Xtreme Problem in New Jersey?

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has joined the opposition to a proposal to turn state land in the Wanaque Watershed/Wyanokie Highlands in West Milford, NJ, into a major off-road center for users of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other motorized, off-road riding machines. The site, formerly Jungle Habitat safari park, includes nearly 800 densely wood acres and a 3,000-car parking lot. It was purchased by New Jersey’s Green Acres program in 1988 for $1.4 million and is now managed by the state Division of Parks and Forestry. Residential and senior housing is nearby.

The motorized recreation proposal, called X-Treme Habitat, suggests 30 miles of trails for motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and bicycle motocross. It would comprise the largest collection of off-road/ATV trails in New Jersey. The organization would lease the land from the state.

In an anti-project petition, opponents, who include environmental and outdoor organizations as well as local residents, note that such vehicles “would cause severe erosion along the 30-mile trail system, degrade the water quality (via gasoline spills and unburned fuel seepage into the groundwater) in a watershed region, put stress on an already stressed water supply, increase traffic, and disturb surrounding communities with the noise of gunning engines.”

The site is part of a continuous greenway that links Sterling Forest with Norvin Green State Forest. The recently created long-distance Highlands Trail, designated New Jersey’s Millennium Trail, is immediately adjacent to the east side of the property.

Trail Conference Executive Director Edward Goodell notes: “Contrary to comments that the site is in a highly degraded condition, our site visit proved that it is in an advanced successional state of reforestation.” He says aerial photos indicate that 90 percent of the site was minimally disturbed during the Jungle Habitat incursion, with most of that consisting of the parking lot. No structures are currently left standing, he says, and only cyclone fences, a few overgrown roadbeds, and the parking lots—‘the larger of which has mature trees growing through the macadam”—remain. “In the 14 years since Jungle Habitat closed, previously cleared areas have returned to dense thickets of 30-40-foot tall forest trees. In the long view of protecting New Jersey’s natural landscape, this parcel is well on its way to mature forest habitat.”

The Trail Conference maintains two trails on the site. Trails Council chair Gary Hauiland made this written assessment of the project’s impact: “The proposal at full build-out will require the complete relocation of the footpaths on the property, as they will intersect with the numerous vehicular traffic routes and create unpleasant if not dangerous situations. The noise of the motorized vehicles—most of which use primitive and polluting engine technology—and, as the proposal emphasizes, the roar of the crowds at competitions, will be loud. Trail volunteers will not want to work in such an environment and few hikers will find quiet there. In short, the property will not be a welcome addition to the hiking community.”

As of press time, the Conference and its allies were emphasizing to state officials the risks such a site would pose to vital water resources and making the case that the proposed use violates the spirit and letter of the Green Acres legislation.

New Map Set, Guide Books Now Available

GPS Technology Basis for 2002

North Jersey Map Set

The NY-NJ Trail Conference is pleased to announce publication of the 2002 edition of the North Jersey Trails map set. In this new, sixth edition, all of the existing and new trails have been replotted using Global Position System (GPS) technology. This ensures that the trails are generally plotted to within approximately 30 feet. Besides the new accuracy of the trail locations, many park boundaries have been added and corrected. Viewpoints, parking areas, and shelters have all been replotted and rechecked for accuracy. Highlights of the new map set include the Highlands Trail, South Ridge Trail, and many trails in Sterling Forest.

Space precludes naming all those who assisted with this project, but Trail Conference GPS data coordinator John Juraszek thanks the many volunteers who helped with project by hiking trails with the GPS units, field checking for accuracy, and helping out with other fact checking. As with all Trail Conference projects, dedicated volunteers made the new map set happen.

New Editions of Two Popular Guide Books

Also now available are brand-new editions of popular guide books for those walking and hiking in the New York metropolitan area. Hiking Long Island and Day Walker each feature walks for people of all ages and hiking abilities. Many hikes in each book are accessible from public transportation. Day Walker introduces footpaths in New York and New Jersey that are within 60 miles of the George Washington Bridge. These are great “starter” guides as well as an excellent resource for metro residents looking for an array of footpaths to explore close to home.

To order books and maps, see page 9.

Trail Maintenance Skills Workshops

Saturday, April 27 • 9 AM to 4 PM
Advance Sign-up Required

Learn or brush up your trail maintenance skills at the NY-NJ Trail Conference’s annual trail maintenance workshop series, scheduled for April 27. Select a class that is appropriate for your experience, from beginning to more advanced. We will start out with classroom lecture and discussion at a location near Schunemunk Mountain in Orange County, NY, and then move to Schunemunk for field demonstrations and practice. Classes are open to both members and nonmembers. Advance registration is required and class size is limited. Select a workshop, fill out the registration form on page 3, and send it to the TC office by April 9, along with a $3 registration fee ($4 for nonmembers). An information packet will be sent to all registrants in late April. Sign-up is first come, first served. Past workshops have been over-subscribed, so send in your registration early.

Workshops will be held rain or shine.

Maintenance 101

Acquire basic trail maintenance skills with this introductory workshop. Trail clipping, blazing, and the basic standards of trail maintenance will be covered; we’ll also learn how to recognize problems and take care of them before they become major obstacles to hikers. If you are a new or a potential maintainer and have not yet taken a basic maintenance course, this one is highly recommended.

Construction and Restoration

Get ready to tackle bigger trail projects by learning how to construct water bars and other drainage structures, and understanding the basics of rock construction—continued on page 3.
Our Next Generation

Who will care of the trails next when those of us now over fifty are gone? It is the youth of today, and we need to kindle their interest in hiking, the environment, and volunteering. The Trail Conference has several programs that work to nurture these interests in young generations. Our Outreach Program at Tiorati Circle in Harriman State Park, in which TC volunteers lead families on short hikes on the Appalachian Trail, is one. Another is a projects fund set up to honor the memory of Elizabeth Levers, a tireless worker for trails who firmly believed that youth should be involved.

Elizabeth was a no-nonsense woman who devoted her energies seven days a week to the Appalachian Trail after her retirement from an administrative post at Columbia University. She is known for her involvement in the early land acquisition planning for the AT in New York, as well as setting the standard for AT management for our region. Thanks to a generous gift from her relatives at Elizabeth's death in 1999, the Trail Conference is able to provide funds for youth trail projects on lands open to the public. The money is meant to help start-up work and not to fund entire projects.

