



TRAILWALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE...MAINTAINING OVER 1500 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS

JULY/AUGUST 2003

Go Jump in a Lake! (Here's Where You Can)

By Larry Wheelock

Don't let the heat of summer keep you off the trails. There are quite a few spots in our region where hikers can take a plunge, and legal ones at that. When you plan an outing to one of these swimming holes (or if you accidentally slip and fall into a cool, clear pool in some hidden spot—sometimes it happens), here are a few tips to keep in mind to stay healthy and minimize the environmental impact of your dip:

- Body lotions such as sun screens, bug repellents, and soap are likely to leave a fine film of oil on the water's surface that will reduce the oxygen available to life forms below.
- Disturbance of silt on the streambed can disrupt feeding and breeding in nearby areas.
- Other creatures—two legged, four legged, scaled, and feathered—use the stream and may leave some nasty little beasts that you don't want to swallow!

Most public swimming areas are open to the public from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend (many on weekends-only prior to school closing in June). With very few exceptions swimming is generally not allowed when a lifeguard is not on duty.

The following is not a complete inventory of places where swimming is allowed, but it is a list of some favorite swimming holes from our volunteers who watch over the trails.

In New Jersey

The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area maintains a policy of not regulating swimming in open bodies of water in the recreation area, with the exception of the VanCampens Brook, which

is a protected trout stream. Authorities do recommend that you choose to swim at beaches where there are lifeguards on duty, such as the Depew Recreation Area on the Delaware River (parking fee). For a cool dip after hiking the AT on the Kittatinny

Ridge, try Crater Lake (see the Kittatinny map #16). This is a not-too-busy, beautiful spot that does not have a lifeguard, but is relatively safe and has a gently sloping soil and rock beach area.

N. J. State Parks and Forests have numerous beach areas close to trails that can be used during hours when lifeguards are on duty. Most such parks have a per vehicle access fee of \$5 on weekdays and \$7

on weekends. This fee may have gone up after the deadline for this publication, so be prepared for slightly higher rates. In Stokes State Forest, there is Stony Lake, with numerous trails nearby. In High Point State Park, there is Lake Marcia, with the Monument and Appalachian Trails nearby. Wawayanda State Park has, of course, Lake Wawayanda, with plenty of hiking surrounding it.

In New York

At Bear Mountain/Harriman State Park, the Bear Mountain pool charges \$2 for adults and \$1 for children, plus a \$7 parking fee. At Lake Sebago, Lake Welch, and Lake Tiorati, there is only the parking fee of \$7 per car.

Along the Long Path hikers are welcome to cool off in a pool at Tallman State Park in Piermont; fees are \$2 for adults, \$1 for children. Hil-Mar Lodge on the northwest side of Schunemunk Mountain still invites LP hikers to use their pool at a discounted rate. This facility is also open for day use at a rate of \$7 per vehicle.

In Minnewaska State Park, two popular places to swim are at Lake Minnewaska and Lake Awosting. The crystal clear

swimming area of Awosting is at the end of numerous trails and is not too heavily used. Both beaches require only the usual \$7 per car parking fee. A by-permit-only, no-lifeguard, long-distance swim area is available at Lake Minnewaska for swimmers who qualify (you must pass a swim test and pay a \$15 membership fee to the Minnewaska Swimmers Association, an independent non-profit group). For information visit www.minnewaskaswimmers.org or call 845-895-5012.

In the East of the Hudson area, two popular places frequented by hikers are the Canopus Lake beach in Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park and the quarry near Bashbish brook in Taconic State Park Recreation Area in Copake Falls. The Bashbish is a deep-water facility for experienced swimmers only, although there is a kiddie pool nearby. Both of these require only a per car entrance fee of \$7.

Swimming in the Catskill Forest Preserve back-country is generally permitted, though at-your-own risk. Colgate Lake in the northeast sector is a popular, lifeguard-free spot and a short walk to the Colgate Lake Trail, which connects to the Long Path just southeast of the Blackhead range. Elsewhere in the Catskills there are a few beaches with lifeguards on duty: one each at North and South Lakes, Mongaup Pond, Little Pond, Kenneth L. Wilson Campground, and Bear Spring Mountain. Day use of these facilities is \$5 per car, and no swimming is permitted at these spots when lifeguards are off duty.

TC's John Moran Gets NJ Parks Volunteer of Year Award

It didn't take John Moran long to become an invaluable volunteer on our region's trail networks. It was just four years ago that he first joined a Trail Conference project, helping Walt Daniels (Dutchess/Putnam AT management committee) cordon off a mine along the Appalachian Trail in New York's Dutchess County. Soon he was helping Daniel Chazin (publications committee), mapping and measuring trails in the new Sterling Forest State Park to provide data for TC publications. He volunteered as a main-



Ed Goodell congratulates John Moran

tainer, took Maintenance 101, "and after that Dick Warner (North Jersey trails chair) called and

offered me the Halifax Trail in Ramapo Reservation."

At Dick Warner's request, John took on the role of supervisor of the trails in Ramapo Reservation, coordinating the

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New Club, New Trail, and Good News for the Highlands Trail

With 15 members, give or take a member, the Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy based in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, is one of the smallest Trail Conference member clubs. With a birth date of January 2001, it is also one of the youngest. And, welcomed into TC ranks in early 2002, it is one of the conference's newest club members.

Yet the Musconetcong (pronounced mus-co-NET-cong) Mountain Conservancy (MMC) has big ambitions—preserving open space and connecting greenways in the Highlands, particularly for and along the approximately 20-mile route of the Highland Trail (HT) through Hunterdon County. Already, MMC spokesman John Jimenez reports, the

group has made progress toward preserving three or four properties via acquisition with the help of the state's Green Acres program; the process, he says, is in its final stages," and all the segments "are along the Highlands Trail greenway."

Hikers can already thank the group for its construction, with additional recruited volunteers, of a new link in the Highlands Trail: a 1.5-mile section on Musconetcong Mountain. The trail was completed in March and a dedication ceremony was held on National Trails Day, June 7. Jimenez said the group hopes to be able to get to work on the next leg before the end of the year, if the acquisition happens as expected. "It's about 150 acres and will

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Georgette Weir *Editor*
Nora Porter *Managing Editor*

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NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

Mission Statement

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, founded in 1920, is a federation of member clubs and individuals dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community. The Conference is a volunteer-directed public service organization committed to:

- Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails.
- Protecting hiking trail lands through support and advocacy.
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is a federation of 85 hiking and outdoor groups, and 10,000 individuals.

The Lure of Long-Distance Trails

There is a special feeling hikers get when they intersect a long-distance trail and can say to themselves, "If I turn right, I could walk all the way to Georgia." Most people never do, but just knowing that it is possible is part of the romance of long-distance trails.

With talk about extending the Long Path towards the Adirondacks and the need to involve members in the work, I wondered about the attraction of long-distance trails. What is the lure that entices people to become involved in the Long Path, Highlands Trail, Hudson River Greenway Trail, or the Appalachian Trail, and what makes them stay involved? I put the question to some of our members who work on these trails.

Jakob Franke was first involved with the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and later became trails chair of the Long Path South. He responded: "A long-distance trail represents the essence of a greenway by tying together various areas. It satisfies my desire for variety and travel, both in hiking stretches of the trail and in taking care of it, thus allowing me to enjoy completely different landscapes and localities." That he can do this in a regional setting is also part of the attraction.

Ed Walsh, supervisor of the Long Path in Harriman State Park, enjoyed some of his earliest hikes on the Long Path. He learned to backpack there, and his experiences on the LP eventually led him to the Trail Conference. "The LP introduced me to places in New York I never knew existed," Ed told me. "Schunemunk, the Shawangunks, Vroman's Nose, the Helderbergs, and many more that I'm still exploring." The fact that Ed originally hiked the trail as a family project has made it even more special, as has the fact that many of his friendships have been forged on the trail.

Art Lebofsky is involved with the Long Path in a different capacity. As a maintainer of a section in a suburban environment he has a chance to meet hikers from distant locations and listen to their stories. Art notes: "It adds a culture and flavor as I meander along my two-plus miles. I can take in some spectacular views of the Hudson River near Hook Mountain and the Tappan Zee Bridge and socialize with the random hiker, both 'foreign' and local." He says that his trail is a kind of local "sidewalk," a path that walkers take to reach local destinations while enjoying an opportunity to clear their minds. For Art, a long-distance trail offers a snippet of the hiking community.

Bob Moss, Highlands Trail supervisor

for New Jersey, said: "The 'lure' that hooked me to work on the Highlands Trail was the opportunity to be out in the woods, creating a significant but non-obtrusive addition: a narrow footpath that lures others, even if they only day-hike." Rather than through-hike the Highlands Trail in a quick burst, Bob is traversing it slowly, following the focus of his trail work as it gradually shifts from the established hiking areas of Orange and Passaic counties to the more remote areas south and west in Morris and Hunterdon counties. Along the way Bob has discovered parts of New Jersey that had remained hidden to him in spite of his life-long residence, and has had the opportunity to work with people in many different communities. Bob's involvement with the Highlands Trail is such that in New Jersey, if you think Highlands Trail, you think of him.

The Appalachian Trail is thought by some to be the premier long-distance trail. When Mike Rea, now AT overseer from New Jersey to Route 17 in New York, started working on the trail in 1989, he just wanted to do maintenance. He enjoyed the fact that one direction led to Georgia and the other led to Maine, and that as he worked he had the chance to meet hikers from around the country and the world whose goal was simply to complete the distance. In time a different kind of AT distance became Mike's goal. "I envision the distance in years when people will still be walking the AT," he explained. "A few years ago I helped the Trail Crew construct some stone steps. It took two weeks to complete about 50 feet of steps, but every time I sweep the leaves, I think of the years ahead when people will still be walking on those steps in their goal to hike from Georgia to Maine."

