the bar-
gaining table, zeroed out the EPF, perceived
by one of the governor’s favored pro-
grams.

With the depletion of the Clean Wa-
ter/Clean Air Bond Act, the EPF is the one
and only major state funding source to pro-
tect an, water and wilderness in New York.

Earlier this year all three parties—the Gov-
ernor, the Senate and the Assembly—pro-

continued on page 6

from the Executive Director

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—Larry Wheelock

TC New Jersey Field Representative
They Rock!

They were too busy to remind everyone last year, but this year the West Hudson Trail Crew would like us to know that Fall 2000 marked their 10th anniversary. There’s a lot of country west of the Hudson, and the crew has worked on projects in several areas.

Some highlights reported by crew chief Bob Marshall and assistant crew chief Trudy Schneider:

**Harriman State Park:** Last fall, the crew relocated the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail on Dunderberg Mountain, improved the 1779 Trail in an area near Queensboro Lake, and improved the Timp-Torne Trail near Mine Road. During the spring season they improved the Fawn Trail, including a small relocation; constructed switchbacks on the Timp-Torne on Popolopen Torne, and rebuilt a badly eroded section of the Popolopen Geord Trail.

**Sterling Forest State Park:** Over the course of two seasons the crew completed improvements to the new Wildcat Mountain Trail, including a rock staircase and several stream crossings.

**Sam’s Point Preserve:** Trail improvements.

**Schunemunk Preserve:** WHTC continued work on the relocation of the upper part of the Sweet Clover Trail, with rock stairs, graded terraces, and sidehilling. One work trip was devoted to closing the old trail with branches, rock check-dams, and forest debris in order to promote the healing of this badly damaged area.

**Crew members:** Fall 2000 and Spring 2001

- Jonathan Beard
- Mary Nell Bockman
- Race Brandt
- Gail Brown
- Jim Brown
- Brian Buchbinder
- George Cartamil
- Don Corrigan
- Kevin Cwalina
- David Day
- Tom Dunn
- Jackie Eckhouse
- Chris Ezzo
- Ben Frankel
- Victor Gabay
- Claudia Ganz
- Mary Hilley
- Bill Horowitz
- Joan James
- Walter Jones
- Frank Ketch
- Petra Knapp
- Mike Kralovich
- Len Levenson
- Richard Lynch
- Paul Marcus
- Gay Mayer
- Douglas McBride
- Marshall McKnight
- Carol Nestor
- Trudy Pojman
- Bob Reardon
- Monica Resor
- Jane Sandiford
- Trudy Schneider
- George Sheedy
- Bruce Shriver
- Ike Siskind
- Harry Smith
- Ron Snider
- Ros Thalmann
- Rachel Theilheimer
- Aram Viagent
- Denise Vitale
- Baird Voorhis
- Paul Wachlowski
- Larry Wheless
- Hanson Wong
- Liz York

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**Fire Watch in Harriman State Park**

TC members encountered two major unauthorized encampments in Harriman/

**Bear Mountain State Park**

Bear Mountain State Park this past summer. Recognizing the potential for fire hazard, they reported the locations to park staff, who dismantled the sites. Chief Ranger Tim Sullivan encourages the assistance of Conference members in dismantleing such unauthorized encampments if possible, or reporting them to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (845-786-2701), the Trail Conference (201-512-9348), or www.nynjtc.org.

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**They Rock!**

Heavy lifting by the West Hudson Crew.

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**Torrey Society Hikes Schunemunk Mountain**

Twenty-nine members of the Torrey Society, the Trail Conference’s highest donor group, enjoyed a beautiful September hike on Schunemunk Mountain in Orange County led by Gary Haugland. In March, Gov. Pataki announced that the mountain will be added to New York’s state park system.

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**Permitted Watershed Recreational Activities Suspended**

All permitted recreational activities have been suspended at all New York City properties throughout the watersheds of the city’s upstate reservoirs, effective as of 10:30 am on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, according to an announcement by Commissioner Joel A. Miele, Sr., of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). These activities include fishing from the shore and rowboats at the reservoirs, as well as hiking or other permitted activities at all of the city’s watersheds.