Youth group leaders need to realize that projects vary in location and type. What will work for one group—bridge-building by older teens—might not be appropriate for a younger group. Interest levels, skills, motivation, and attention span all factor into what works best. To help the group, a volunteer oversees the project, sometimes providing training, other times just being there.

The Appalachian Trail in Dutchess and Putnam Counties has benefited from youth efforts, as supervisor Ron Rosen always manages to find projects suitable for young people. One group built the tent pads at the Wiley Shelter, others have relocated a trail segment, and an Eagle Scout candidate directed troop members in building a new latrine. Bob Jonas in Norvin Green State Forest in New Jersey has overseen numerous scout projects involving trail restoration and relocation. I had the privilege of working with a Girl Scout Gold Award candidate as she photographed viewpoints in Putnam County, recorded the compass settings, and also photographed the place from where each view photo was taken. Others can return in five years to see what changes have occurred and take another photograph. These examples are just a few ways that you can be involved.

Not all projects require funding, but some do. Trail registers, bog bridges, and kiosks all cost money, sometimes more than a single individual can afford for his or her project. Lack of funds for major trail projects should not deter young people or their leaders, as the Trail Conference has the means of providing some of the funds, thanks to the Levers Fund.

If you are working with youth, are a young person with a trail project, or know of someone who qualifies, go to www.nynct.org/grants.html and look for the Levers Memorial Grant. The form was deliberately kept simple and there is a sample of an application. You can also call the Trail Conference office at 201-512-9348 for information and an application.

—Jane Daniels
President, Board of Directors
More Land Wins Lead to More Work

The Trail Conference began as a volunteer organization dedicated to conservation when in 1920 Major William Welch, an early general manager of the Palisades Interstate Park, asked metropolitan area hiking clubs to work with him to manage the oversee and abuse that the fledgling PIPC lands were then experiencing. Today, much has changed, but the Trail Conference’s task is still the same—providing the nation’s most densely populated region with public access to a wilderness experience and, by doing so, helping to preserve the region’s environmental integrity.

What was true in 1920 is even more true today. With ever more land coming into public ownership, land managers are spread even more thinly in their stewardship role. The support they get from volunteer organizations like the Trail Conference becomes more essential with every new celebrated acquisition of conservation lands.

And there has been a lot to celebrate in our region. Almost half of the open space ballots in New Jersey this past November were passed by very high margins even though most required a property tax increase. The New Jersey Green Acres Program, the driving force behind open space acquisitions in the state, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year with over 480,000 acres protected, more than 35 percent of that in the last four years. New Jersey nature lovers everywhere need to continue to support this program so it can reach its goal of a million acres protected by the year 2010.

In New York, more than 300,000 acres have been preserved since 1999. And in his 2002 State of the State address, Governor Pataki also set a “goal of preserving over one million acres of open space over the next decade.” To do this, the New York legislature and the governor need to authorize the expenditures of dedicated Environmental Protection Fund dollars.

If land acquisition of this magnitude does occur in the next decade in New York and New Jersey, it will represent the last great acquisition effort on behalf of conservation in the region. As I’ve mentioned in this column before, the region is quickly being “built out” and within a decade or two, all land will either be developed or conserved. At that point, the great conservation question will shift from how do we acquire enough land to how do we take care of it adequately. The role of on-the-ground volunteers is a critical and essential part of the solution.

Enhancing Our Support

To meet that challenge, the Trail Conference is working on two strategies: strengthening its volunteer efforts and launching a science-based program of environmental monitoring and restoration. To help accomplish the first, the position of Volunteer Projects Director has been established; to help with the second, we are seeking funds to establish a Science Director position.

The first priority of the Volunteer Projects Director will be to assist the Trails Council and publication units in strengthening their volunteer efforts. For example, the Trail Conference needs to develop additional trail crew capacity so that it can respond to the many opportunities to build and maintain trails on new and acquired conservation lands. Additionally, the Volunteer Projects Director will help launch new volunteer programs on trail lands, such as monitoring occurrences of rare endangered and threatened species as well as removing invasive species.

The main task of a Science Director will be to create science-based programs to monitor and protect the ecological health of the trail lands maintained by the Trail Conference. The Science Director would work with the Science Advisory Committee to integrate environmental considerations into Trail Conference stewardship and education programs. Our goal will be to develop a body of science to support efforts to influence environmental policy and decision-making. We are beginning several hands-on projects this spring, including natural heritage monitoring and hemlock woolly adelgid research.

As we look forward to these challenges, it is important to state unequivocally that the Trail Conference has been, and always will be, a volunteer organization. Not only does the magnitude of the work facing us require it, but volunteering for nature is one of the deepest and most meaningful ways of connecting with nature. Given that our mission is to enable the public to connect with nature, providing opportunities to volunteer one’s time so that others can experience nature will remain a signature priority of the Trail Conference.

—Ed Goodell

Advocacy & Conservation

TC Negotiating for Gunk Acres

The Trail Conference has been very actively working toward its goal of creating a permanently protected corridor along the entire 35-mile length of the Shawangunk Ridge. John Myers, Conference trail lands coordinator, has contacted nearly all of the key landowners along the ridge and identified 30 willing sellers. So far he has obtained signed options for more than 600 acres, with 500 acres awaiting signatures. Active negotiations are still in progress for an additional 500 acres. The Conference also received approval by Orange County to purchase a 11-taxed sale parcels from them totaling 150 acres. Altogether, with 525 acres already under option by the Trust for Public Land, this totals over 2,200 acres of Shawangunk Ridge lands. Funding sources to hold these land until they can be transferred to New York State are being sought.

If readers know of anyone willing to assist in purchasing some of the key smaller individual tracts through short-term loans, please contact Ed Goodell or John Myers through the Conference office. The Conference is also working closely with the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition partners on the casinos issue in Sullivan County, where a casino site has been proposed directly on top of the ridge off Route 17 at Wurtsboro. To address this and other economic growth issues, the coalition is sponsoring a meeting in April in Mamaroneck of officials from all 11 ridge towns to discuss “Smart Growth” approaches to development.