Larry Wheelock, TC Trails Director,

first became involved with the Appalachian Trail when he started working on the New Jersey Pochuck project, the AT's single biggest volunteer effort. Over the course of two years, he saw the power of a long-distance trail to be a community builder. "The AT is a golden thread that ties communities together," Larry commented. "At the same time it gives the local community a glimpse of being part of a larger picture."

The Hudson River Valley Greenway (HRVG) Trail, described as being as diverse as the valley, is not usually thought of as a long-distance trail, but it has many of the attributes of one. In the early 1990s, I was part of the HRVG staff and worked with local communities to help them build the trail. I was attracted to the project because of the opportunity to build a regional trail. Even though I am no longer on the Greenway staff, I serve on the board and continue to be lured by the trail because it connects the natural, cultural, and historic resources within the valley.

My husband and I are also among those heading towards Georgia on the AT and have completed about two-thirds of its length on hiking vacations. Our hikes have provided us with an overview of the whole trail, which is invaluable to us as current (Walt) and former (me) members of the AT Board of Managers. Our AT outings also give us a chance to see how people live in other sections of the country when we travel to day-hike trail segments outside our region.

Much of the lure of the long-distance trail is in the opportunities it grants hikers to see and experience different areas, slices of life so to speak. There are many ways to be involved with any of our region's long-distance trails. Volunteer positions from maintainer to trail builder to manager are possible. Let Josh Erdsneker (josh@nynjtc.org) at the TC office know of your interest. Your involvement may take you to Georgia, Albany, the Delaware River, or the Adirondacks.

—Jane Daniels

N. J. CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS HIKE



Trail Conference volunteers Jack Shuart and Alan Abramowitz (top row, 2nd and 1st from right respectively) led a hike in the Pequannock watershed organized by the Highland Coalition for congressional staffers.



from the Executive Director

Leaving a Permanent Legacy for Generations of Future Hikers

As hikers and outdoor enthusiasts, Trail Conference members have long been the eyes and ears of conservationists and on the leading edge of many of the region's most important grassroots advocacy efforts. To bolster our efforts as activists, we began to seek targeted acquisition of land for trail corridors in the late 1980s.

With the hiring of our part-time land acquisition director, John Myers, in 1990, we began a very productive period of working with area land trusts and public agencies to acquire priority trail lands and corridors. In addition, we established an Outdoor Fund as the primary vehicle for financing land protection activities.

One might ask why the Trail Conference should get involved in land protection when there are so many very capable land trusts and government agencies with far greater resources engaged in this issue. The answer is that, because we are hikers and nature lovers, we not only seek out natural areas but we seek to connect them into a walkable network.

As a result, we fill a small but important role in land conservation. Unlike state forests, parks, or refuges, linear trail corridors involve a very large number of individual parcels for the amount of land involved. Since it is just as time consuming to negotiate the sale of a small parcel as a large one, most land trust and public

agencies choose to get more bang for the buck with the acquisition of large parcels.

In situations like this, the Trail Conference, with a vested interest in creating a trail corridor, will step forward using the Outdoor Fund to assemble the numerous small parcels to create a continuous corridor. Our success is predicated on two factors: 1) an on-the-ground knowledge of the land and landowners; and 2) a close working relationship with land-acquiring partners. The following are a few highlights of those efforts.

New Jersey

■ We recommended about a dozen parcels along the Appalachian Trail to the State of New Jersey (Green Acres), which has purchased most of these, and they continue to work on the remaining ones. We also worked with the Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust (ATCLT) to obtain an easement on a parcel of land near the AT.

■ Along the Highlands Trail in Hunterdon County, we identified all the privately owned parcels on the trail corridor. Since then, the Town of Bethlehem and Hunterdon County have purchased three of these parcels with assistance from Green Acres.

■ Along the Warren County branch

of the Highlands Trail, we worked with the Warren County planning department to map out a route for the trail corridor. They have since purchased several parcels to protect the trail there.

■ In Morris County, we worked with the county and with the Morris County Land Conservancy (MCLC) to identify several key parcels to protect the Farney Highlands Trail. MCLC successfully purchased these parcels and then transferred them to Green Acres.

■ In Sussex County, we worked with the Town of Byram and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) to protect a significant section of the Highlands Trail. NJCF found a conservation buyer, who purchased more than 2000 acres and is now giving us a trail easement across the land.

New York

■ In New York, our primary government partners have been the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC). Two of the largest acquisitions that the Trail Conference and many other groups were involved in were Minnewaska State Park and Sterling Forest, both acquired by PIPC.

■ Along the Long Path north of the Catskills on Ginseng Ridge, we optioned four parcels and purchased a fifth and then successfully transferred them all to DEC. We also purchased and re-sold two parcels on Huntersfield Ridge in a similar manner, and assisted DEC with another parcel inside the Catskills.

■ We have worked on land protection projects with other land trusts. The Open Space Institute purchased several major parcels in the Shawangunks, which are important to our trail network. These include the 4,700-acre Sam's Point Preserve, the 1,400-acre Shawangunk State Forest, and the 5,000-acre Vernooey Kill/Lundy

tract. We have also worked with them to acquire a key trail access parcel at Stony Kill Falls on the western edge of Minnewaska.

■ We have worked closely with the National Park Service (NPS) on parcels along the AT on the NY-NJ border. We identified several parcels as critical for protection of the AT. They have since purchased one of these and continue to work on several more.

■ Near the Appalachian Trail just north of Sterling Forest, we worked with the Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust (ATCLT) and the Orange County Land Trust to acquire a key parcel at Arrow Park. We also worked with ATCLT to obtain several donations of land and conservation easements along the AT.

■ We worked with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the Town of Warwick over a several year period to purchase three key parcels adjacent to the AT, which helped create a new town park—Cascade Lake Park.

■ With TPL we have also worked on several acquisitions in the southern Shawangunks. Most recently TPL transferred a 525-tract at Lake Hathorn near I-84 in the Town of Greenville to DEC.

■ Along the 35-mile Shawangunk Ridge, we contacted over 70 owners and identified more than 30 key parcels that had willing sellers. We signed up options with as many of these owners as we could, 10 parcels totaling more than 1200 acres. We also identified another seven willing sellers with over 750 acres. We have also purchased 15 smaller parcels along the trail corridor totaling over 200 acres from Orange County, Sullivan County, and a private landowner. We are now assisting DEC to acquire these lands.

Future Imperatives

As I've discussed at length in this column previously, our window of opportunity for further trail land protection will close over the next decade. The race for open space between conservationists and developers will be over. There will be no more available land to conserve, or develop.

To obtain a permanent legacy for future generations of hikers, the Trail Conference must prioritize its trail protection objectives and mount a major effort to protect as much as possible, as soon as possible. Through necessity, the Trail Conference has learned how to stretch its Outdoor Funds to protect the greatest amount of land with the least amount of capital.

Our challenge now is to maintain a high level of efficiency and innovation but, more importantly, to greatly increase the size of the Outdoor Fund and thus our capacity to permanently protect trail lands while they are still available.

This is a window of opportunity that we can take advantage of together. In my September column, I'll talk about how innovative use of the Outdoor Fund could be the key to our success.

—Ed Goodell

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

Competing Bills Would Tighten ATV Regulation in NYS

Illegal ATV use has become a major threat to our protected wild lands and many private lands. ATVs destroy vegetation, create large ruts and mud holes in trails, disturb wildlife and intrude on those enjoying a peaceful hike. Currently, the New York State Legislature is considering two bills addressing ATV use on public land. The second bill also addresses ATV trespass on private lands and proposes stricter penalties. Both bills propose to augment available funding for enforcement efforts against illegal ATV use.

Assembly bill 8480/Senate bill 5073 would prohibit the operation of ATVs by the general public in the state Forest Preserve, the Long Island Central Pine Bar-

rens, and the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. The legislation also calls for the impoundment of ATVs operated in these sensitive areas and the imposition of a \$100 surcharge on the owner of the vehicle.

This legislation has several serious weaknesses. ATV use on all types of trails is already banned in the state Forest Preserve by Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulations and the Adirondack and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans. In the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve, only roads open to other types of motor vehicle use can be designated for ATV use and only after a

thorough environmental review establishes that ATV use will not cause additional environmental impact. ATV use in the Albany Pine Bush and the Long Island Pine Barrens is currently prohibited by local law. Of course, some illegal use does occur under current law; the answer is not duplication of existing laws, but more enforcement, impoundment of ATVs, and stricter penalties.

More importantly, the bill makes no provision for prohibiting ATV use in state parks, state forests, and in wildlife management, natural, and unique areas. The Trail Conference-Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Partnership is concerned about the legal implications of legislative action to ban ATV use in areas where their use is

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SHAWANGUNK RIDGE
www.shawangunkridge.org
See updates, pages 8 & 9



TRAIL NEWS

Delaware Water Gap Road Still Closed

Old Mine Road in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, from the Dewep Recreation area south to the Worthington State Forest boundary, will be closed through the summer, the National Park Service has announced. Bad weather has slowed repair work on the road, which was to have reopened in June.

Illegal Bike Trail Closed

Acting in response to two letters from the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), the National Park Service (NPS) has ceased advertising a trail in the undeveloped area of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as open to mountain bicycles. PEER pointed out that the NPS has allowed and encouraged mountain bike use on the Blue Mountain Trail since at least 1998 without having designated the trail for bikes as required by NPS regulations.

Reopening of Columbia Trail Delayed

The Hunterdon County portion of the Columbia Trail, extending from the Morris County border into High Bridge, will remain closed until December of this year. The trail, undergoing significant reconstruction, was to have reopened in May, but severe weather has hampered progress. There is a zero tolerance policy in effect for all violators of the trail closure postings, and a court summons will be issued to anyone violating this notice.

