Raising the Ante on the Shawangunks

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is ratcheting up its already dedicated and effective land preservation activities on the Shawangunk Ridge. In recent months the Conference spearheaded the organization and meeting of more than 20 environmental groups as the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, which aims to protect the entire Shawangunk ridge greenway and connect the Catskill Park, Minnewaska State Park, Sam’s Point and Mohonk Preserves in the north with High Point State Park, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and the 2,167-mile long Appalachian Trail corridor to the south. In November, the Conference debuted a new web site that it developed to support the education and advocacy work of the coalition.

The Conference’s ambitions have attracted the financial support of funders, including one anonymous donor who has made a $25,000 challenge grant, contingent on TC members contributing another $5,000 dedicated to Shawangunk protection. (Please see page 3.) This financial support is especially noteworthy and important during the current economic downturn.

This redoubled effort in the Shawangunks is timely in light of mounting development threats to the ridge. Some examples:

- In Orange County, upscale homes with a view are encroaching up the eastern flank of the ridge.
- In the Town of Greeneville, a developer is trying to get approvals to build more than 2,000 condominiums on top of the ridge.
- In Mamakating, over the protests of many townspeople, the town board recently approved a new master plan and rezoning that will permit hotels and resorts to be built up to 10 stories high on top of the ridge. Four local groups are challenging these changes in court.
- In the wake of New York State’s recent and hasty approval of casino gambling in Sullivan and Ulster Counties, developers are eying new gambling casinos at the Nevele Hotel just below the ridge in Ellenville, at Kutcher’s Hotel in Monticello, and at the Shawanga Lodge site on top of the ridge in Mamakating. Additional development, roadways, and traffic are expected to accompany any new casino.

Route 17 is being converted into Interstate-86 and a new, expanded highway exit is being pushed for the top of the ridge.

Coalition Goals

The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition plans a multipronged approach to protection that involves both land acquisition and working with local owners and municipalities to develop “smart growth” planning goals and master plans.

The coalition will:

- Support acquisition of a continuous corridor of land along the 35-mile Shawangunk Ridge to protect the ridgetop, give the public direct access to its magnificent beauty, and assure protection of unique, ecologically sensitive areas;
- Encourage good planning and zoning in the 11 ridge towns to design for careful growth, while preserving the ridge as a valuable resource for future generations; build a strong network of ridge supporters who will encourage town and planning boards to adopt ridge-friendly zoning and planning codes, and to reject continued on page 9

Luxury Homes, Golf Course Proposed for Sterling Forest

A rezoning request by the Sterling Forest Corporation to develop more than 100 luxury homes and a 18-hole public golf course on 571 acres the company continues to own in the midst of a 8,000-acre Sterling Forest State Park has aroused vehement opposition from neighbors and those with environmental concerns, including the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

Opponents of the Sterling Forge Estates project cite “serious flaws, omissions, untruths, and non-compliance” with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared for the project. The DEIS was the subject of public hearings in November. Among the issues raised are:

- The impact of the proposed development on watersheds, in particular on the Ramapo and Wanaque watersheds in New Jersey (watershed protection was a major reason for protecting the land in the first place);
- The impact of blasting (most of the development is targeted on steep-slope ridges of exposed bedrock); and
- The impact on endangered species (the developer’s DEIS states that “no endangered or threatened plants were observed on the project site,” in contrast the park’s own two-year biological inventory, which has recorded a rich diversity of species from common to rare and endangered).

Speaking for the Trail Conference at a public hearing on the plan November 28, Executive Director Ed Goodell said, “It represents an organization that promotes responsible access to the backcountry. This DEIS is not a responsible document.” As an example of the inaccuracies throughout the document he used a viewshed map to show that most of the development would be seen from viewpoints along the AT and Sterling Ridge trails. He refuted the DEIS statement that development “is not expected to have significant impacts on the quality and character of views along area hiking trails” and that the only visible areas of the site are “the green of hole #1 and the tees of hole #6 and up to five residential lots.”

The Trail Conference is a member of the Sterling Forest Partnership, a coalition that monitors issues relevant to Sterling Forest State Park. The Conference has contributed $4,000 to fund a scientific review of the Sterling Forge Estates DEIS. The Thendara Hiking Club, a TC member club, has contributed $5,000. The Appalachian Mountain Club, Tuxedo Park Association and the Sterling Forest Partnership are other contributors. Individual Trail Conference members can contribute by check or credit card by using the notation “Save Sterling Forest.”

For more news of TC advocacy and conservation, please turn to page 3.
Farmland Protection Benefits NY-NJ Hikers

As I bundle myself up in these coldest of hiking months and put on layers of poly pro and other high-tech micro fibers before heading off on a trail, I remember how those of us who enjoy being outdoors once relied heavily on wool. . . valued because it keeps you warm when it is wet. (I value it, in addition, because I love to knit and enjoy beautiful sweaters.)

Wool makes me think of sheep, which causes me to remember several hiking trips overseas— in England, Scotland, Wales, and New Zealand— where trails often pass or even go through agricultural land. Sheep often are along these trails, and they add an ambiance to the hike and at the same time remind the hiker that in parts of the world agriculture and recreation can co-exist. In England for hundreds of years, the public has been given access across farmers’ fields and pastures. If you hike in England, most of the time you will see sheep. Their grazing keeps the hillsides open with few trees. As a result, the views in the hilly areas are fantastic.

In this country, agricultural and recreational lands are usually separate. We set aside land with established trails as parks. As a general rule, we do not hike through active agricultural fields. However, there are exceptions and they provide a different hiking experience. In the Hudson Valley, for instance, there are opportunities to hike through pastures and open fields. In the Hubbard-Perrins Conservation Area, the Perkins Trail crosses working hay fields, and the Appalachian Trail in Duchess County passes through a cow pasture. In Pennsylvania, the AT crosses through 15 miles of farms in the Cumberland Valley and is in the viewshed of many more miles. Rail trails in both New York and New Jersey pass through orchards and dairy and horse farms. The ecosystems in these areas give the hiker an opportunity to see different insects, birds, and plants, and even domestic animals such as cows, now more rare in our region than white-tailed deer. The farmland along these and other trails offer a serenity not found on, say, the Bronx River Parkway in Westchester County. And the views they offer to hikers gazing down from many of our region’s ridgetops is a patchwork of beauty.

Preservation of farmland is not in the Trail Conference’s mission statement, but it behooves us as individual hikers to support farm preservation initiatives. Over the last 50 years, the number of farms in New York state has decreased from 136,000 farms on 17 million acres to 31,250 farms on 7 million acres. In New York, Scenic Hudson and Open Space Institute have initiatives in the Hudson Valley, and the Pataki administration is expanding its open space plan to include farmland protection. New Jersey has a successful farmland preservation program, but one that needs to be expanded. Anyone who has hiked in the Pine Barrens is witness to a growth management model that includes viable farms. With development pressure ever-present and increasing, both New York and New Jersey can learn from that model.

In the meantime, should you, as I do, enjoy the ambience of farmland hiking, I can offer some tips so that you happen to pass sheep you can appear to be quite knowledgeable.

> Just because domestic sheep have horns does not necessarily mean that they are male.

> Not cutting the wool every year does not make for longer fibers.

