A Battle Brews in the Gunks
Proposed Development Threatens Northern Shawangunk Ridge

By Amy Little
Local residents, hikers, organizations, elected and appointed officials, and other lovers of the Shawangunk Ridge are mobilizing to protect one of this region’s favorite places, which faces the prospect of becoming the site of a massive development.

Landowner John Atwater Bradley and developers Chaffin/Light Associates have submitted a plan for a development on 2,660 acres of pristine land bordering Minnewaska State Park, Sam’s Point Preserve, and very close to Mohonk Preserve.

This land, known as the Awosting Reserve, would be carved into lots to accommodate 349 luxury housing units, a 296-acre development crosses Beaver Brook, Dwaar Mountain, and goes up the Palmaghatt Ravine.

The Development

The proposed development comes very close to the cliffs around Gertrude’s Nose, Castle Point, Hamilton Point, and the Long Path that runs along Margaret Cliff and Ice Caves Mountain. Coming within a mere half mile (1,625 feet) of Lake Awosting, and surrounding Mud Pond, the most remote of the ridge’s sky lakes, the development crosses Beaver Brook, Dwars Kill, and goes up the Palmaghatt Ravine.

New Trail Conference Publications
To Be Available This Spring

CIRCUIT HIKES IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY
Bruce Scofield’s complete guide, fully revised and expanded; 25 hikes in Northern New Jersey that can be walked without the need for a car shuttle or significant retracing of steps. 2003, 5th edition, 176 pages. Includes sketch maps for each hike. Price: $11.95; Members: $9.55; Postage: $2.00

HUDSON PALISADES TRAILS

EAST HUDSON TRAILS
Putnam County New York’s Hudson Highlands and Fahnstock State Parks; Sugarloaf Mountain; Breakneck Ridge; Canopus Lake; Anthony’s Nose; Appalachian Trail; Beacon Mountain Park, and other open space land boundaries. Includes viewpoints, parking, 50-foot contours, historical notes, as well as multi-use trails (horses, mountain bikes). Part of the new series of updated digitally produced hiking trail maps published by the Trail Conference. With UTM grid lines for GPS users and color, elevation-coded, shaded relief; 50-foot contours, viewpoints. It features increased coverage south of the GWB and a more convenient single-page format to the entire map set. 2003, 2nd edition, two maps. Price: $7.95; Members: $5.95; Postage: $2.80

To order books and maps, see page 9 or visit www.nytmjc.org.

continued on page 9

Annual Trail Maintenance Workshop Set
Saturday, May 10, Sterling Forest

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference will conduct its annual trail maintenance and construction workshop Saturday, May 10, at the Visitors Center in Sterling Forest State Park, from 9 am to 4 pm.

Conference club and individual members, as well as non-members, who are interested in acquiring or upgrading a working knowledge of trail construction/maintenance, are welcome. There will be lectures indoors and field work on hiking trails in Sterling Forest. Advance registration is required and class size is limited. Non-members of the Trail Conference must include a $4 per person registration fee, which will be credited toward first year membership dues if you join the Conference at the workshop. Take-home materials and a participant certificate will be provided.

The day will begin with bagels and coffee/tea at 8:30 am. Lectures will begin at 9 am, to be followed by discussions and fieldwork. At 3:30 pm, all participants will return for group socializing and certificate distribution. The workshop will be held rain or shine.

Participants may register for one of two courses:

Maintenance 101: This session will provide training in basic techniques, maintenance standards, the types of problems you may encounter on the trail, and how to solve them. Sign up for this session if you are interested in becoming a Maintainer or want to enhance your knowledge of the subject.

Construction/Restoration: Hiking trails are built with switchbacks, side hilling, steps, and water bars; erosion repair and stream bridging may also be needed. Workshop participants will restore a section of trail by using these techniques. If you have ever wanted to learn about heavy trail repairs or to help on a trail crew, this is the session for you.

To register, complete the Registration Form on page 4 and send it to the Conference office by April 15, 2003. An information packet will be sent to all registrants.