People with DEP fishing and hiking permits are advised that fishing and hiking privileges are suspended until further notice.

Unusual incidents or activities in the watershed may be reported to 1-888-DEP-NYC1 (1-888-337-6921) or 1-888-H2O-SHED (1-888-420-7433).

**Split Rock Reservoir Access Limited**

Access to the loop trails at Split Rock Reservoir has been restricted owing to the prohibition of parking on Split Rock Road. Hikers are cautioned that parked cars are being ticketed. The closure was called temporary, but no details have been made available by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. For updates on the situation, hikers are urged to contact Ringwood State Park, the agency in charge of the Split Rock trails: 973-962-7011.

**NJ Watershed Trails: Still Open?**

As far as the Trail Conference has been made aware, hiking trails in most New Jersey watershed areas remain open. Hikers who encounter closed trails are asked to notify the Trail Conference.

**Pochuck Shelter Water Supply Removed Temporarily**

The water supply provided by the NJDEP Forest Fire Service on the AT at Pochuck Shelter in the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge has been temporarily removed. The water tank was diverted to Liberty State Park to provide water for rescue workers at the World Trade Center.

**Sterling Forest Map Changes**

Due to the Master Planning process for Sterling Forest State Park, there are ongoing changes to the trail system in the park. The Trail Conference expects this to remain in a state of flux for at least several years and to reprint the map with corrections periodically. Between map versions, watch the Conference website for updates: http://www.nynjtc.org/committees/publications/errata/sl.html.

Be aware that the Conference is not always informed of changes immediately. If you find problems, report them at the above site.

**Trail Closings in Sterling Forest**

 Trails in the environmentally sensitive Cedar Pond area have been closed. Specifically, the Cedar Swamp Trail (orange) running east from the Sterling Ridge Trail to Fire Tower Trail (red) and the Cedar Pond Trail (green) running north from the Lake to Lake Trail (white) to the Cedar Swamp Trail are closed. The part of the Lake to Lake Trail (white) running east from the north end of Blue Lake to Long Meadow Road is also closed (or will be closed) but can be replaced by other currently unmarked woods roads.
THANK-YOU TO WALK BOOK VOLUNTEERS

Trail Conference maps and guidebooks require the help of numerous volunteers who check routes, distances, descriptions, and help proofread and otherwise fact-check information before it is published. The Publications Committee thanks the following volunteers for their contributions to the new edition of the New York Walk Book: John Blenninger, Dan Case, Tom Casey, Ken and Nancy Clair, Christian Lenz Cesar, Walt and Jane Daniels, Wanda Davenport, Daniel Eagan, Jack and Linda Lawson Fagan, Ben Frankel, Victor Gabay, Demitris P. Haldeos, Pete Heckler, John Jurasek, Eric Kiviät, John and Karen Magerein, Loren Mendelsohn, Eric Meyer, John J. Moran, Bob Moss, John Myers, Ruth Rosenthal, Geraldine Ryan, Arlene Sandner, Malcolm Spector, Mike Willsley, Neil Woodorth, and the late George Zeoebelie. Nora Porter was the book designer and layout artist. Much valuable information was also provided by officials of federal, state, county, and local parks and Trail Conference supervisors and maintainers, too numerous to mention individually.

New York and New Jersey have announced their hunting schedules for large game and times when firearms are permitted. Hikers are strongly urged to wear safety orange clothing during these times. Dates listed are inclusive.

OLD HUNTING SEASON DATES

NEW JERSEY

Southern Zone (including Catskills)
Firearms: Oct. 15–Nov. 18; Dec. 12–16
Chase: Nov. 19–Dec. 11
Muzzleloader: Dec. 12–18

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park or, this year, in Storm King, which is closed to all recreational users. However, it is allowed in parts of Minnewaska and Sterling Forest State Parks.Call 845-786-2701 for more details about hunting in these parks.

Black Rock Forest closes to all hikers from Nov. 19 to Dec. 11. For details, call 845-334-4517.