> Jacob sheep have coats of many colors and have four horns.

And if, as I do, you still love wool sweaters, think about hiking along the coast of Great Britain. The places—Shetland, Cardigan, Raglan, Argyll, Fair Isle, and Jersey—will have you thinking you are passing through a sweater shop.

—Jane Daniels

Trail Volunteer Recognition

In the recently published book, Palsades, 100,000 Acres in 100 Years by past Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) Executive Director Robert O. Binnewies, the Foreword written jointly by current Executive Director Carol Ash and Past PIPC President Bannabas McHenry states: “Binnewies acknowledges the extraordinary work of volunteers, notably the trail maintainers from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. The 350 miles of trails in the park (Harriman / Bear Mountain) are their responsibility and we could not operate without them.”

Obviously this statement recognizes the fact that if solely dependent upon available state funding, the park would not be able to offer the diverse recreational opportunities and magnificent scenery presented by it’s trail system.

Yet, it seems that the general public and even many hikers are ignorant of these circumstances. In a far less dramatic fashion this might even mirror current recent events. Before the disasters involving the World Trade Center and anthrax, how many of us recognized or acknowledged the sacrifices and dedication of our firemen, police, or postal workers?

Our volunteer trail maintainers and construction crews donate their time and efforts for the benefit of all. Their contribution is not that of “free time,” for there is precious little of that nowadays, but rather time taken away from family and other personal pursuits.

It never ceases to amaze me that to whomsoever of them you might ask the question, Why do you do this work? the answer supplied is invariably the same. “It’s my repayment for past enjoyment and I want future generations to experience it.”

So, whenever you encounter maintainers or trail crews working on the trails, thank them for their efforts. You might also take a few moments to write a note of appreciation to the Executive Director, PIPC, Bear Mt. Admin. Bldg. Bear Mt. NY 10911-0427.

Or drop into our new office in Mahwah, NJ, to say hello and buy a copy of Bob Binnewies’s excellent book.

L E T T E R S

Last, but by no means least, we can always use new volunteers.

Additions to Skyline Viewpoints

We just received our Nov/Dec. Trail Walker, and as usual I enjoyed the interesting variety of articles and information. Here are some additions to the list of trail views of the skyline in New York. All are in the northern Harriman/Bear Mt area.

- West Mountain (from the shelter and also a bit further north on the Timp-Torne Trail)
- Pinyng (Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail)
- Hill O’Pines (just north of Pinyng, on the SBM trail)
- The top of Cat’s Elbow (near intersection of Ramapo-Dunderberg and SBM Trails)
- Multiple points from the RD trail as it goes south from Timp Pass and toward Cat’s Elbow
- Trudy Pojman

Highland Falls, New York

Pete Heckler
Chair, West Hudson Trails (South) Committee

From the president’s notepad...
2001 Has Been a Big Year

As we move into the next year and the relative quiet of winter, I want to take a moment to reflect on what volunteers and staff have accomplished together.

Location, Location, Location

We moved. After 80 years in Manhattan, the Trail Conference moved its office to Mahwah, New Jersey. It was a bold decision, but we are now more centrally located to our trail network, and the move has generally met with approval.

Trail Land Acquisition

It has been a great year for trail protection. The highlights:

- Trail Conference members put their money where their hearts are and donated half of the purchase price of access to Stony Kill Falls.
- After years of TC advocacy, New York State announced in March that it would purchase 2,200 acres on Schunemunk Mountain, creating a new state park. The property had been preserved by Trail Conference member Peter Stern and subsequently purchased by the Open Space Institute.
- The Trail Conference purchased five parcels amounting to over 400 acres along the Ginseng Ridge north of the Catskills, helping to protect the Long Path all the way to John Thatcher State Park, near Albany.
- The Trail Conference spent $14,500 to permanently protect trailhead access into the delightful Mineral Falls and western sections of Black Rock Forest.
- In New Jersey, we donated $25,000 toward the purchase of the Tory Estates in the sloping area around the resplendent 90-foot Mineral Springs Falls, a popular area attraction.

Trail Land Protection

- The Trail Conference is strenuously opposing the specious draft environmental impact statement submitted by the Sterling Forest Corporation for a golf course and residential development in its last undeveloped in-holding (see separate story).
- Trail Conference volunteers and Neil Woodworth have been opposing plans for power plants in Torne Valley. The plans have been withdrawn, for now.
- The Trail Conference is spearheading efforts to protect a Shawangunk Ridge Trail corridor that will connect two of the largest protected areas in New York and New Jersey (see story on page 1).

Trail Land Stewardship

- Once again, our trail volunteers will log more than 30,000 hours of effort.
- The boardwalk at the AT Pochuck crossing is now walkable! The Trail Conference will host an official opening sometime next year celebrating those who helped complete the largest single volunteer project along the AT.

Education and Outreach

- The outreach program at Tiorati Circle in Harriman State Park gained momentum this year and Trail Conference volunteers led 115 new hikers on the AT this summer.
- Publication volunteers produced a new book, Hiking Long Island and revised three existing books, the New York Walk Book, Daywalker, and Circuit Hikes in New Jersey. At the same time, they have revised and reprinted the Bear Mountain Harriman State Park map set and the Catskill map set and are just completing massive revisions to the North Jersey map set.
- All in all, it has been a very big year for the Trail Conference. There’s been momentous change both inside and outside of the organization. The economic recession and the war on terrorism have permanently altered the environment we operate in. But through it all, our mission will not change. We want to provide the public with responsible access to unspoiled nature.
- If anything, the demand for that wilderness experience is greater now than before. To be sure, there are new obstacles to achieving our mission. But with the help of our members, we will continue to work at making this region a hikers’ paradise. Happy Hiking in 2002!

—Edward Goodell

A Gift, Times Two

Anonymous Supporter Offers a Challenge Grant for Shawangunk Ridge Protection

A hiker and member of the Trail Conference who wishes to remain anonymous has made a very generous double gift to the Conference.

Gift # One: $10,000, which will be used to hire a fulltime volunteer projects coordinator. The person will help coordinate the over 50,000 hours of volunteer efforts annually that are so vital to Trail Conference effectiveness and success.

Gift # Two: A $25,000 challenge grant for preservation efforts on the Shawangunk Ridge. The Conference must “earn” this gift by raising a matching $25,000 from members. The combined $50,000 will go toward:

- Acquisition of options, easements, and key parcels along the ridge;
- Outreach and presentations to local planning boards and town officials interested in promoting smart growth and sustainable development;
- Development of brochures, maps, and illustrations to communicate the value of a protected ridge to the surrounding communities;
- Establishing a computerized geographic information system (GIS) for monitoring up-to-date information about conservation opportunities and development threats along the entire ridge;
- Setting up a program for conservation buyers and investors to protect land directly.

Help us meet this generous challenge.

Send your donation to NY-NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430; note Shawangunk Ridge in the memo.
White Bar Trail relocation: Harriman-Bear Mountain

A short, 1/3 mile section of the White Bar Trail has been relocated to eliminate a dangerous roadway to and from the parking area on Route 106. (See the Trail Conference's Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails map #3, grid B4.)

