NJ DEP Says Yes to ORV Enforcement

On October 2, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell announced a new policy regarding Off Road Vehicle (ORV) activities on DEP-administered lands that calls for strict enforcement of laws prohibiting ORV use on state property and seeks the maximum $1,000 penalty for all potential violators.

The new policy also addresses the need for additional sanctions for ORV violators, including natural resource damage fines. Working with the state Department of Transportation, the DEP will make recommendations for a comprehensive licensing, registration and training program for all ORV operators. It also sets a goal of developing two facilities in the state where ORVs can be lawfully used. No current state park, wildlife management area or other environmentally sensitive area will be considered in this review and selection process.

“This is a big victory for passive recreation users in New Jersey,” said Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell. “The commissioner seems to be taking a big step in the right direction. Many thanks go to all the organizations and individuals who participated in the Trail Conference’s ORV symposium last spring and went on to press for improved enforcement. We will scrutinize the details of this policy change and the creation of ORV parks vigilantly.”

A Transition for Rock-meister Bob Marshall

Alumni of what might be called the Bob Marshall School of Trail Maintenance are legion among the ranks of Trail Conference members. “Bob really set a style and nurtured many of our leaders,” says Larry Wheelock, Trails Director for the Conference. “I started with him, working on his crew. Almost all of our crew leaders have worked with Bob’s crew.”

What many call “Bob’s crew” is officially known as the West Hudson Crew. The crew’s busy schedules and achievements have long made substantial contributions to the quality of our region’s hiking. In a report for this issue (see page 4), Bob sends word of an important transition: he is retiring as crew chief and henceforth will be just one of the crew. Long-time West Hudson crew leader Chris Ezzo is stepping into Bob’s well-blazed leadership role.

Bob has been working on trails since 1984, when he got his start helping to relocate a section of the Appalachian Trail in Dutchess and Putnam Counties. In 1986, he initiated the relocation of the Timp-Torne Trail onto the abandoned bed of the Dunderberg Spiral Railway. It’s been up-and-down-hill ever since. Harriman-Bear Mountain, Storm King, Schunemunk, Sterling Forest, Minnewaska: the trails that have fallen into the jurisdiction of Bob Marshall’s West Hudson crew are among the most beautiful and popular in the New York-New Jersey region.

A life-long resident of Peekskill, New York, Bob’s Trail Conference work has been complemented with related activities, chairing the Mohawk chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, for example. He retired from Metro-North in 1996 after 40 years with the railroad.

His contributions to hikers will extend beyond this second retirement. Says Trail Conference president Jane Daniels, “In the almost 22 years I have known Bob, he has been a dedicated builder of trails. His expertise is legendary, and the crews he managed are awesome. His construction projects give testament to his work.”

Adds his colleague and friend Larry Wheelock: “He knows how to build a sense of family. He knows that it takes time and patience to recruit volunteers. One thing that is most remarkable about him is, he is very difficult to say no to.”

To paraphrase Bob’s signature sign-off: “He Rocks!”

Never a Dull Night on Friday Mountain

By Bob “Grey Dog” McElroy

Early February, 1998. As I snuggle deep into my sleeping bag, a sharp bang breaks the evening silence—as if a bowling ball had been slammed with a wooden mallet. “A falling branch must have bounced off a rock” is the unsatisfactory but only explanation I can muster. Twenty minutes later it happens again. Then again, and again—and I finally realize that the beech trees here on Friday Mountain’s east ridge are splitting open in the bitter cold.

Later that month, on another secluded mountain of the Catskill 3500 Club used to tally new members’ preferences for the 35 mountains they had climbed to qualify for membership. Friday, one of the 12 trailless Catskill peaks higher than 3500 feet, would often be voted the least favorite. But I have always felt a certain attachment to this mountain. Its lonely crest has lured me up by more than a dozen routes. And all four seasons have provided enjoyable, though often lonely, evenings high on its slopes.

After logging into its summit register 26 times, I find that Friday’s secrets still tantalize me. As often as I explore its ridges, cliffs, and hollows, I still can’t say I know it well. But I recently solved one puzzle. A few years ago in the New York State Conservationist, a writer told of re-coiling in terror when, as he wandered near Friday’s summit late on a rainy afternoon,
In Our Back Yard

Those of us who love to travel spend time poring over travel guides deciding where to go and what to see or hike when we get there. All too often we miss similar opportunities in our backyard, down the street, or around the corner. Ten years ago when I worked for the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, I began to learn about the nooks and crannies that abound in the valley, discovering things I never knew existed. It was not just the hiking opportunities, but the historic sites, museums, and wonderful scenery that make the Hudson Valley an interesting place to live and visit. Once I stopped working for the Greenway, I stopped these excursions—either I felt pressed for time or I just did not think of doing them.

But three years ago, I once again began exploring. This time it was introducing someone new to the area to the treasures that abound here; some of the destinations I had never before visited. Our excursions included hiking up Bull Hill in the height of the fall foliage season, the Tenement House Museum in New York City, Olana, and the Ossining Urban Cultural Park. Even after my friend left the area, I knew I wanted to continue my forays and looked for excuses to do so.

One emerged this past August—the Hudson River Valley Greenway’s End to End event. I am now on the board of the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, and so I participated in part of the event. The Greenway route extends from Battery Park in New York City to Battery Park in Waterford, near Albany. For three days in August this year, I was sometimes tourist—spending the night in hotels and eating at restaurants—and sometimes hikes leader—showing off trails the Trail Conference has built and maintained. In both cases, I truly felt I was a visitor in the valley, seeing it through new eyes. As part of the event, I rode my bike up Route 28 around Storm King, a personal high point on the trip, as I am not a confident enough cyclist to do it on my own. This event was more than just a good time. It showcased what the valley is all about and made me realize how much I love it.

Then in September, while planning a family event, I saw another chance to visit treasures in my backyard. With guests coming from England and the West Coast, this was an opportunity to show off an area that few would think of as a tourist destination. For the guests so inclined, the weekend included a hike up Bear Mountain with a picnic lunch on top. Some who lived in New York City had not realized that they could hike in this area.

They were delighted to learn of the availability of public transportation to trailheads and of publications that would tell them more. Others knew they would return for a longer vacation to visit the Revolutionary War sites. With two family members staying extra time in the area, we visited places in New Jersey, the Hudson Valley, and then the Adirondacks.

Take time to see something you see or pass every day or even better, share the experience. You will come away with an appreciation of what is around you and in the latter case, a chance to see the area in a new light.

—Jane Daniels

Let’s Make the Whole World Safe for Walking

It’s most encouraging to read (Trail Walker, Sept./Oct., 2002) that two-thirds of Storm King is now clear of the killing toys of 60 to 160 years ago. And much more, that the Conference is trying to get us to put pressure on congresspersons to get the military to cough up $5 million to $7 million to clear the remaining third of this deadly, and apparently long-lasting residue of the distant past.