AT RIDGE RUNNERS



The Appalachian Trail Ridge Runners in New Jersey for this year are, from left to right: Mindy Batson, Garth Fisher (returning for the third year!), and Gina Varrichio.

TC Takes on NYC Trails

The Trail Conference and its Metro Area Trails Committee reached out to the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation this year with the result that a trail supervision project will be piloted by the TC in Alley Pond Park in Queens.

Bob Ward, chair of the Metro Area Trails Committee, reports that he along with TC executive director Ed Goodell and trails director Larry Wheelock scouted the park and were "surprised at the opportunities" for hiking there.

He notes that Alley Pond features a network of marked trails that are in need of maintainers.

"The upshot of these meetings," says Ward, "is that we can do a service for New York City, where our roots lie. Through this coordination, we can forge a solid bond of cooperation between the city and the Trail Conference."

For information on how to get involved with this or other projects of the Metro Area Trails Committee, contact Bob Ward at robert.ward31@verizon.net or telephone him after 8 pm at 718-471-7036.

Learn Technical Rock-Work on Twin Forts Trail in July

Join TC member Ed Walsh (formerly of the paid staffs of the ADK, AMC, GMC, and Maine ATC) for innovative trail construction and reconstruction workshops on the newly constructed Twin Forts Trail. The primary project will be to build a large stone staircase with retaining wall below the Bear Mountain Bridge near the Bear Mountain Trailside Museum.

During these workshops participants will learn how to use advanced rigging techniques to move building materials, gain experience setting a rock staircase utilizing two techniques, and build a stone retaining wall. Workshop sizes are limited for safety reasons, so sign up now to reserve your spot. For more information or to sign up, contact Josh Erdsneker at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348 or at josh@nynjtc.org.

July 12 & 13: Advanced Highline Days (Crew size limited to 6)

Standard high/sky line techniques will be reviewed and some advanced rigging techniques will be used and taught, including the use of a tripod as a spar, extending and equalizing anchors, and belaying

rocks for controlled descents.

July 14 & 15: Advanced Highline Days (Crew size limited to 5)

Standard high/sky line techniques will be reviewed and some advanced rigging techniques will be used and taught, including the use of a tripod as a spar, extending and equalizing anchors, and belaying rocks for controlled descents.

July 18, 19, 20: Stone Setting Workshop (Crew size limited to 6)

Stone transportation with rigging systems and stone step setting skills will be taught. Both the "tuck-behind" and the overlap methods will be used.

July 25, 26, 27: Stone Setting and Crib Wall Construction Workshop (Crew size limited to 6)

Stone step setting, and rock retaining/crib wall construction workshops.

Dates are subject to change.

62 Learn Trail-Building Skills at Annual Workshop for Maintainers

Sixty-two current and potential maintainers attended the Annual Trail Maintenance Workshop Saturday, May 10 at Sterling Forest State Park. The weather was cooperative and the brand new Senator Frank Lautenberg Visitor Center provided a comfortable, educational, and scenic facility for the portion of the day spent attending indoor lectures.

Our thanks to park superintendent James Gell and his staff for the hospitality extended and to the following Trail Conference members who so willingly volunteered considerable time and effort in planning and presenting the day's successful program.

Basic Trail Maintenance

Lecturers: Mike Rea and Ike Siskin
Field mentors: Suzan Gordon, John Grob, John Jurasek, Mark Kassop, Manny Silberberg, Phyllis Stewart, and Peter Tilgner

Construction /Restoration

Lecturers: David Day and Monica Resor
Field mentors: Brian Buchbinder, Chris Ezzo, Claudia Ganz, Mary Hilley, and Bob Marshall

Refreshments: Anne Grob, Rita Heckler, Trudy Schneider, and Marilyn Siskin
Photographer: Paul Makus

I feel confident I speak for everyone when I recommend a visit to the beautiful new visitors center to enjoy the spectacular view it provides of Sterling Lake and the surrounding area. Peruse the histori-



New and experienced maintainers hone their skills.

cal exhibits and plan a hike using the interactive electronic diorama depicting the park's trail system. Then set out for a trip on the trails of Sterling Forest State Park, but be sure to bring along a map.

—Pete Heckler
Chair, West Hudson Trails (south) Committee

TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES

For the latest schedules, check <http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trvolop.html#crew>
TBA = To be announced

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.

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS

Call the leader no earlier than one week before the scheduled date. Work will be concentrating in the Lake Hopatcong area. All work dates are Sundays.
Leader: Bob Moss, 973-743-5203
July 13, TBA
July 27, TBA
August 10, TBA
August 24, TBA

WEST JERSEY

Leaders: David Day and Monica Resor, 732-937-9098, westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
Meeting times: 9 am; call for meeting location; heavy rain cancels.
July 12: Howell Trail, Stokes State Forest
Continuing bridge work.

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.

Biologist Joins TC Staff to Lead New Science Program



The Trail Conference has hired Edwin Miller McGowan to fill the new position of Volunteer Science Director on the TC staff. The Volunteer Science Director will develop a program of science that addresses the recreational ecology issues in the greater New York metropolitan region.

Trail Conference executive director Ed Goodell cites McGowan's decade-long work as a field ecologist in our region, his experience in working for a variety of governmental agencies that regulate and enforce environmental laws on trail lands, and his enthusiasm for working with volunteers as ideal credentials for the new position.

McGowan earned his Ph.D. in biology at the State University of New York at Binghamton this spring. His doctoral research was on the reproductive ecology of the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) and was sponsored by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Nature Conservancy. In the early 1990s, McGowan conducted a year and a half ecological study of the Allegheny wood rat, New York's most endangered mammal, at the Mohonk Preserve on the Shawangunk Ridge. He has worked extensively on local ecological surveys and studies for DEC, the Nature Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and others. He has also served as expert witness for New York State, opposing two controversial development projects in our area: Sour Mountain Reality Inc., a proposed quarry expansion on the Fishkill

Ridge in the Hudson Highlands, and Ramapo Energy in Torne Valley, Rockland County.

McGowan calls himself a conservationist, avid hiker, and enthusiastic volunteer, noting that he offers his services "when-ever possible, whether it be to secure grant money for a local Greenway sponsored trail project (e.g., Brooks Lake Trail in Fort Montgomery) or simply to move a rattlesnake from harms way as a member of the Nuisance Rattlesnake Responder System." He is a resident of Fort Montgomery, NY.

The Conference intends to develop a science program that will accomplish the following:

- create a volunteer-based monitoring and ecological management effort trail land managing agencies and area scientists;
- inform and support Conference activities with relevant scientific information and work with the scientific community to fill critical knowledge gaps; and
- educate the hiking community about relevant ecological and other scientific issues.

Examples of the kinds of activities envisioned include developing programs to recruit and train volunteers to monitor endangered species and their habitats, invasive exotics, and forest insect pest outbreaks, and preparing brief articles on ecological topics for the *TrailWalker*.

The science director is also expected to take a major role in generating funding to continue and expand the program, which has been funded in its start-up phase with lead grants from the Educational Foundation of America and the New York Community Trust.



Step Up for Bats

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) seeks volunteers to assist the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) in collecting important distribution and status information for bats throughout the state this summer.

In New Jersey, very little is known about the status and distribution of bats. The ENSP hopes the Summer Bat Count will document summer roosting locations throughout New Jersey and help to create an accurate range map for the state's nine species of bats. The Summer Bat Count will also help to educate the public about the importance of bats and encourage people to take steps toward their conservation.

In the spring, bats move out of their winter hibernation sites and disperse to

other areas. Female bats of some species form large maternity colonies where they nurse and raise their young, while male bats roost singly or in small clusters. Summer roosts may be located in churches, barns, houses, abandoned buildings, bridges, bat boxes, or trees. The DEP is looking for volunteers who know of a summer bat roost to conduct a count of the bats as they exit at dusk to feed. The count will be conducted twice during the summer between late May and August.

To find out how you can help protect New Jersey's bats and participate in the Summer Bat Count, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com> or contact the Endangered and Nongame Species Program at 908-735-9281 for further information.



Learn Area's Trail Geology Using a New Virtual Field Trip Website

By Alexander Gates

A new website has been developed to provide hikers and other recreational groups with an opportunity to see a plethora of geological features when enjoying the outdoors. The website, <http://harrimanrocks.rutgers.edu> provides a geological hiking guide to Harriman-Bear Mountain-Sterling Forest State Park, NY. The main feature of the website is a geological map of the area on a base of the NY-NJ Trail Conference topographic hiking map. An animated geological overlay can be added to show the distribution and types of the bedrock units that occupy the part of the park that has been mapped to date. There are also a series of stars (hot zones) across the map. These stars open to detailed insets of the hiking map. The insets contain images of geological features. The images include such things as the various rock types, the many iron mines in the area, faults, folded rocks, bodies of once melted rock (plutons), glacial deposits, and fracture systems through which ground water flows, and others. Viewers may stop with just the visual impact of the feature or they can learn the science behind it. By accepting the invitation to learn more, browsers can learn how rocks are studied as well as the state-of-the-art science of an ongoing research project on the geology of the park.

The deeper levels contain both a separate menu on the background information on geology and specific results of the current research program. Browsers may choose their level of comfort in terms of the scientific complexity by proceeding deeper into the site. Some of the concepts addressed in these levels include how the ages of rocks were determined, how the chemistry of ancient volcanic rocks can be used to determine the type of volcano it came out of, and how the magnetite (iron ore) was formed in the area.

The construction of the website is still in progress and several of the images do not yet contain the in-depth science. Many more locations will be added over the next year. There will also be programmed field trips to see certain types of features like mines, faults, or plutons. There is a form that can be filled out online requesting a permit for groups to make real-life visits to these features. There will also be a lo-

cation where you may report interesting discoveries to the research team.