The trailheads for the White Bar remain unchanged. This relocation proceeds east from Island Pond Road, to cross Route 106 directly to the middle of the parking area on the south side of the road, then climbs Carr Mountain to the White Bar.

Pyramid Mountain

Two trails along the Taylortown Reservoir in this Morris County Park Commission park in Boonton and Montville, NJ, have been closed for security reasons. The Orange and Green Trails are closed until further notice.

Storm King Still Closed

According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers is still finding ordnance rounds in the northern part of Storm King. The hiking trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up regarding trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up

Stepping Up in Harriman

It was a foggy autumn morning when crew chief Bob Marshall and his crew unloaded two 13-foot stringers, lumber for steps, and heavy tools at Pine Meadow Lake in Harriman State Park. They then carried everything up the ridge to the Raccoon Brook Hills Trail and constructed a ladder up an eroded slope along the cliffs.

For two days, different crews hiked to the work site, moved large rocks for the construction of steps, and stabi-

lized footings and the approach to the ladder.

The maintainer of the Raccoon Brook Hills Trail, Ille M. Dunham, was elated: “I applaud the people and their volunteer spirit that planned and built the first trail ladder in the park—what an accomplishment!”

Stepping Up in Harriman

According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers is still finding ordnance rounds in the northern part of Storm King. The hiking trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up.

Stepping Up in Harriman

According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers is still finding ordnance rounds in the northern part of Storm King. The hiking trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up.

Stepping Up in Harriman

According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers is still finding ordnance rounds in the northern part of Storm King. The hiking trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up.

Stepping Up in Harriman

According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers is still finding ordnance rounds in the northern part of Storm King. The hiking trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up.

Stepping Up in Harriman

According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers is still finding ordnance rounds in the northern part of Storm King. The hiking trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up.

Stepping Up in Harriman

According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers is still finding ordnance rounds in the northern part of Storm King. The hiking trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up.

Stepping Up in Harriman

According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers is still finding ordnance rounds in the northern part of Storm King. The hiking trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up.

Stepping Up in Harriman

According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers is still finding ordnance rounds in the northern part of Storm King. The hiking trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up.

Stepping Up in Harriman

According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers is still finding ordnance rounds in the northern part of Storm King. The hiking trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up.
Volunteers Recognized at Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting on October 13, 2001, the Trail Conference presented three awards for exemplary service.

The Major Welch Trail Partner Award was presented to Karen Lutz. Karen is the Appalachian Trail Conference’s Mid-Atlantic Field Representative. She interacts with all three of the local AT committees to help them in innumerable ways. Her aid in pushing the Pochuck River bridge project toward completion is especially noteworthy. (See separate article about Pochuck.) Ron Rosen, chair of the AT committee for Dutchess/Putnam, says of Karen, “Her dedication to the AT Project is incredible, and she has a knack of working closely with volunteers without stepping on their toes or taking over their work. She is great at keeping the details of scores of projects and trail club activities in her mind.”

The Hoeferlin Award, given to volunteers who demonstrate exemplary service to trail maintenance and management, was presented to Monica Resor and David Day (see story on the pair in the November/December 2001 Trail Walker). David and Monica have been long-time members of the West Hudson Trail Crew. More recently they have taken on heading the new West Jersey Trail Crew (see page 4). Visit www.trailstobuild.com for a web site they have developed about their adventures in trail building.

Trail Conference staff also took the opportunity to thank particularly those member volunteers who help in the office—answering mail and phones; packaging map, book, and other merchandise orders; managing membership data; providing technology support and services, and countless other tasks. Special thanks were given to Anne Grob, called “my right hand” by administrative director Scott Voorhees. Among her many contributions to the Conference, Anne has been acting as the unofficial volunteer coordinator. Also singled out for special thanks was Paul Leikin, who oversees the group of volunteers who meet every two weeks at his home to collate map sets. Paul, who is nearing age 90 and still walks seven miles a day, recently decided to step down from trail maintaining and overseeing the advertising for Trail Walker.

Delegates’ and Membership Meeting February 7

All TC members invited

All Trail Conference members are invited to attend the next meeting of hiking club delegates on Thursday, February 7, 2002, at the Seafarers and International House, 123 East 56th Street, in Manhattan (corner of 56th Street and Irving Place, one block east of Union Square).

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Please join us for a social hour, beginning at 6 p.m., for a chance to share refreshments and chat with hiking club representatives.

Edward Goodell encourages delegates to bring general and specific issues of concern to these meetings. “In addition to the governance function of delegates’ meetings, we need to use these meetings to improve the quality of dialogue about the issues affecting the hiking community and how the Trail Conference can best help,” he says.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Public transportation to the Seafarers House: subway lines 4, 5, 6, N, R and L to 14th Street/Union Square. Or bus lines 6 and 7 (Broadway); lines 1, 2 and 3 (Park Ave.); and lines 102 and 103 (Third Ave.).
HIKING ACROSS AMERICA

A Journey Between the Dots

By Neil DiBernardo

Since childhood, I've been buying Rand McNally road atlases every few years and plotting a round-trip, cross-country drive that would take me through the most possible states with no backtracking. In the fall of 2000, after getting approval to take off three consecutive weeks from my job, I set about to map my dream vacation.

In terms of destinations, I knew only a few things for certain: I would head west from New Jersey on a northerly route with San Francisco as my turnaround point and then return through the South; I wanted to avoid the interstates as much as possible; I wanted to see Mount Rushmore; I also wanted to visit my sister's new home in Prescott, Arizona, stay a night in Austin, Texas, to hear some live folk music, and at least pass through New Orleans. And I wanted to do as much hiking as possible.

Several months before the trip was to begin, I set out to create a written itinerary. I decided to plan a hike for every third or fourth day, and to use the hikes as "dots" that I would connect to create my route. This idea really took hold once I realized I could tell people I was planning to "hike across America." I quickly realized it would cost me a fortune to purchase every book I might never use again. There was only one place I knew of where I might find what I needed—books I might never use again. There was only one place I knew of where I might find trail guides to every state on my blueprint—and as a bonus not have to purchase a single one: the NY-NJ Trail Conference Hoeferlin Library.

Just a little room tucked in the TC offices—then in Manhattan—the library nevertheless contains an extensive collection, predominantly guide books for hiking in the U.S., plus some international trail guides, travel essays, and picture books. It became an integral part of planning my dream vacation. Over the course of two separate four-hour visits to the library, I was able to narrow down the states in which I would hike. I then checked out the relevant books (for the three-week time period the library allows) and spent more time at home honing each chosen state down to one prime challenging hike and an alternate easier hike in case of bad weather. Once I had those "dots" in place, I sprawled out on my living room floor with my AAA maps, my chosen hikes, a blank composition notebook, and multi-colored hi-liters, and began to connect the dots to create an itinerary that ended up covering 22 states.

I have lived my whole life within a half-day's drive of New York City, but as I set out from New Jersey on a bright October morning, the spaces between the dots became places, filled with sometimes exquisite, sometimes disturbing landscapes. I came to see that life really does exist outside of cities and suburbs. And the hikes, in remote or little-known areas of Wisconsin, Wyoming, Utah, California, and Arizona, took me to a variety of terrains and vistas that I would never have known to explore had it not been for my research in the Trail Conference Library.