Keep up with news of the Shawangunk Ridge via www.shawangunkridge.org

Support Needed Now for Pataki Environmental Proposals

Hikers and others interested in open space issues may want to support two proposals made by Governor George Pataki in his January State of the State address. The first, with an immediate deadline, is to spend in the 2001/02 fiscal year $125 million set aside for the Environmental Protection Fund but not yet appropriated. The governor proposes the spending carried out by means of a “deficiency” budget appropriation that the legislature must approve by March 31, 2002.

Pataki has also proposed to budget $125 million to the EPF in 2002/03. Given the state’s budget problems, that’s good news. The bad news is that some items previously charged to the General Fund

REGISTRATION FORM

TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2002

Please check the one you want to attend:

☐ Maintenance “101”
☐ Construction and Restoration
☐ Trail Layout & Design
☐ I am a Trail Conference Member and I enclose a check for $3.00
☐ I am not a Trail Conference Member and I enclose a check for $4.00.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Day Phone (_____)_______  Eve. Phone (_____)_______

If yes, do you work:

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, do you work:

☐ As an individual or ☐ with a club?

Name of club, if applicable:

Name of trail you maintain:

☐ Check here if you have questions and would like someone to call you.

Return by April 19th with a check payable to: NY-NJ Trail Conference, Trail Maintenance Workshop, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

continued on page 9

MAINTENANCE WORKSHOPS

continued from page 1

stairs, retaining walls, and stream crossings. This workshop is ideal for those who are on or would like to join a trail crew, or for individual maintainers facing drainage, water, and erosion issues on their trails.

Trail Layout and Design

In the best of all worlds, trails are carefully laid out and designed to result in minimum impact to the environment while maximizing the pleasure and safety of the hiker. This course will offer an introduction to the process of planning and designing a new trail or relocation. Topics will include: assessing trail lands management requirements, designing to reduce maintenance needs, maintaining an appropriate elevation grade, locating and evaluating points of interest, dealing with sites that are naturally or historically significant, and anticipating potential user impact and conflicts.

Science Workshops: June 15

Keep an eye out in our May/June Trail Walker for details about science workshops to be offered by our Science Advisory Committee. Topics will be AT natural heritage monitoring and woolly adelgid research (see story on hemlocks, page 7).
TRAIL C Rob Schedules

For the latest schedules, check www.nynjct.org/volunteers/trvolo.phtml#crew

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 NEW JERSEY CREW

Leaders: David Day & Monica Resor: 732-937-9098, westjerseycrew@trails2build.com or Larry Wheelock: 973-823-9999, wheelock@warwick.net

Pochuck Wrap-up
(Yes, the AT Pochuck relocation is opened, but it’s not done! The goal is to get the trail ready for its Grand Opening on September 14.)

April 20-21; May 4-5

The remaining work includes: extending the boardwalk at the Rt. 517 end out to Rt. 517 (approximately 200 feet); adding boardwalk over a low spot in the woods, contiguous to the last section completed in the fall (approximately 150 feet); installing edging and railings on the last sections completed last fall; and installing tile-downs on much of the boardwalk constructed last summer. In short, there’s plenty to be done!

Meeting time is 9:00 am on all days. Please phone the leaders for the meeting place.

EAST HUDSON CREW

Contact: Walt Daniels 914-243-1230 or wdaniel@be8eweb.net Leaders needed. Contact Walt Daniels

The East Hudson Trail Crew has some exciting opportunities to build several new trails. In cooperation with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, we will work on trails on private property easements in the southern Hudson Highlands. In cooperation with Scenic Hudson, we will work on a new trail up the front face of Mt. Beacon. In cooperation with the Town of Cortlandt and Scenic Hudson, we will work on a network of trails on the 350-acre Hilltop property. The exact order of work is undecided as there are ongoing trail design and ecological assessments that must be completed first.

Hudson Highlands

Saturday, April 13, vicinity of North Redoubt. Meet at 9 am at the Garrison Train Station, where we will pick up those arriving by train.

WEST HUDSON CREW

The West Hudson crew will be doing erosion control and trail rehabilitation on various trails, and also starting on a new historical trail near Fort Clinton. If you would like to volunteer for any of our work projects please call the leader for information including time and place of meeting, Bring water, lunch and work gloves. We supply tools.

Leader contacts:
Crew Chief: Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792, email rmmarshall@webtv.net
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7565, email briangrandrenovation.com
Chris Ezzo: 516-431-1148 Claudia Ganz: 221-633-1324, email clganz@earthlink.net

McOnie Resor: 732-937-9098, email adamant@trails2build.com

Special Project:
Doodletown Historical Walking Tour and Clean-up, Bear Mountain State Park
For more information contact: Robert Marshall (see above)
Saturday, April 6 (Marshall)
Sunday, April 7 (Ezzo)

Schunemunk Preserve
Sunday, April 14, Long Path (Marshall)

Harriman State Park
Thursday, April 18, Pine Meadow Trail (Marshall)
Sunday, April 21, Pine Meadow Trail (Marshall)

Sterling Forest State Park
Sunday, April 28, Southfields Furnace Trail (Buchbinder)

Bear Mountain State Park
Saturday, May 4, Twin Forks Trail (Ezzo) Sunday, May 5, Twin Forks Trail (Ezzo)

HIGHLANDS CREW

Leader: Bob Moss, 973-741-5203

For details, call no more than one week before the scheduled work date.

Tentative Schedule:
Sunday, April 14; Sunday, April 28

Clubs: Plan Now for National Trails Day, June 1

The 10th Annual National Trails Day will be celebrated Saturday, June 1, 2002. The focus of NTD this year is on the health benefits of hiking. Increase the physical and mental well-being of your members and community by hosting a National Trails Day event, and let the Trail Conference know of your plans: we will publicize them in the next issue of Trail Walker (send a notice of your event to tw@nynjct.org or to TW at the NY-NJTC office).

Tips on planning your NTD event and incorporating the “Hike for Health” theme into it are offered online at the website of the American Hiking Society (www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/index.html).

Outdoor Expo Set for Monmouth County

An annual exhibition of outdoor recreation gear and adventures is scheduled by the Monmouth County Park System to take place Sunday, April 28 from 10 am to 4 pm at Turkey Swamp Park, Georgia Rd., Freehold, NJ. The expo will feature the latest in outdoor recreation equipment and is designed to acquaint the public with the many different outdoor adventure opportunities available through lectures, demonstrations and mini-clinics. Members of outdoor clubs will be on hand to answer questions and give advice. Experience the park system’s bouldering wall! Food can be purchased; camping will be available, Free admission and parking. Call Ann Marie Onato, 732-842-4000 ext. 4240 for more information.