Storm King and Butterdoo Hill seem uniquely beautiful. I’ve enjoyed them in all seasons. But the hopes and lives of people are not unique.

If we’re contacting congresspersons, might not this be a good time to consider also that other hearts in other lands are beating? And other eyes would like to see beauty. And other feet would like to walk among it. And many of these are endangered by about 100 million land mines scattered the world and the people are enough. And that we want our nation to join most of the civilized world in banning them, and now.

But we can’t demand for the rest of the world what we’re demanding for Storm King. But let’s at least try to demand that this particular outrage stop now. We all have a basic human right to walk without risk of instant maiming.

Thoughts of a Supernannuated Hiker

The years accrued while peaks were bagged, and near and distant cliffs and crevices were plausibly experienced. Now the ineluctable ravages of time no longer permit me to hike, in comfort and good grace, with groups intent on devouring time and distance.

Yet reasonably mobile, endowed with an inexorable drive to walk in the woods, I now walk alone—as walk I must!

This obsessive drive was undoubtedly engendered at a very early age on family outings in a nearby forest; the visual embrace of the lone tree on my city block each day on my way to PS. 15; a passion for Harriman Park awakened by the Settlement House summer camp on lake Tiorati I attended in my teens.

I now feel beholden as I walk the glorious Hudson River path in the shadow of the magnificent Palisades, saved from destruction. I apply the term “hagiography” advisedly as I worshipfully read of the “saintly” people who made it all possible, in the recently published Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years by Robert O. Binnie, former head of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

Yes, people made it happen. Let us remember and be grateful.

Take One to Stay Alert

In the Sept./Oct. issue is a letter, “Driving While Sleepy,” which discusses this problem, particularly with respect to returning from a hike. We have found a solution to this with a product called Enertjet. These are flavored lozenges that contain 75 mg. of caffeine, about the amount in a cup of regular coffee. We take them at the first sign of drowsiness and have found that they give us enough of a jolt to keep us alert. We order them by the dozen boxes of 10 lozenges each for $24, or 20 cents per lozenge. Order from Enertjet Distribution, P.O. Box 1052, W. Caldwell, NJ 07006-1052 or 800-829-5016.

Malcolm White

Lieutenant Governor of New York
Putting a Value on Your Time

“There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.”
—Lt. Colonel James Doolittle

Accounting for Your Time

Volunteers are the heart of the Trail Conference, and the Trail Conference is only as strong as its volunteers. This is highlighted in the Trail Conference’s 2001 audited financials. For the first time the contributed services of volunteers were formally accounted for and valued using comparable wage rates from the U.S. Department of Labor.

This was an eye-opening exercise! The auditors found 33,682 hours of recorded volunteer effort equaling a cash value of $764,989. Almost $400,000 of this amount could be attributed to trail building and maintenance, with significant amounts donated toward publications, technology management, and office assistance. Together, these huge contributions demonstrate once again that the essential core of the Trail Conference is its volunteers.

There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.
—Lt. Colonel James Doolittle

Advocacy & Conservation

Victory in the Torne Valley: Plan for Power Plant Abandoned

On September 3, the Trail Conference and Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) got the good news that American National Power Company (ANP) had decided to abandon its plan to site a large 1,100-megawatt electrical generating plant in the Ramapo Torne Valley adjacent to Harriman State Park, Nine months ago, Sithe Energies, Inc., abandoned plans to construct a smaller generating facility in the Torne Valley.

The organizations opposed the power plant, with joint counsel Neil Woodworth arguing at a public hearing and in the governor’s office that the 35 acres should be purchased by the state and added to surrounding Harriman State Park. The New York State Open Space Plan and Palisades Interstate Park Commission have identified Torne Valley as a critical priority for acquisition as an addition to Harriman.

The Trail Conference and ADK believe that all of the currently undeveloped property in the Torne Valley should now be acquired and added to Harriman State Park to protect the sole source aquifer and the Ramapo River watershed, to preserve habitat of timber rattlesnakes (a protected species), and to ensure that the scenic beauty and viewshed of the Torne Mountains is forever protected. The groups plan to continue lobbying for this protection.

2002 New York State Open Space Plan Released

On September 17, Governor George Pataki released the 2002 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan, a blueprint for preserving Adirondack and Catskills wilderness and protecting New York’s open space and expanding its park system. Trail Conference and ADK staff and members serve on six of nine committees that helped produce the plan.

The 139 listed priority projects, eligible for land conservation from the State’s Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), include the Southern Shawangunks Greenway (30-mile Shawangunk Ridge Trail), the Peekamoose Gorge parcel, and support for the Long Path extension from the Catskills to the Adirondacks.

The Plan also recommends additional monies for the stewardship of State lands. In the past few years this funding has supported trail crews work in the Catskills and Adirondacks. Since 1995, the state has invested more than $378 million to preserve more than 594,000 acres across New York.

The 2002 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan is available on DEC’s website at: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/openspace/index.html. Copies of the plan also are available at regional DEC and OPRHP offices.

New Trail View State Park Protects Long Island Greenbelt Trail

In September, New York State announced the creation of Trail View State Park. The new park is a 400-acre linear trail corridor, which spans 7.4 miles, running north from Bethpage State Park to Cold Spring Harbor State Park. It offers multi-use trails for hiking, cycling, birding, and other trail-related activities.

Cold Spring Harbor State Park was dedicated in 2000 and comprises 40 acres of hilly terrain that offer scenic vistas of...
West Hudson Crew Report, and a Change at the Top

In the spring we began our work with inspections, scouting trips, and some flagging for relocations of various trails in Harriman State Park, Schunemunk Mountain, and Sterling Forest State Park. Actual trail work began in early April and continued through June.

In Harriman State Park, we cleared brush, reopened staircases, and removed trash from the walls and foundations of historical Doodletown. On the Pine Meadow Trail, waterbars and check dams were put in place to reduce erosion and stabilize the tread. On the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail, near the Tapp, rock steps were added to improve the path. A small relocation with stepping stones was established around a wet area on the Red Cross Trail. Work was completed on the 1777 West Trail by placing stepping stones over a stream and marshy areas and by building up tread with rock and dirt fill. Finally, on the Popolopen Gorge Trail, a steep rock staircase was completed, including a rock sluice for water drainage. A grand staircase indeed.

At Schunemunk, a section of the Long Path was stabilized with a small relocation and a combination of waterbars and rock steps. In Sterling Forest State Park, the approach to the new Moonbasha Creek Bridge was improved, as was a section on the Southfields Furnace Trail.