The trip was such a complete success that I decided to declare it merely the first part of an ongoing journey to "find" America. Somehow I managed to convince my employer to let me have another three consecutive weeks of vacation, and on September 9, 2001, I set out with a whole new itinerary based on another set of dots, researched this time in the more spacious Trail Conference library in the new Mahwah office.

As fate would have it, I was setting out for a hike on the Appalachian Trail in northern Georgia on the morning of September 11, and this second journey between the dots ended up revealing a very different view of America than can be charted on maps. This trip through 24 more states has its share of scenic wonders, but it will be the faces and voices of the people I will remember—many different cultures and many different accents but one people, unified at first by shock and then by grief and finally pride. But that is a longer story than can be told in these pages. —

About the TC Library

Books in the Trail Conference library can be checked out by members for three-week loan by visiting the office. The library includes books on outdoor topics such as trail guidebooks, natural history, reference guides, and more.

Books Recently Received in the TC Library Include

- Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years, Robert D. Binniewies, Fordham University Press and Palisades Interstate Park Commission, 2001
- Views from on High: Fire Tower Trails in the Adirondacks and Catskills, John S. Freeman, Adirondack Mountain Club, 2001
- A Season on the Appalachian Trail, Lynn Setzer, Menasha Ridge Press, 2001
- Lonely Planet Guides: Hiking in Alaska
- Walking in Australia
- Hiking in Japan
- The Geysers of Yellowstone
- Scott T. Bryan, University Press of Colorado, 2001
- Awakening to Nature: Renewing Your Life by Connecting with the Natural World
- Charles Cook, Contemporary Book, 2001
- A Journey North: One Woman's Story of Hiking the Appalachian Trail, Adrienne Hall, Appalachian Mountain Club Books
- California Hiking: The Complete Guide to More Than 1,000 of the Best Hikes, Tom Stienstra and Ann Marie Brown, Avalon Travel Publishing (Foghorn Outdoors), 2001
- Videos: How to Hike the Pacific Crest Trail, Lynne Wheldon, VH5. 4 hours 39 minutes

www.windham-area.com/hilltopacres.htm

How to reach the author:

6 January/February 2002 Trail Walker
Open Space Wins in NJ Elections

Nearly half of the open space issues decided by ballot this past November—54 of 113—were passed in New Jersey. What's more, Garden State voters approved 81 percent of these ballots by margins as high as four-to-one, even though all but a handful required a property tax increase. Nationally, the passage rate was 73 percent. The Trail Conference had joined with nine other local and regional organizations in September to support open space preservation issues on the November ballot in New Jersey.

Two of the biggest approvals in New Jersey were:

- $200 million in Morris County, NJ, for open space, recreation, and farmland preservation; and
- $530 million in Old Bridge Township, NJ, for open space acquisition.

Nationwide in 2001, voters approved committing $1.16 billion in new funding for parks and open space conservation.

In NY, Lofty Plans, No Money

As 2001 draws to a close, New York State’s budget still does not include appropriations for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), the state’s main environmental funding source. As a result, the completion of numerous pending state land purchases, including Stony Kill Falls access in the Shawangunks, the Long Path in the Catskills and the Capital District, the Lundy Estate in the Catskills, Schunemunk State Park, and the Genny Green Trail to connect the North Country Scenic Trail and the Finger Lakes Trail in Central New York, remains uncertain and could be jeopardized if the fund remains inadequate to meet our requested level of appropriation for the April 1, 2001–December 31, 2001 fiscal year. By law, EPF funds cannot be spent for any purpose other than for the environment. The main purpose in creating EPF as a locked box was so the environment would not be neglected in difficult budget times.

It is not too late to lobby your state officials in support of the EPF. There is still time for the governor and the legislature to reach agreement to appropriate these funds.

NY Gamble with Open Space

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) held 12 Open Space Plan public hearings on November 13, 14, and 15 across the state. At the meetings, the main message from Trail Conference advocates was “Great Plan, No Money.” The plan calls for an annual budget of $113 million for land acquisition.

Formal comments on the plan submitted by the Trail Conference and ADK included a request that the plan be funded (see related story above). The Conference also commended the plan for urging protection of Schunemunk and Woodcock Mountains in Orange County, various Shawangunk Ridge parcels, an important inholding in Sterling Forest, and land adjacent to Harriman Park in the Torne Valley that has been proposed for a massive power plant project. The groups also endorsed state recommendations in the Catskill Forest Preserve for protection by acquisition of the Graham and Doubletop Mountains/Dry Brook area, the Peckamoose Gorge, remaining private holdings on CarpentersVly/Rosandtop Mountains, and consolidation of holdings in the Hunter Mountain, Indian Head-Plateau, Westkill and Windham High Peak areas.

The Conference and ADK also asked the state to place more emphasis on protecting the Shawangunk Ridge generally from growth and development. The groups urged that particular caution be focused on growth pressures exerted by any casinos that may be proposed for the area as a result of the state’s October approval of new casinos in Sullivan and Ulster Counties. Anti-gambling forces have filed lawsuits to overturn the new law, alleging that it violates the state constitution.

Air Quality Advocacy

The Trail Conference and ADK, as part of Hikers For Clean Air, are continuing to advocate for strong rules that cut emissions from power plants and reduce SOX, NOX and smog from our national parks. The organizations will be submitting testimony to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in support of new federal regulations mandating major reductions in emissions from all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, trail motorcycles and jet ski engines by 2006.

The EPA is proposing emissions cuts from these mobile source engines to help reduce hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx). Controlling these pollutants will help reduce acid rain, smog, and improve visibility in the Hudson Highlands and the Catskills.

Hikers’ Bookshelf

Palisades 100,000 Acres in 100 Years by Robert O. Binnewies

I had reservations about reading an organizational history of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) written by a prominent retired insider and underwritten by that same organization. But this chronicle of the unique two-state agency has the elements of numerous best-sellers: There’s violence (development goatherd Robert Moses attempting to strangle Trail Conference icon Raymond Torrey during a dispute about the Northern State Parkway on Long Island; see page 193); there’s sex (or at least a 1919 dance called “the shimmy”; see page 104); there’s intrigue (throughout the book, in the details of the many acquisition stories that created the PIPC network of parks). Most prominently, there is the book’s huge cast of larger-than-life characters: J. P. Morgan, John D. Rockefeller, George W. Perkins, W. Averell Harriman, Laurance S. Rockefeller, Mary Fisk, Larry Rockefeller, Theodore Roosevelt, and the list goes on.

PIPC got its start when wealthy estate owners on the New York side of the Hudson River objected to the noise and destruction of the “palisade” cliffs on the New Jersey side by quarriers. But, Binnewies makes clear in his account, this self-interest of the rich quickly evolved into dedicated commitments to conservation and public access to outdoor recreation. Over decades and generations, individuals have supported PIPC with extraordinary donations of time, talent, money, land, and influence and in the process created one of the country’s most important park systems.

Of particular interest to hikers is the role of the Trail Conference in this history. The Conference makes frequent appearances as an important partner in land acquisition successes. Binnewies also relates the Conference’s formation in 1920, “specifically to lend volunteer assistance to the PIPC” in the matter of trail-building and trail maintaining. The continuing importance of the Conference is acknowledged in the Foreword by current PIPC Executive Director Carole Ash and President Barnabas McHenry.