Sierra Club Singles Puts Out Welcome Mat

The Sierra Club Singles Section of New Jersey provides opportunities for singles with a love for the outdoors and concern for the environment to come together, have fun, and help protect the wilderness. Meetings are held in the Library of the Chathams; other events—speakers, hikes, social dinners, and the occasional old movie—are scheduled in various locations. For information, visit the group’s webpage at http://www.sierraenvironweb.org/~single/, or call a recorded message line at 973-364-7573. All are welcome, regardless of membership or marital status.

Sierra Club Puts Out Welcome Mat

The Sierra Club Single Section of New Jersey provides opportunities for singles with a love for the outdoors and concern for the environment to come together, have fun, and help protect the wilderness. Meetings are held in the Library of the Chathams; other events—speakers, hikes, social dinners, and the occasional old movie—are scheduled in various locations. For information, visit the group’s webpage at http://www.sierraenvironweb.org/~single/, or call a recorded message line at 973-364-7573. All are welcome, regardless of membership or marital status.

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GET INVOLVED
Looking for a Few Good Volunteers

Maintainers Needed
As is evident in this issue’s published schedules of trail maintenance workshops (see page 1) and upcoming trail crew work dates (see page 4), the time of peak volunteer trail activity fast approaches. Trail maintainers of all levels of skill and experience are needed throughout the New York-New Jersey region. Whether you prefer to work alone in the woods or with a group, there is a place for you as a maintainer. In return, you earn the satisfaction of keeping our trails safe and open for users now and in the future. Get more information online at www.nyntjc.org or contact staff member Larry Wheelock at wheelock@nyntjc.org; telephone 201-332-9348.

Wanted: Super Sleuths
The technology committee needs a super sleuth to ferret out information from paper files, maps, individuals, and the web to add to and improve the Trail Conference database of trails and maintainers. For example, the database has extensive information about trails, but not necessarily which maps they are on; data on length of service by individual maintainers is incomplete, thus impeding proper recognition of their contributions. A lot of this information gathering will test your map reading and trail knowledge; it’s a perfect rainy day or winter pastime. Work at your own pace on a one-shot deal. Much of it can even be done at home if you have almost any database program or spreadsheet. The work to be done can easily be separated into either regions or topics so multiple people can participate. Contact Walt Daniels, wdaniels@bestweb.net to volunteer or for more information.

Share Nature with Urban Families
Training Date: May 18
If you would like to share your love of nature and hiking with others, consider joining the Trail Conference’s Harriman Park Tiorati Circle Outreach program this summer. On Saturdays from June 29 through August 3, Trail Conference members will guide families visiting the park on short trail walks. A training workshop for leaders is scheduled for Saturday, May 18. Additional details and registration information will be published in the next issue of Trail Walker. Save the date. This program is cosponsored with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and receives financial support from the Appalachian Trail Conference. It continues a very successful Tiorati Outreach program implemented last summer.

Drivers, Hosts Needed for AT Survey This Season
The Appalachian Trail Conference seeks logistical support for an important mapping project of the entire centerline of the AT using sophisticated Global Positioning System equipment. Volunteer shuttle drivers (available during the regular hiking season), residences, hosts, or other facilities where the AT surveyor could set up equipment and stay overnight (cost arrangements will be taken care of), and listings of any potential drivers, nearby hotels, or residences are sought. The data collected in this survey will be used not only for trail maps, publications, and geographic analysis, but will aid in trail protection by being available to federal, state, and municipal agencies, trail clubs, and for use in negotiations with the wireless telecommunications industry.

Restore a 19th Century Marker?
In January, the Trail Conference received the following note:

“On a recent hike along the Old Arden Road (which parallels the New York Thruway in Harriman Park), my husband and I paused to read the 4’ vertical marker placed along the road in the late 1800s by the American entrepreneur Edward H. Harriman. The etching on the stone describes the Arden Road as the first experiment in building flat roads in hilly terrain in America.

Unfortunately, the passage of time has rendered the stone practically unreadable. Forty years ago this interesting historical marker was still easy to read, but over the years we noticed the steady wearing away of the lettering to its present practically unreadable condition.

“We believe this small slice of American history should be restored or replaced. To walk this road and to see the busy New York Thruway adjacent to it is to see history compressed before one’s eyes.”

—Marianne Van Blarcom

Is anyone interested in tackling this project?

From the Trail Conference Archives

Relishing the Files and Flotsam of TC’s Past

Jules Orkin, new volunteer archivist for the NY-NJTC, is not only cataloguing the Conference’s extensive collection of historical papers, photos, and artifacts, he is alert for the stories they harbor. Mr. Orkin sends this tale—the first in what we hope will be a series of occasional reports from the Conference’s history cabinets—about a drinking cup used by famed hiker and Hudson Highlands Park advocate William Thompson Howell (learn about him in the New York Walk Book). Both the cup and the story (condensed and edited for publication) were donated at Mr. Orkin’s request by TC member Robert Schulz of Queens.

DRINKING CUP SPELS A STORY AND A QUERY
Robert Schulz writes:

“In the late 1960s I hiked once in a while with the Fresh Air Club. Most of the members were on in years but still very active. Most often in Harriman Park, they met at a secret location called ‘the tombstone,’ near a rock which resembled a tombstone. It was located on a little knoll beside a rippling brook. They had a crude open-front lean-to made of tree limbs, complete with a deacon seat, and would drink tea out of pots and cups that were stashed there. There were pots and cups stashed at other locations in the park as well.

“Over the years, we would discuss William Thompson Howell, who had hiked with the Fresh Air Club, but was not a member. [Howell died in 1916]. It seems that in 1939, the club searched for the various places that Howell and his hicking companions stashed their cooking pots and such. The cache at Stalter’s Spring was found and club members were of the opinion that no one had visited it since Howell’s time.

“On Saturday, June 21, 1969, I went in search of Stalter’s Spring and found the spring, but not the utensils hidden nearby. On September 21, 1969, I returned to Stalter’s Spring and found the cups. There were six of them, and I took one home for safekeeping. It has until now been in my glass closet with instructions written on a piece of paper in it to give it to the Trail Conference if anything happened to me.”