We wish to thank the following volunteers for their professional work on our trails: Roz Barnes, Mary Nell Bockman, Roland Reaurl, Gail Brown, Jim Brown, Brian Buchbinder, George Cartamill, Kevin Cwinala, Davis Day, Colin Doolitle, Tom Dunn, Chris Ezoo, Joyce Gallagher, Claudia Ganz, Nick Halkias, Mary Hilley, Joan James, Joselin Jelley, Mark Jelley, Mark Kamitschel, Frank Keck, David Klopfebren, Brian Krall, Richard Lynch, Gay Mayer, Douglas McBride, John McCullough, Carol Norstor, Patty Parmalee, Trudy Pojonman, Bob Reardon, Norm Reicher, Monica Resor, Trudy Schneider, Melissa Shumer, Harry Smith, Mike Sterwick, Donna Beth Stewart, Ros Thalman, and Hanson Wong.

A new crew chief

After 12 rewarding years, I am stepping down as West Hudson Trail Crew Chief. Please welcome Chris Ezoo, who will be taking on this position starting in January 2003. Chris has been a crew leader with us for several years and has already demonstrated his trail construction abilities as well as fine leadership skills.

I would like to thank each and every crew member, past and present, for your hard work and dedication. Your combined efforts and individual contributions guaranteed the success of the crew. I look forward to many more years of productive trail work with the West Hudson Trail Crew.

We Rock!

Bob Marshall, crew chief
Trudy Schneider, crew assistant

NJ HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW
Contact the leader for details, no more than one week before the scheduled work date.

Leader: Bob Mosis, 973-743-5203
Nov. 10 (Sunday)

NORTH JERSEY
Leaders: Sandy Parr, 732-469-5109
Dick Warner, 201-327-4945
Second Sunday of each month. Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in northern New Jersey.

EAST HUDSON CREW
Contact the leader for details. Train pick-ups can be arranged.

Leader: Walt Daniels, 914-245-1250, wdaniels@bestweb.net

WEST HUDSON CREW
Chief: Robert Marshall 914-737-4792, e-mail rmmarshall@webtv.net
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563, e-mail brian@grandrenovation.com
Chris Ezoo: 516-431-1148
Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324, e-mail clganz@earthlink.net
Monica Resor: 732-937-8098, e-mail adaman@trailsbuild.com
Nov. 10 (Sunday), TBA, Harriman SP; Brian Buchbinder
Nov. 14 (Thursday), TBA, Harriman SP; Robert Marshall
Nov. 17 (Sunday), TBA, Harriman SP; Brian Buchbinder
Nov. 24 (Sunday), TBA, Harriman SP; Bob Marshall

Undercliff Trail Extension in Hudson Highlands

Trail opening of the extension of the Undercliff Trail from the ridge on Bull Hill down to Nelsonville. Left to right: Jane Daniels (TC President, and Greenway board member), Emma Garshagen, Walter Garshagen (Nelsonville Greenway Committee), Bob Bandi (Putnam County Executive), Barbara Kendall (Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Executive Director), Vincent Tamagnia (Putnam County Legislature).

Storm King Mountain

We anticipate that the trails in two-thirds of Storm King State Park will be open to the public by the time you read this. Trail Conference maintainers have been allowed to repair, clean, and rel blaze trails, and found that they were in remarkably good condition considering that they’ve been closed for three years.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area Trails

The Pioneer Trail is back but shortened to avoid a Bald Eagle nesting area. This trail will run from the Hamilton Ridge Road back to the same road, with the northernmost section remaining off limits. Parking for this loop is at the Millbrook Historical Village. Access to the trail requires a short hike on the beautiful Orchard Trail to the Hamilton Ridge Road.

The Crater Lake Loop Trail is a new path; it circles Crater Lake and has incorporated the old Hemlock Trail as a northward extension. The new path will run from the Hamilton Ridge Road to the Summit parking lot (the second parking lot). A short hike on the beautiful Orchard Trail will run from the Hamilton Ridge Road back to the same road, with the northernmost section remaining off limits. Parking for this loop is at the Millbrook Historical Village. Access to the trail requires a short hike on the beautiful Orchard Trail to the Hamilton Ridge Road.

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New Twin Forts Trail Connects AT to Historical Sites

In another “cavalry to the rescue” operation, the West Hudson trail crew was called in to assist the Palisades Interstate Park Commission with the brand-new Twin Forts Trail in Bear Mountain State Park. The Twin Forts Trail (unofficial name) links the Revolutionary-era Forts Clinton and Montgomery on either side of the mouth of Popolopen Creek. When complete, the trail will traverse from the river edge of the Trailside Museum property, under the Bear Mountain Bridge, across a steep bedrock outcropping to a new pedestrian bridge over the mouth of Popolopen Creek and the recently renovated site of the former Fort Montgomery. The Twin Forts Trail, the pedestrian bridge, and the renovated Fort Montgomery were dedicated on October 6, 2002, the 225th anniversary of the British army’s storming of these two forts during the Revolutionary War.

Bob Marshall, his trail crew leaders Chris Ezoo, Monica Resor, Claudia Ganz, and David Day, and crew volunteers were called in during the last two weekends of September to provide the critical expertise needed to get a safe trail around and down the bedrock shelf to the elevation of the creek. The Trail Conference crew worked around the nose of the promontory that connects the PIPC-installed trail underneath the Bear Mountain Bridge to the Trail Side Museum entrance. After museum closing hours, a sign will direct hikers up an “after hours” trail along the north side of the Bear Mountain Bridge.

ARRIVING LATE?

Reports of late delivery of this newsletter seem to be coming more frequently. We’d like to track ZIP codes to see if the problem can be redressed. If your TW arrives after the first weekend of the month, please send an email with your ZIP code and date of delivery to the Administrative Director Maureen Walsh, maureen@nynjtc.org. Thank you.
Checking the Pulse of

The Highlands

The NY-NJ Highlands Regional Study Update

By Richard Lathrop

The New York-New Jersey Highlands are near and dear to Trail Conference members as the locale for some of the best hiking in the New York City metro area. In addition to its great outdoor recreation and open space values, the Highlands also serve to protect critical watershed, a rich diversity of plants and animals, and productive forest land.

As sprawling urban growth threatens the natural resources of the Highlands region, information regarding those resources becomes critical to decision-makers. Late in 2000, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service was given the responsibility by the U.S. Congress to undertake a comprehensive study of the Highlands region and the implications of changing land use patterns. The study team consisted of representatives of the USDA Forest Service, Rutgers University, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Regional Plan Association, and state forestry departments of New York and New Jersey.

After a series of public listening sessions during the Spring of 2001, the study kicked into high gear and culminated in a draft report released in March 2002. The final report is slated for release in November 2002. This present study serves to update a previous study conducted by the Forest Service in the early 1990s and to expand the resource assessment and analysis portions of Highlands resources based on the greater availability of spatial data and improved analytical techniques.

The Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis of Rutgers University took the lead in assembling and analyzing the large amount of data needed to carry out the study. We assembled data sets and information from numerous sources to inventory and assess the status of water quality, watershed and forest integrity, biodiversity, outdoor recreation, agriculture, and timber production. Mapped information on Highlands resources were compiled and integrated into a geographic information system (GIS). Land use trends were investigated and several future land use change scenarios were developed.

These studies suggest that if existing development trends continue unchanged there will be profound effects on the Highlands environment. Faced with this ongoing development pressure, there has been an increasing push to purchase and protect open space. A Conservation Values Assessment (CVA) model was developed to provide a coherent picture of relative resource conservation value across the region, highlighting those areas that have the highest natural resource values. Recognizing that not all the Highlands can or should be preserved as public open space, the CVA model can help federal, state, and local groups better prioritize lands for conservation management and potential open space purchase.

Of particular interest to Trail Conference members will be the efforts undertaken to map and characterize outdoor recreation opportunities across the Highlands. The Trail Conference provided its hiking maps so that trail data could be digitized, and these were supplemented with additional maps for other local trails. The trail corridors, including adjacent lands, which serve as buffers, were delineated, and a viewed analysis was conducted. All mapped viewpoints and observation tower locations were digitized and, using a digital terrain model, the landscape area visible from each of these locations was determined. All the individual viewed maps were then combined to create a composite scenic sensitivity map.

Canoeable waters and fishable lakes and streams along with appropriate buffers were identified and mapped. Locations of historical sites and federal, state, and local parkland were also included to provide a synoptic view of the Highlands and the critical areas for outdoor recreation. The GIS-based CVA model then integrated the other important resource components to map the coincidence of multiple resource values.

The result: more than 8,500 acres of the highest priority lands were identified as not in some form of permanent conservation ownership; these are the lands that should receive the highest consideration for future protection.

The draft report can be viewed at the Walton Center website: www.cressa.rutgers.edu/projects/highlands/. Richard Lathrop, a member of the Trail Conference Science Advisory Committee, is Director of the Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis at Cook College, Rutgers University.

Key Points about the Highlands of New York and New Jersey

- Highlands watershed lands contain reservoirs and aquifers that provide and protect high-quality drinking water for more than 15 million Americans.
- The Highlands region hosts more than 14 million recreational visits annually, more than Yellowstone and many of our national treasures in the West.
- The U.S. Forest Service found that more than 5,000 acres of land are being developed in a year in the New York-New Jersey Highlands alone, threatening the quantity and quality of water supplies, and other critical resources in the Highlands.
- 77% (294,000 acres) of high-value watershed lands in the Highlands are unprotected. 100,000 acres of high-value lands are immediately threatened.
- The Highlands Stewardship Act of 2002 (H.R. 5146 or S. 2748) would designate the Highlands as the nation’s first “Stewardship Area” and authorize $25 million annually over 10 years to help the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut protect the critical lands and waters of this nationally significant region.
- The Act provides a non-regulatory approach for preservation. Lands and interests in lands would be purchased by non-federal entities from willing sellers only.

Please urge your members of Congress to cosponsor the Highlands Stewardship Act.

For updates on this issue, visit www.nynjtc.org/issues/2002/highlands.html

Your Shawangunk Ridge Dollars at Work:
A Report on a Productive Year

Time and time again, Trail Conference members have demonstrated their love and support for preservation of the Shawangunk Ridge. Less than a year ago, members went above and beyond a challenge grant, contributing $65,000 to earn an additional $25,000 from an anonymous donor for preservation work on the ridge. A lot has happened since we listed the names of the 600 contributors to that special drive in the March/April issue.

The following is a summary by TC Land Acquisitions Director John Myers of the projects undertaken and progress made to date in Trail Conference efforts to create a 50-mile long protected greenway corridor on the Shawangunk Ridge, joining the Catskills in New York to the Kittatinny Mountains in New Jersey.

1. Continued to negotiate purchase options and contracts with landowners along the ridge. In the past year we have signed options for nine properties totaling 1,226 acres. We assisted the Trust for Public Land on two more totaling 685 acres. We also purchased two smaller parcels (13 acres) and are about to purchase 11 more from Orange County (50 acres).

2. Formed a new coalition called the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition with more than 20 environmental and recreation organizations. Held two meetings to discuss strategies to accomplish the goal of protecting the ridge environment.

3. Held the first Shawangunk Region Smart Growth Workshop, which more than 60 people attended, representing 10 of the 16 ridge towns.

4. Created a new website with information on the Shawangunks—www.shawangunkridge.org—containing maps, photos, and descriptions of the unique ridge resources and threats to it.

5. We designed and printed a full-color brochure on the importance of the ridge as a watershed, habitat, and recreational resource, and have distributed it to towns and groups in the Shawangunk region.

6. We hired a hydrologist to prepare a research report on the significance of the Shawangunk Ridge in supplying pure water to the aquifers in the valleys on both sides that are used by most of the local towns for drinking water supplies.

7. We prepared booklets with color maps and photos and made presentations to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) executive staff and to the governor’s office, encouraging them to provide more funding for acquisitions along the ridge.

8. We have submitted 12 parcels to the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), to be included in their new loan program to not-for-profits that buy land for watershed protection. We plan to submit another 17 parcels shortly. The loans provide interim financing until the state is ready to purchase the lands directly.

9. We have begun the process of seeking to designate the Shawangunk Ridge as a new U.S. Forest Legacy Area, enabling us to receive federal funding for land purchases along the ridge. The goal is to designate the entire 250-mile length of the ridge in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania as a new area.

10. We continue to work with local citizen groups and town officials to promote protection of the ridge environment, which is being threatened by a 2000-unit condo project and a hotel/gambling casino.
### Hiker’s Marketplace

You can also order at our website: [www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org)

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

Please order by circling price

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**Combo-Packs**

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**The Personal Touch**

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Postage/handling from above, or $6.00, whichever is LESS

For non-clothing items, New Jersey Residents add 6% tax*

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** $ 

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**Make check or money order payable to NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to:** 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. For a full descriptive catalog, please write or call 201-512-9348.

*Tax must be paid by NJ residents on books, maps, misc., but not on clothing. Thank you!

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**Hudson Valley Greenway Tour**

Highlights Trail Benefits

For 10 days in August, the first Hudson Greenway Trail Tour focused the valley’s attention on opportunities—existing and potential—for recreation and open space protection along 150 miles of the Hudson River. The event started August 1 in Battery Park in New York City and ended 10 days and 150 miles later in Battery Park, Waterford (just north of Troy, New York). Sponsored by the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley and the National Park Service Rivers and Trails program, the event aimed to focus the efforts and attentions of organizations and communities toward completing a Greenway that will run on both sides of the Hudson River between New York City and Troy.

The Trail Conference is one of the stakeholders in this project and has built and maintains a number of sections of the Greenway. Participants in the event included TC members Rocky Bernstein, Jane and Walt Daniels, and Karl Beard (also from NPS Rivers and Trails), who covered large sections of the Greenway Trail.