Other current features of the website include a geologic history of the western Hudson Highlands, cool mineral slide shows, and a glossary of geology terms. A video of the geology of the area was also produced as part of this project. Footage of the park is supplemented with clips of modern examples of features courtesy of ABC-TV and custom animations to form an entertaining presentation. We plan to make it available in streaming video from the website in the near future.

This website is designed to pique the interest of browsers enough to get them away from their computer and out on the trail. For hikers, it is intended to provide a resource to enhance the pleasure and learning experiences of your outings. It is a dynamic project, so if you have any ideas on how to make this resource even more useful, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Alexander Gates is chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences at Rutgers University and a member of the TC science advisory committee.

STERLING FOREST CENTER OPENS



Governor Pataki and Senator Lautenberg cut the ribbon at the opening of the Senator Frank Lautenberg Family Visitor Center in Sterling Forest State Park.

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS

The Trail Conference is a volunteer powered organization. Without the dedication of its members, we would not be successful in accomplishing our mission. Please review the **TC Volunteer Classifieds** for new and interesting opportunities for members to get involved. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and can't find an opportunity that suits you, then call the Volunteer Projects Director, Joshua Erdsneker at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

Marketing is defined as...

"the process or technique of promoting, selling, and distributing a product or service." We need your help marketing the Trail Conference's products and services. Join one of the newest committees in our 83-year-old organization. This is a unique opportunity to get involved on the ground floor! Our motivated Marketing Committee is growing and we could use your assistance. **NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!** There are a number of ways to get involved, ranging from creating a Conference brand statement, working with the press, marketing our guidebooks and maps, and many more activities. Exciting opportunities are being developed such as:

- Retail Store Contact Coordinator
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 - Trail Walker Advertising Manager
 - Press Release Coordinator
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- Call 201-512-9348 now for more information about the August meeting; **you don't want to miss it.**

Tough Reputation to Uphold

Safeguard the mystic and rugged beauty of the hiking trails in one of the nation's most highly touted outdoor recreation areas. The hiking trails in the Catskills have been praised by hikers all over the world. Help keep the praise coming. Without your help, these magnificent trails will fall into disrepair. Join our dedicated Catskills Trails Committee and help keep the trails open. Contact Josh at the TC office to make a difference.

Fulfillment Clerk

Looking for an interesting way to stay cool during the hot summer months? Why not come to the Trail Conference office once a week and assist our membership and sales department with the processing of

membership forms and sales orders work. Sixty percent of our income comes from membership and sales of our books and maps. Help us process these important orders and memberships. Data entry has never been more exciting! Our friendly staff will set you up on a computer and give you all the training you'll need.

Harriman Nature Walks Coordinator

Every summer the TC offers nature walks in Harriman State Park. We are looking for an organized individual to coordinate walk leaders and arrangements with the park ranger at Tiorati Circle. The leaders will be offered a training session to learn about the plants and animals they might see during the hike. A coordinator who knows enough about the plants and animals to lead the training is desirable, but we can supply a naturalist if necessary.

Save the Ridge

The Trail Conference and the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition are looking for a summer intern to assist project coordinator Amy Little. This is a great opportunity to learn the intricacies behind grass-roots advocacy and participate in the Trail Conference's conservation and advocacy efforts. Help Save the Ridge; contact Josh to get involved.

Appalachian Trail Monitor

Looking to get off the beaten path? The Orange/Rockland AT Committee needs your help. Monitors are needed to patrol and watch the Appalachian Trail Corridor to protect against misuse and illegal activities. Responsibilities include: walking the corridor boundaries two to four times per year, verifying boundary markers along the corridor boundary, reporting evidence of trespass and misuse, such as dumping, logging, ATVs, etc., assist corridor manager in handling problems discovered, and meeting trail neighbors and easement holders annually. Space is limited; sign up now.

GPS Data Collectors

Volunteers are needed to hike various trails with one of the lightweight and easy-to-use Trail Conference GPS units or one of your own. We have many assignments available throughout the region. Help the Trail Conference produce more accurate maps while doing your favorite pastime—Hiking! No experience required! Please contact John Jurasek, map chair/GPS data coordinator at 845-365-3618 or Jurasek@optonline.net.

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



New Club, New Trail for Highlands

continued from page 1

allow us to add about another two miles to the trail," he said.

The Highlands Trail

Hunterdon County marks the southernmost reach of the Highlands Trail. The route "swoops around in a not very straight line," notes Bob Moss, supervisor of the trail, in order to "pick up special interest points" and to connect with existing parks. The stretch newly opened by MMC, for example, extends through the Clinton Wildlife Management Area, which is reached by walking through Spruce Run Recreation Area. Moss describes it as "an important link" that adds variety to the Highland Trail experience.

Overall, the Highlands Trail extends 160 miles from the Hudson River in Orange County, New York, in the north, to the east bank of the Delaware River in the south. Much of the route is complete, including scattered portions on blazed road walks. There are gaps, however, all in New Jersey: from Route 15 to Route 181; from Bear Pond to Lake Lackawanna; from Lake Lackawanna to Allamuchy State Park, Route 206; from the Morris Canal to Stevens State Park; from US 46 to Long Valley. While the Highlands Trail crew chips away at these gaps, the MMC is hard at work pushing the southern terminus ever southward.

The group's members have the benefit of significant experience working with local environmental groups, both private and public. Jimenez, for example, served as chair of the Bethlehem Township Environmental Committee and is now a township committeeman. Moss has been working closely with MMC, familiarizing members with the goals of the HT and teaching trail-building techniques. He lauds the group for its dedication and effectiveness. "They know what we're trying to do with the Highlands Trail," he says.

The planned route in this southern area takes it across many small, private parcels. "You can call it a hodge-podge, or you can call it a cooperative effort," Moss says of the trail's route. "It's not like in Passaic County, where 15-20 miles of the trail may be in the Newark Watershed, which means we only needed one agreement to build all those miles. The MMC members live in their area. They can more

NEW LIFE MEMBER

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Member: **Rita Boyd**.

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."



Into the woods of Musconetcong.

easily approach local homeowners [to pursue conservation easements or property acquisition]. However you think of it, he says, it's going to take a lot of work to put the pieces together.

Which is why, MMC's Jimenez says, it's important to celebrate such achievements as completion of a trail section. "Getting out and actually work at building a trail was something that was fun," he says. "And we could see the results of what we were doing."

Hunterdon Highlights

The HT enters Hunterdon County from Morris County to the north by running along the Columbia Rail Trail, then connects to Voorhees State Park. After leaving Voorhees Park, the trail crosses Route 31 and enters Hunterdon County's Union Furnace Nature Preserve, passing historic ruins. Crossing Van Syckel's Road, the trail enters Spruce Run Recreation Area and hugs the shore of the reservoir for about 1 mile before it enters the Clinton Wildlife Management area in Union Township. This 1.5-mile-long section of trail winds its way through fields, old farm roads, and up the steep hillside of the densely wooded Musconetcong Mountain ridge. At the top of the mountain, hikers can enjoy the view of the reservoir before proceeding through a magnificent beech forest. The trail temporarily terminates at the pristine headwaters of the Black Brook in Bethlehem Township.

The new section Jimenez expects will be added later this fall will pick up from this point, he says. And it will have a quite different character, including significant historical interest. "There are ruins of old iron mines and the foundations of what were slave quarters. This is something you don't see too much of in New Jersey. We'll be looking for volunteers to help with this new section once it's available, especially volunteers who can help research the history."

—Georgette Weir

For additional information on the Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy visit <http://www.nynjtc.org/clubpages/mmc.html>

HIKERS' BOOKSHOP



Walking Manhattan's Rim: The Great Saunter

by Cy A. Adler

Green Eagle Press, 2003

Reviewed by Malcolm Spector

This treasure is what you get when you combine the intrepid tramping spirit of Colin Fletcher, the passionate social conscience of Ralph Nader, and the meticulous factual documentation of Karl Baedeker.

The shoreline of the island of Manhattan runs 32 miles and this book is a guide to walking that shoreline. Each year, Shorewalkers, a club founded and directed by the author, leads a one-day dash of the entire route. Most people, with this book in hand, will want to take much more time for the trip, so that they can understand, assimilate, appreciate, and enjoy all of the wonders along the way.

The book divides the trip into 12 legs. Each has a map, at least one photograph, and a narrative. The narrative describes the actual footpath, but also all the sights along the way. Adler also describes the former sites from years ago that have either crumbled away or been replaced, the historical forces that shaped and continue to shape the city, and the political battles lost and won that determine how we are (or are not) able to enjoy the magical line where land meets water.

It goes without saying that Cy Adler is an eccentric, and his book includes many colorful asides and mini essays that go beyond the history of New York and its shoreline. (In one Mr. Adler explains how both dogs and cars are enemies of city trees.) This book will be an invaluable resource for energetic visitors and tourists to New York City eager to master its secrets. As for the chronically Manhattan bound, Cy Adler reminds us that even when we cannot rouse ourselves at dawn and escape the city to tramp the woods and ridges, there are opportunities and challenges close to home to stretch the legs and observe nature and its relation to human society, always within the hypnotic and strangely soothing sight and sound of water.

Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons

By Carol and David White

Adirondack Mountain Club, 2002

Reviewed by Pete Senterman

Here is a new guide for the Catskill Forest Preserve. It describes a lot of familiar destinations and a significant number of not so familiar destinations. The book limits itself to one-day outings attainable by an individual in reasonable health and stamina. The hikes include the Wittenberg, Cornell, Slide loop, a distance of 15 miles with 4100 feet of elevation gain, a chal-

lenging day for most of us.