Mr. Schulz further notes that the Fresh Air Club disbanded around 1978, “after being around for about 100 years. At the time I hiked with them, women were not allowed, which may have been a factor in the decline of the members.”

He also poses this historical question: Just north of the spring is a slope of rock boulders. On a tree growing out of them is an ancient wooden sign that reads in faint letters, “Water 25 Feet. Bob Porpy” Who is or was Bob Porpy?

Readers: If you have the answer and would share it with us, please write to the Trail Conference office or send the archivist an email: bookstop@belalantic.net.

A Thank You
In addition to the contribution by Robert Schulz, another long-time Trail Conference member recently made a donation to the archives. William J. Myles, author of Harriman Trails, gave the contents of his historical collection of books, maps, and research. Among the notable items received by the archives were an almost complete set of maps by William Hoefler and a copy of Winbeam by Minnie Mae Monks.

Contributions of regional hiking memorabilia, photos, and stories are welcomed by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference archives. Direct inquiries to the Conference office.

—Jules Orkin,
Trail Conference archivist
You!

SECTION:

VOL.

NO.

PAGE:

ISSUE DATE:

LOCAL

OFFICE:

SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY:

SOUTHERN NEW YORK:

SPACE:

The challenge: Raise $25,000 for Shawangunk protection from Trail Conference members to get an additional $25,000 from an anonymous donor. Within just a few weeks of that offer at the end of 2001, a winning response from TC members made the challenge a done deal. By the end of January, Executive Director Edward Goodell reported that nearly 600 members had contributed over $66,000—more than double the goal. Goodell thanks all who contributed to the Shawangunk cause, and notes that the Conference is moving forward with its effort “to add the Shawangunk Ridge to the ‘permanently protected’ category that includes Storm King Mountain, Minnewaska, Sterling Forest, and Schunnemunk Mountain.” See Advocacy, page 3; to keep up with news of protection efforts, visit www.shawangunkridge.org.
Hemlocks

by Joan Ehrenfeld

Walking through a hemlock grove is like no other experience on a hike in the northeast. On even the most brilliantly sunlit day, the shade and the enveloping cool, moist air come as a surprise. Hemlocks occupy a unique role in eastern forests, so an appreciation of their biology and place in the woods is a fitting way to introduce a column on the ecology of the lands through which TC members pass.

Our hemlock ranges from northern Michigan, across southern Ontario and Quebec to Maine and Nova Scotia, south to Pennsylvania, and then down the Appalachian Mountains just into Georgia. It is a tree of extreme traits—more shade-tolerant than any other tree in the northeastern forest, and capable of growing bigger and older than most other trees in the region.

Unlike most other trees, whose seedlings require some light to become established, survive, and grow, hemlock seedlings can persist in the dense shade cast by their parents. Hemlock forests have an unusual appearance—there are few other plants growing in the understory, as it is too dark for all but a handful, and among that handful, hemlocks are the only young trees. In virtually any other type of forest, there is a diversity of herbs, shrubs, and young trees; not so in hemlock stands. New seedlings grow slowly, sometimes only one to two inches in the first year, and a plant can stay that small for as long as 100 years—just surviving, hardly growing—until a bit more light becomes available and it turns into a respectable-sized tree. Once having survived and grown, hemlocks can reach extraordinary ages and sizes: up to 1,000 years old, 7 feet in diameter, and more than 160 feet tall. Hemlocks require environments that are relatively cool and moist. For this reason, pure hemlock forests are usually found only on north- or east-facing slopes, or in narrow ravines that shade the ground during long summer days. The soil under the hemlocks is also notable. The blanket of slowly decomposing needles forms a thick layer of organic material above the mineral soil; it is soft and springy to walk on and retains the moisture so necessary to the plant’s growth. This layer may contain most of the tree’s feeder roots—in essence, the tree is perched above the soil on a surface of its own creating.

Hemlock forests were once much more abundant in this region, especially in the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains. However, the bark contains high concentrations of tannin; this chemical helps the tree by warding off insects and other pathogens, and inhibiting decay organisms, but also is the basis for turning hides into leather. Excessive tanneries operating during the mid to late 1800s stripped these woods of their hemlocks, and the dry, warm conditions in the logged stands prevented any hemlock seedlings from surviving.

Tragically, a new problem is further reducing our hemlock stands, and threatens to eliminate them. The hemlock woolly adelgid, an insect pest inadvertently imported from Asia, is causing the decline and death of hemlocks in a belt from North Carolina to Massachusetts. Beetles that eat the adelgid have been introduced, but the future of the Eastern hemlock in our forest community is still in doubt.

Joan G. Ehrenfeld is a professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, Cook College, Rutgers University. She chairs the Science Advisory Committee of the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Note: The TC plans to initiate a woolly adelgid monitoring program. Watch future issues of TW for details.

New NYC Watershed Permits Required for Recreational Use

If you wish to use NYC-owned watershed lands, you must apply for a new comprehensive permit—a general Public Access Permit—that will, hiking and hunting on certain designated lands in the watershed. People who currently hold five-year or lifetime boating permits for the reservoirs may keep those permits, but they will still need to apply for a new Public Access Permit. And anyone who has a five-year fishing or hiking permit will be mailed an application for a new one by March 1, as will all registered boat owners and hunting permit applicants. Applications also may be picked up at town halls and bait and tackle shops in the watershed and at Department of Environmental Protection police precincts. Forms also are available online at www.nyc.gov/watershed/recreation.

Completed applications must be mailed to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, 71 Smith Ave., Kingston, NY 12401. Once permits are ready, applicants will be notified and can pick them up in-person—provided they present a government-issued photo ID. Permits will not be issued to anyone other than the applicant, nor will they be mailed.

People with questions about new permits may call 845-265-0019. The Daniel Smiley Research Center is accepting applications from junior or senior high school students and freshman or sophomore college students for the 2002 Thorn Scheuer Land Stewardship Internship. The intern will assist in basic ranger duties and be responsible for a special project and a written report. For information and to apply, call 845-265-0019.

