Ginseng Ridge: Walking New State Lands in Greene County

By Georgette Weir

I’d never much noticed boundary markers before, at least not ones that declared anything less subtle than NO TRESPASSING. But this was a hike with Douglas C. Haller, a land and claims adjuster with the Department of Environmental Conservation’s Bureau of Real Property, Region 4, and boundaries and their changes were a good part of the point of our trek.

We were walking a stretch of the Long Path just north of the Catskill Preserve. Through these woods and over a continuation of the Catskill Escarpment known informally by many as Ginseng Ridge, the Long Path crosses numerous property lines—private and public. Haller, whose responsibilities include appraising land values of properties DEC would like to negotiate options and some outright purchases, help secure the integrity of the Long Path in this Greene County area.

We were on the ridge at perhaps the best time: early May. A hint of green colored the mountains here, where the elevations range from about 2,700 to 3,400 feet, but leafed-out trees didn’t yet obscure beautiful views of the ridge and rolling farmland of Greene County. Even in mid-day, bird songs filled the air.

We followed the trail for some 6.5 miles, starting with a quick mile round-trip from a quarry up and down Mt. Pisgah. Here the Long Path makes use of and crosses old woods roads; the forest is patchy, with second-growth acres intermingled with open, glen-like spots and, at

Mombasha Creek Bridge Opens at Southfields Furnace in Sterling Forest

Harriman and Sterling Forest State Parks for both family oriented and more strenuously inclined hikers alike.

Considering the events of the past year, it is especially gratifying to note that the trails have provided scenic and spiritual refuge to many New York City hikers, traveling via public bus transportation.

The Trail Conference is happy to announce further enhancement of the trails as a result of the collaborative efforts of Scenic Hudson and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

In April, a much improved means of connecting the noted trails was provided by the construction of a 35-foot, fiberglass and wood pedestrian bridge across the Mombasha Creek at a scenic spot just upstream of the Southfields Furnace. The grand opening of the bridge was marked with a celebration on National Trails Day, June 1, by TC staff and volunteers. Scenic Hudson paid for the cost of the bridge and NY-NJTC provided all the labor, including costs for the services of three members of the Adirondack Mountain Club’s professional trail crew.

This new bridge not only provides a safe and scenic means of crossing the creek, it also eliminates a previously required 4-mile road walk along the Old Orange Turnpike, when combining all three trails on a continuous thru-hike.

NY-NJTC volunteers John Grob, Pete Heckler, Roy Messaros, Pete Telgner, Maureen Walsh, Larry Wheelock, and Ed Goodell worked on bridge construction. Financing from Scenic Hudson was secured by Seth McKee, associate land preservation director at Scenic Hudson. Pete Heckler led, coordinated, and inspired the entire project. The Mombasha Bridge was one more reason Heckler was named New York State Volunteer of the Year by the American Hiking Society. For more about the award, turn to page 6.

TC’s John Myers leads planning talk.

Sponsors

Ground on Public Lands?

The lines are being drawn in New Jersey as state policies are developed for off-road vehicle access to public lands.

In New York, the struggle is over the closing—for the third straight year—of a popular state park.

On page 3, Executive Director Ed Goodell outlines the issues and suggests what members can do to influence the outcome on these two battles of importance to hikers...
Advocacy—How and Why

When the Trail Conference speaks up on behalf of open space protection and public access, it’s important that our members and supporters do more than listen. It is one thing (and an important thing) for a director or staff person from an organization representing thousands of individuals and some 80 clubs to voice a policy recommendation to an agency head or elected official. It is quite another for that public official to hear directly from those individuals and groups. Take a moment to imagine a clean desk: on it, one letter, 10 letters, 100 letters, 1,000 letters. Or, at a public hearing: one voice, five voices, ten voices. Which images have the most impact?

It is important for people who care about issues—in our case hiking and trail issues—to stay informed and involved. Communication is our primary if not only route to influence. At the Trail Conference, our staff and dedicated volunteers work hard to keep up with policy changes and trail protection opportunities so they can let us know when our voices are needed.

The Trail Walker welcomes letters to the editor. They may be edited for style and length. Send to the@nynjtc.org or to Trail Walker, NNYJTC, 156 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430.

Enabling the Enemy?

The theme of the anti-ATV letters and editorial in the May/June Trail Walker was: How can we mobilize law enforcement to bring this battle into the open? The consensus was that this would be close to impossible because of lack of resources. Actually, we hikers are enabling the enemy: in the same issue was the congratulatory report on removing 195 blowdowns in Harriman alone.

Remember, one of the most attractive traits of ATVers is their laziness. Whenever I’m out I pull a few of the smaller blowdowns onto the trail. Think of what would happen if we just left the big ones alone or sawed a narrow passage. (Not to mention the legal issues.)

Cutting a small pass through the blowdown will help keep the hikers and maybe the mountain bikers on the trail, but not the others. Another reason to keep blowdowns off the trail is to help maintain a trail as a fire-break. When leaves gather up next to a downed tree they can conduct fire across the trail and so help spread a fire. At the bottom line: education is the key.

A response to TC Trails Director Larry Wheelock:

Larry Wheelock:

A few blowdowns on a trail will not stop most ATV recreationalists. With few exceptions hikers, mountain bikers, dirt bikers, and ATVers will simply route the trail around a blowdown, considerably increasing the impact on the environment.

On the day described in the May/June Trail Walker, there were at least 10 hikers and 15 ATVers on the trail. If you think you are alone, you are wrong.

If you find out who and where your representative is far easier than it has been in the past. The advocacy button on our web page (www.nynjtc.org) will guide you to the right contacts for your area. Generally, letters should be short and to the point, making a maximum of three points. Make sure that you are clear about which side you want the law maker or policy maker to support! For those of you who do not have access to a computer, stop in your local public library and ask them to help you find out who and where your representatives are. When writing to officials at the federal level, be aware that since the anthrax scare in October, mail to the federal government is fumigated first. A letter you send might be delayed.

Testifying at a public hearing is not hard either. If you are worried about speaking in public, you can read a prepared statement or even simply hand it in. I have noticed that the people conducting hearings expect Trail Conference officials to come, but they are impressed when people who have never or seldom seen take the time to testify. Young people who testify benefit in multiple ways. They not only see democracy in action, they gain experience and confidence through their participation and the chance to be seen and heard. And it gives them an opportunity to be on equal footing with adults—after all, everyone at the hearing has an equal amount of time to speak.

Enjoying the outdoors carries a responsibility that we each do all that we can to ensure that the experience can continue. When you do follow up on one of our requests for support, please let us know and send a copy of the letter.

—from the president’s notepad…

LETTERS

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Thanks for the Workshop

The April Trail Maintenance Skills Workshop was a great success. The terrible weather enabled the trail crew volunteers to demonstrate construction of rock steps, stream crossings, and sideslipping, and in the process the workshop participants gained knowledge and skills as well as enjoyment of a job well done.