The authors have included a nice variety of walks and hikes, from easy walks along streams and hidden waterfalls to comfortable mountain ventures. Along the way, they note many points of interest easily missed by the casual hiker. Sixty trips are described, from Windham High Peak in the north to Trout Pond in the extreme southwest.

Older readers might find the print too small for comfortable reading and the authors' comparison of the Catskills to their more familiar Adirondacks unnecessary. Some trail descriptions tend to be jumpy, requiring careful reading to reorient oneself at junctions and other asides. There is a tremendous wealth of trail information carefully compiled and well written by the authors. More than adequate sketch maps cover all the trails described.

This book is by no means a complete guide to all the trails in the Catskills. However, it will keep any hiker busy for several seasons, covering a good cross section of what the Catskills have to offer. *Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons* is a very good addition to any hiker's library.

Pete Senterman is Catskill Trails Chair.

America's National Trails Journeys across Land and Time

American Hiking Society, 2002

By Glenn Scherer

This guide introduces 20 of the country's 22 officially sanctioned national trails (two have since been added). Eight are scenic trails, to be enjoyed primarily by hikers; the others are historic trails that typically combine car routes, footpaths, and historic sites. More detailed resources will be needed by those interested in following any of these trails, but Scherer's compilation provides the inspiration to do just that.

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Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills & Hudson River Valley (2002)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$2.00	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in New Jersey (1992)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.00	_____
ADK Guide to Catskill Trails (1994, repr. 1998)	\$17.95	\$14.40	+\$2.00	_____
Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years (2001)	\$27.50	\$22.00	+\$3.00	_____

Combo-Packs

Catskill (5-map set & ADK book)	\$27.80	\$21.60	+\$2.00	_____
Harriman (2-map set & book)	\$22.40	\$17.55	+\$2.50	_____
NY & NJ Walk Books	\$32.35	\$25.85	+\$3.50	_____
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Long-sleeve Denim Shirt Circle: S M L XL	\$29.90	\$22.90	+\$4.00	_____
Polo Shirt (Forest Green) Circle: S M L XL	\$19.90	\$15.50	+\$4.00	_____
NY-NJTC T-Shirt Circle: L XL	\$13.95	\$13.95	+\$3.50	_____
Harriman Map Bandanna	\$6.95	\$5.95	+\$1.50	_____
Conference Logo Patch	\$2.50	\$2.50	postpaid	_____
Long Path Logo Patch	\$2.75	\$2.75	postpaid	_____
Conference Logo Decal	\$.85	\$.85	postpaid	_____

Subtotal _____

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

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

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

Advocacy & Conservation

continued from page 3

already expressly prohibited while staying silent on prohibiting their use on other important public lands. Proposals may surface to amend this legislation to ban ATVs in already protected areas in exchange for an agreement to allow ATV use in state forests, wildlife management, natural, and unique areas. This would be a very bad compromise for most hikers and nature lovers. Allowing ATVs access to state forests would threaten the hiking experience on the Finger Lakes Trail, the Long Path North, and the Stewart Airport buffer lands (in Orange County).

The TC-ADK Partnership does not support passage of this bill in its current form, and at present, it does not appear that the bill has sufficient support to pass either the Senate or Assembly.

Assembly bill 1136 is more comprehensive. This legislation would establish an ATV trail development and enforcement fund. Five dollars of the ATV registration fee would be deposited in the fund. A percentage of the funds would be used for the development of trails on private land. No state aid or monies could be used for ATV trail construction and maintenance on any public lands, including Forest Preserve, state parks, and state forests, under New York's jurisdiction. The commissioner of the Office of Parks and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) would be authorized to blackball the funding for a proposed ATV trail on private land if the project represents a threat to its immediate setting or adjacent public or private lands. The commissioner must also consider if the proposed ATV trail is adjacent to recognized nature areas or wildlife habitat areas.

This legislation explicitly ensures that all state lands such as state forests, state parks, and Forest Preserve are protected from the use of state funding for ATV trail development. The bill also provides for much stricter penalties for ATV trespass, requires mandatory use of large, oversized front and back license plates, and grants authority for the arresting officer to impound the illegally used ATV. Impoundment has been a very successful law enforcement tool and deterrent to illegal ATV use in Suffolk County, Long Island. A percentage of the fund would be used to strengthen state and local law enforcement efforts against illegal ATV use. This bill is still being negotiated between the Senate and the Assembly, and the partnership is lobbying to strengthen its provisions for funding law enforcement by state and local authorities and to provide recompense from the fund for state and private lands damaged by illegal all-terrain vehicle use. The Trail Conference and ADK will work to get the strongest possible bill to protect all categories of state parks, Forest Preserve, and other DEC administered public lands.

ATV ownership in New York has swelled to some 250,000 machines. In or-

der to protect our wild lands and parks, we must work to prohibit ATV use on all public lands while creating carefully regulated opportunities for sustainable ATV trails on private land.

—Neil Woodworth
 Counsel, NY-NJ Trail Conference-ADK Partnership

Gunks: Wrong Place for a Resort

Shawangunk Lodge—a proposed 307-acre, 250-room resort hotel, conference center, and sports complex—would sit right on top of the Shawangunk Ridge in the Town of Mamakating, six-stories high if developers and some town officials get their way. As proposed it would include a 300,000-sq. ft. structure to house large-scale conferencing, entertainment, and sporting events. The parking for the facility will be in surface lots and/or elevated parking structures, with capacity of up to 4,500 parking spaces. Building would involve blasting of the ridge. Thirty tons of solid waste would be generated per month, 600,000 gallons of water per day would be required. Earlier tests conducted on the site showed that half that usage lowered water levels in neighboring wells.

The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, an alliance of local, regional, and national organizations working to protect the entire Shawangunk Ridge, opposes this proposal and is urging that the town request New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to be the lead agency in reviewing plans. DEC has the expertise and resources to make an effective investigation of the impacts of this proposal.

Letters to encourage this status by DEC should be sent to Town Board of Mamakating, 2948 Rt. 209, Wurtsboro, NY 12790; Governor George Pataki, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224; Marc Moran, DEC Region 3, 21 South Putt Corners Rd., New Paltz, NY 12561; and Congressman Maurice Hinchey, 291 Wall St., Kingston, NY 12401.

The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition is a project of the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Awosting Reserve

• New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is the lead agency in reviewing the proposed Awosting Reserve housing development in the Shawangunks. In April it notified developers that the project was determined to have "potential significant adverse environmental impacts." This declaration sets in motion a series of hearings and studies that will be required of the developers as they seek approval of their project. A public scoping meeting to review the information expected to be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the project had not been set as of the deadline for this issue. The Awosting Reserve would construct 350 homes and a golf course adjacent to Minnewaska State Park and Sam's Point Preserve.

• In June, more than 60 percent of the

AWOSTING PROTEST HIKE



In May, some 120 people joined TC member Daniel Brownstein on a "protest hike" to overlook the Shawangunk land targeted for a massive housing development known as the Awosting Reserve. The hike was at Minnewaska State Park and was sponsored by the local activist group, Save the Ridge.

voters in the last election in the town of Gardiner petitioned their town to declare a moratorium on development pending conclusion of a long-range planning process. The town is the primary site for the proposed Awosting Reserve housing development. "The town board members cannot ignore this level of public sentiment," said Amy Little, Gardiner resident and coordinator of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition. "Gardiner is one of the fastest growing towns in New York and residents realize that we need to put the brakes on development while we decide what the future of our town will be. It's time for the town government to wise up about our resources, and the moratorium will give us the opportunity to choose the best path."

Gunk Website Redesigned

Keep up with news of the Shawangunk Ridge at www.shawangunkridge.org. The site has been redesigned and includes news, action alerts, and useful links for those interested in the Shawangunks and efforts to protect this threatened natural corridor.

ATV Roundup at Delaware Water Gap

National Park Service (NPS) Rangers recently conducted a special operation aimed at curtailing illegal all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use in the Appalachian Trail corridor running through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

The enforcement (termed Operation ATV), included concentrated patrols by NPS Rangers in the Mount Minsi area, which has been severely impacted by off-road travel by ATVs, dirt bikes, and even SUVs.

The trespass included illegal camping, fires, and parties.

Brazen riders had cut access lanes where no roads had previously existed. Boulders and trees used to block access were repeatedly removed by the trespassers and six government locks were cut off various gates. New trails were blazed along the Appalachian Trail, about two miles west of the Delaware River. The motorized riders even rode on the AT itself. During the operation, very few were able to escape the NPS Rangers. Twenty violation notices were issued for offenses including: travel

off designated routes, public intoxication, contributing to the delinquency of minors, destruction of natural resources, and illegal camping and fires.

The NPS operation continues. Access points have been reblocked; riders continue to be cited for violations. Fines range from \$100 to a maximum of \$5,000 and the NPS Rangers have the authority to impound vehicles. When the Appalachian Trail is threatened, National Park Service Rangers get tough.

Open Space Activities Land Tax Exemption

The Trail Conference and ADK have been opposing the passage of legislation in New York State that would strip not-for-profits and land trusts of real property tax exemptions for lands held by them for conservation and public recreational purposes. If this legislation passes, the state might lose the assistance of partners like the Open Space Institute and the Nature Conservancy, and the public might lose access to trails on lands held by not-for-profit land trusts and organizations such as the Trail Conference and ADK.

Adirondack Peaks Land Bought

Outside our region but not beyond the interests of many New York-New Jersey hikers is news from the Adirondacks that 10,000 acres in the High Peaks has been purchased by the Open Space Institute (OSI) from the National Lead Corporation. The state is expected to buy 6,000 acres of the Tahawus-Upper Works tract and add it to the High Peaks Wilderness Area. Of the remaining 4,000 acres, approximately 3,000 acres will be managed as a working forest and several hundred acres comprising the historic Village of Adirondack will be managed as an historic district.