The Mohonk Preserve is accepting applications from junior or senior high school students and freshman or sophomore college students for the 2002 Thorn Scheuer Summer Research Internships. The Schaefer Intern will collect daily baseline data and participate in land management research projects. For information and to apply, please call 845-265-5969.

Environmental Science for Non-Scientists

Saturday, April 13

This day-long seminar will provide activists and others interested in the natural world with a basic understanding of the science underlying many of the conservation issues of our day. Planned topics include: air pollution and acid rain, forest ecology and invasive species, landscape ecology, habitat fragmentation, ecological restoration, and more. Instruction will be led by Peter Anderson, physical geographer, and other West Point Faculty. Location: Ramapo College, Malwah, NJ. Public transit accessible. To register, contact Jill Hamell, jmb@pobox.com; 973-483-1881. Sponsored by the NY-North Jersey Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Vernal Pool Workshop

Saturday, March 16

Vernal pools, though ephemeral, provide habitat for many species of amphibians, insects, reptiles, plants and other wildlife, and New Jersey officials seek volunteers to help map and monitor the state’s inventory of such sites. The Endangered and Nongame Species Program of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will be holding two training seminars for vernal pool volunteers. Each training will be an all-day crash course on vernal pool biology and survey methods. The training entails both lecture (2 hours) and field (4 hours) components. It is intended only for serious volunteers who are willing to wade hip-deep in water, often during cool springtime nights. In northern New Jersey, training will be held Saturday, March 16 (snow date April 6) at the Lord Stirling Environmental Center, from 9 am to 4 pm.

To register online, go to http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/vpoltrn1.htm.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FOR NON-SCIENTISTS

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This day-long seminar will provide activists and others interested in the natural world with a basic understanding of the science underlying many of the conservation issues of our day. Planned topics include: air pollution and acid rain, forest ecology and invasive species, landscape ecology, habitat fragmentation, ecological restoration, and more. Instruction will be led by Peter Anderson, physical geographer, and other West Point Faculty. Location: Ramapo College, Malwah, NJ. Public transit accessible. To register, contact Jill Hamell, jmb@pobox.com; 973-483-1881. Sponsored by the NY-North Jersey Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

TRAIL WALKER MARCH/APRIL 2002 7
great surge of pride in our country and all that it represents. But when I read the article I found myself concerned.

Yes, the trail is not a place for political or religious symbols. I agree. But that is not what I am seeing in the picture. Yes, the trail should give us nature in its purest state, but that is what that thing in the background? I think it is the Bear Mountain Bridge. And I think that the w Bridge is also visible. Looking down on those structures from Anthony’s Nose has never bothered me, but I guess it bothers Mr. Wheelock.

If a large, permanent pole with lights and a plaza had been erected at Anthony’s Nose maybe I’d be concerned, but I guess it worries Mr. Wheelock.

I find the 9/11-01 events, I think that Mr. Wheelock should be proud that his country’s flag was flying so proudly, rather than worrying about political correctness. Lighten up. Next it will be blazes, and worrying about political correctness.

I found myself concerned. I think it more important to say God Bless America.

I am an American; born in Brooklyn, NY. I do not believe that our trails and nature preserves are the places for flags. Wave the flag on your own property. Nature preserves are the places for flags.

I traverse Sterling Ridge on Route 17A on my commute home from my job in Paterson regularly. On a crystal clear day in the late fall and winter, I can catch a glimpse of the Manhattan skyline fronted by a wondrous rural vista. It is a stunning juxtaposition of the great metropolis with what remains of the bucolic beauty of Orange County. Now, the dominance of the twin towers in that fleeting one second glimpse of the city is no longer; its absence fills me with the hope, more than ever, that we human beings will strive to resolve our differences peacefully.

Russ Layne
Chester, NY

Still a Haunting Absence

I found Glenn Scherer’s lead article “The View No More” (November/December 2001) very poignant. It was sobering to read in print sentiments that I have continued from page 2
### Advocacy & Conservation

continued from page 3

may be charged to the EFP, if the governor’s proposals are adopted. This includes some $1.5 million a year for facilities rehabilitation and improvements in Forest Preserve and Department of Environmental Conservation lands. The governor has also proposed to take $500 million in unspent EFP funds and accumulated interest for general spending purposes.

Says TC and ADK counsel Neil Woodworth of the proposals: “The $100 million sweep is not a good thing, but at least it does not subtract from the customary statutory annual appropriation of $2.5 million. It is my hope that concerns over this, while very valid, will not prevent an agreement between the legislature and the governor. Otherwise, New York will go without EFP funding for another disastrous year. It is time to approve the $250 million for EFP projects through April 1, 2003, and get on with protecting New York’s environment.”

Proposed Loan Fund May Help NY Land Purchases

The last $112.4 million from New York State’s 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act will likely be spent in 2002/03, if proposals by Governor Pataki are adopted. The total amount for environmental projects proposed by the governor for all environmental projects in the next fiscal year is $4.1 billion, about $100 million over last year’s total. With no bond act money remaining for land acquisition, the amount proposed for land acquisition—to be taken solely from the Environmental Protection Fund (EFP)—plus $2.5 million in federal Forest Legacy funds—is $66 million for Forest Preserve and state park projects through March 2003, and another $12 million for farm-land preservation. The Trail Conference and ADK will lobby to get this number increased, but, realistically, the state may be hard pressed to get more than this sum between now and April, 2003.

To make these dollars go farther, the governor has proposed to allow loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to not-for-profit organizations, including ADK and the Trail Conference, to fund land acquisition projects that protect water quality. Not-for-profit organizations could obtain low-interest, long-term loans through the CWSRF for eligible projects that preserve open space. Loan costs could be reimbursed by the state when the state acquires the park or open space property in future years.

Bottom line in New York: the state is out of money for buying land. The Trail Conference and its allies will work to persuade the legislature to pass the 2002–2003 state budget with a fully funded EFP by summer in order to ensure that land acquisition opportunities are not lost because of lack of funding.

### NJ Watershed Lands Reserved

The State of New Jersey has agreed to spend nearly $10 million for the development rights to 9,284 acres of Highlands watershed lands owned by the City of Newark. The land is spread across Passaic, Sussex, and Morris Counties and is the source of drinking water for more than 2 million state residents. Combined with another 8,817 acres similarly preserved in the 1990s, protected land in the watershed now totals more than 18,000 acres.