Since they worked on “my” section of the Long Path [on Schunemunk Mountain], I am grateful to them all, with a special thanks to Monica Resor, David Day, and Claudia Ganza for their leadership.

Trail Maintenance 101 was enjoyable and resulted in a much improved section of the Highlands Trail, thanks to the organization by Larry Braun and the enthusiastic cooperation of the many participants.

Thanks also to the Hengst of Hil-Mar Lodge for their gracious hospitality.

—Jane Daniels, President

Thanks for Land Help

On behalf of the residents of Warwick, I want to offer our heartfelt thanks [for TC help with the addition of 10 acres to the town’s Cascade Park]. This park is an invaluable resource that will be protected for all our future generations.

—Michael P. Sayetton, Supervisor, Town of Warwick

Note: TC Lands Acquisitions Director John Myers gave the town technical advice on the purchase.
The Trail Conference has a strong tradition of advocacy and grass-roots organizing to ensure that our region’s trail lands remain pristine and accessible to the public. This story of foresight and battles hard-won by individuals from all walks of life is chronicled beautifully in former Palisades Interstate Park Commission Director Bob Bimnewicz’s book The Palisades as well as in the Trail Conference’s own Vista’s Visitor by Glenn Scherer. It is important to stop and consider that every day there are Trail Conference members hiking on lands that former members took the time to fight for—the Palisades, Storm King, Minnewaska and Sam’s Point, the Kittatinnies, Pyramid Mountain, etc. We can also look to these places and realize that there are no guarantees that protection and accessibility are forever, that we need to be ever ready to marshal our forces and advocate our interests. In the variety of forums where public access issues are discussed and decided, our influence is dependent on two things: 1) The facts and merits of our position; and 2) Most important of all in a democratic society, the number of concerned and active citizens we represent.

The Trail Conference now faces a number of pressing access issues for which we need your visible show of support in the form of letters and attendance at public meetings. At the top of our list:

- Reopening Storm King Mountain
- Developing a sound policy on off-road vehicles (ORV) in New Jersey.

Storm King Mountain

In 1999, the heat of forest fires detour- ized old, unexplored ordnance in the soils of Storm King. A subsequent investigation revealed that the military had once tested artillery and artillery shells by shooting them from West Point lands into the vicinity of Storm King Mountain. The park was closed for all recreation while the Army Corps of Engineers accessed the problem. Three years later, it is still closed, despite the fact that after scanning the area with sophisticated devices, the Army Corps of Engineers reports that all the trails and a buffer 2.5 feet on either side of them are clear of unexploded ordnance. In fact, the Corps reports that only one 400-acre section due east of Route 9W may contain as many as one unexploded ordnance per acre, and that the remaining 1,488 acres are safe for public use.

Even so, the PIPC has not yet agreed to reopen the park to hikers because they are unwilling to risk the liability of a hiker straying off the trail and becoming injured.

This is in spite of the fact that in more than 70 years as a popular hiking destination, no one has been hurt by ordnance at Storm King. Faced with the indefinite closure of a favorite, popular hiking area, the Trail Conference is doing everything it can to convince the government agencies to make reopening Storm King State Park a high priority.

We need your help. Government officials need to know that real people care about the reopening of this popular hiking area. Your phone calls, emails, and especially letters or postcards to the agency officials and elected representatives listed below are urgently needed. With no end in sight to the park closure, it’s time for hikers who love this area to fight back.

As we go to press, a public hearing is scheduled for June 25. By the time you read this, we will have posted the results and outcome of that hearing on our website—www.nynjtc.org. You can also call the office to get an update faxed or mailed to you.

New Jersey ORV Policy

In New Jersey, there’s a move afoot to release a new policy governing usage of off-road vehicles in State Parks and Dept. of Environmental Protection lands. While it is too early to say exactly what that policy will look like, those who care for the environment are urged to scrutinize whatever is released. Pro-ORV advocates have reportedly delivered thousands of letters in support of ORVs on state lands over the last six months. It is time for us hikers, birders, fishermen, hunters, and naturalists of all ilk to let their opposition be heard.

At a symposium on motorized off-road vehicle use on state lands of New York-New Jersey convened by the Trail Conference in April, there was overwhelming evidence presented about the rampant and increasing devastation caused by irresponsible and illegal ORV users. This symposium looked at the scope of the problem, the lessons learned elsewhere, and the components of an effective enforcement effort. Several things were made clear:

1. The damage from illegal ORV use has increased dramatically over the last 10 years.
2. The ORV industry is pursuing a nationwide campaign of opening public lands to motorized ORV use and New Jersey is a high priority target.
3. A successful enforcement campaign will certainly include education but must also involve updated legislation that would provide enforcement officials with the tools they need to bring the irresponsible and illegal ORV users to justice.

The New York State Outdoor Recreational Vehicle Association estimates that there are some million ORVs in New York and New Jersey and that less than 25% are legally registered and bearing license plates. Dealers seldom sell purchasers of ORVs of how few legal riding opportunities there are. There’s no point-of-sale registration and licensing requirement as there is for other motor vehicles. Accordingly, many ORVs encountered illeg- ally on public lands cannot be traced because they lack license plates. Anecdotial evidence indicates many riders know they are riding illegally on public lands but figure they won’t get caught and if they do, the penalty for trespassing is trivial compared to their investment in their machines. As a result, Trail Conference maintainers and hikers in general are seeing more and more ORV tracks in cherished hiking lands.

What you can do

1. As soon as you read this, check the Trail Conference website www.nynjtc.org or call the office for information about the current situation in New Jersey.
2. Write or email or fax to Governor McGreevey your thoughts about motorized off-road vehicles on state conservation lands.
3. Urge the Governor to issue a clear ban on all ORV use in state parks, Green Acres Open Space, and other conservation and trail lands.
4. Support requirement of point-of-sale registration and highly visible front and back license plates for all ORVs.
5. Urge a closed loop funding program for licensing registration and ID plate fees with the fees applied to enforcement, restoration, and education.

Edward Goodell

Advocacy & Conservation

- New Parcels added to Sterling Forest State Park

New York State increased the size of Sterling Forest State Park by 634 acres with its May acquisition of two additional parcels in the Hudson Highlands. The two parcels are 490-acre Indian Hill, purchased for $2.25 million through the Scenic Hudson Land Trust, and 144 acres (out of 477) of the Arrow Farm Park, bought for $750,000 through the Orange County Land Trust. Monies used were from settlements of a pair enforcement cases with companies over hazardous-waste disposal, officials said. Indian Hill lies at the con- vergence of the Appalachian Trail and Sterling Forest and Harriman State Parks.