In 1998 the New York City Audubon Society and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, with the approval of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, initiated a program of nature hikes for children from urban areas in northern New York and New Jersey. The hikes were the first Outreach nature hikes of the season in a new program jointly offered at Harriman this past summer by the Trail Conference and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

The groups that day—two, each with 14 participants plus leader—included 18 children from urban areas in northern New Jersey and New York City. The ages ranged from eight to 75+ (the latter a couple accompanying their grandchild). The program aimed to introduce more people to the pleasures of nature walking.

According to Outreach chair Wanda Davenport, the activity was most definitely "touchy, feely."

“We hugged trees to experience different types of bark. We used our ‘animal ears,’ all the better to hear the birds. Countless decaying logs were rolled to see what we could see—earthworms, grubs, ants, and fungi. The children liked spit bugs and daddy-long-legs and marveled over the bones and fur of a long-dead deer. Leave No Trace principles were stressed—do not litter, observe and touch but do not take anything from the woods, and limit group size.” (Hence, the two groups of 14.)

Participants also learned some of the rudiments of hiking: what to bring, how to follow a maintained footpath, how trails are built and by whom. On some of the summer’s hikes they saw signs of recent trail work by a volunteer maintainer: fresh white blazes, clipped brush, and sawed sections of downed trees removed from the woods.

Volunteers who made the program possible include Art Lebowski, who helped develop the nature notes, and leaders David McCann, Linda and Bob Franzmann, Martin Cohen, Herb Young, Richard Barr, Jill Hamell, Christine Benton, Walt Daniels, Phyllis Stewart, Betty Heal, Ann Klepner, and Jean Marie Herron.

Was it a success? Here’s what Richard Barr, assistant leader with Herb Young on the July 28 outing, had to say: “Initially, I was skeptical that there would be any interest among the picnickers. When we made the swing through the picnic area it seemed as if no one would take us up on our offer of a nature hike. To my amazement, almost 30 people showed up at the appointed meeting place. It was just terrific taking them out on our hike; the enthusiasm from the young kids and parents was both rewarding and surprising. Sign me up for next year!” The hikes are scheduled to resume the last Saturday in June 2002.

Support for the program this year was provided by a grant from the Appalachian Trail Conference.

For more information about NY hunting schedules, call the Dept. of Environmental Conservation hunting, fishing, and game licensing/sales office, 518-457-5521.

NEW JERSEY

Deer Season
Archery: Sept. 29–Nov. 24; Jan. 1–31
Firearms: Dec. 3–Dec. 8 (additional days in some zones)

Special High Point State Park Muzzleloader Season: Nov. 5–9, 12–15

There will be NO bear hunting season this year. (This is a correction from last issue.)

Most of Ramapo Mountain State Forest is closed to hunting. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays in New J ersey.

For more information about New Jersey hunting schedules, call 908-637-4125. This is the Pequest hatchery and is staffed seven days a week. Or visit www.njfishandwildlife.com for details.

On a crisp Saturday morning in early July, volunteers from the Trail Conference headed out from the Tiorati picnic area in Harriman State Park and along the AT with groups of novice hikers in their wake. These were the first Outreach nature hikes of the season in a new program jointly offered at Harriman this past summer by the Trail Conference and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

The groups that day—two, each with 14 participants plus leader—included 18 children from urban areas in northern New Jersey and New York City. The ages ranged from eight to 75+ (the latter a couple accompanying their grandchild). The program aimed to introduce more people to the pleasures of nature walking.

According to Outreach chair Wanda Davenport, the activity was most definitely “touchy, feely.”

“We hugged trees to experience different types of bark. We used our ‘animal ears,’ all the better to hear the birds. Countless decaying logs were rolled to see what we could see—earthworms, grubs, ants, and fungi. The children liked spit bugs and daddy-long-legs and marveled over the bones and fur of a long-dead deer. Leave No Trace principles were stressed—do not litter, observe and touch but do not take anything from the woods, and limit group size.” (Hence, the two groups of 14.)

Participants also learned some of the rudiments of hiking: what to bring, how to follow a maintained footpath, how trails are built and by whom. On some of the summer’s hikes they saw signs of recent trail work by a volunteer maintainer: fresh white blazes, clipped brush, and sawed sections of downed trees removed from the woods.