### Hudson River Site Protected

Ninety-three acres on the Hudson River in Garrison have been saved from development as a result of a purchase by the Open Space Institute. OPI has agreed to pay $7.4 million to the Capuchin Friary, whose members had been considering selling the land to a developer. The parcel, known as Glenclyffe, is across from West Point and adjoins Arden Point State Park to the north. The future of the site continues to be under study.

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### 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.
The Trail Less Traveled
Wild New Jersey

By Shawn Viggiano

Resource: Trail Map 18 in the TC’s Kittatinny Trails map set

This nine-mile hike in High Point State Park takes you to one of the wildest areas in extreme northwest New Jersey. You traverse a ridge with expansive views of the Pocono Mountains, Wallkill River valley, Wawayanda Mountain, High Point Monument, and the Kittatinny ridge. You also hike in a valley along a pristine natural lake, crystal clear streams, and through dense forest.

The hike starts at the Appalachian Trail parking lot off of Route 23 in High Point State Park. Next to the park office, walk past the bulletin board and turn left onto the white-blazed Appalachian Trail and head south. (Caution: sections of the Appalachian Trail are very rocky.) At .1 mile from the trailhead, you pass the red-blazed Iris Trail on your left. (The Iris Trail connects with the AT three times. The return loop of this hike will be on the Iris Trail.) Continue south on the AT. At .9 miles you come to a junction with the Blue Dot Trail on your right. A short detour of .1 mile onto the Blue Dot Trail brings you to an exposed ledge and the first of the viewpoints. To the west are Sawmill Lake and High Point State Park. Beyond the lake you get a glimpse of the Delaware River Valley and the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Looking south, you see the Kittatinny Ridge all the way to Stokes State Forest and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area. Notice how wild the area is; not a road or house in site!

Retrace your steps back to the Appalachian Trail; turn right and continue heading south. You descend into a valley, then ascend steeply up to a nice ledge and another ridge. At 2.4 miles (not counting the Blue Dot detour) you get your first view of Lake Rutherford, the Wallkill River valley, with its rolling farms, Wawayanda Mountain, and the New Jersey Highlands. At 2.6 miles a blue-blazed side trail connects with the AT on your left; it leads .4 mile to the Rutherford Shelter. Continue south on the Appalachian Trail. At 3.4 miles you pass a second intersection with the red-blazed Iris Trail. Continue south on the white-blazed AT. The next .8 mile extends through a wet valley, then back onto the main ridge, where you go through a pitch pine forest. At 4.2 miles you come to a clearing from which there are nice views to the east. At 4.6 miles the red-blazed Iris Trail connects with the AT for the third and final time. At this intersection, turn right onto the red-blazed Iris Trail.

The next 2.4 miles take you through a beautiful valley between the main ridges. You pass remnants of what were at one time farm fields. Notice the crystal clear streams. You intersect with the white-blazed Appalachian Trail; be sure to stay on the red-blazed Iris Trail. At 7.0 miles you come to an overlook of one of the most pristine natural lakes in New Jersey, Lake Rutherford (it is a water supply for the town of Sussex). Continue north on the Iris Trail. The next two miles take you through some dense forest and unusual rock outcroppings. At 9.0 miles you come to the Appalachian Trail and the end of the Iris Trail. Turn right onto the Appalachian Trail and take it .1 mile back to the trailhead.

This trail is worth the journey. Not too many people know about its existence. Discover the serenity and beauty in Sussex County.

The next trail is Pequannock Watershed.

Sunday, April 21
Pequannock Watershed
5 miles, moderate pace
Leader: Rob Lehmann
(robl@hikeleader.com); guide: Tom Gilbert
tgilbert@ncg.org

Join leaders of the Highlands Coalition on a moderately paced hike and tour of the most pristine natural lakes in New Jersey, including majestic views from atop a firetower. Along the way you will learn of ongoing efforts to protect the watershed and other critical treasures of the Highlands region.

Meeting place: NY-NJTC headquarters on Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202) in Mahwah, NJ, at 9:00am or at the trailhead at 10:30am. Directions to the NY-NJTC: Just south of the intersection of I-80 and Rt. 17 on Rt. 202, 100 yards east of Rt. 17. Directions to trailhead: Take I-80 to I-287 North to NJ 23 North. Turn right at Union Valley Rd. In 3.3 miles, turn right on Gould Rd. The pull-off is 0.3 mile on the left (north) side. NJ Transit Bus Route #807 stops near the trailhead; check with NJ Transit for exact schedule and stops. Ram cancels. No need to register.

Email leaders with questions.

Shawn Viggiano is the Trail Conference Overseer for the AT in the Mid-south section in New Jersey.

In High Point State Park

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Highlands Coalition, Adirondack Mountain Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, Sierra Club, and Weiss Wyanokie Wanderers are jointly sponsoring a hike series that will showcase the beauty and development threats to “Critical Treasures of the Highlands” in New York and New Jersey. All are welcome. Additional hikes are scheduled for May 19 and June 15; look for details online or in the next issue of Trail Walker. (For more information about the Highlands, visit www.highlandscoalition.org, or call 609-818-0400.) NY-NJTC is a founding member of the Highlands Coalition.

Sunday, March 17
Extensive Threat Wyanokies Hike
5-6 miles, moderate pace
Leader: Rob Lehmann
(robl@hikeleader.com); guide: Don Weise
donweise@hotmail.com

This circuit tour will include two of the Highlands most famous long-distance trails. Enjoy incredible views of 

Monskville Reservoir, Sterling Forest, the Wyanokies, and Ramapo Mountains as you tour endangered trail land, proposed to become a motorized recreation center in the near future. Meet at 9:00 am at NJ Audubon’s Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ, for a short pre-hike talk and slide presentation and then a short drive to the trailhead near Long Pond Ironworks. Along the hike we will learn of ongoing efforts to protect these and other critical treasures of the Highlands region. Some steep climbs. Hike held rain, snow, or shine.