- NYS Budget Restores EPF Money

New York’s 2002 budget agreement was reached in mid-May with the governor and legislature agreeing to fully fund the Environmental Protection Fund for both last year and this year. Partisan politics and later a decision by the governor to hus- band state funds following September 11, last year kept the legislature from appro- priating or authorizing for spending funds collected in the dedicated EPF account. As a result, money for land acquisition, state parks, and Forest Preserve projects and trail maintenance dried up. With the new agreement, $76 million will be available for purchasing land in 2002. About $2.25 million will be available for land and park stewardship by the Department of Envi- ronmental Conservation and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preserva- tion for fiscal year 2002-2003. Intense and sustained advocacy by land preservation groups, including the Trail Conference and Adirondack Mountain Club, bolstered by hundreds of letters written by the groups’ members, helped ensure this success.

On the down side, the agreement also authorizes a $235 million dollar withdrawal from uncommitted EPF cash reserves for relief of the state’s General Fund. These monies are sums over and above the $2.50 million pledged for EPF projects. The Trail Conference and ADK fought this withdrawal as a violation of the principle of a “locked box” dedicated environmental fund. However, in the end, the very large revenue shortfall and a se- vere shortage of local school aid resulted in the legislature agreeing with the gover- nor to authorize this hopefully “one-time” cash withdrawal.

TC and ADK counsel Neil Woodworth and his colleague Meg Everett contributed to this report.

continued on page 8
Committees Improve Conference Maps

Greater accuracy and swifter updates of Trail Conference maps are in the works. Volunteers on the Publications and Technology Committees plan to take advantage of advances in technology to improve maps and make wider use of web capabilities for communicating trail news.

Faster Updates

An informal TC management group recommends that trail updates be published on the TC website. George Petty, Publications Committee chair, Larry Wheelock, Trails Director, and Walter Daniels, TC computer adviser, agree the Conference has adequate reporting systems in place, but needs to improve its response time to trail changes, and distribute information efficiently to the appropriate agency, committee, or individual for prompt action.

“Hikers look to us for the latest accurate trail information,” Petty says. “That’s our main organization mission. So we want to be able to publicize trails updates using web technology. But though computers act fast, they can’t give prompt news until the web site manager has the information in hand.”

Larry Wheelock explained there are many different agencies managing public lands, each with different goals and chains of command, and all of them understaffed. “It’s hard for us to know quickly when they close a trail, or decide to reroute. Notifying us is not at the top of their list of things to do.” Some TC trail supervisors have set up good communications with agency people, Wheelock says, but personnel changes and unclear management responsibilities often make this difficult.

“We want to offer TC office communications help for our trail supervisors where they think it would be useful,” he says. “The important thing is to get the trails information promptly so we can put it on the web site.”

Wheelock also indicates that he will seek feedback from the Trails Council at its next meeting on how to improve reporting procedures. “We may need to find ways to reduce paperwork, or expand interactive reporting on our web site.”

Walt Daniels plans to set up a database to compile and make available incoming data from the present reporting system to the appropriate TC management.

“The database should record everything from whole new trail systems to reports of blow downs that need a chain-saw crew’s attention,” Wheelock notes. “Then those without ready data access are kept up to date in a timely way.”

User Input Is Essential

“Hi-tech mapping and communications can’t help us unless we get the updated information from the people on the trails,” Petty notes. “It’s vital that everyone who uses our maps or books to walk the trails contribute their observations of discrepancies to the publications web pages (http://www.nynjtc.org/pubs.html), or to our Trails Director, Larry Wheelock, at the Mahwah Office” (201-512-9148, or wheelock@nynjtc.org). These pages contain news about current trails updates, and will provide forms on which to submit information about errors in maps or publications. These reports will be added to the updates page after verification.

Digitzing Map Production

The production of TC maps will be converted to digital processes as maps are updated. Petty notes the maps will retain their familiar appearance, but will be more accurate.

Petty says the committee wants to use computer technology to provide the most accurate trails information possible. “With increasing use of the trails every day,” he said, “trail construction, closing, and rerouting happens frequently. We need help from our members and other users of our publications to publicize these changes quickly.” The Publications Committee also decided to include in map packets when necessary an insert describing important changes to trail systems.

The first map set to be digitized under the new policies will be the East Hudson maps. That revised set is due out in the fall. Herb Chong, chair of the Map Sub-committee, notes the initial digitized revision will cost more, but will be easier and less expensive to update the next time.

Executive Director Ed Goodell says the new policies “are part of a broader effort to more tightly integrate our Trail Council maintenance and monitoring functions with our technology-enhanced trail mapping operations, and will provide map users with the most up-to-date trail information available.”

Fractured Rock Gives Way Claiming Hiker’s Life on Schunemunk Mountain

A rock separated from a larger rockface on Schunemunk Mountain May 22 and claimed the life of one experienced hiker and seriously injured two others.

Nick Styranoaski, 76, of Astonia, New York, was fatally injured in the accident. Daniel O’Rourke, 62, of Congers, and Gunvar Satrai, 70, of Wayne, NJ, were airlifted to Westchester Medical Center in serious condition. Several other individuals suffered minor injuries, including some of the rescue party. Emergency personnel, summoned by one of the hikers carrying a cell phone, responded quickly and in difficult conditions.

Nick Styranoaski was in a familiar role at the time of the accident, guiding a contingent of an informal group known as the Wednesday Hikers, when a rock came loose, striking several people, including Nick. The accident occurred at an escarpment above a talus slope off the Dark Hollow Trail near the woods road marked on the map most of the way up the mountain. His party was one of two the Wednesday group fielded on the mountain that day, and was hiking off-trail, trying to avoid crossing a stream at high water on their way to a woods road.

Nick was a longtime member of the NY-NJ Trail Conference and Appalachian Mountain Club. He is survived by his daughter Tina, his granddaughter Mia (five months old), and his brother Myron. His wife recently passed away. Nick had hiked with the Wednesday Hikers since its beginning 37 years ago. He loved hiking, the out-of-doors, and helping others get out hiking.

TC PARTNERS WITH RAMSEY OUTDOOR

The Trail Conference would like to thank Ramsey Outdoor and Fred DeBurg for another successful outreach event. On Saturday, May 18 at the Ramsey Outdoor located at 240 RT 17N, Paramus, NJ, store customers received in-store discounts, free door prizes, raffles prizes and complimentary Trail Conference membership.

“This event was a great way for the store and the Trail Conference to give something back to the hiking community,” said Jake Erdan, the Volunteer Projects Director at the TC. In addition to the TC, representatives from Timberland, MSR, Mammut, and other major gear manufacturers were in attendance performing product demonstrations and providing information for store customers. Keep an eye out in the Trail Walker for future events at Ramsey Outdoor and other outfitters.

Maintenance Workshop

Some 80 new and experienced trail maintainers attended the April 27 workshop on Schunemunk Mountain. Classes were offered in Maintenance 101, led by Larry Braun; Construction and Restoration, led by Monica Roeser and David Day with help from Claudia Ganz, Chris Ezzo, and Brian Buckhalter; and Trail Layout and Design, conducted by TC Trails Director Larry Wheelock. Thanks go to all who participated and to the Hengst's, owners of Hi-Mar Lodge, for their gracious hospitality in hosting the day’s events.