The Greenway is a mixture of hiking-only and multi-use sections, and only occasionally traverses low-trafficked roads. The TC participants walked some sections, and biked others. Rocky Bernstein reports: “One of the highlights of the tour for me was what I call the NY-NJ Trail Conference effect. One day we started from the VA hospital in Montrose and hiked into a bit of section that is planned to be part of the Greenway, but isn’t yet. Although we had several seasoned hikers, including some who had been on this section before, we got lost several times. By noontime, the trail leader had a gash on his nose and most of us were pretty much scratched up, each taking turn being the first to bushwhack through sticker bushes. We were behind the schedule that the trail leaders had allotted for this small stretch.

“By contrast, in the afternoon after a short hike out of Peekskill, we started out from the Camp Smith Trail/Anthony’s Nose trail. In about the same amount of time with the same people, we went over twice the distance with probably about 20 times the elevation change and we were able to make our destination, Bear Mountain Inn, on time!”

The tour included special events and trail section openings. One of these was the official opening of the extension of the Undercliff Trail from the ridge on Bull Hill (Mt. Taurus) to Nelsonville, built by the Nelsonville Greenway Committee and the East of Hudson Trail Crew (see page 4). It also highlighted some problems along the route. In one town, Congresswoman Sue Kelly participated in a walk along a section of waterfront trail that had received Greenway funds for a resurfacing project. She noted that sewage from a recently constructed waterfront housing project was being dumped on top of the trail.

Overall, this first Greenway tour brought various constituency groups together and highlighted the many benefits of the Hudson River Greenway Trail. As Karl Beard commented, “Good trails are good business.” It was evident on this tour that many of the communities along the Hudson are coming to that realization too. Rocky Bernstein and Jane and Walt Daniels contributed to this report.
NEW: SF MAP, AT GUIDE, CARDS
continued from page 1

NEW ITEM! Color Note Cards

The perfect holiday or house gift. Limited Edition (only 750). Hudson Valley Series (four photos of the Hudson Highlands taken from trails). Eight photo note cards by Herb Chong; $1.25 nonmember; $0.96 member (plus $2.00 shipping, and tax for New Jersey residents). Only available at the NYNJTC.

with computer technology, and contains many changes and improvements on the first edition. The most important change is that most of the trails shown on the map have been captured with a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, improving map accuracy. Also, new and planned trails are shown on this edition, as are no-hunting zones in areas adjacent to but outside the park.

Other improvements: lightening the saltpaper cod color-coded relief so that the contour lines are more visible inside the park; making the woods roads more clearly part of the road system in and through the park; making UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) grid lines more distinct so that GPS users can locate themselves accurately on the map.


A new edition of the official hiking guidebook to the Appalachian Trail in New York and New Jersey features the guide’s first major overhaul in nearly two decades.

CONTACT INFO
Maureen Walsh: 201-512-9348 or walsh@nynjtc.org
Joshua Ersdneker: 201-512-9348 or josh@nynjtc.org

Are you looking for new challenges and opportunities to support Trail Conference activities? The following TC Volunteer Classifieds offer exciting and interesting ways for members to get involved. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. Check out our website for more opportunities.

If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and don’t see an opportunity here that suits you, contact the Volunteer Projects Director, Joshua Ersdneker and he will find a way to get you involved.

Office Redesign
Join the office staff and other volunteers as we redesign the Trail Conference office. Your expertise can help us to reorganize and use the space in our Mahwah office more efficiently. Contact: Maureen Walsh.

Trail Walker Advertising and Layout Design Manager
The Trail Walker staff is looking for a creative volunteer to help design and lay out the advertisements for our newsletter. If you are interested in managing the communication between TW staff and our current advertisers, soliciting new advertisers, and maintaining the commitment to excellence that the Trail Walker staff has established, then this opportunity is a perfect match for you. Interested volunteers should be comfortable working with deadlines, be outgoing, and familiar with desktop publishing. Previous advertising and sales experience is not necessary, but is helpful. Contact: Maureen Walsh.

Press Release Coordinator
Can’t say enough good things about the Trail Conference? Then help spread the word to the rest of our community. We are looking for a press release coordinator to write general press releases, press releases for our new publications, and establish working relationships with local media agencies. No previous experience is necessary and training is available. Strong writing skills are a must. Contact: Joshua Ersdneker.

Publications Committee
The Publications Committee has several exciting opportunities. If you are interested in any of the positions below, please contact Joshua Ersdneker.

Project Managers are wanted for several upcoming guidebooks and maps. The focus of this position is to produce a book on time and at budget. Responsibilities include setting a budget and a deadline for the project, training and managing volunteers for field-checking, providing research and artwork/photos, acting as the art manager, overseeing and providing support for the text editor, managing the cartographer, and overseeing the proofreading. Interested persons would benefit from previous related experience, but it is not a necessity.

Text Editors are needed for our upcoming guidebooks. Interested persons should be able to work in a team environment, provide constructive feedback, have previous publication experience or be willing to learn on the job while editing a guidebook. Several projects are about to begin; now is your chance to get involved.

Proofreaders are another key ingredient in the Conference’s recipe for successful guidebooks. If you would like to proofread a guidebook, then let us know. No experience is necessary.

Children’s Illustrator
Do you like to draw? The Trail Conference is looking for individuals with an artistic flair. Share your skills with us and add some fun to our mailings and handouts.

Use your Holiday Purchases to Help the Trail Conference

Do you dislike shopping in crowded malls during the holiday season? Do you prefer to make your gift purchases from the comfort of your home? Would you rather shop at more than 100 major online retailers and help the Trail Conference as you click away? If the answer is yes, then take advantage of the Trail Conference’s Affiliate Program.

How does it work?
When you are ready to shop, visit our web page at www.nynjtc.org/commerce/index.html. On this page, there is a link to a page titled greatgwap.com. From this link, you can choose from more than 100 brand name retailers. You will have access to a variety of merchants such as LL Bean, Lands End, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Avon, JCREW, The Gap, as well as home electronics and computer stores, home and bath stores, pet supply retailers, gourmet food shops, and dozens more. If you access these retailers via the Trail Conference’s link, up to 15% of the price of everything you buy will benefit the Trail Conference!

Please pass this link along to everyone you know, especially with the holiday shopping season just around the corner. Your purchases can really make a difference.
NEVER A DULL NIGHT ON FRIDAY MOUNTAIN
continued from page 1

he peered over the edge of “a cliff that plunged beneath me in a great sweeping arc, the length of three football fields placed end to end.” Since no cliff in the entire Catskill range is a quarter of that height, it seemed another case of the fallibility of eyewitness testimony. Then one afternoon, on another reconnaissance, I found myself at the rim of a sheer scar and realized I was at the place he had described. The cliff bottom was only 10 feet below me, but by glancing obliquely left, I saw that the series of rock faces stepping steeply down the ridge to the northeast were visually aligned so that a hurried look gave the illusion of one great 900-foot precipice.