Sign-up is on a first come, first served basis.
Building Bonds with Our Hiking Clubs

The Trail Conference is an 83-year-old hiking organization. Instead of arranging a regular, ambitious schedule of hikes as one might expect, it has always served those that do.

The Trail Conference was created in 1920 to help regional hiking clubs lay out, build, and maintain trails in Harriman State Park. In 1957 a number of hiking clubs were arguing among themselves. These “trail wars” pitted one hiking club against another as each moved trails and removed blazes that the other had carefully done. Raymond Torrey was asked to negotiate among the “war lords” and smooth ruffled feathers. Thus the Trail Conference became a forum in which these clubs could make decisions jointly (wrestling with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission); it also became an umbrella organization for coordinating the regional hiking clubs’ trail protection and trail maintenance efforts within the Highlands. Until the late 1960s, membership in the Trail Conference was limited strictly to clubs, which had prime responsibility for trail maintenance. Eventually, Conference membership was opened to individuals as well and, as the miles of trails maintained in our region increased, more and more individuals began to maintain trails.

Today, 85 clubs/organizations in New York and New Jersey, with a combined membership of nearly 100,000 individuals, belong to the Trail Conference. It’s a diverse group. Some clubs are quite large with membership in the thousands and a broad outings and environmental agenda (Sierra Club chapters are examples). Others have a more specialized existence and focus their energies on a particular region (the Westchester Trails Association) or even on a specific trail (the Long Path North Hiking Club). Others may not even be primarily hiking-oriented—Country Dance New York or New Jersey Search and Rescue, for instance. Other organizations such as Morris County Park Commission or Teatown Lake Reservation manage lands with trails open to the public and offer occasional guided walks in their schedule of varied activities.

What all these groups have in common is an interest in protecting and maintaining our region’s footpaths and open space. Their membership in the Trail Conference supports that interest by providing resources—both financial and human—that are combined with those of others to coordinate and promote trail and open space protection, trail maintenance, and to spread the word to the public about the benefits and attractions of trail hiking.

In addition to leveraging their influence through membership in the Trail Conference, clubs are also entitled to some benefits, one of which is enhanced visibility. For those clubs interested, the TC will link our website to yours. For those clubs not able to host a website, the Trail Conference will do it for you (up to a page or two). Also for those clubs interested, TC will feature a selection of your hikes in each issue of the Trail Walker on a space available basis. Another benefit for clubs that maintain a trail is a reduced membership fee; and they can get help, if they need it, with major problems on the trail(s) they maintain.

What has been true from the beginning of the Trail Conference is still true today. Clubs have a say in the development and protection of our region’s networks of footpaths. They helped save Sterling Forest, Minnewaska, and Storm King. In July 2002, some clubs sent representatives to the hearing about reopening Storm King. Their testimony helped reopen the trails there, closed for three years because of unexplained ordnance. The Trail Conference has grown large enough that today’s forum is the Trail Council, which handles trails issues and approves trail additions and changes. This council of peers, meeting six times a year, comprises trails chairs and supervisors. Club trails chairs are not only invited, but also encouraged to attend. Recently, a request from one member club has moved us to rethink situations where a long distance trail is co-aligned along the full length of another trail. Should the shorter trail give up its identity? If so, what do you do when the small trail is named in memory of a long-ago trail worker? Or should there be no mention of a long distance trail when it is superimposed on an existing trail?

The answers to these questions have implications for trail maintenance. The more we know about our member clubs, the more we can benefit them. Possibilities include connecting potential new members to the appropriate club, designing venues that raise the club’s visibility, developing programs that provide useful information or services. Let us know what ideas you have that would be useful to your group.

Please send your suggestions to me at info@nynjtc.org.

—Jane Daniels
More Green for the Trails

A little more than a year ago, Trail Conference members responded overwhelmingly to an appeal for funds to support our efforts to permanently protect the Shawangunk Ridge. In the coming months, we expect to be able to report tangible progress on the land acquisition front. And in this issue, we introduce Amy Little who is helping to organize the grass roots support for protecting the entire ridge. (See article, page 6.)