Three Historic Trails in Harriman State Park Made Official

Three trails in Harriman State Park, well known to the hiking community for many years, were recently made official by the park management. These are the Dean Trail from the William Brien Memorial Shelter on the AT south to the Red Cross Trail; the Buck Trail, which runs north along the top of Conklin Mountain from the Seven Hills Trail to a split where two legs descend to join ski trails; and the Stony Brook Trail, running from the Pine Meadow Trail about .4 mile north of the Reeves Brook Visitors Center north along the Stony Brook to join the Hillburn-Torne-Sehago Trail.

Work to bring these trails up to standard and complete the blazing will be done in the near future.

Trail at Pyramid Mountain Closed

Due to new home construction at the Pyramid Mountain Natural Historical Area, the southern section of the Butler-Montville Trail beyond the Red Dot Trail is temporarily closed. For additional information or updates, call 973-334-3130.

Ice Caves Open at Sam’s Point

As of May 4 the Ice Caves at Sam’s Point Preserve, managed by the Nature Conservancy and owned by the Open Space Institute, are once again open to hikers and other visitors. Boardwalks, ladders, and railings have been repaired by staff and volunteers, including TC members. At least one change from the reported past: snow and ice will no longer be imported to keep the “ice” in the ice caves through July and August. As of the opening weekend, in fact, visitors had to look hard to find any sign of winter in the caves. Cold air, on the other hand, was plentiful on a hot day. A visitors center for the preserve is in the planning stages, with construction anticipated to begin in the fall.

News

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Rocks Do Give Way
A Reflection on Risk and Caution

By Joachim Oppenheimer

In my hiking years I have made close friends who are no longer here, and I have missed every one with whom I formed bonds extending beyond hiking. Most recently Hal Cohen’s death left a large void. We expect death from illness in life, but Nick Stryanovski’s death seems doubly tragic because, on the surface at least, it seems more preventable. Yet, was it really? That is the question that has been asked in the wake of the tragic accident on Schunemunk Mountain: Could we learn from and prevent such tragedy again? Paradoxically, Nick’s death was perhaps less preventable than that of some of my hiking friends who died of what we call “natural causes,” where environmental circumstances induced their adverse effects gradually.

Rocks give way. I first saw this dramatically when a huge boulder high up in Shingle Gully at the Ice Caves in the Gunks picked that particular moment in history to roll down and cover, like the lid of a sarcophagus, a terrified young woman as I once found ourselves accidentally on the ground and at my feet I drove away from the parking area out of control. Did that mean bushwacking should be avoidable? But who can know the vicissitudes of nature? I still recall winters in the Adirondacks where one habitually looked for the markers at one’s feet, not ten feet up, and having to judge whether a slight depression in the snow-covered ground was, indeed, the trail. Lately, too, there has been a fair amount of vandalizing of markers by neighbors hostile to hikers; specifically, on Schunemunk, we once caught a hunter where hunting was not legal, taking down a trail marker. We did not argue with his rifle and later reported his license plate at the trailhead.

Nick would have my head if I suggested banning bushwacking. Besides, one can’t ban something that cannot be avoided unless one bans hiking altogether. What then can be done to avoid similar tragedies to that which befell Nick and Dan O’Rourke and Gunvar Satria? Less than one may think. There are techniques in safety taught in climbing schools and Nick observed the cardinal one, that you don’t grab onto “vegetable holds,” bushes and trees, but depend for support on rocks, the anchors to earth. What makes the Schunemunk events such a tragedy is precisely that nothing was done wrong. Even when things are done correctly, terrible things can still happen because there is a very finite limit to what we can do to control our destiny.

I can make a few suggestions for increasing hiking safety, but not as a consequence of May 24. Whatever suggestions I can make pale against this: The greatest risk is not the hike itself but the ride home. I know with absolute certainty that I am not the only hiker who has ever fallen asleep at the wheel coming home from a hike. The fatigue, even after an easy hike, the road rhythm, the sun, whatever else blows the sandman’s sand into our eyes, gets to us. We can doze off for an instant, and that’s all it takes, one lousy yawn. As I write this, Memorial Day weekend, there will be 2,500 highway fatalities in our country. As a group we have been very fortunate, but our good luck will not continue unless we take a very serious look at this issue. Caffeine and other stimulants may perk us up getting into the car, but closer to home the rebound effect could make us even more vulnerable to zonking. I see the ride home as more threatening to safety than all the ticks, rattlers, and trail obstacles.

We can honor Nick’s memory no better than to take an oath of Caution, to carry on his creed of helpfulness, and assess risk probabilities realistically without undue undue and irrational alarm. I recall the wisdom of Henry Young, a dear friend of Nick’s as well as mine. He always knew how long it would take to get off the mountain or out of the woods from wherever he was. He always paid attention to the winds and the sky for changes in the weather. The hills will be there tomorrow, he would say. Nick would, too...

Rocks Do Give Way is a medical doctor and member of the Wednesday Hikers. This essay is excerpted from a longer letter he posted to the Trail Conference web site in the wake of the accident on Schunemunk Mountain and Nick Stryanovski’s death.

Ecology for Hikers

It’s Small, Secretive, Rare, and It’s in Our Hiking Region

By Laura Newgard and David Moskowitz

The bog turtle (Glyptemys muhlenbergii), a diminutive and secretive inhabitant of wetlands, is North America’s rarest turtle. Its rarity recently led to its being listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as “threatened” on a national level, and it is also listed as “threatened” or “endangered” in all the states where it occurs, including in New York and New Jersey. These listings reflect significant population losses, habitat degradation, and fragmentation of many of the remaining bog turtle sites. In addition, the small, attractive turtle is often illegally captured and sold to collectors. Two distinct populations of the bog turtle are separated by a few hundred miles: a northeastern population ranges from New York south through Maryland, while a southeastern population occurs from Virginia south through Georgia. The region covered by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is near the center of the turtle’s northeastern stronghold.

The bog turtle is one of North America’s smallest turtles. Its carapace (top shell) is usually less than 1.00 millimeters (four inches) long. The bog turtle is best identified by its lightly sculpted carapace and bright orange, often hourglass-shaped marking on each side of its head. The carapace is generally dark brown to ebony in coloration, while the plastron (bottom shell) varies in color.

As their name implies, bog turtles live in swamps or marshes with lush herbaceous vegetation that includes hummock-forming tussocks, rich mud soils, and flowing, clean, clear water, although the sediments may be discolored by heavy iron deposits. Bog turtle habitats are a very specific combination of these features and even minor changes can significantly affect their suitability as turtle environment. The water in bog turtle habitats typically originates from groundwater seeps and springs that flow into small rivulets. These rivulets are a critical element of bog turtle habitat and the turtles spend a great deal of time feeding, traveling, and basking in them. Such groundwater sources are particularly susceptible to alteration from upsite development and the protection of a large area around them is often necessary to protect their integrity.