Volunteers who made the program possible include Art Lebowski, who helped develop the nature notes, and leaders David McCann, Linda and Bob Franzmann, Martin Cohen, Herb Young, Richard Barr, Jill Hamell, Christine Benton, Walt Daniels, Phyllis Stewart, Betty Heal, Ann Klepner, and Jean Marie Herron.

Was it a success? Here’s what Richard Barr, assistant leader with Herb Young on the July 28 outing, had to say: “Initially, I was skeptical that there would be any interest among the picnickers. When we made the swing through the picnic area it seemed as if no one would take us up on our offer of a nature hike. To my amazement, almost 30 people showed up at the appointed meeting place. It was just terrific taking them out on our hike; the enthusiasm from the young kids and parents was both rewarding and surprising. Sign me up for next year!” The hikes are scheduled to resume the last Saturday in June 2002.

Support for the program this year was provided by a grant from the Appalachian Trail Conference.

For more information about NY hunting schedules, call the Dept. of Environmental Conservation hunting, fishing, and game licensing/sales office, 518-457-5521.

NEW JERSEY

Deer Season
Archery: Sept. 29–Nov. 24; Jan. 1–31
Firearms: Dec. 3–Dec. 8 (additional days in some zones)

Special High Point State Park Muzzleloader Season: Nov. 5–9, 12–15

There will be NO bear hunting season this year. (This is a correction from last issue.)

Most of Ramapo Mountain State Forest is closed to hunting. Hunting is not allowed on Sundays in New Jersey.

For more information about New Jersey hunting schedules, call 908-637-4125. This is the Pequest hatchery and is staffed seven days a week. Or visit www.njfishandwildlife.com for details.
**Caution**

To hikers in the Mid-Hudson Valley: The *Poughkeepsie Journal* reported in September that a case of babesiosis, a tick-borne disease never before confirmed in Dutchess County, was diagnosed in a county resident that month. This was the first case in the county in which the patient was believed to have been infected locally. Babesiosis is a malaria-like disease; symptoms include malaise, loss of appetite, and fatigue, generally beginning within a week of being bitten. Fever, drenching sweats, muscle aches, and headache soon follow. Left untreated, people can develop severe complications.

**Omitted**

Ilsa Dunham, from the list of 5-year main- tenance rocker-patch award winners published in the last issue. Our apologies.

**Found**

Woman’s watch, on the trail up Thomas Cole. Call 845-462-9042 and describe it for return by mail: Georgette Wein.

**New Life Members**

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new life members: Andrew Baum, Han and Afina Brockman, Linda Hillmann, and Roy H. Williams.

A Life Membership to the NY-NJ Trail Conference is just $400 for an individual; $600 for a joint membership (two adults at the same address). The next time you renew, consider becoming one of the Conference’s more than 800 “likers.”

**Defending the Clean Air Act**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency will soon be releasing the results of a review of clean air regulations that the coal industry and certain utilities have been lobbying against. These New Source Review (NSR) regulations now require old coal burning power plants to upgrade their smokestacks with clean air technology when the plants are rebuilt or increase their power generating capacity.

Testimony recently given by EPA Administrator Christie Todd Whitman to a Senate subcommittee strongly suggests that the Bush administration may propose amendments to the Clean Air Act that will further reduce SO2 and NOX and, for the first time, reduce airborne mercury emissions. However, the new legislation reportedly would repeal the New Source Review (NSR) regulations that now require old coal burning power plants to upgrade their smokestacks with clean air technology when the plants are rebuilt or increase their power generating capacity.

Elimination of this NSR rule would also eliminate the legal basis for ongoing legal actions against the owners of these facilities brought by the Justice Department and several states, including New York and New Jersey.

Keep up with this issue via www.hikersforcleanair.org.