Binnewies, the now retired executive director of PIPC, has squeezed an enormous amount of information into 356 pages, and at times it is a bit difficult to keep track of when in the story we are. His focus is on acquisition; management issues and philosophy get less attention. But overall, Palisades will interest anyone concerned with the history of parks, open space, and efforts to protect them.

—Georgette Weir

Alpine Adventure Trails

TOURS

25th year in the Swiss Alps

Optional length day hiking.

Two guides per tour allow you to choose a moderate or more strenuous hike each day.

- 2-week, 10-day, and www.swisshiking.com
- 1-week trips available.
- Please call for a free color brochure
- Toll Free 1-888-478-4004
- Alpine Adventure Trails Tours, Inc.
- 7495 Lower Thomaston Road
- Mazon, GA 31210

Hiking for Fall

Contact: Folk Music Club, 450 Seventh Avenue, #972
New York, NY 10123
212-563-4099
Folk-Fone 212-674-2508.
MEMORIAL GIFTS
In Memory of Michael Astor
Ramsey Outdoorsman Hiking Club - Fred Dolehgh
In Memory of Tom Sanders
Wanda Davenport & Martin A. Cohen
In Memory of Ann Silverberg
Peter Hecker & Rita Hecker

RECOGNITION GIFTS
In Honor of Edith Uhler's Birthday
Ann Loeb
In Honor of Bob Messerschmidt's Birthday
David Sutter & Naomi Sutter
In Honor of Mary Smart's Birthday
David Sutter & Naomi Sutter
To Support Preservation of Sterling Forest
Noel P. Schultz

FOUNDATIONs
Donation on Recommendation of
Edwin R. Ward
Mary A. H. Rumsey Foundation
Robert L. Newton Foundation -
Charitable Gift Fund
United Way of Tri-State

MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES
IBM
Prudential Insurance
J.P. Morgan Charitable Trust
Avon Products Foundation
ZC Resource LLC

HARRY SILMAN TOOL FUND
In honor of Michelle Silman
Gail Jeffee Cohen and Gerry Cohen

JOANN DOLAN FUND
Herbert Shulman

An Award Winning Map

By Herb Chong

Many of you may know that the Trail Conference has been producing its own hiking maps for approximately thirty years. What you may not know is that the Trail Conference's maps have been good enough to win awards. In 1996, the Shawangunk Trail map set won second prize in the competition sponsored by the American Cartographic Association. This year, a prototype map, "The Long Path - South Central Catskills," produced as a design study for future hiking maps to be created by the Trail Conference, won a Notable Entry award from Avenza Systems Inc., in their First Annual Map Competition.

Avenza Systems produces a program called MAPublisher, and the Trail Conference has been using it to help create the newest, all-computerized maps. The Sterling Forest Trail map is the first one published by the Trail Conference that was created with the aid of MAPublisher. John Jurasek, field data coordinator for map publications, is working on the newest, computerized edition of the Hudson Palisades Trail maps set for publication some time in 2003. The upcoming 4th edition of The Long Path Guide will have its maps created with MAPublisher technology.

Using computerized tools such as MAPublisher to create hiking trail maps has opened up opportunities for creating maps with more information than practical when using traditional map-making techniques. One technique that has become standard for many types of maps such as the Trail Conference's hiking trail maps is the use of shaded relief. Shaded relief is the use of an artificial lighting from the upper left corner of the map towards the center to illuminate the bumpy surface of the terrain. The shadows and highlights make it easier for the non-expert map-reader to visualize the shape of the land. Although it does not convey any more information than traditional contour lines, it is easier to see the landforms.

Another technique for trail map creation that becomes much easier with computer techniques is being able to have more types of lines on the map for representing the trails. The map that won the Notable Entry award from Avenza Systems includes some of these techniques to show hiking trails with more information than was easily possible before. The Long Path map uses two techniques that haven’t been tried on Trail Conference maps, color-coding the trail lines using their blaze colors, and using an outline that depends on the nature of the trail’s footpath, roads, and drivable roads each have a different outline treatment to help in identifying the character of the trail. See example above.

Although the Trail Conference is still experimenting with new styles in our computerized hiking maps, the changes being made are being recognized by the computer cartography community as new and aesthetically pleasing ways of enhancing the information content of our maps. These changes will begin to appear in the next generation of hiking trail maps being created today.

Herb Chong is a member of the NY-NJTC Publications Committee. For more information, visit www.avenza.com.

New Life Members
The Trail Conference welcomes the following new life members: Marilyn Varley, Barry Mark, Michael Nutry, and Larry Wehr; and joint life members: Mary Smart and Irving Fletcher, Tom and Jane Dupont, and Carol O’Keefe and Douglas Ryan.

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, 2001 rates; see page 11.). The next time you renew, consider becoming one of the Conference’s more than 800 “lifers.”
Complete Trail Walker Now Online

The full Trail Walker will now be available on the web shortly after the print version is shipped. (Previously, only selected articles were available online.) Selected stories will continue to be in the regular Conference web pages, e.g., trail crew schedules and articles that appear first on the web.

One big plus of the new arrangement is that Google (a web search facility; www.google.com) will index the articles so that searching with Google will find them. The minus is that Trail Walker files are large—typically more than a megabyte; download times will be long on slow lines. All the files are in PDF format so you need Acrobat Reader. Currently the last two issues of 1999, all of 2000, and all of 2001 are online.

As with most Trail Conference committees, volunteers to work on tech stuff are welcome and needed. The volunteer opportunities page has been updated to reflect those needs. Click on Volunteer on the main menu to see the current opportunities.

—Walt Daniels
Chair, Technology Committee

SHAWANGUNK RIDGE COALITION
continued from page 1

poorly planned developments;
○ Create a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based clearinghouse about the ridge containing current ownership information, proposed developments, open space protection efforts, GIS maps, and aerial photos;
○ Initiate landowner outreach to empower neighbors along the ridge to actively participate in creating healthy, scenic, well-designed communities in which they can live;
○ Foster communication and information sharing among the coalition, not-for-profits, land trusts, towns, counties, DEC and local citizens; provide email communication and updates; and offer regional gatherings/educational workshops; and
○ Create awareness of the entire ridge as a regional ecosystem in which each town has its own boundaries to protect this valuable resource for the benefit of all.

“When we can successfully protect this ridge, it will be a regional and even national success story for hikers and for the environment,” says Trail Conference Executive Director Edward Goodell.

To keep up with news of the Shawangunk Ridge and to help preserve it, visit the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition web site at www.shawangunkridge.org.

Where there’s a Will, there’s a Trail

When we build them, you hike them. We’ve been building and protecting trails for at least four generations of hikers 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.
Family-Oriented Winter Trails Event
Set for January 19

The American Hiking Society invites everyone to its Sixth Annual Winter Trails event, designed to get people outdoors to experience the popular sport of snowshoeing through winter hikes and walks. This free event is being offered at 11 sites across the country on January 19th and at one site on the weekend of February 16-17th. Included will be demos and clinics that offer individuals of all ages and abilities a chance to try snowshoeing in a fun, educational, and pressure-free environment while appreciating the natural out-of-doors.