A great deal of attention is being focused upon the bog turtle and conservation efforts are underway to protect the species. The USFWS recently issued a recovery plan outlining the strategy to protect the remaining populations (available from the agency or online at http://www.fws.gov) and state governments and nongovernment organizations are actively involved in these conservation efforts. The recovery plan focuses on the protection of all known populations and their surrounding habitat, and the identification and protection of as yet undiscovered populations. Bog turtle surveys by USFWS-qualified bog turtle surveyors are now routinely required by wetland review agencies and the USFWS as part of development applications where potential appropriate habitat exists, and specific survey protocols have been developed to insure consistency in these efforts. Ongoing surveys of appropriate habitats by state wildlife agencies also continue to identify new populations. Trail Conference members and hikers can help this effort by keeping an eye out for suitable wetland sites, and by noting changes in the vegetation or water flow that may make them unsuitable for bog turtles. The information can be supplied to the USFWS at http://www.fws.gov.

With determination, a concerted effort, and a bit of luck, perhaps in the future the bog turtle will no longer have the dubious distinction of being North America’s rarest turtle.

Laura Newgard and David Moskowitz are USFWS-qualified bog turtle surveyors.

Suggested additional reading: The Year of the Turtle: A Natural History by David Carroll, 1996, St. Martin’s Press.
**Our Members**

- Viewers of the Bill Moyers’ special four-hour documentary on the Hudson River (broadcast in April) saw TC members Fred and Anne Osborn (Anne is also a member of the TC board of directors) filmed at their home talking about the role of prominent families, including theirs, in protecting the landscape from development.

- The late George Zoebelien, president of the Trail Conference from 1965 to 1970, was posthumously given the Rockland County Executive’s Outstanding Environmental Award in April at an Earth Day ceremony at Kennedy-Dells County Park in New City. Zoebelien was remembered by friends at the event as a hiker and fierce advocate for trail preservation. Zoebelien, an accountant, also served as president of the Appalachian Trail Conference and was an active citizen in his local community. He edited three editions of the New York Walk Book and wrote the chapter on Rockland County for the 2001 edition.

- Congratulations to member Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff, an attorney from Highland Falls, NY, who in May received the Ottaway Medal from the Orange County Citizens Foundation. Sidamon-Eristoff has expertise in open space preservation, infrastructure development and environmental law, and brought that knowledge to his work on the recent revision of the county’s master plan. From 1989 to 1993, he served as regional administrator for the federal Environmental Protection Agency and was a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for 15 years.

- Reminiscent of Raymond Torrey, one of the Trail Conference’s founders, long-time volunteer and officer Daniel Chazin, of Teaneck, NJ, is now writing a weekly hiking column. Appearing every Thursday, Chazin’s column can be found in the “Get Set!” section of The Record, northern New Jersey largest newspaper.

- Hike with the Editor of the New Long Path Guide, 5th Edition

  Herb Chong, editor of the newly published Long Path Guide, 5th edition, will lend a hike along one of the stretches of the trail detailed in the new book.

  Place: Sam’s Point Preserve parking lot at Sam’s Point Preserve in Cragsmoor.

  Meeting time: 10:30 am on July 13, with a rain date of July 20.

  The hike will be from the parking lot to the newly re-opened Ice Caves, then to Verkeerder Falls, on to High Point, and then returning to the parking lot along the High Point Carriage Road. Total distance of 9.5 miles with an elevation gain of approximately 1,100 feet. More details will be announced on the TC web site as they are available.

- Sunset Hiking Series at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center

  Take a beginner’s hike along the trails and through the forest at the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center in Englewood, NJ. The hikes will be every Tuesday evening in June, July, and August and begin at 6:30 pm. Hikes are 2 to 3 miles in length, depending on the group’s pace. Meet outside the main building at the parking lot gazebo. The program is for adults only and is free for Nature Center members, $5 for non-members. No pre-registration is needed. For more information call 201-576-1265 or go to www.flatrockbrook.org.

- Sterling Forest Day

Set for Sept. 21

Sterling Forest Partnership will hold its 15th Annual Sterling Forest Conservation Day Saturday, September 15 from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Nature walks, hikes, and map and compass training will be among the activities planned for all ages. Activity registration will begin at 10 am; $10 fee for nature walks and hikes; free for children 15 and under. Additional $10 fee ($5 for those 15 and under) for afternoon barbecue. To pre-register, call 845-258-4584.

- Hudson Valley Ramble

Sept. 21-22

The Third Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble will happen September 21-22 and is set to feature 100 guided walking, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, biking, and equestrian events throughout the 150-mile length of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Events will be offered on every ability level, from easy to challenging and include many that are well suited for families. Most are offered free. For program booklet or information: 800-453-6665/845-334-9574 or www.hvnet.com.

- Ride the Carousel at Bear Mountain State Park

Inside the rustic Pavilion at Bear Mountain, the Carousel goes round again. Besides the usual colorful horses, the Bear Mountain Carousel features bears and turkeys and other wildlife that is indigenous to the area. Rides are $1.

- TC Member Is NY Volunteer of the Year

West Hudson Trails Chair Peter Heckler was named the 2002 New York Trail Volunteer of the Year by the American Hiking Society. Peter joins some 43 other getting the award around the country. Since the 1980s, Peter has overseen the maintenance and development of hundreds of miles of hiking trails in Harriman, Bear Mountain, Sterling Forest, Minnewaska, and Storm King State Parks as well as Schunemunk Mountain and Black Rock Forest. His most recent effort, a major trail bridge over Mombasha Creek in Sterling Forest, was opened on National Trails Day, June 1, 2002.

- New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members: Joseph J. Larusso, John J. Janis, Jr., John J. Kindred, III, Ann Guarino, and Peter L. Kremer.

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- Members Gather at TC Open House June 2

Rob Segal, at left, supervisor of Sam’s Point trail system, and Larry Braun, Minnewaska trails supervisor, examine a map of the Shawangunk Ridge project during the Second Annual Open House at the Trail Conference headquarters in Mahwah, New Jersey. The June 2 event brought together Conference volunteers and staff for an afternoon of socializing and informal exchanges of trail news.

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When Paul Leikin dedicates himself to something, he sticks with it.

Take hiking, for instance; Paul has enjoyed it for eight decades (give or take a few years). He qualified for the Catskill 3500 Club not just once, but twice. The second time, he climbed all 55 peaks over 3500 feet in elevation after celebrating his 80th birthday. Paul’s love affair with the Hudson Valley region began when he was 12, when he would travel from the Upper East Side in New York City to hike along the river and explore parts of what is now Harriman State Park. Today Paul can still be seen trekking along the river, enjoying its magnetism, still astonished that such natural beauty and scenery is just 90 miles from Times Square.