This magnificent tract is a mixture of rugged mountains like Mount Adams and two other peaks over 2000 feet with potential views as well as nine undeveloped lakes and ponds including 2.2 miles of undeveloped shoreline on Henderson Lake and the Preston Ponds. The property also includes the Opalescent River and Calamity Brook, headwaters of the Hudson River.

Member Club Challenge Grant Supports ORV/ATV Enforcement

The Morris Trails Conservancy (MTC)—a New York-New Jersey Trail Conference member club—challenges other TC member clubs to support enforcement of off-road and all-terrain vehicle (ORV and ATV) regulations by contributing to an equipment fund for New Jersey park rangers. MTC has voted to put \$1,000 as a challenge grant to TC's other 87 clubs. The Conservancy will contribute \$1,000 if the other clubs will contribute the balance. A quick check shows that NY-NJTC member clubs list about 100,000 members; \$3,000 amounts to about three cents for each club member.

In both New York and New Jersey, there are laws and regulations designed to control the use of these vehicles and to keep them out of many parks and preserves, where their use destroys footpaths and results in swaths of ruts, mud, and crushed vegetation. Of course, state budgets being what they are, park rangers in both states are hard-pressed for funds to carry out their basic tasks. There is too little time or money available to fully support the patrolling that is needed to enforce regulations regarding ORVs and ATVs.

Part of New Jersey's response to the problem is the deployment of a Special Operations Team to carry out maximum enforcement of the laws and regulations governing the vehicles, especially to keep them off hiking trails, and to prevent off-roaders from tearing up the landscape.

In 2000, a 16-member team was recruited among Rangers in the Northern

Region of the New Jersey State Park system. Working in plain clothes, the team targets specific areas where off-road activity has been reported. At least once a month the team carries out raids or sweeps areas of suspected activity. The operations are planned and organized under very tight security. Most often when the team sets off on an operation, only the team leader knows the target area. When off-roaders are caught in violation, they face heavy fines and confiscation of their vehicles.

The members of the Special Operations

Team have been providing much of their own clothing and equipment, and it has proved difficult at



times to find the proper safety gear. This problem came up a few months ago in a conversation between Douglas Duncan, a member of the Morris Trails Conservancy, and the chief ranger at Ringwood State Park, Melissa Brown. First on the list of needs are helmets. Helmets cost about \$250 each; 16 helmets would cost \$4,000.

NY-NJTC has set up a special ORV Action Fund to receive contributions to this project from our member clubs. Contact Jim Davis at the TC office (jfdavis@nynjtc.org; telephone 201-512-9348) for more information about the ORV Action Fund.

WHO IS THE HOEFERLIN IN THE HOEFERLIN LIBRARY?

The Hoeflerlin Memorial Library, located in the Trail Conference headquarters, lists more than 1,000 books and guides available for use by New York-New Jersey Trail Conference members. These texts and guides cover every imaginable topic related to hiking and can provide the foundation for hiking preparation and planning for hikers in our region. It's a suitable memorial to a man who was a source of hiking news about our area for decades. But, just who was Bill Hoeflerlin?

"Father Bill," as he was known by his hiking friends, was born in east New York in 1898, the son of a tailor. When he contracted tuberculosis, he went to Saratoga Springs, where he found his cure in walking. He maintained this therapy for the rest of his life.

For 35 years, Bill lived in Brooklyn. He worked a short stint with the Hagstrom Map Company before an inheritance made possible a decision to devote his time to the Hudson Highlands.

In 1927, Hoeflerlin became the life-long leader of the Wanderbirds Club. His first, personally developed hiking maps were drawn up in 1934 and covered virtually every area from the New York metropolitan region to the Catskills and were the "hiker's standard" for more than 30 years.

Selling the maps for 10 to 25 cents, Bill would walk most of the five boroughs to deliver these maps so as to save postage.

In 1939, Frank Place asked Bill Hoeflerlin if he would publish a Trail Conference newsletter. This question resulted in the *Walking News*—an information source for hikers until 1965. Hoeflerlin was an important advocate for the idea of the "Long Brown Path," now known simply as the Long Path.

Bill Hoeflerlin would continue to be an influence in the hiking community until his death on July 12, 1970, at the age of 72. After a long hike with friends along the Palisades, Bill leaned forward to smell a flower and suffered a stroke. He died on the spot.

From this brief introduction to Father Bill's life, we see a man dedicated to hiking, the community of hikers, and the preservation of those lands we hold vital today. It is fitting we revisit his life and remember his fortitude and dedication—attributes we see today in our many volunteers. The Hoeflerlin Library is a meeting place for new generations of hikers to rest, to plan, and to dream of new places to explore and areas to re-visit.

—Ramon McMillan
TC administrative assistant

John Moran Gets NJ Parks Volunteer Award

continued on from page 1

assignments of other volunteer maintainers. He became Dick's assistant, then stepped up to co-chair with him the North Jersey trails committee. "I get a lot of job offers," he says with a quiet laugh.

John, who lives in Glen Rock, NJ, has been hiking since the mid-1980s. He retired from a career in advertising and graphic arts. He admits that his subsequent career as trails volunteer is quite different "and I'm glad of it. I thoroughly enjoy hiking. It's far better to be out hiking rather than sitting behind a desk. I find myself much healthier and with a much better outlook on life."

John continues to work with Dan Chazin, collecting data for the next edition of the *New Jersey Walk Book*. "I did most of the measuring for Map 21," he says of the map that covers Wawayanda and Long Pond Ironworks State Parks and Norvin Green and Abram S. Hewitt State Forests—about 300 miles of trails, he says in answer to a question. "It got me familiar with the area I'm supervising."

In 2002, John helped oversee 153 maintainers who contributed over 2200 hours of work; 644 of those hours were his own time, devoted to both state and county park lands. John's dedication and effectiveness did not go unnoticed, and this spring the Division of Parks and Forestry of the State of New Jersey named him 2002 Volunteer of the Year.

"John is a tremendous asset to the Trail Conference," says trails director Larry Wheelock. "This award is well deserved and we all say, Congratulations!"

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FAVORITE HIKES



A Short Hike to Great Views

by Ed Hayes

My favorite hike is on the trails I help maintain, the Alander Brook and South Taconic Trails. One reason that I volunteered for the maintenance work is to make sure that I visit these trails at least twice each year.

From the start of the Alander Brook Trail at Undermountain Road in Columbia County, New York (off of Route 22), to the summit of Alander Mountain in Massachusetts is only 2.5 miles. However, the trails afford a variety of woods road, steep uphill, and open ridge walking that I love.

This is a short hike to great views: Brace Mountain and the bucolic Harlem Valley

GET TO KNOW THE TACONIC RIDGE ALONG THE NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS BORDER

to the south, the Catskills and verdant Columbia County farmland to the west, and the ridge formed by Bear Mountain in Connecticut and Mount Race and Mount Everett in Massachusetts to the east. Turkey vultures soaring on the air currents are a delight I never tire of watching; this sight is rarely denied a hiker on the southern ridge of Alander Mountain.

Much of the Alander Brook Trail is on an old farm road that also serves as a snowmobile trail. Follow the blue blazes past the red-blazed Robert Brook Trail, which diverges to the right shortly after the trailhead. After crossing Alander Brook, the trail makes a right turn and climbs steeply. It regains the farm road and con-

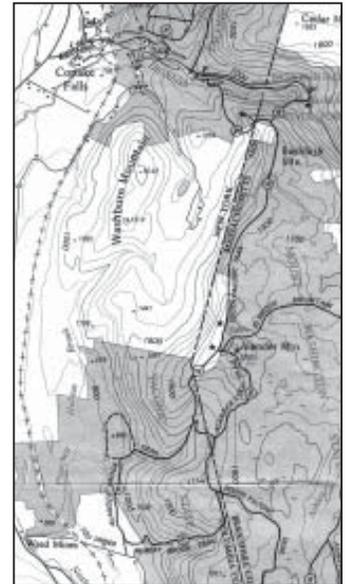
tinues to the junction with the South Taconic Trail. Make a left turn and follow the white-blazed South Taconic Trail through the woods, up a steep portion and onto the open ridge which leads to the summit of Alander Mountain. If you do not turn left at the junction of the Alander Brook and South Taconic Trails, you will be on the southbound South Taconic Trail, which follows the farm road and will take you to Brace Mountain.

Most of the hikers I meet at the summit of Alander Mountain come up the Alander Mountain Trail from Mount Washington State Park headquarters in Massachusetts or from New York State Route 344 near BashBish Falls.

An easy loop of about 5 miles is to return from the summit of Alander Mountain via the Alander Loop, South Taconic, and Robert Brook Trails. The upper part of the Alander Loop Trail, which is in Massachusetts, was overgrown last fall. The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference maintains the trails in New York but not in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

A longer loop of about 11 miles can be hiked by continuing north from Alander Mountain on the South Taconic Trail (white blazes) for about 3.75 miles to New York State Route 344. A short walk west along Route 344 brings one to the former railroad station at Copake Falls, which is now a convenience store where food is available. From there, a 4-mile walk south on the paved Harlem Valley Rail Trail brings one back to Undermountain Road. The Alander Brook trailhead is about one-quarter mile east on Undermountain Road from the rail trail terminus.

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail is a multi-use trail that will eventually stretch 46



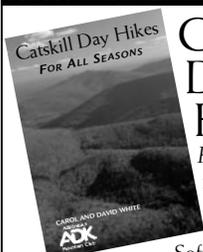
miles from the Metro North Railroad terminus at Wassaic to Chatham, New York. The only other portion of the rail trail that is currently paved and open is from Amenia to Millerton.