One of the January 19 events is set for the New York-New Jersey area, at High Point. Games are planned for children; a cross-country ski lodge with fireplace will be available. There will be igloo building, demonstrations by the National Ski Patrol, guided hikes by state park naturalist, and birdwatching. Without natural snow the activities will be on manmade snow. Bring binoculars, extra clothes.

Schedule: Sign-up for activities and use of demo equipment 9:00 am to 1:00 am; event hours 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m.

Directions: North: Rt. 287 N to Rt. 23 N to High Point State Park (HPS); West: Rt. 80 W to Rt. 23 N to HPS; South: Rt. 215 to HPS; East: Rt. 94 E to Rt. 36 E to HPS.

The local sponsor for the event is the High Point XC Ski Center. Contact Hans P. Karlsten, 973-702-1222, hpk@warwick.net, or visit our www.xcskihighpoint.com.

AT COMMITTEE’S VIGILANCE PROTECTS THE TRAIL’S LARGEST BLAZED TREE

These notes, excerpted and adapted from the minutes of the Dutchess/Putnam Appalachian Trail Committee, testify to the need and effectiveness for vigilant watchdogs for all our trails. Work by committee members prevented damage to a tree identified as the “largest blazed tree on the entire Appalachian Trail.”

Item: Telephone Line at Dover Oak Tree: Ron [Rosen, committee co-chair] received a phone call from a regular hiker in the Pawling area who is a former employee of New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG), who was concerned that Verizon had actually installed a line up West Dover Road that will definitely require trimming of the Dover Oak Tree, which is the largest blazed tree on the entire Appalachian Trail. The hiker contacted Ron, and he gave him the names and numbers of a number of contacts in the engineering office at Verizon who could be contacted to stop the work and avoid damage to the tree. Ron made some calls and left messages on voicemail for two people in the engineering office. A lead engineer from Verizon returned Ron’s call and assured the committee that Verizon will not disturb the tree. Ron also determined that Verizon had actually installed three poles near the tree, one on the east side of the road about 25 feet south of the National Park Service property corner, one on the west side of the road just north of the tree’s trunk, and one on the east side of the road just south of the north NPS property corner.

Travel Directions

The trailheads on Spruceton Road can be reached via Route 42 from either Livingston (Route 23A) or Shandaken (Route 28). Turn east onto Spruceton Road. The small DEC trailhead parking area from which this outing begins is 3.8 miles down the road on the right, just before Albino’s Guest Cottages. For those snowshoeing the entire trail, park another car at the DEC Parking area at the end of Spruceton Road, which saves a 3.2-mile road walk at the end of the day. Travel time from New York City is about three hours.

By Donald C. Pachner

West Kill Peak on Showshoes
Snowshoe Treks for Every Skill Level

A 3,880-foot high Catskill peak that offers snowshoeing routes for people of every degree of experience, is West Kill Mountain in West Kill North Dome Wilderness Area. The route described here can be divided into a level trip of a couple miles for beginners, a moderate four-mile round-trip to the scenic notch between West Kill and the trailless North Dome for novices, and a rigorous nine-mile adventure of interesting wilderness terrain and spectacular views for experienced snowshoers. The latter is one of my favorite trails in all seasons, a familiarity I’ve acquired thanks to the advice of my friend Diane from the local ADK Mohican Chapter.

The trek starts from Spruceton Road at the western end of the rugged, 259-mile, red-blazed “Devil’s Path” The first mile or so ascends gradually and wanders along beautiful Mink Hollow, through some of the last old-growth hemlock forest of the Catskills. If you’re lucky, other snowshoers may already have done the tough work of breaking trail. Watch for signs of animal tracks as you make your way through the hollow.

For those willing to expend the energy, a moderate climb of about 400 vertical feet over a half-mile will take you to the summit, which is wooded. But thinking about what’s absent in winter: barred owls that hoot here on cool, drizzly spring days; blankets of trout lilies that appear after the snow melts in May; black flies that make hiking miserable after a hard winter.

The ups and downs of the black spruce-and-balsam forest of the ridge, you can easily miss the summit sign among the densely growing trees. There is no view from the summit, which is wooded. But soon you’ll come to one of the most expansive and dramatic panoramic views in the Catskills—Back Ridge Lookout, offering views of Hunter and Southwest Hunter Mountains. From here, the trail descends steeply, and you will glide down to Diamond Notch Falls (blazed blue) in no time, where you cross a bridge over the West Kill, then turn left onto a jeep road that will lead you to the end of Spruceton Road (about a mile). Allow at least 8-9 hours for the summit climb and descent.

Travel Directions

The trailheads on Spruceton Road can be reached via Route 42 from either Lexington (Route 23A) or Shandaken (Route 28). Turn east onto Spruceton Road. The small DEC trailhead parking area from which this outing begins is 3.8 miles down the road on the right, just before Albino’s Guest Cottages. For those snowshoeing the entire trail, park another car at the DEC Parking area at the end of Spruceton Road, which saves a 3.2-mile road walk at the end of the day. Travel time from New York City is about three hours.

AppleTree Inn and Efficiencies

In the heart of the CATSKILL FOREST PRESERVE

30 miles west of Exit 19, NYS Thruway, Northern Ulster County TV, AC, & Refrigerator in every room • No Children, No Pets

For information or reservations, call (845) 688-7130
e-mail: catskill-hiker@myblizz.com
OPEN YEAR ROUND

F A V O R I T E          H I K E S

Reading Earth

By Jerome Wyckoff

The Book of

Back Country Knowledge

A Colorful Guide to Earth Scenery

FOR ALL READERS

Extends and illustrates how nature processes those Earth’s fascinating scenic features.

260 pages / hard cover / 5 x 8.25 inches

To order: $24.95 + $4.50 shipping

www.mahwah.com/adstra

Available wherever books are sold

Jerome Wyckoff

Reading the Earth

Donald R. Coates, Ph.D.

Understanding the Making of the Landforms in the Making

A Colorful Guide to Earth Scenery

FOR ALL READERS

Extends and illustrates how nature processes those Earth’s fascinating scenic features.

260 pages / hard cover / 5 x 8.25 inches

To order: $24.95 + $4.50 shipping

www.mahwah.com/adstra

Available wherever books are sold

Jerome Wyckoff

Reading the Earth

Donald R. Coates, Ph.D.

Understanding the Making of the Landforms in the Making

A Colorful Guide to Earth Scenery

FOR ALL READERS

Extends and illustrates how nature processes those Earth’s fascinating scenic features.

260 pages / hard cover / 5 x 8.25 inches

To order: $24.95 + $4.50 shipping

www.mahwah.com/adstra

Available wherever books are sold

Jerome Wyckoff

Reading the Earth

DOWNLOAD THE FILE

READ THE EBOOK

Elegant, accurate, concise, concise...

Digitally sound, easy reading, easy absorbed.

Reading the Earth

LANDFORMS IN THE MAKING

Donald Pachner

A Colorful Guide to Earth Scenery

FOR ALL READERS

Extends and illustrates how nature processes those Earth’s fascinating scenic features.

260 pages / hard cover / 5 x 8.25 inches

To order: $24.95 + $4.50 shipping

www.mahwah.com/adstra

Available wherever books are sold

Jerome Wyckoff

Reading the Earth

DOWNLOAD THE FILE

READ THE EBOOK

Elegant, accurate, concise, concise...