And then there is his volunteer work. Paul has handled various jobs for the Trail Conference—including, for many years, selling ads for this publication. But to many at the office he is best known as the map crew keeper—a title he has held for many years. Paul brews coffee, warms the bagels, and prepares for another day of camaraderie with his fellow Trail Conference volunteers. The crew assembles and packages the map sets, placing them into plastic sleeves with the appropriate cover sheet and inserts, and boxes, inventories, and schleps them to storage in Paul’s basement. When the maps are needed, Paul arranges their delivery. More often than not, he delivers them himself to a store or the TC office.

He is a doer, an achiever, and an inspiration to many. Paul Leikin is, says one of the map crew members, Pete Heckler, “truly one of a kind, a Catskill eagle” as defined by Herman Melville in his book Moby Dick: “[T]here is a Catskill eagle in some souls that can alight down into the blackest gorges, and soar out of them again and become invisible in the sunny spaces. And even if he forever flies within the gorge, that gorge is in the mountains; so that even in his lowest swoop the mountain eagle is still higher than other birds upon the plain, even though they soar.”

Volunteers Needed

The Trail Conference has several new volunteer positions and projects that need your support. If you have an interest in and the ability to participate in any of the following projects or positions, please contact Joshua Erdsneker (josh@nynjtc.org) at the Trail Conference office 201-312-9348.

Press Release Coordinator

Responsible for writing a press release every other month and informing the office staff what media agencies should receive the release. When possible, the Press Release Coordinator will make follow-up phone calls to establish a working relationship with various media agencies.

Presentation Designer

We are looking for volunteers who have experience creating presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint. The TC is looking to create a series of presentations for outreach events, public presentations, and other occasions at which the TC will be presenting information to a variety of audiences.

 контакт coordinates

Volunteers are needed to visit stores and resellers who carry our books and maps. These visits do not need to be frequent, but will require knowledge of our publications and some simple people skills. The store coordinators act as liaisons between the TC and the resellers to expedite the sale of our materials. Responsibilities will include product display evaluation, publication ordering, expanding publications sold by resellers, and helping the store’s marketing efforts of our publications.

TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES

For the latest schedules, check http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trvtop.html#fcrow

For all trips bring work gloves, water, lunch, insect repellent. In some cases, tools are provided. Contact leaders in advance for meeting times and places. Volunteers must become members of the Conference to participate in these projects. A one-time “guest” participation is allowed, so bring your friends.

WEST JERSEY CREW

Leaders: David Day and Monica Resor - 732-937-9098; westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com

If possible, please notify the leaders that you are coming, so they will know how many people to plan work for.

July 20-21
Final Pochuck Wetlands Fling!

July 21
PAUL LEIKIN
Without Him, Our Maps Would Be Lost

Erdsneker Joins Staff As Volunteer Projects Director

The Trail Conference welcomes Joshua Erdsneker to the position of Volunteer Projects Director. Joshua graduated in 2000 from the University of Miami with an MBA and concentrations in international business and leadership. He spent the last five years working for the University of Miami as a computer trainer and help desk administrator. Joshua has enjoyed exploring Everglades National Forest, hiking the Presidential Range in New Hampshire, mountain climbing in Red Rocks Canyon, Nevada, and touring the Blue Mountains in North Carolina. The highlight of his adventures began on July 14, 2001. From atop Mt. Katahdin, Joshua embarked on a remarkable journey: a five-month and five-day southbound thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail. During his 1,682-mile odyssey, he rediscovered his passion for the outdoors. His experiences along the AT motivated him to become more involved in protecting and maintaining the trails and trail lands he had just hiked through.

Having grown up in Rockland County, NY, Joshua’s return to the area is more of a homecoming than a new beginning. He is very excited to have the opportunity to be a part of the Trail Conference’s efforts to help protect and maintain the natural resources and trail lands in New York and New Jersey.

Trail Crews and Maintainers Recognition Patches

The Trail Conference is in the process of updating its records and we need your help. We would like to acknowledge all the great work you have volunteered on the trails, and in order to do so, we need your assistance. If you currently maintain a section of trail or are a member of a Trail Crew, we would like to know about it. Please complete and mail us the following survey. To accurately update our records, your participation in this survey is essential.

Trail Maintainers and Trail Crew Survey

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Final Pochuck Wetlands Fling!
SHAWANGUNK SMART GROWTH WORKSHOP
continued from page 1
and conference organizer. While large tracts of the northern Gunks have been protected, he pointed out, most of the three-county portion of the ridge from Route 12 south to the New Jersey state line is still without protective zoning or significant land acquisitions. This beautiful area, an attraction for local residents and a cherished destination for hikers, bikers, birders, and other outdoor lovers from throughout the New York metropolitan area, is thus threatened by major changes.

Planning strategies

At the workshop, Patricia Salkin, associate dean and director of the Government Law Center of Albany Law School, described a number of the many planning and zoning tools available to help encourage well-planned development while protecting important resources like the Shawangunk Ridge, the Bashakill wetlands, and the region’s aquifers. Kevin Crawford, counsel of the Association of Towns of New York State, reported on planners’ new emphasis on coordination between municipalities in order to make coherent regional development a reality. And Graham Cox, coordinator of forest and wetland programs for Audubon New York, promoted the idea of boosting local economies by encouraging a wide diversity of businesses and nurturing a region’s natural and cultural assets. David Church, the new Orange County Commissioner of Planning, moderated.

A second set of speakers focused on approaches specific to the Shawangunk region. Fred Harding, Supervisor of the Town of Mamakating, pointed out the economic wisdom of encouraging small businesses, which, he said, are going to continue to be the mainstays of the Hudson Valley economy. Other panelists addressed policies that encourage restoration of village downtowns, a greater focus on the needs of the area’s vital ecosystems, and grassroots activism that crosses town and county boundaries.

The half-day event was sponsored by the Town of Mamakating and the Trail Conference, along with the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Audubon New York, the Appalachian Mountain Club, Friends of the Shawangunks, the Bashua Kill Area Association, and the Nature Conservancy.

The workshop was an outgrowth of the Trail Conference’s intensifying land preservation efforts on the Shawangunk Ridge. Over the past year the Conference has spearheaded formation of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, whose goal is creation of a protected corridor along the entire 50-mile length of the ridge. The coalition will continue to support acquisition of lands along the ridgeway while encouraging good planning and zoning in the 14 towns and villages bordering or containing ridge lands.

The workshop appeared to energize its diverse audience. “This was a great way to get local people and officials focused on the ridge,” said Supervisor Harding. “It’s a resource we need to actively protect and defend—everybody got the message that with all the growth coming this way, we can’t just take the ridge and its beautiful valleys for granted.”

“We CAN’T JUST TAKE THE RIDGE AND ITS BEAUTIFUL VALLEYS FOR GRANTED.”