Hikers, don’t sell Friday short. Sure, its dark, coniferous forest on top can be daunting to navigate, but that’s a small price to pay to be up on this unique and, often as the hour grows late, boisterous mountain. It is a place of many moods. Whichever one it will effect this night? A benign but restless humor or, weather abetting, perhaps even a mysterious, almost gothic solemnity? Until night falls, one awaits with uncertainty.

Fellow backpackers and explorers: if sleeping in a trail shelter is getting tiresome and you have the nerve, challenge yourself to a night on Friday Mountain under open skies. (Below 3500 feet of course, except in winter, according to Department of Environmental Conservation regulations.) Repress any inhibitions and experience the adventure, for as H.L. Mencken so deliciously put it: “Life is a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death.”

RAMBLE IN ENGLAND

ATTENTION LADIES!
Ramsey Outdoor Store in Paramus will be pioneering a free outdoors group for women of all ages and levels of experience. Take the initiative and join us to Explore, Challenge, and Educate ourselves through activities such as hiking, climbing, paddling, backpacking, etc.

For more information contact: Jen or Candice @ (201) 261-5000 jshoeran@ramseyoutdoor.com

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE
Hiking the Path of Asset Protection
Assets—your piece of the earth and our trail lands.
Each can be protected through a Charitable Gift Annuity.
You make an irrevocable gift, and we pay you—a high rate payment, paid quarterly and guaranteed for your lifetime.
You also get tax benefits—more than enough to buy a new pair of hiking boots.
Your generous gift rewards you and the Trail Conference.

For information specific to you, contact Ed Goodell or Maureen Walsh at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348. Provide your name, address, phone, and date of birth. All inquiries are confidential.

SAMPLE RATES
(one life):

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Minimum gift is $5,000; minimum age is 65, limited to two income beneficiaries.

Become a Life Member
The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members: Howard H. Newman. A Life Membership in the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a wonderful gift to yourself or a loved one, and to the Trail Conference. An individual life membership is just $500; a joint life membership (two adults at the same address) is $750. The next time you renew, please consider becoming a Trail Conference “lifer.”
Lightning Strikes
Staying Safe Under Stormy Skies
By Jeff Renner
The Mountaineers Books, 2002
Reviewed by Edward Ripley-Duggan

Hiking has fewer objective dangers (those hazards that are largely beyond the control of the individual) than the majority of outdoor endeavors. Still, no activity conducted in the wild is completely free from risks, of which storms rank highest. I know of few walkers—myself included—who have not rushed from a ridge line or peak at the approach of a tempest or, worse still, have been surrounded by its fury while completely exposed. Such a storm came down on me many years ago above the tree line in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and is an experience not quickly forgotten.

Jeff Renner is a well-regarded Seattle area meteorologist and an aviator, hiker, and climber. He is highly qualified to write about storm safety. Despite the limits implied by the title, this book addresses a number of storm-related dangers of which lightning is but one—high winds, flash floods, and wildfire are included. Early chapters discuss the medical effects of lightning (including a harrowing account of a fatal strike); the cultural history of storms; “Lightning 101,” in which the mechanics of lightning are explained; and the meteorology of storms.

The author has, for each hazard, provided anecdotes that illustrate the threat. More substantively, he has defined what he has termed the four A’s (sic)—Anticipate, Assess, Act, and Aid. As a practical approach, this mnemonic has a great deal to commend it, for it provides an easily recognizable framework of priorities for use in difficult and frightening circumstances. The instructions here are indispensable. As one example, he correctly notes that the care of lightning victims turns conventional triage on its head—the apparently dead must be treated first, with CPR, before dealing with damage to the conscious.

The book contains much information that was new to me, some with significant practical import. In the chapter “Strategies for Thunderstorm Safety,” mention is made of studies that indicate considerable difference in frequency of lightning strikes among various species of trees, an observation that may have utility in selecting woodland shelter. I had known of this phenomenon previously only as folk belief, not as substantiated fact. Renner does debunk many of the popular misconceptions regarding lightning, a blessing given the amount of false information in circulation.

I do have a few minor cavils with Lightning Strikes: for example, though ground effect current (responsible for many injuries) is mentioned in passing, it is neither defined nor sufficiently emphasized. To give the author due credit he does state that shallow overhangs (including most rock shelters) do not provide significant protection from ground effect current, though so innate is the urge to get under cover that I would have liked to see a fuller discussion of the risks entailed. A brief consideration of devices intended to provide early warning of lightning—do they work?—would have been useful.

The Mountaineers are to be commended for issuing this attractively produced paperback. Anyone who is likely to encounter a storm (that is, all of us who spend time outdoors) will find valuable and potentially lifesaving information here. This is a book whose advice should be carefully read and memorized.
**F A V O R I T E          H I K E S**

**A Favorite Hike, Far Afield: A Walk in Southwestern Ireland**

For some TC members, a favorite armchair activity during hunting season is planning next year’s hiking vacation. Member Joan Ehrenfeld recommends a loop trail in Ireland.

By Joan Ehrenfeld

Ireland is called the “emerald isle” for good reason—the equable temperatures and frequent rain nurture a luxuriant blanket of green across the country. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the southwest-ern counties. Fortunately, marked walk-ing paths—referred to as “waymarked ways”—allow walkers to experience the extraordinary beauty of this place.

My husband David and I spent 10 days this past summer walking the Kerry Way, a 20-mile loop trail that passes through and around the Iveragh Peninsula in County Kerry. The Way follows small country lanes, paved and unpaved, farm paths, the remains of an old coach road, and footpaths across pastures, with only a few short sec-tions on major roads.

One frequently climbs ladder-like stiles over the fences that separate pastures. The lanes run between hedges of fuschias, blackberries, and wildflowers, past iso-lated farmhouses and innumerable sheep, and across meadows, moorland, and bog.

The coach path varies from a well-defined grassy path to an obscure, barely discern-ible track lost in the bogland that coats this part of Ireland like a true wet blanket. In most stretches, the Way is clearly marked with signposts and markers; a few parts require careful observation to ensure that one is not lost among the gorse and heather. The footing varies from excellent to challenging, the latter a combination of very wet, rocky, and fairly steep. Although the boggy areas make for slow walking, the yellow bog-asphodel, purple heather, pink spotted orchids and white bog-cotton make the walk a visual feast.

The Way mostly stays in the lowlands, with periodic climbs over saddles and gaps in the mountains. The walk starts (and ends) in Killarney National Park, where the few remaining old-growth oaks and yew forests in Ireland alternate with upland bog. The path then heads through the Black Valley in the shadow of the MacGillycuddy Reeks, the highest mountain range in Ire-land (a range that is geologically quite similar to the Catskill Mountains of New York). It emerges along the northern coast of the peninsula, giving views over Dingle Bay, heads west and then south, and then returns eastward along Kenmare Bay. Views from the high points over the Irish countryside, the bays, and the distant hills of the Dingle and Beara peninsulas are frequent. The greatest elevation gain in a day’s walk is about 2,500 feet (usually the sum of several climbs over gaps or saddles).