**$2 Million for NY State Trails**

In August, Governor George Pataki announced grants for 43 trail-related projects across New York State as part of the federal National Trails Program. In the region covered by NY-NJTC, the following projects were on the list:

- In Hastings-on-Hudson, design and construction of a new trail on an existing railway bed to link Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park to the Hastings-on-Hudson river waterfront.
- On Long Island, construction of Kings Park Hike/Bike Trail from the downtown business district of the hamlet of Kings Park to the waterfront and extension of the Heckscher Walk/Bike Path.
- Improvements to Bronx Park Pathway to include repaving, drainage improvements, and landscaping to allow for safe use by bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, rollerbladers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and day hikers on the Bronx River Greenway.
- Walkill Valley Rail Trail: restoration of trail surface and construction of a wildlife observation deck.
- In the Village of Haverstraw, construction of Bowline Pond Greenway Trail along the west side of Bowline Pond.
- Bannerman Castle Trail: restoration of the historic trail system on Bannerman Island in the Hudson River, which will allow for public use.
- Development of trails on carriage roads at Wilderstein Preservation in Rhinebeck.
- Completion of the 10-mile non-motorized Wappinger & Poughkeepsie Greenway Trail by adding 1.5 miles of new trails that will connect village, town, county, and private properties.

**TC Supports Local Open Space Ballot Issues**

The Trail Conference joined with nine other local and regional organizations in September to support open space preservation issues on the November ballot in five towns in New Jersey. The group formed the Five Town Open Space Committee for the purpose of informing the residents of Oakland, Pequannock, Pompton Lakes, Ringwood and Wanaque about the value of open space preservation and the benefits of adopting such a trust fund.

Contributors include Neil Woodworth, Glenn Scherer, and Ed Goodell.

Visit nynjtc.org for conservation news updates.
The Healing Power of a Walk in the Woods

In the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Trail Conference invited members to submit reflections on the tragedy and the solace they sought and found in nature.

Robert Boyle, an overseer/maintainer on the AT in New Jersey’s Mid-North region noted that he sought consolation in three days of hard work on the Pochuck Bridge Walkway in Glenwood, NJ. “I felt at least that I was in a small way providing for the quality of life that we here in America have and share with people from other countries,” Bob wrote.

Similarly, Coralyn Gorlick noted that she and her husband spent September 15 trailclearing a section of AT maintained by the University Outing Club. “I realized as I trail cleared that the outdoors was something that even terrorists and a declining economy cannot take from us.”

Bob Ward, Metro Area Trails Chairman, reminds us that even in the City, green havens await those who seek solace in nature; he wrote to recommend walks along the trails in the Greenbelt Area of Staten Island. “They are accessible, for the most part, by mass transit.” Nancy Manfredonia was reminded of a poem she had written ten years ago during the Gulf War while walking along the Nissequogue River on the Long Island Greenbelt Trail. Her poem, and other reflections from Conference members follow:

Finally hit me, looking around at things that looked normal—not bent, twisted, burned, or worse. I can’t think of a better way to say how I feel when I’m in the woods—it’s sanctuary.

God bless America.

—Rich Lightcap

Finding Endurance

For three or four nights after the catastrophe, as I tried to close my eyes to sleep, images of the World Trade Center as I saw it from so many ridgetops on the trail system came to mind. I saw the towers in the distance, together with the appreciative and happy “there’s the World Trade Center!” exclamation that greeted each view as we emerged onto the rock outcrops at the high points of the trails. More than anything else (as we so fortunately did not have personal losses to grieve), these memories came to mind. I am, in a way, dreading the next hike, and the gaping absence in those views. Nevertheless, the woods provide a solace not obtainable elsewhere. The woods speak of a permanence, an endurance, an ability to survive difficulties and disasters; they’ve been here for eons before us, have dealt with glaciers, storms, climate change and insect hordes, they’ll continue to be there in the future, albeit evolving to meet the continuously changing environment. That permanence and persistence is profoundly comforting.

—Joan Ehrenfeld

Trail, Science Advisory Committee

Upriver, September 12

Tree branches rustle with the industrious fervor of squirrels; twigs crack and acorns bounce off rocks below. A gang of blue jays hop-scotch its raucous way through the canopy. Two crows make brief, desultory conversation.

At the shore of the Hudson, water laps at pebbles as quietly as a cat at her water dish. To the west, two gulls circle against green hills. Southward, the silhouette of a cormorant protrudes from the water. Three ducks land.