WHERE THERE’S A WILL, THERE’S A TRAIL

When we build them, you bike them. We’ve been building and protecting trails for at least four generations of bikers since 1920. That’s 1,500 miles in New York and New Jersey to date. Help us keep building for the next generation by naming the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in your will. A bequest makes a wonderful gift, and it lasts beyond one lifetime.

For confidential information and legal language, contact the Trail Conference at 201-512-9348, or by email: info@nynjtc.org.

Shawangunks, The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society (NYS), Orange County Audubon Society, Basha Kill Area Association

MATCHING GIFTS ORGANIZATIONS

General Re Corporation
United Way – Prudential
Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation Inc.
American Express Foundation
The United Way

BEQUEST

Adolf W. Forst

RECOGNITION GIFTS

in memory of Royal E. Sengstaken
Richard N. Warner

in memory of Nat Lester
Joy R. Mendel, Rose T. Caccaro

in memory of Hall Cohen
Rudy and Toby Garfinkel, Herman H. Clausen, Manny J. Silberberg

in memory of Irwin Butwin
Ruth and Wally Cowan

in memory of Ken Lloyd & Steve Klein Jr.
Robert F. Basha

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION
continued from page 3

♦ Meanwhile, in New Jersey

The Trail Conference is joining with other open space organizations in New Jersey to oppose state diversion of land preservation funding to other uses. In March, $35 million in open-space funds—about $15 million from farmland preservation and Green Acres bonds and $20 million from the Green Acres revolving loan fund—were instead used for deficit reduction in fiscal year 2002. More recently, a proposed accounting change would further reduce annual state spending for open space by millions of dollars. Administrative costs of New Jersey’s open space protection efforts that previously were paid out of the state’s General Fund, are, according to McGreevey administration proposals, to come out of the funds for open space spending that voters approved in a constitutional amendment. This proposal would reallocate $7.5 million to administration costs out of the $48 million voters approved for open-space funding.

♦ More Long Path Protection in Rockland County

The Long Path’s route through Nyack has been further secured by Rockland County’s acquisition of two parcels totaling 12 acres—including nine acres from the Nyack School district. The Trail Conference worked with the county over several years to complete this project.

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

Please order by circling price

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Postage/handling from above, or $6.00, whichever is LESS (for non-clothing items)

New Jersey Residents add 6% tax**

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* Tax must be paid by NJ residents on books, maps, misc., but not on clothing. Thank you!
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NY-NJTC Gets Grant for AT Maintenance Purchase

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has a new “Griphoist” Winch system to assist with heavy rockwork and such projects as bridge building, thanks to a grant of $1,200 from the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC). The grant was made from ATC’s Grants to Clubs program, which supports the maintenance of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and connecting trails in the New Jersey area. The NY-NJTC is an affiliate member of the ATC, the private nonprofit federation of hiking clubs, individuals, and corporate members responsible for the management and protection of the Appalachian Trail.

ATC’s “Grants to Clubs” program was this year funded at $20,000 thanks to a contribution to the ATC by L.L. Bean, Inc.

The outdoors-oriented mail-order retailer based education program that parallels the EMT-B course content. It prepares students without previous first aid or EMT training to handle emergency care problems seen in the non-urban environment. The knowledge and skills learned are oriented toward the wilderness setting, with special emphasis on common outdoor injuries, high altitude and cold and hot weather illness, wilderness extrications, and the special equipment needed for emergency care and transportation in the outdoor environment.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14
FTTV. Copper Mine Trail, Delaware Water Gap. Leader: Carol Fischl, 973-359-7996. Meet: 10 am; call leader. A 5-mile loop through beautiful aspen grove and ATV to Yards Creek overlook, then down to copper mine.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17
IHC. The Shawangunks, Mohonk Preserve. Leader: Charlie & Ann Gilabert, 973-835-9180. Meet: 10:00 am at Municipal Parking Lot, Rt. 32 & 52, Saugerties, NY; shuttle required. Moderately strenuous hike visiting Great Wall, Early Dale, The Great Crevice and Sky Top. Hiking with a guide. The moderate combine begins with a gentle ascent but then levels to a steady hike to a great view. $5.50 transportation contribution.

IHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble. Leader: Louise White, 973-740-4319. Meet: 10 am at the Turnpike Rock parking area in West Orange. Lot on Wall Rd., near corner of Northfield Ave. near Essex House Restaurant and Turtleback Zoo. We will enjoy a trail scramble on the orange trail in this newly associated woods and see the “star rock.”

FTTV. Old Croton Aqueduct State Park. Leader: Ellen Carr, 961-938-5198. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. All weather hike; 4.5 miles depending on the weather. Hudson River panorama from Rockwood Hall site; indoor space for lunch if raining. $1.50 transportation contribution.

MJO. Greenwood Lake. Leader: Herb Gerch, 718-743-6655/3 pm only. Meet Call leader/911 to Throgs. 9/16 - 9 miles moderately strenuous hike following the Appalachian Trail in Prospect Rock. Scenic views of Greenwood Lake. Accessible by public transportation. Canx members only. Rains cancel.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

MJO. Ridgefield Park Ramble. Leader: Charlie & Paula Sheehan, 201-447-2032; call leader before 9/14. Enjoy the moderate with a summer: moderately easy to moderate 2-3 miles over 200 foot elevation hike on Bird and Ridge Mountain. Dramatic views of the Palisades and Senator Ross Farm. A challenging hike - no beginner’s pace. 3-4 hours of walking and hiking required. Public transportation is available. Canx members only. $10.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19
FTTV. Tourne, Roxton Township. Leader: For information call Cherryll Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am. Easy calls to pigeon Brook and Crystal Lakes.

IHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at the Shipman center recreation area, 4 miles. Easy walk the first urban park, rich in NJ and US history. Walk the trails, possible kayak to the Elside Island and Statue of Liberty.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
IHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble. Leader: Max Don, 908-233-5641. Meet: 10 am at Brendan Terrace parking lot on Crest Oval, 6.5 miles or entrance on Arrowhead Oval in Blairstown. Limited to 12 people at a right hand turn. Enjoy tomato ramble of 6 miles. Steady rain can cancels.
The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY/NJ Trail Conference. All hikes are welcome to club regulations and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Wear hiking boots or shoes, hat, sunscreen, rain gear, first aid kit and flashlight on a backpack. Leaders have the right and responsibility to refuse anyone whom they believe cannot complete the hike or is not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are relative terms; call leader if in doubt.

No clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate group sponsors hikes not listed in the Hikers’ Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our Web site or send E-mail or a letter to your request to NY/NJ Trail Conference.

Club Codes

Only those clubs with hikes offered in this issue are listed below. Please call numbers listed to confirm.