Directions: Take Rt. 207 North to exit 55 (Wanaque-Pompton Lakes). Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Ringwood Ave. or Rt. 311 North. After approximately 4 miles, turn left onto Westbrook Rd. This is the first left after the Skyline Family Dinner on your right. Westbrook Rd. forks; bear to the left. After the fork, take the second left turn onto Snake Den Rd. Snake Den Rd. also forks; bear to the left. Look for the Weis Ecology Center sign and outer parking lot about 1/3 mile from this fork. No need to register. Email leaders with questions.
continued from page 12

THURSDAY, APRIL 4
ADK. N.J. Thursday Hikes, 5-Miles. Contact Phyllis: 201-338-0562 or perry@phl.rr.com. Every Thursday.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6
SW. Jersey Shore on the Hudson, Leader: Allen Feller, 212-641-6200. 9:30 am at train station opposite Salt Hill Road parking lot. Varied 3-mile walk using the rapidly changing tidal river of the Hudson, from Highlands to DW Bridge. Nice boardwalks and routes for birders. Stop for lunch in order. Non-members $3.

NYHC. Liberty State Park. Leader: Sallie Barton, 718-482-9850. Meet: 10:00 at a 99th Ave corner of 34th St. and Broadway in front of Macy’s. Easy hike of about 0.5 miles. Take the PATH to Liberty State Park Dock and follow the Jersey Shore, enjoying views of Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7
UC: Bald Mountain and Timp. Leader: Dorothy and Dan Dombroski, 973-763-2700 and 718-420-9569. Meet: 10:00 at a Mine Loop parking lot, South Park, upper parking lot. Come out for a moderate hike and a chance to see wildflowers.


SW. Riverside Dr Park Walking Tour. Leader: David & Leslie Warner, Call Ben Bar, 212-641-0110, for NY Society for Ethical Culture for more details. 1:30 pm at 72nd St. in front of the Eleanor Roosevelt statue in Riverside Park. Walk starts from 73rd to 100th St. in NYC. 2-mile moderate walk. Rain members $3.

NYHC. Brookside Knob to North Beacon and Over... Leader: Gerold Johanns. Meet: At Great Central Station, upper level walk, south to 74 Hudson Great Bend to Broadway. Snowshoe Walk of 10-mile climb, walk Brooklyn Heights to this tower, lunch at the reservation. Then climb over Flat Rock and L람 & Mt. final and return to train back to Beacon. Dining long twice a week outdoor and indoors, door open hiking and rain. Can can.

SCS. Eagle Rock Reservation, West Orange, N.J. Leader: Ron Pote 973-384-9772, e: rmpote@concast.net. Meet: before 7.00 at the Highpoint Parking lot and Eagle Rock In Wanaque. Take 280 to Prospects Ave Exit 8 W, turn right on River Rd, left on Reservation Rd, left on thinner reservation after 6 miles. A charge will be made on non-members and all participants must sign a liability waiver. Rain cancel.

GAHC. Seven Hills Trail, Herriman State Park, Staunton, VA. Leader: Mathew Wahab, 540-453-4822. Meet: parking lot of Staunton Railroad Station, 9:30 am, 10 miles from VCU.

MONDAY, APRIL 8
AFW. Along the Hudson, Alpine, N.J. For information and meet- ing place call AFW. 973-644-3865. Easy hike from 10:20–2:30 pm. Women only club, membership required to stay.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9
AFW. Ramapo Mountain State Forest. Leader: Anne Smyrnin-Jones, 201-738-3884. Meet: 11 am at upper parking lot. Thistle 7 Mile tour of Ramapo Lake and the surrounding Ramapo Mountains will include the old castle.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Meet: 10 am at the Trooperside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Colvin Ave., New Providence. Tel. A train back upon arrival.

CAHC. Canal Walk. Leaders: Dorothy and Dan Dombroski, 973-885-6574. Meet: Call Bob Ward first day, lower park level, 718-471-3708, after 8 pm for trail schedule or car ride information. Deborah Francon Park; New Brunswick south to Bound Brook. Brisk walk, leisurely pace walking canal parallels the Riverfront. Twp path may be muddy.

SW. Sterling Ridge, Leaders: Nick Chikolo, 610-681-8078. Meet: Call leader - Nick from NY on Fri. at 11:00 at Sterling Ridge parking lot, north of Greenmount and Darling Lane. Lunch at fire tower; and visit to local Pond Iron Works. Non-members $3.

South Brook Farm Ambles. Leaders: Dave Zerlin, 212-802-8822. Meet: Tom Brash Brook Farm, Grand drizzles, sparkling sun through broken tree limbs highlights panoramas, Cobbles Hill, and Carroll Gardens. Possible early dinner at Middle Eastern restaurant. 3-mile easy walk.

NYHC. Grottoes to Irvington. Leader: Ray Core, 718-435-6494. Meet: 10:30 am at Grand Central Terminal, upper level at booth. Moderate, generally flat 8 mile hike along Old Cotton Avenue, Louren Preserve, Granville Park, finishing back on the sidewalk.

NYHC. Hudson River Valley Trail Leadership: Devra Zetlan, 212-662-8922. Meet: 10:00 am at the Tulip Springs parking lot, Brookside Ave., 10am at a Tulip Farm parking lot near Freeman’s and broad beyond.

SCS. South Mountain Reservation. NJ Leader: Ron Pote 973-384-9772, e: rmpote@concast.net. Meet: 10:00 am at the Tulip Springs parking lot. Bring your boots, if possible and dress comfortably. Rain cancel. Can cancel.


FRIDAY, APRIL 26
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, long sleeved shirts, long pants, water, rain gear, first aid, 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 leader if in doubt.

MARCH

MARCH 4

FTWV. Eagle Rock Reservation, West Orange.

FVTW. Bockberg Escalator Reprise.

Lipman. Meet: 10 am; call Cherryll Short, 973-299-0212, for meeting.

Sutter, 973-778-0992. Meet: 10 am at Rt. 9W parking area opposite old

for the May/June issue is March 25, 2002.

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers’ Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference office. The deadline

adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are relative terms; call leader if in doubt.

Save Money! 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 without a charge 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 discounted prices, and you’ll be helping the Trail Conference at an important time, when open space and trail protection must 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.

MARCH 4

FTWV. Eagle Rock Reservation, West Orange. Leader: Bob Lijman. Meet: 10 am; call Cheryl Lynn; 973-526-0122, for meeting place.

MARCH 5

FTWV. Bockberg Escalator Reprise. Leaders: Dave and Naomi Sunshine. Meet: 10 am; call Naomi (973-778-1611) for meeting place.

MARCH 6

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