Although camping areas are available in the small towns through which the Way passes, the land is all privately owned outside the national park, and most walk-ers travel between bed-and-breakfasts. Many of these establishments welcome hikers—hot tea, biscuits, and scones are ready when you arrive, the host dries out wet boots, and a bag lunch will be prepared for you for the next day. One of the pleasures of the walk is the variety of people one meets over meals at the B&Bs, as well as on the trail. We met people from all over Europe, but surprisingly few Ameri-cans. We walked between 9 and 15 miles each day (averaging about 11½), but it is always possible to hitch a ride on the longer days, or arrange car transport at the B&B.

**Resources**

Our trip was arranged through a company, Go-Ireland (www.goactivities.com) which made the B&B reservations, transported our luggage and provided maps and interpretive walking notes for each day. However, the trip can done independently, using the lists of B&Bs and coun-try inns available from the Irish Tourist Board or guide books such as the Lonely Planet series, if you want to carry more than a daypack. The Walk Guide—South-west of Ireland by Sean O’ Suilleabhain, one of the founders of the Kerry Way, provides an excellent description of the walk.

Joan Ehrenfeld is a Trail Conference mem-ber and chair of the TC Science Advisory Committee.

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**Hunting Seasons**

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

**NEW YORK**

**Southern Zone (including Catskills)**

**Deer Season**

Archery: Oct. 15–Nov. 17; Dec. 11–15

Archery (Westchester Co. only): Nov. 1–Dec. 31

Firearms: Nov. 18–Dec. 10

Muzzleloader: Dec. 11–15

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park. However, it is allowed in parts of Minnewaska and Sterling For-est State Parks. Call 845-786-2701 for more details about hunting in these parks. (As of the deadline for this newsletter, Storm King State Park is closed to all pub-lic use. Hunting is permitted in portions of the park when it is open to the public; call the above number for the latest sta-tus.)

**Black Rock Forest**

Closes to all hikers from Nov. 18 to Dec. 10, inclusive. For de-tails, call 845-534-4517.

More information about New York’s hunt-ing schedules is available from the Depart-ment of Environmental Conservation at www.dec.state.ny.us.

**New Jersey**

New Jersey has very complicated hunt-ing seasons that vary depending on loca-tion and kind of weapon permit. It is rec-ommended that hikers verify the dates for the location in which they are interested. Call 609-292-2965, or 908-637-4125 (staffed seven days a week) or visit www.njfishandwildlife.com. The follow-ing dates for deer season were listed on the website. There is no Sunday hunt-

**Deer Season**

Firearms (all zones): Dec. 9–14

Shotgun (dates vary among zones, but may include the following): Nov. 25, 26, 27, and 29; Dec. 9–14; Dec. 18–20; Jan. 4–31, 2003; and Feb. 1–15, 2003.

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**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

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**Hikers’ Almanac**

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Short for information, 973-289-0122. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 3 moderate miles on a purposeful trail, quite hilly.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 19**

FVTW. Silver Mine Circular, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Jim Sweeney, Jones, 973-788-3984. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 4 miles. Even Aries doesn’t know how much trail he’ll finish. But, as usual, a supreme hike.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 23**


FVTW. Thaletter State Park. Leader: For information, call 945-246-6468. Meet: 8:45 AM at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Easy 0.6 miles. Inclement weather date is the following Saturday.


**SUNDAY, NOV. 24**


SUNDAY, NOV. 24


UCHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Mike Davis, 908-233-6541. Meet: 10 AM at Trailside Nature Center parking lot on Coles Ave. A nice mix of woods and areas in the Watchung Reservation. Enjoy a moderate ramble; steady rain cancels.

UCHC. Major Wells Trail. Leader: Ileana Geraci, 908-838-8231. Meet: 8:30 AM, Anthony Wayne Recreation Area parking area, pinnacles in Harriman Park. Moderately strenuous. It is not too late to walk the extra portion of turkey and geese. Grab the chance while you can; great views will reward you. Rain, snow, or poor driving condition cancels.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 25**

FVTW. Mountain Way Park, Parsippany, N.J. Leader: Jim & Thomas McKay, 973-630-1760. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. Moderate 6 mile hike in this park on an open trail and woods trails.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation Trail Maintenance. Leader: Must call to pre-register. Betty Ann Kelly, 973-532-4231. Meet: Trailside Nature Center parking lot on Coles Ave. (intersection with New Providence Rd.). No experience necessary; help pur-purist and Remove invasive species, clear black desserts, etc. Have fun while giving something back to the trail. After new pants and help learn new skills while working outdoors.

UCHC. Susan Mountain Environmental Center. Leader: Mary Duke, 908-580-1778. Meet: 10 AM at the center, in Basking Ridge. All moderate or easy on trail. Brisk ramble; steady rain cancels.


**SUNDAY, DEC. 8**


UCHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Stedig Hogan, 908-788-6500. Meet: 10 AM at Trailside Nature Center on Coles Ave. Intersection with New Providence Rd. 1.5 miles of rambling; steady rain cancels.

IHC. Indian Navigation. Leader: Pete Hoblin, 201-640-6944. Meet: 8:30 AM; Eagle Rock Reservation Rd. (RT 17), Southfield, NY. Strenuous. Hike in the Homebush Dunning, Dunning, Iron Bar, and Iron Trail, and the Valley of Boulders, Green Pond, Black Rock Mtn., and over the highest (1382') point in Harriman State Park. Approx. 8.5 miles. Join with ADK. No phone calls reserving the trail. Rain, snow, etc. or poor driving condition will definitely cancel the hike.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 12**

FVTW. Ramapo Mountain Circular. Leader: All Leigh, 973-471-7261. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 7 miles. B+ hike; bundle-up for a ramp from the Ramapo Mountain State Forest, camp; Visit Camp Faun at Connellee Backcountry.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

ADK. Times Square Figure 8. Info: 816-319-8480. B hike; 8 miles.

WTW. Erinoko Lookout, Ringwood State Park. Leader: Estelle Watanabe, 973-402-1425. Meet: Must call leader. Alternate hike of 6-7 miles on east side of Skyline Dr., many miles of both views, Inclement weather cancels.

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

UCHC. Ramapo Lake. Leader: Mickey Seng, 707-756-7546. Meet: 9 AM at the trailhead of Skyline Dr.; call for directions. Very scenic, moderate 5-6 mile hike; call if trail due to inclement weather.