ADK Adirondack Mountain Club (OUT)
FVTW Front Valley Trailwalkers (RIP)
DAC Dutch-Amerian Hiking Club (TC)
KHC Interstate Hiking Club
MJU Montebello Jewish Outdoor Mountain Club (WTA)
Outbacking to have their hikes listed in Hiker’s Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference office. The deadline for the September/October issue is July 15, 2002.

Club Codes

ADK Adirondack Mountain Club OUTF Club
FVTW Front Valley Trailwalkers RIP Van Winkle Hiking Club
DAC Dutch-American Hiking Club TC NY/NJ Trail Conference
KHC Interstate Hiking Club UCHC Union County Hiking Club
MJU Montebello Jewish Outdoor Mountain Club WTA Westchester Trails Association

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs

JULY

SATURDAY, JULY 6


SUNDAY, JULY 7

IHC. Hike to Victory. Leader: Dave Durheim, 609-628-8021. Meet: 10 am at Red Apple restaurant on Rt. 17 in Southfields, NY (park in rear; car shuttle). Moderate hike of 5-6 miles in an area with many crisscrossing trails, iron mines, and the Lemon Squeezer. More information call 845-246-4145. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Hudson Valley (and enough time to enjoy them!). End up in Cold Spring and Hudson Valley (and enough time to enjoy them!). End up in Cold Spring.

UCHC. Pyramid Mountain Ramble. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-258-0766. Meet: 10 am at the visitor center; call leader for directions. The moderate mountain begins with a gentle ascent; then the trail becomes steep until we reach interesting geological erosion known as Tinkers Loop and Rock Pile. Rain cancels.

MONDAY, JULY 8

RIP: Two Plus (optional) Two Hike. Leader: For more information call 914-240-9897. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Hike carriage trails and abandoned farm roads, leading to a lunchtime view. 6-7 miles. More information call 845-246-5670. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Hike carriage trails and abandoned farm roads, leading to a lunchtime view. 6-7 miles. Tax-deductible except for $4.00 per car. Non-members $10.

UCHC. Greenwich Reservoir Ramble. Leader: Cherryll Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call leader. Level 3-mile hike around the reservoir. 5777. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Easy 5 mile walk along the shore path from Alpine, NJ, to the George Washington Bridge RR station.

TUESDAY, JULY 9


UCHC. Haw river Hike. Leader: Gale Marks, 973-926-0255. Meet: 10 am; call leader for directions. 7-10 miles in an area with many crisscrossing trails, iron mines, and the Lemon Squeezer. Rain cancels.

THURSDAY, JULY 11

FVTW. Pequannock Watershed Guided Interpretive Walk. Leader: Jim and Thaddeus Slowik, 973-858-0712. Meet: 10 am; call leader. Hike of about 8 miles.

SATURDAY, JULY 13


ADK. MENDON. Leader: 201-816-4965. Call for meeting and time and place. 7-10 miles. Long Path and Appalachian Trail connection.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 732-720-1832. Call before 9 pm. Meet: 10 am at Hackensack River park; corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl.; across from Millburn RR station. A 3-mile ramble with steep "up" at the beginning. Steady rain cancels.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

FVTW. Buttermilk Falls, India Brook. Leader: For information call Cherryhill Shen, 973-269-8219. Meet: 10 am; call leader. 3.5 mile walk, including a lovely waterfall, blueberry bushes and wild raspberry bushes along the way.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

FVTW. Lake Sammatstia Circular, Harriman State Park. Leader: George Huffman, 973-779-3018. Meet: 10 am above Sammatstia parking; call leader for directions. 7-10 miles in an area with many crisscrossing trails, iron mines, and the Lemon Squeezer.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble. Leader: Ellie King, 306-228-8141. Meet: 10 am at Franklin Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave., where it intersects with New Providence Rd. This will be a steady moderate pace of 4 to 5 miles.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble. Leader: Bob Alexander, 212-675-7244; no call on Shabbat. Meet leader by phone, 310. Enjoy the summer with a moderately paced but strenuous 7 mile hike, including a scramble up the face of Breakneck Ridge, on steep terrain (over 2,000 feet elevation gain) with incredible views of the Hudson Valley and long enough time to enjoy them. End up in Cold Spring for ice cream and a montage shopping. This is a challenging hike — no turn- overs allowed. 3.5 parts of water and hiking boots required. Public transportation available. Non-members $10.

MONDAY, JULY 22

RIP. Bearpen and Vly Mtns. Leader: For more information call 914-240-9897. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Hike carriage trails and abandoned farm roads, leading to a lunchtime view. 6-7 miles. More information call 845-246-5670. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Hike carriage trails and abandoned farm roads, leading to a lunchtime view. 6-7 miles. Tax-deductible except for $4.00 per car. Non-members $10.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

FVTW. Butternells Falls, India Brook. Leader: For information call Cherryhill Shen, 973-269-8219. Meet: 10 am; call leader. 3.5 mile walk, including a lovely waterfall, blueberry bushes and wild raspberry bushes along the way.

SUNDAY, JULY 27

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble. Leader: Ellie King, 306-228-8141. Meet: 10 am at Franklin Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave., where it intersects with New Providence Rd. This will be a steady moderate pace of 4 to 5 miles.

ADK. RAMAPO ADVENTURE Leader: E-MAIL _______________________________________________________

Holmes Fork. Leader: Michael, 212-675-7244. Meet in AP on post office parking, Woodridge, NY; Meet: 9 am; call leader for location. Easy/moderate 5 miles; mostly downhill and a good footway even if wet. Car shuttle. Transportation compensation.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble. Leader: Bob Alexander, 212-675-7244; no call on Shabbat. Meet leader by phone, 310. Enjoy the summer with a moderately paced but strenuous 7 mile hike, including a scramble up the face of Breakneck Ridge, on steep terrain (over 2,000 feet elevation gain) with incredible views of the Hudson Valley and long enough time to enjoy them. End up in Cold Spring for ice cream and a montage shopping. This is a challenging hike — no turn-overs allowed. 3.5 parts of water and hiking boots required. Public transportation available. Non-members $10.

MONDAY, JULY 29

RIP. Bearpen and Vly Mtns. Leader: For more information call 914-240-9897. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Hike carriage trails and abandoned farm roads, leading to a lunchtime view. 6-7 miles. More information call 845-246-5670. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Hike carriage trails and abandoned farm roads, leading to a lunchtime view. 6-7 miles. Tax-deductible except for $4.00 per car. Non-members $10.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

UCHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble. Leader: Bob Alexander, 212-675-7244; no call on Shabbat. Meet leader by phone, 310. Enjoy the summer with a moderately paced but strenuous 7 mile hike, including a scramble up the face of Breakneck Ridge, on steep terrain (over 2,000 feet elevation gain) with incredible views of the Hudson Valley and long enough time to enjoy them. End up in Cold Spring for ice cream and a montage shopping. This is a challenging hike — no turn-overs allowed. 3.5 parts of water and hiking boots required. Public transportation available. Non-members $10.