Everywhere along this walk life is indifferent to extraordinary events. It is neither gentle nor kind. Neither angry nor reproachful. It is simply ordinary, inevitable. I find consolation in this continuity.

As I sit by the river, a deep, muffled roar approaches from the north—a barge. It moves south toward two bridges in distant view; toward the Highlands that rise on the horizon. I invest it with a cargo of hope for persistence of the ordinary in human affairs, and watch as it pushes toward Storm King; toward the Palisades, unseen; toward points 80 miles south, and a place where, right now, the ordinary cannot even be imagined.

—Georgette Weir

Poughkeepsie, NY
Tech News

Technology and Current Events

By Walt Daniels

Hikers know how to enjoy low-tech, simple pleasures, which do much to restore our souls in times of stress. Of course, many of us are also into high-tech equipment: Gore-Tex, cell phones, GPSs, computers.

Low-tech vs. high-tech is an issue we might all keep in mind as anti-terrorism proposals regarding monitoring of electronic transmissions and restrictions on encryption are floated in the wake of Sept. 11. Such monitoring intrudes on our individual privacy and freedom, but will it achieve its anti-terrorism goals? Remember the Ewoks in Star Wars, who defeated the high-tech evil Empire with swings and catapults. A low-tech opponent can freely communicate in the open with a little preplanning. A simple, innocuous message such as “Take the flowers to Aunt Bessie at 2pm on next Thursday” could mean “Bomb the GW Bridge at 1pm on next Wednesday” to the recipient. Only a simple prearranged code book is needed.

For more information on this topic check out Center for Democracy & Technology (www.cdt.org) and Terrorism and Civil Liberties and the Internet (www.pfir.org/statements/liberties).

There are many faces to terrorism, from the individual terrorism of wife beating or child abuse to the global terrorism of the World Trade Center bombing. In the middle ground is the threat of computer viruses destroying our infrastructure. I have not seen any proof that any of the viruses recently released are the work of terrorists rather than that of a few warped persons, but they could easily be. As I write this, today’s new virus contains the aptly named wtc.exe.

Each of us must do our part to combat these threats by using antivirus software on our computers, keeping the virus signature tables up-to-date, and never touching an attachment unless you know who it is from and why it was sent. In addition, it is important not to “cry wolf” by circulating email from others announcing supposed viruses as most such mass emails are hoaxes. Before you pass any warning on, it is your responsibility to check its truthfulness with one of the antivirus web sites listed below.

Norton Antivirus: www.sarc.com
McAfee Antivirus: www.mcafee.com/anti-virus/
Perhaps this is a good time for us hikers to remind ourselves that even with all our high-tech tools, it is still important to retain the old skills with a map, compass, first-aid kit, and acute observation skills of our surroundings (see letter to the editor).

Walt Daniels chairs the TC Technology Committee.

Snow Trails
By Rich and Sue Freeman

Foot Print Press, 2001

Review by Pete Senterman

Snow Trails is an excellent guide for those who are looking for cross-country skiing in central and western New York State. Coverage is from Onondaga, Cortland, and Broome Counties west to Lake Erie. Ninety percent of the book consists of maps and short descriptions of skiable trails scattered across the region. Skiing should be generally predictable and good considering the abundant lake effect snow we hear about in the news.

As with most guides, this one begins with an overview of weather, geography, gear and etiquette. These are not extensive sections but quite adequate. The meat of the book consists of clear maps showing road connections and skiable trails in 78 areas with terrain ranging from beginner to difficult. Each map is accompanied with short trail descriptions and mileage charts.

Driving directions are included along with type of marking, uses (some are multi-use, which may include snowmobiles), rating, user fees (if any), pets, hours of operation, and a snow phone where available.

This guide would be a great asset to any cross-country skier in central and western New York or who plans to visit the region with his/her skis. Now if you would write one for eastern New York...
I want to give a gift membership to the NY-NJ Trail Conference in the category indicated:

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* two adults at same address


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SATURDAY, DEC. 22
UCHC. Joey Hollow. Morriskton Road. Meet: Dave Montana, 908-684-1173. Meet: 10 AM at the Joey Hollow Visitor Center. $4 per-person admission is charged to those without park passes. Enjoy a scenic 4-5 mile walk at a moderate pace on this historic National Park (where Washington's army camped during the brutal winter of 1779). Rain or snow cancels.