The Appalachian Trail is on the next ridge to the east in Connecticut and Massachusetts. It is possible to hike from the South Taconic Trail near Brace Mountain to the Appalachian Trail near Bear Mountain.

Trails in the South Taconics are described in the *New York Walk Book*, which contains a map that is also published separately by the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

The South Taconics is a beautiful area that is easily accessible from New York and other urban areas. The hiking trails in the New York portion are well maintained by volunteers working under the direction of the Trail Conference. It is a pleasure to contribute to this effort.

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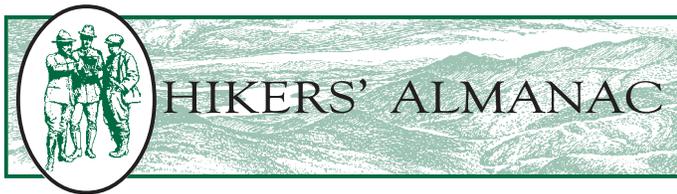
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SATURDAY, JULY 26

PMNHA. Hike Round the Mountain. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Strenuous 3-hour hike.

WTA. High Tor and Little Tor. Leader: Jeanette Dunn, 914-476-0089. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. Moderate 6 miles; hiking boots recommended. Optional swim stop at municipal pool after hike (small admission fee). WTA fee \$4.

ADK-R. Triangulation. Leader: Call 201-816-9465 for information. Moderately paced 7.5-mile hike.

SUNDAY, JULY 27

WTA. Atlantique on Fire Island. Leader: Al Jacomowitz, 914-779-8999. Meet: 8:30 am to catch 10 am ferry; call leader for location. Easy 3-4 miles along the ocean and through this Fire Island town, where we can eat lunch and browse. Return trip includes a stop at the AMC cabin, where facilities will be available for cooling off in the surf; bring swimming gear. Fee \$6.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside. Leader: Bob Laudati, 908-322-7762. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot, intersection of Coles Ave. and New Providence Rd. 2-3 hour moderate hike; optional lunch at local diner after hike.

PMNHA. Valhalla Brook. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Moderate hike on Turkey Mountain.

MONDAY, JULY 28

RVW. Black Rock Forest (north loop). For information call: 845-246-4580. Moderate hike: 5.5 miles, 3.5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

FVTW. Pine Meadow Circular, Harriman State Park. Leader: George Pullman, 973-773-2678. Meet: 10 am at Reeves Meadow parking lot, Seven Lakes Dr. Moderately strenuous hike on many different trails. Steady rain cancels.

AUGUST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

WTA. Ward Pound Ridge. Leader: Audrey Sutton, 914-723-1214. Meet: 9 am; call leader for location. Easy to moderate 4.7 miles; includes visits to nature museum and wildflower garden. Fee \$5 (includes parking).

ADK-R. Rockhouse Mountain. Leader: Call 845-359-2465 for information. Moderately paced 6-7 mile hike with steep hill.

PMNHA. Family Fun Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Bring the family on this easy hike.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am at Jockey Hollow Visitors Center (\$4 per person admission fee). Enjoy a brisk hike of 4-5 miles in this National Park.

IHC. Minnewaska Meander. Leader: Carolyn and Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10 am at upper parking lot, north end of Lake Minnewaska, Minnewaska State Park. Moderately strenuous on variety of trails and carriageways as we make our way to a swim at Lake Awosting; blueberries are possible. Bring swimsuit; rain cancels.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

GAHC. Fire Island National Seashore/Sunken Forest. Leader: Gunter Georgi, 516-883-2336; please call ahead to arrange meeting at Sayville, LI, ferry dock at 10 am. Hike and swim.

PMNHA. Wildflower Walk. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Easy walk focusing on summer wildflowers.

UCHC. Bamboo Brook/Willowood Arboretum, Morris County. Leader: Lynn Gale 973-763-7230. Meet: 10 am at Bamboo Brook parking lot; call for directions. 3-4 mile walk through two estates with interesting gardens, and woods and fields in between. Steady rain cancels.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

RVW. Huckleberry Point. For information call 845-246-4145. Moderate hike: 4.8 miles, 3 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot,

87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

FVTW. Farney Highlands. Leaders: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 9:30 am at new visitors center on Upper Hibernia Rd.; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 10 miles on Four Birds and other trails. Car shuttle required; steady rain cancels.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

WTA. Hermit's Grave, Backwoods of Irvington. Leader: Marcia Cohen, 914-478-7074. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. Easy to moderate 4 miles; possible extension by a drive to a nearby scenic Hudson park.

UCHC. Hilltop Reservation, Cedar Grove. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0766. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Short climb to this newly acquired park followed by an easy walk, including famous Lenape Indian ceremonial rock and some nice views. Rain cancels.

PMNHA. Stress Relief Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Take time for yourself; relax with nature by your side on this moderate 2-hour hike.

PPOW. Forest Restoration Workshop. Leader: Dick Buegler, 718-761-7496. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Work at South West Latourette Park. Gloves, plants, tools and refreshments provided.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

PMNHA. Bear Rock. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Hike to one of New Jersey's largest glacial erratics.

WTA. North County Trail. Leader: Barry Kaplan, 914-946-2869. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. Easy 5 miles in vicinity of Lake Mahopac, with some sunny sections. Fee \$3.

IHC. East of Hudson. Leader: Ise Dunham, 973-839-8031. Meet: 9 am at Stop & Shop, Rt. 202, Mount Ivy, NY. Moderate hike in Fahnestock State Park past ponds, mines, hemlock groves, mountain laurel, and a waterfall. Chilled watermelon will be served; rain cancels.

UCHC. Lewis Morris Park, Morristown. Leader: Gail Waimon, 973-467-4761. Meet: 10 am at Lewis Morris Park, Sugarloaf area parking lot; call for directions. Moderate hike.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

PPOW. Sunset/Moonrise Walk at Mt. Moses. Leader: Dick Buegler, 718-761-7496. Meet: 7:30 pm; call leader for location. We'll watch the moon rise and the sun set; bring light refreshment to share and flashlight; out by 9:30 pm.

RVW. Vly (3,529') and Bearpen (3,600') (from Johnson Hollow). For information call 845-246-9616. Moderate hike: 8 miles, 6.5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

WTA. Manitou Nature Preserve. Leader: Ellie Carren, 914-591-7038. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. Easy to moderate 7 miles on woodland trails alternating with spectacular Hudson River views. Fee \$3.50.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

ADK-R. Appalachian Trail. Leader: Call 845-354-0738 for information. Moderately paced 14-mile hike.

WTA. Byram Lake. Leader: Mary Finnerty, 914-683-0895. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Easy 4 miles around this picturesque lake north of Armonk; some road walking and crossing of Agnes Meyer Sanctuary. Fee \$2.

PPOW. Beautiful Bloomingdale Woods. Leader: Dick Buegler, 718-761-7496. Meet: 1 pm; call for location. 3-mile stroll through cool, shady woods and along the meandering stream; great variety of trees and shrubs.

IHC. Ashokan Stretch. Leader: Ann Gilbert, 973-839-0292. Meet: 7 am at Sufferen municipal parking, Rt. 202, Suffern, NY. Did someone say Catskills? Strenuous hike with beautiful views from the summit of Ashokan High Point (3,080'). Car pool; rain cancels.

PMNHA. Power Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Strenuous 3-hour hike.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside. Leader: Bob Laudati, 908-322-7762. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot, Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. 2-3 hour moderate hike; optional lunch at local diner after hike.

RVW. Big Indian Mountain (3700'). For information call: 845-246-4145. Strenuous hike: 10 miles, 6.5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date, following Saturday.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

WTA. Appalachian Trail. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 9 am; call leader for location. 8-9 miles at moderate but unhurried pace; this section takes us further north into Connecticut. Fee \$6.

PMNHA. Summer Birds Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Bring your binoculars on this moderate hike.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, West Orange. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319 (9 am - 9 pm only). Meet: 10 am at Turtleback Rock parking area in West Orange, Walker Rd. near Northfield Ave. We will enjoy a moderate hike of 4+ miles on trail with some rough spots in this nicely wooded area and also see Turtleback Rock.

GAHC. Sunken Meadow State Park, Long Island. Leader: Henry Loddigs, 718-889-1052. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Hike and swim.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

WTA. Shore Path Along the Hudson. Leader: Herb Hochberg, 914-472-3525. Meet: 9 am; call leader for location. 8 miles at a moderate pace. Hike from Alpine, NJ, to the George Washington Bridge, returning via shuttle arrangement. Fee \$3.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

FVTW. Abram Hewitt State Forest, Bearfoot Mt. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at A&P on Rt. 511; call for directions. Hike Bearfoot Ridge Trail in the morning; after lunch see Surprise Lake and the fantastic lookout over Greenwood Lake. Return by the much easier Quail Trail. A moderately strenuous hike. Car shuttle required; steady rain cancels.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

WTA. Westmoreland Sanctuary. Leader: Howard Benedis, 914-478-3975. Meet: 9 am; call leader for location. 5 easy miles with some gentle climbs. Fee \$2.

PMNHA. Round the Mountain Loop. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Strenuous 3-hour hike.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside. Leader: Bob Keller, 908-233-0699. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot, Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Moderate hike of 4-5 miles. Steady rain cancels.

RVW. Sam's Point /Ice Caves and Blueberry Festival in Ellenville. For information call: 845-246-9983. Moderate: 5 miles. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date, following Saturday.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

WTA. Island Pond, Harriman State Park. Leader: Catharine Allen, 914-948-4061. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Moderate 5 miles with a steep ascent via the ASB trail, return via the AT, with a long, cool stop at Island Pond in between. Fee \$4.

IHC. Bottle Cap Boogie. Leader: Jim Hayes, 201-825-9506. Meet: 9 am at Elk Pen parking, Arden Valley Rd., Arden, NY (Harriman State Park). Moderately strenuous hike on the AT, Long Path, and Bottle Cap trails. Rain cancels.