Digitally sound, easy reading, easy absorbed.

Reading the Earth

LANDFORMS IN THE MAKING

Donald Pachner

A Colorful Guide to Earth Scenery

FOR ALL READERS

Extends and illustrates how nature processes those Earth’s fascinating scenic features.

260 pages / hard cover / 5 x 8.25 inches

To order: $24.95 + $4.50 shipping

www.mahwah.com/adstra

Available wherever books are sold

Jerome Wyckoff

Reading the Earth

DOWNLOAD THE FILE

READ THE EBOOK

Elegant, accurate, concise, concise...

Digitally sound, easy reading, easy absorbed.

Reading the Earth

LANDFORMS IN THE MAKING

Donald Pachner

A Colorful Guide to Earth Scenery

FOR ALL READERS

Extends and illustrates how nature processes those Earth’s fascinating scenic features.

260 pages / hard cover / 5 x 8.25 inches

To order: $24.95 + $4.50 shipping

www.mahwah.com/adstra

Available wherever books are sold

Jerome Wyckoff

Reading the Earth

DOWNLOAD THE FILE

READ THE EBOOK

Elegant, accurate, concise, concise...

Digitally sound, easy reading, easy absorbed.

Reading the Earth

LANDFORMS IN THE MAKING

Donald Pachner

A Colorful Guide to Earth Scenery

FOR ALL READERS

Extends and illustrates how nature processes those Earth’s fascinating scenic features.

260 pages / hard cover / 5 x 8.25 inches

To order: $24.95 + $4.50 shipping

www.mahwah.com/adstra

Available wherever books are sold

Jerome Wyckoff

Reading the Earth

DOWNLOAD THE FILE

READ THE EBOOK

Elegant, accurate, concise, concise...

Digitally sound, easy reading, easy absorbed.
continued from page 12

out the various peaks, then weather permitting, we will tour the newly re-located Japanese garden and other areas of the 52-acre gar- den. Non members $3.50, $2.00 admission.

ADK-R. Letter Rock. Coaching at Smothers Mt. Circular. Leader: Call 201-796-3004. 5-6 moderate miles, 3-4 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

TUESDAY, JAN. 29

FTVW. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation leader. J efferson Tow n- ship. Leader: (call Maughn), 973-368-7293. Meet: 15:00, call leader for location. 6-mile hike with views, a lake, brambles and a swamp.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30

FTVW. Locust Grove, South Mountain Reservation. Leader: For information call Cherry Shert, 295-2092-0222. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. A 5-mile hike following the River past Diamond Pond.

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, FEB. 2

UCHC. Somersport County Environmental Center. Leader: Mary Doyle, 908-580-3778. Meet: 10:00 AM. Removed trails and some new ones, depending on ice and snow conditions.

FTVW. Park Side Grove acres in Brooklyn. Leader: Helen Hey, 212-234-5436. Meet: 12:00 PM at F. In front of the park on Wellendorf Avenu.


TUESDAY, JAC. 31

FTVW. Pyramid Mountain. Leader: Bill Batlow, 908- 647-6558. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. 6-miles exploring the New Orange Trail; visits to Bear Rock and famous Tripod Rock.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 32

FTVW. Patriots Path. Leader: Silvia M. Leader for information call Cheryl Shert, 973-295-0922. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. 5- mile hike along the Rock-hill Road. Non-members $3.

THURSDAY, JAN. 24

FTVW. Skanaatami Circular. Harriman. Leader: Al Cum and Jim Lehti. Leader: 973-472-7202. Meet at Skiing Park. Early in the year, at Volunteer Pond in Harriman, we will have about 4 miles at a moderate pace, keeping ground cover in mind.

SATURDAY, FEB. 2

UCHC. jockey Hollow. Leader: Bill Boilgis. 908-788-9830. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader before between 7 and 8:00 PM only. This will be a brisk hike of 5-6 miles. Meet: Forest Hills Circular. Leader: Helen Hey, 212-346-3344. Meet: 10:00 AM only. Meet: 479 at the intersection of Forest Hills Ave. and Kingsland Ave. For the old forest preserve.

FTVW. Wanaque State Park. Leader: Carlin (3) and J. Leader: 973-927-9714. Meet: 10:00 AM at park office. 6.7 miles of favorite trail and some new ones, depending on snow and snow conditions.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6

FTVW. Great Swat Nature Center. Leader: Silvia M. Leader for information call Cheryl Shert, 973-295-0922. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. 5.2 mile hike along the road.

EVENING, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6

FTVW. Lake Mohawk Circular Reservation. Leader: George for information call Cherry Shert, 973-295-0922. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. 7.0 mile circular with many available trails and views.

SATURDAY, FEB. 9

UCHC. Watching Reservation. Leader: Ed Lellouche, 212-313- 1709. Meet: 10:00 AM at The Great Trail Nature and Science Center parking lot on Calea Ave., just across from New Providence Rd. This will be a steady, moderate hike, like most of our hikes. Rain, no snow.

OUT. Fort Tilden-Breens Point. Leader: Mike Miller, 718-743-0240. Meet: in front of WCA, corner of Rath Ave. and Ave. 1 to take back to Rockaway, are, at the west of Miller Rd. at Rockaway Blvd.

RWW. Hunterdon Ml (1.423). For information call 201-246-5550, 6-mile hike 7:5 miles. 6-hours, (snowshoes and raincoats necessary). Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

MT.

RVW. Balsam Mt (5,260). For information call 845-246-4457. Loop- out hike: (snowshoes and crampons necessary), 5-6 miles, 0.5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Saturday.

SUNDAY, FEB. 10

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Louise White, 973- 744-4429. Meet: 10:00 AM at the Burlington Hiking Park parking lot in Western Ridge (on a road called South Ridge Rd. near corner of Northfield Ave.). We will be hiking a brambly hike on the orange trail in this nicely wooded area and also see the “turtle rock”.

IHC. Lippold Hollow. Leader: Roy Williams, 973-285-9756. Meet: 9:00 AM at the Harriman Park parking lot in Lippold Hollow. We will be hiking the southern half of the Harriman Park loop with a stop at the former Ringer Cabin. Come out and see if the “Lollipop Lady” is out with her posse. We will hike around the lake, this is a nice winter hike, with or without snowshoes. Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancel.

AR-R. Island Pond Snow Shoe. Leader: Call 201-569-0344. 5-6 moderately strenuous miles.

SUNDAY, FEB. 17

RVW. Cruger Island. For information call 845-246-5447. Easy hike: 4 miles, 2 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 9:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

TUESDAY, FEB. 12

RVW. Lewis Morris Park. M. Leader for information call Jeanne Seymour-Jones, 201-358-5726. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. 6-7 miles along the Morris ands and coffee Hallow Park.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13

RVW. Tulip Springs. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: For information call Cherry Shert, 295-291-0222. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. A 5-mile hike over the Rambles Falls and back by way of the Painters Point Trail.


THURSDAY, FEB. 14

UCHC. Anthony Wayne Drive. Leader: Arni-Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3684. Meet: 10:00 AM at Anthony Wayne Drive. 7-10 miles. Depending on conditions, we can hike West, Long and Back Mountains, or perhaps all of them.