SUNDAY, DEC. 23

THURSDAY, DEC. 27
FVTW. Elk Pen Circular. Hariman State Park. Leader: Arnie Seymour Ione. 201-708-3689. Meet: 10 AM at Hariman Elk Pen parking lot. 3 miles of walking trails and including features such as six miles; the Lonesome Seeker, Times Square.

SATURDAY, DEC. 29

FAVORITE HIKES
Red, White, and Blue

Enjoy great views on the Ramapo-Dunderberg/AT in Harriman.

By Jonathan Beach

Several of my favorite hikes start from the Anthony Wayne Recreation Center, where the huge parking lot just off the Palisades Interstate Parkway never fills up, unlike the overused area around the visitor center on Seven Lakes Drive near Suffern. We recently did a long loop from AW, a strenuous hike but not too much hard climbing.

Begin by leaving the parking lot at the north end via the entrance ramp (heading west), crossing over the Palisades Parkway at the Anthony Wayne Trail. Its small white blazes can be found on the curbs and guardrails until two appearances, signaling you to leave the pavement and climb north into the woods. Follow the AW for 0.7 mile until it intersects the blue-blazed 1779 Trail, then turn left onto it, heading south. The 1779 follows a route, in a wet area rampant with ferns. The ridge to the east completely blocks the noise of the highway and this is one of the quietest areas of the park. After 1.45 miles, you will meet the joint Ramapo-Dunderberg (red blaze) and Appalachian (white) Trails. Turn right and follow them up onto Black Mountain. It is a good climb (summit elevation is 1,200 feet) on a well-maintained trail, and there is a viewpoint on top overlooking Owl Swamp and the Hudson. Continue for 1.9 miles on the RD and AT—you will pass another viewpoint overlooking Silvermine Lake—and cross an old wood road now known as the Silvermine Ski Road. After a gentle climb, you will find a trail shelter where the yellow-blazed Menominee Trail intersects the AT/RD.

Now it is time to look for the Dean Trail, an unblazed woods road. Two keys: it goes southeast, and it generally descends from the shelter and one problem in following the markers going in both directions, bear right and continue heading south, non crossing both the Ramapo-Dunderberg and Appalachian Trails. The road is a pleasant, flat walk—a delightful way to finish the hike. After about three miles of walking along the bike path to the east, you will be back at the start point at the north end of the Anthony Wayne Recreation Area. The total distance covered is nearly 10 miles, which took us five hours on a cool but buggy summer day.

Share a favorite hike in the NY-NJ region with Conference members. For guidelines, write to: tz@nytc.org or call the Trail Walker editor at 832-462-0142.
HIKERS' ALMANAC

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. Wearing hiking boots or shoes, long pants, headnets, and long-sleeved clothing, bringing food, water, rain gear, first aid kit, and flashlight in a backpack. Leaders have the right and responsibility to refuse anyone when they believe the hiker cannot be helped. Trail Conference is not liable for injuries, loss of equipment, or adverse weather.

More than 80 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate group sponsors hikes listed in the Hiker's Almanac. For a description list of Conference clubs, consult our Web site or send an SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

 Clubs wishing to have their hikes listed in Hiker’s Almanac should send their schedules to the conference office. The deadline for the January/February issue is November 27.

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY, NOV. 3


ADK. M. Trail Maintenance in the Hudson-Utica. Call leaders: 914-836-3864. Meet: 10 AM at Pullman Station parking lot, near Mt. Kisco. 6 miles, a moderate hike with great views and good nature.


THURSDAY, NOV. 8

FVTW. Long Mountain Circular. Leader: Arnold Seymour, Jr., 201-786-3684. Meet: 10 AM at Long Mountain parking lot, 7.4 miles including the Path across Giant Ledge to County Rt. 47. B+ miles, Leader: Vern Cotlar, 609-688-5362 before 5 PM. Registration required.