UCHC. Paradise Rock. Leader: Pete Fitzgerald, 845-688-7381; call only between 8PM and 9PM; petef@optonline.net. Meet: 8:30 AM. White Bar Parking Lot, Rt 106, Harriman State Park. Moderate. We will go to Paradise via the White Bar Trail and later stop at some of the old mine ruins. Morning coffee break at 10:30 AM. Return route determined by conditions. Bring lots of water.

**MONDAY, DEC. 16**

RJV. Adirondack High Point (COBOH). For information: 424-269-7887. Meet: 8:00 AM, Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St, Saugerties, NY. Moderate. Steep and exposed along the entire route. Start out the New Year on the Right FOOT by hiking in the Catskills. This will be a moderately paced trail hike with great views.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 17**

FVTW. Wawayanda State Park. Leader: Carolyn J. & Jim Collings, 973-729-6774. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. Moderate 6-7 mile hike on some favorite trails and new areas we have seen for the Cherry Ridge Cemetery.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 20**


IHC. West Mountain. Leader: John & Estelle McIlrath, 973-694-3006. Meet: 8:00 AM, Axcander Columbus State Park trailhead. Steep hike with challenging ascents. Minimum hiking time expected 4 hours. Car shuttle required.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 22**

ADK R. Historic Palisades. Info: 201-569-0244 or gpreoteasa@att.net. Class Chike; 6 miles.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Carol McNeil, 718-785-2506; call of 8PM on call of 8PM. Meet: 8:00 AM at Trailside Nature Center on Coles Ave. Intersection with New Providence Rd. Brisk ramble of 4-5 miles; steady rain cancels. If race or ice, bring ponchos.

WTW. Long Path to Hudson Beach State Park. Leader: George Thome, 908-984-2018. Meet: 8:00 AM. Trailside Nature Center parking lot (14 admission fee). Some 4-5 mile hike at a moderate pace in this historic park.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25**

IHC. Christmas @ Skannatati. Leader: Larry Spiller, 845-356-5198, 8:00:00 CM only. Meet: 9AM, carriage parking, Skippack. NY. Moderate, strenuous; there are no views for the season, will be the Winter? Conditions may require ponchos and snowshoes. Leader reserves the right to turn away hikers without proper gear. Rain or inclement weather cancels. call 1-700 Day of hike in doubt. Join with AAC.

SUNDAY, DEC. 29


**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1**

ADK R. Historic Palisades. Info: 201-569-0244 or gpreoteasa@att.net. Class Chike; 6 miles.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Carol McNeil, 718-785-2506; call of 8PM on call of 8PM. Meet: 8:00 AM at Trailside Nature Center on Coles Ave. Intersection with New Providence Rd. Brisk ramble of 4-5 miles; steady rain cancels. If race or ice, bring Ponchos.

IHC. West Mountain. Leader: John & Estelle McIlrath, 973-694-3006. Meet: 8:00 AM, Axcander Columbus State Park trailhead. Steep hike with challenging ascents. Minimum hiking time expected 4 hours. Car shuttle required.
SCS. Social Hike/Clean-up in Harriman State Park. Join the volunteers who bring you the great outdoors!

The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikes are welcome subject to regulations and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Wear hiking boots or shoes, bring lunch, water, rain gear, first aid kit, and flashlight in a backpack. Leaders have the right and responsibility to refuse anyone whose behavior cannot complete the hike or is not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are relative terms; call leader 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 committees, contact our Web site or send an E-Mail with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

SATURDAY, NOV. 2

SATURDAY, NOV. 3
WTW. AT Trail Maintenance hike at Bear Mountain. Leader: Call Cherryll Short for information, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM at Garri- son train parking lot (9:53 train from GCT). Moderate hike to a recent trail maintenance project on the Appalachian Trail in and around Breakneck Ridge. See George’s and Devo’s graves, then visit Hippo Pond on the Long Path. Apres hike bring us to the AT, which leads to the train and back to Millburn via another section of the Hackensack.

SUNDAY, NOV. 4

NOVEMBER
Join the volunteers who bring you the great outdoors!

1500 miles of trails and counting; your membership helps us expand our horizons.

Included with membership, Trail Walker, 10% discount on purchases at most outdoors stores, and 20% discount on all Trail Conference maps and books.

Support the work of the NY/NJ Trail Conference with your membership.

Membership Level
Individual + $25
Joint/Family + $31
Sponsor + $50
Benefactor + $100
Senior/Student + $18
Life + $500
Life + $750

Name
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Zip
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Evening Phone
E-Mail

☐ Check or money order enclosed ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex
Card #: ____________________________
Exp. Date: ____________________________

Make check or money order payable to the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. Tax-deductible.

SATURDAY, NOV. 16
ADK-MH. Davidson, Bear Mountain. Info: 845-228-4291. Meet: Bear Mountain S.P., 10:30 AM. Call leader to register. We will hike on the moderately strenuous Cornell Mine Trail to the top of Bear Mountain. Near the top, we will look at the remnants of the 18th century Cornell Mine. We will then lunch atop the mountain, with sweeping views around, then hike down to the valley and downstate. We will wait at the base of this old orchard and its two cemeteries. Hike leader will share some of the history and photos of Davidson. This is a moderate 4 x 5 mile hike.

NYHC. Bear Mountain. Leader: Mike Parker, 718-743-0203. Meet: 9:30 AM at trailhead. Grand Conglomerate to Catskill Crest trail to Millstone. NYHC will carry week of meeting for time. Moderate strenuous 5 miles at moderate pace uphill. Hike to top of Bear Mtn. on the AT, spectacular views.


IHC. Silvemore Trail. Leader: Jim Hayes, 201-825-9503. Meet: 10:30 AM at Silvemore Park, place of departure, hike to a recent section of the Appalachian Trail. Moderate strenuous; about 8 miles. Journey to Baileyton through other trails. See George’s and Dave’s graves, then visit Hippos Pond on the Long Path. Apres hike bring us to the AT, which leads to the train and back to Millburn via another section of the Hackensack.

TUESDAY, NOV. 12
FVTW. Westhill Mt. Info: 973-249-7158. Meet: 8 AM at Sawanee Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Sawanee, NY. The hike covers the upper parts of the Peach Tree section of the Long Path, optional hike to Dietzville High Peak. Inclement weather date is the following Friday.

SATURDAY, NOV. 9
ADK-MH. Fallstock State Park. Info: 845-258-8077 between 7 PM and 8 AM, or call 9:03 arrival of MetroNorth train from Grand Central (departs 7:43) at the Palisades train station. Brisk 5 miles with steep up; steady rain cancels.

SUNDAY, NOV. 10

THURSDAY, NOV. 14
FVTW. Garden of Arden (Harriman State Park), NY. Leader: All Leigh, 973-471-7528. Meet: 10 AM at Elk Pen parking lot; call for location. 9 miles is an intense all-terrain, views abundant.

2000+ members strong
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