FRIDAY - MONDAY, FEB. 15-18

MIRAMAR. President’s Day Week Ski Programs. Downhill and cross-country. Skiing at a boys’ ski lodge in Westfield, Vermont.

THURSDAY, FEB. 21

UCHC. jockey Hollow. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader before between 7 and 8:00 PM only. This will be a brisk hike of 3-4 miles.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

uchs. R. Letter Rock. Leader: Call 201-796-3004. 5-6 miles, 3 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 9:00. Inclement weather date—following Friday.

SUNDAY, FEB. 24

W.V. Appalachian Trail Long Path Loop. Leader: Don Wees, 973-835-2100. Meet: 9:00 AM at West Rock Park 150 Snake Den Rd., Rockwood, N.Y. 1-75. 9:00 miles along the popular AT Bottle Cap Long Path loop (with the crowds are away). Deeply-freshly hollows and rocky summits overlooking Lake Mohawk. Hike adjusted to weather conditions, some deep snow. Birding guides, chairs as needed. Non-members $8.


THURSDAY, FEB. 28

W.V. North Lake. For information call 201-246-7656. Easy hike, (snow- shoes and/ or cross-country skis may be necessary) 5-5 miles, 3 hours, Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 9:00. Inclement weather date—following Friday.

MONDAY, FEB. 18

W.V. Jennings Hollow. Leader: Ed Lellouche. Leader: 973-363-2799. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. 6-7 mile Sterling Ridge circular; remains of an old highway and stone walls.

THURSDAY, FEB. 21

Lorantaka Brook Reservation, Morris Township. Leader for information call 908-742-6633. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. A 5 mile hike where you can rack and watch your feet.

THURSDAY, FEB. 28

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

More than 80 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers’ Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our Web site or send an SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

**Hikers’ Almanac**

**January 2002**

**Saturday, Jan. 5**

**UCHC. Ramapo Lake.** Leader: Wally Segal, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 AM on Skyline Dr. at the first parking lot on the left (bottom of the hill). Take Rt. 207 to Exit 57, Skyline Dr. in Oakland. This is a very scenic, moderate, 5-6 mile hike; well worth the commute. View beautiful Ramapo Lake. Call leader if need to add additional directions due to possible rain. 

**BHC. Catskill Mountains.** Leader: Roy Williams, 973-667-9756. Meet: 10 AM at municipal parking lot, Suffern, NY. Contact the group as this is a steep, rocky, and snow-covered hike. Rain or poor driving conditions cancel. Possible dinner at local restaurant after hike.

**Sunday, Jan. 6**

**GHC. Ramapo Lake.** Leader: Wally Segal, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 AM at parking lot in the center of Ramapo Lake. Take Skyline Dr. to Exit 57, Skyline Dr. in Oakland. This is an easy, moderate hike; well worth the commute. View beautiful Ramapo Lake.

**RVW. Blackhead Mt (3,940).** Leader: Call 845-735-5304. 5 easy miles.

**Monday, Jan. 7**

**FVTW. Mills Reservation, Cedar Grove.** Leader: For information call Phellis Central at 11:07 (confirm time with Metro North) to Westport. Drivers: 3 miles at an easy pace. Check trail map; location. 3 miles along a section of the Lenape Trail.

**Mond, Jan. 7**

**FVTW. Windham High Peak (3,524) from Route 23.** For information call 845-246-4145. New York State Hiking Club. 1 easy mile.

**Saturday, Jan. 12**

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation.** Leader: Don Meissner, 973-229-2288. Meet: 10 AM at Sunnyside Park parking lot (western end of W St., Rt. 301). Average and easy miles. Non-members $3.

**WEC. Wayne awanda State Park.** Leader: Donnie West, 973-825-1200.

**Renew Early. Renew Now. Did you know? Membership Dues Have Increased. Current Members Can Save Money by Renewing Now For a Limited Time Only.**

From this moment through March 31, 2002, current members can renew their membership for as long as they want at 2001 prices. (A price increase for individual memberships was approved by voting members at the Conference’s Annual Meeting in October.) Regardless of when your Trail Conference membership is set to expire, NOW is the best time to renew it. You’ll be able to take advantage of special member-only discounts on trips; and you’ll be helping the Trail Conference at an important time, when open space and trail protection most need our attention and energy.

Act now. You’ll be helping yourself and strengthening the Trail Conference in its efforts to protect and extend access to unspoiled nature.

**Membership LEVEL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2001 DUES</th>
<th>2002 DUES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student/Student</td>
<td>$13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student/Studention</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor/Individual</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactor Individual</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefactor Joint</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Individual</td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Joint</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a limited time only, current members can renew their membership for as long as they want at 2001 prices. (A price increase for individual memberships was approved by voting members at the Conference’s Annual Meeting in October.) Regardless of when your Trail Conference membership is set to expire, NOW is the best time to renew it. You’ll be able to take advantage of special member-only discounts on trips; and you’ll be helping the Trail Conference at an important time, when open space and trail protection most need our attention and energy.

Act now. You’ll be helping yourself and strengthening the Trail Conference in its efforts to protect and extend access to unspoiled nature.

**Trail Walker**

The official publication of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

Volume XXIX, Number 1

ISSN 0749-1352

January/February 2002

**Mond, Jan. 14**

**FVTW. Windham High Peak (3,524) from Route 23.** For information call 845-246-4145. New York State Hiking Club. 1 easy mile.

**Tuesday, Jan. 15**

**FVTW. Tourne Park, Boonton.** Leader: Jack J., 973-348-4302. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 6.5 miles along a conglomerate of new, old and familiar trails.

**Wednesday, Jan. 16**

**FVTW. Ramapo Mountain State Forest.** Leader: Wally Segal, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 5 easy miles of Ramapo Lake and the surrounding mountains.

**Thursday, Jan. 17**

**FVTW. Paulins Kill Valley Trail, Ski or Hike.** Leader: Charles A. Koenker, 201-835-3600. Meet: 9:30 AM at Baldaton Diner on Rt. 94. 10-15 miles, length and location of event will depend on weather and amount of snow. Hike or snowshoe past a lake, large iron furnace and cedar swamp. Non-members $8.

**FVTW. Call 845-735-5304.** 5 easy miles.

**Friday, Jan. 18-21**

**MIRAMAR. Martin Luther King Jr. Ski Weekend.** Downhill and cross-country skiing. Travel by bus to our lodge in Waldenfield, Vermont. Call 222-9769 for information.

**Saturday, Jan. 19**

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation.** Leader: Don Meissner, 908-233-6643. Meet: 10 AM at the Farm House parking lot. 3.5 miles from the entrance on South Orange Ave. Enjoy a casual winter walk on marked and unmarked trails. Steady rain or snow cancels, but a bit of snow on the ground, we’ll ski instead.

**UCHC. Brookside Botanical Gardens.** Leader: Alan Kaye, 718-998-3787; no calls before Thursday evening. Meet: 10 AM at the entrance on Prospect Park Boulevard (back of train coming from Manhattan). 3 miles at an easy pace. Check trail map; location. 3 miles along a section of the Lenape Trail.

**Continued on page 23**