UHCCH. Rockefeller Preserve. Leader: Dave and Naomi Sutter, 773-788-9982. Meet: 10 AM at Bear Mountain. 7-10 miles. Again, up from Stonets Spring and faced the forgotten Esculator.

ADK. M. Ramapo-Ramble. Leader: Richard Koch, 609-280-0707, no calls after 3 PM. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for meeting place and directions (no public transportation). Intermediate level 6-mile hike in the Ramapo Reservation of northern NJ. Non-member fee $10.

THURSDAY, NOV. 29

UHCCH. Jockey Hollow. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8300. Meet: 9 AM at commuter parking lot. 7-10 miles at a moderate pace with rolling hills. This hike into a little-known area near Jockey Hollow State Park will appeal to those who enjoy the unfindable; possible blueberries and a sunny conditions trail may not be beyond. Picturesque area in the middle of interesting rock formations. Wear sturdy boots; bring rangers, gloves, matches, and flashlight.

SUNDAY, NOV. 4


ADK. M. Trail Maintenance Plus Hike. Leader: Long, 914-648-1577. Meet: 9:30 AM; call leader. We'll do some pruning on a section of the 47 assigned to the club, bring your ladders if you haven't. Attend a moderate hike in the area, 5.5 miles, Rain cancels.

UHCCH. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 AM at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Creeks Ave., an easy hike with New Providence Reservoir. Enjoy stroll walk and a view of the fall foliage. This hike will be calling the leaders for rain.


CONTESTED

WTA. Rock City, Leader: George Dicer, 914-946-3994. Meet: 9 AM at leader: 7 miles; moderate view; see the Hudson from Sugarloaf, continuing on the Osborn Loop and AT. Be wary weather, $4 fee.

SATURDAY, NOV. 17

UHCCH. Jockey Hollow. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8300. Meet: 9 AM at commuter parking lot. 7-10 miles at a moderate pace with rolling hills. This hike into a little-known area near Jockey Hollow State Park will appeal to those who enjoy the unfindable; possible blueberries and a sunny conditions trail may not be beyond. Picturesque area in the middle of interesting rock formations. Wear sturdy boots; bring rangers, gloves, matches, and flashlight.

THURSDAY, NOV. 29

FVTW. Ramapo Reservation. Leader: Alique, 201-473-7528. Meet: 10 AM at Ramapo Reservation parking lot, Darlington. 8.6 miles on a variety of trail in an attractive area. Enjoy a day hike in the Ramapo Reservation.

DECEMBER

SATURDAY, DEC. 1

UHCCH. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Donald Langan, 732-549-4977. Meet: 10 AM at the Bramhall Terrace parking lot (on Cirst Drive. 0.3 mile from the entrance to South Orange Ave), This is a moderate to easy hike running annual trails.

UHCCH. Upper Montclair to Verona. Leader: Herb Hochberg, 908-788-8300. Meet: 10 AM; call leader. 7 miles; moderate view; see the Hudson from Sugarloaf, continuing on the Osborn Loop and AT. Be wary weather, $4 fee.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

ADK. M. High Hawk Falls, Taconic State Park, NY. Leader: Ben Shor, 845-236-4291. Meet: 10 AM at the start point of the hike, New York. Leader for details and to register.


UHCCH. New York Hiking Club

NYHC New York City Club

PPIP Palisades Interstate Park Commission

HC German American Hiking Club

HHC Hunterdon Hiking Club

NJ M Ocean athletes on West Mountain Trail

NJ RT New Jersey Trail Ruralists

Sutter, 973-778-0992. Meet: 10 AM at the Bear Mountain Inn. 7-10 miles. Call leader: 201-569-0244.

HCW. Westfield Ecology Center

UCHC Union County Hiking Club


ADK-R. Adirondack MC, Club, Mid Hudson Chapter

ADK-R Adirondack MC, Club, Ramapo Chapter

FVTW. Fordyce Trail Walkers

SC Single City Outdoor Section

GAMC German American Hiking Club

HHC Hunterdon Hiking Club

NJ M Mosiac and West Outdoor Mountain Club

WTA Westchester Trails Association

continued on next page

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