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PMNHA. Turkey Mountain. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Strenuous hike on Turkey Mountain's longest trail.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

RVW. Windham High Peak (3,524') from Peck Road. For information call 845-246-4145. Moderate + hike: 6.6 miles, 4 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

FVTW. Pyramid Mountain. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. We will start at the north end of Pyramid Mountain and see Tripod Rock and other glacial erratics. 6-7 miles. Meet: Kinnelon baseball town park one mile north of the park office on the Butler-Boonton Road.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

MIR. Labor Day Weekend with Miramar. Leader/registrar: Elizabeth Gerber, elizabeth@ao.com. To register, check website www.miramar.org for info and coupon, or leave message at 212-978-9191 (state whether you need or can offer a ride). Hike, bike, and enjoy our cozy lodge in picturesque Watsfield Village, VT (6-7 hour drive from NYC).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

PMNHA. Dog Days of August Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Moderate hike.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown. Leader: Mary Doyle, 908-580-1778. Meet: 10 am at Jockey Hollow Visitors Center (\$4 per-person admission fee). Enjoy a scenic 4-5 mile hike at moderate pace in this historic National Park.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

WTA. Appalachian Trail. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 9 am; call leader for location. 8-9 miles at moderate but unhurried pace. Fee \$6.

PMNHA. Morgan Ruins Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Easy hike to an old homestead.

IHC. High Tor, Little Tor Surprise. Leader: Jane Egan, 201-689-0049. Meet: 9 am at Mount Ivy, NY, commuter parking lot, Rt. 202 (exit 13 of Palisades Parkway). Moderately strenuous. Enjoy breathtaking views as we climb up and down on the rocky cliffs overlooking the majestic Hudson River. Rain cancels.

UCHC. Lewis Morris Park, Morristown. Leader: Lynn Gale, 973-763-7230. Meet: 10 am at Lewis Morris Park, Sunrise Lake, upper parking lot. Moderate hike; some sections of trail are rough with ups and downs.

NEXT HIKERS' ALMANAC DEADLINE: JULY 15

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HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs

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

More than 85 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers' Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our Web site or send an SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Club Codes

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

ADK-R	Adirondack Mountain Club - Ramapo Chapter	PMNHA	Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area
FVTW	Frost Valley Trailwalkers	PPOW	Protectors of Pine Oak Woods
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	RVW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	UHC	Union County Hiking Club
MIR	Miramar Ski Club	WTA	Westchester Trails Association

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 for the September/October issue is July 15, 2003.

JULY

SATURDAY, JULY 5

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside. Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot, Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Steady but moderate pace and 4-6 miles depending on weather. Rain cancels.

WTA. Mianus River Gorge. Leader: Audrey Sutton, 914-723-1214. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Easy 4 miles past ferns, waterfall, and the Hemlock Cathedral. Fee \$3.

PPOW. Forest Restoration Workshop. Leader: Dick Buegler, 718-761-7496. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Work at Latourette Park. Gloves, plants, tools, and refreshments provided.

PMNHA. Independence Day Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Moderate 2-hour hike.

SUNDAY, JULY 6

IHC. Catfish Pond, Delaware Water Gap. Leader: Guy and Jennifer Percival, 973-984-1005. Meet: 9 am at parking lot behind Blairstown Municipal Park off Rt. 94 from there, we will carpool to AMC's Mohican Outdoor Center. Moderately strenuous hike to Raccoon Ridge via AT for hawk/eagle watching; bring binoculars, camera, and swimsuit. Rain cancels.

PPOW. Loretto Conservation Area Walk. Leader: Dominick

Durso, before 8:30 pm, 718-967-0379. Meet: 10 am; call for location. 2-mile walk along the bluff above the beach to enjoy the great ocean vista and summer flowers.

WTA. Old Croton Aqueduct. Leader: Marcia Cohen, 914-478-7074. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Easy 4 miles on flat terrain; we'll walk from Dobbs Ferry to Tarrytown Diner (for optional lunch). Fee \$1.

PMNHA. Lake Valhalla Overlook. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Moderate hike on Turkey Mountain.

UHC. Garrett Mountain, Paterson. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0766. Meet: 10 am at Lambert Castle, Clifton. Following a steep climb, we will walk at a moderate pace along the periphery of the park, enjoying views including famous Paterson Falls. Optional visit to castle and/or Paterson Historic District afterwards. Rain cancels. Lunch following hike at the castle veranda.

MONDAY, JULY 7

RVW. Lake Awosting circular. For information call 845-255-0614. Scrambles plus carriage road walking plus swim at Lake Awosting: 10 miles, 7 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date, following Monday Note: Parking fee about \$5 per car (if no NYS senior citizen is in the car).

FVTW. Oakdale, South Mountain Reservation. For information call 973-299-0212. Easy walk, 3 miles, following the Red Trail up a gentle hill, over the crag, and back.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

ADK-R. Appalachian Trail - East of Hudson. Leader: Call 845-354-0738 for information. Moderately paced 14-mile hike.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-8641. Meet: 10 am at Skytop picnic parking area, Skytop Rd. Some rough terrain, some hills, about 2 hours. Moderate pace if it's hot; otherwise, brisk. Steady rain cancels.

WTA. Moneyhole Mountain. Leader: Lore Jungster, 914-669-5777. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. 6 easy miles. Fee \$4.

PPOW. Loretto Conservation Area/Clay Pit Ponds State Park. Leader: Dick Buegler, 718-761-7496. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. Take ferry to Staten Island, then walk to Staten Is. Museum; after tour by museum staff, their bus will leave by 11 am for Loretto and after lunch, to Clay Pit Ponds.

PPOW. Sunset/Moonrise Walk at Mt. Moses. Leader: Dick Buegler, 718-761-7496. Meet: 7:30 pm; call leader for location. We'll watch the moon rise and the sun set; bring light refreshment to share and flashlight; out by 9:30 pm.

PMNHA. Stress Relief Hike. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Take time for yourself; relax with nature by your side on this moderate 2-hour hike.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

WTA. Appalachian Trail in Connecticut. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 9 am; call leader for location. Moderate 7-8 miles. Fee \$6.

ADK-R. Indian Hill, Sterling Forest, NY. Leader: Call 845-359-2465 for information. Moderately paced 5-mile hike with steep hill.

UHC. Hacklebarney State Park, Chester. Leader: Jay Winslow, call work first: 973-379-9505, home: 908-522-0321. Meet: contact leader. Walk some of New Jersey's prettiest back roads on a circular route starting in Gladstone. With luck, there will be raspberries. Brisk 14 miles, all on roads with some long hills; not for beginners. Bad weather may cancel; call leader at home before 8:30 am if in doubt.

IHC. Appalachian Trail - Pochuck Bridge. Leader: Charlie and Anite Kientzler, 973-835-1060. Meet: 9 am at Stop & Shop, Rt. 23N, Butler, NJ. Let's explore this bucolic area's wetlands and meadow using the new boardwalk built with hours of volunteer labor.

PMNHA. Turkey Mountain. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Moderate hike on a beautiful, rugged trail.

MONDAY, JULY 14

RVW. Sage's Ravine (Mass). For information call 845-246-5670. Moderate + hike: 8 miles, 5.5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

TUESDAY, JULY 15

WTA. Bedford Bridle Paths. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Easy 4 miles on variety of mostly shady paths, such as Pocantico Hills. Fee \$2.

THURSDAY, JULY 17

FVTW. Nurian Circular, Harriman State Park. Leaders: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 am at Red Apple Restaurant on Rt. 17, Southfields, NY; park in rear. 8-9 miles; moderately strenuous hike. Steady rain cancels.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

WTA. Croton Aqueduct North. Leader: Ellie Carren, 914-581-7038. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Moderate 5-6 miles with some gentle hills. Shady walk from Sleepy Hollow to Rockefeller State Preserve and the 13 Bridges Trail. Transportation may be arranged from North White Plains.

PMNHA. Power Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 9 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Strenuous 3-hour hike.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

PPOW. Long Pond Park, Staten Island's Newest Park. Leader: Dominick Durso, before 8:30 pm, at 718-967-0379. Meet: 1 pm; call for location. Native woodlands including a majestic old beech forest on this hill-free 2-mile walk in a pleasant retreat.

WTA. Lake Tiorati Circular. Leader: Mike Doehring, 914-761-7225. Meet: 9 am; call leader for location. Moderate 6-mile wanderings around lake for a much-needed change of scene. Fee \$4.

IHC. Baileytown or Bust. Leader: Jim Hays, 201-825-9506. Meet: 9 am at Silvermine Picnic Area, Seven Lakes Dr., Harriman State Park, NY. Moderately strenuous hike via the Menomine trail and some un-marked trails; see George's and Devo's graves and Hippo Rock. Rain cancels.

PMNHA. Glacial Erratics Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Township. Strenuous hike past three large glacial erratics.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319 (9 am - 9 pm only). Meet: 10 am at Turtleback Rock parking area in West Orange (Walker Rd. near corner of Northfield Ave.). We will enjoy a brisk hike of 4+ miles on the orange trail (with some rough spots) in this nicely wooded area and also see Turtleback Rock.

MONDAY, JULY 21

RVW. Westkill Mt. For information call: 845-679-2580. Moderate + hike. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8 am. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

TUESDAY, JULY 22

WTA. Bedford. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Easy 4 miles in a different part of this elegant countryside, possibly along Beaver Dam Creek. Fee \$2.

FVTW. Allamuchy Mountain State Park. Leaders: Jeanne and Don McLellan, 908-464-6246. A nice, level hike, 6-7 miles, with a beautiful lake for a lunch spot. Meet: Allamuchy Tr. 80 Scenic Overlook.

continued on page 11

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