This is great work but it costs money. No matter how efficient we strive to be, our work ultimately requires funds to be successful. When we commit to protecting a greenway along the entire ridge, we are committing to raising the necessary funds to complete the work.

In a weak economy, those with strong ambitions must find the resources they need to sustain their success or they must reduce their ambitions. I believe that the Trail Conference must exert a strong public presence in the days ahead or hikers and others who seek nature may find favorite trails under pavement, increasing views of subdivisions, and refuges degraded by motorized off-road vehicles.

If the Conference is to meet these challenges it must have sufficient dollars to fund the work that is required; it must also have a membership big enough to make a difference. Such was the inspiration that led to donations from two Conference board members to fund the new position of Development Director.

In January, Jim Davis, a long-time fundraiser who worked most recently as director of planned giving of United Way in New York City, joined the Trail Conference staff as its first Development Director. His job will have two primary goals: increase the number of members and enhance the Conference’s fund-raising success.

The Trail Conference members have been very generous over the years. Jim’s assignment is to help organize our fundraising work, to build on what is already being done, and to make it more effective. We’ll be looking both within and outside the Trail Conference membership for support. Already, 53 percent of our members make gifts beyond their dues; this is a great base to work from. But we need to look beyond that to foundations, government funding, and also to the future in terms of planned and deferred gifts from individuals.

The other important part of his job is to work with the membership, to increase it and retain it. Though our numbers are stable, there is considerable turnover. We need to find out how to find and retain more members. Part of Jim’s research will include traveling our region, getting to know our current members—why they joined, why they renew, what they look for from the Conference, what their interests and skills may be.

Jim was hired after a rigorous search process that included attendance at a day-long, pre-holiday strategic-planning retreat with Conference staff, directors, and volunteers. (See article, page 7.) He begins his work well informed about our mission, traditions, and needs.

His own words say it best: “One of the real strengths I see in the Trail Conference is the incredible amount of volunteer service—more than 17,000 hours contributed last year. We need some people, a handful of people, to put that kind of energy to work in getting the financial resources we need to support the mission. That’s something I’ll be doing early on—identifying those people. Not just to ask them for money, but to be aware of our needs and to be able to match people up with resources that we know about—members who may know people at foundations, who can take our proposal in to them. It helps a great deal if there is a connection between the people making decisions and the Trail Conference.”

Jim’s work is an integral part of trail maintenance and protection. It’s a matter of providing the necessary resources. He certainly echoes my thoughts when he says, “We’re building a legacy for people who hike in our footsteps.” I hope you will join me in welcoming Jim to the team.

Shawangunk Land Buy Update

Public acquisition of land along the Shawangunk Ridge is an important tool in the Trail Conference’s goal of preserving this rare and beautiful environment. The Conference recently obtained an option to buy 45 acres from Orange County that contain one of the only two remaining fire lookout towers along the Shawangunk Ridge (TC already has the other fire tower, further north, under option). The Conference also expects to finally close on 13 other parcels from Orange County that we have under contract, totaling about 190 acres. The Conference continues to work closely with DEC and the Open Space Institute to acquire parcels in the Wurtsboro area and obtain bridge-financing from the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), which will enable TC to protect another 1,000 acres already under option further south along the ridge.

Town Land Buy Protects LP

The Town of Clarkstown in Rockland, NY, has purchased West Hook, 35 acres atop a portion of Hook Mountain along the shore of the Hudson River in Valley Cottage. The town paid $1.7 million to preserve the land, which will enable more of the Long Path in this area to extend through woods and off of Route 193.

NJ Governor Makes Highlands Protection a Priority

In his January State of the State address, Gov. James E. McGreevey vowed to make preservation of the Highlands a priority of his administration, promising millions in state aid for land preservation. The next day, state Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley Campbell announced that $50 million of a promised $200 million for open space preservation over the next three years would be earmarked for the Highlands, which contains the vast watersheds of Newark and Jersey City.

A U.S. Forest Service draft report, released last year, said 5,200 acres a year have been lost to development in the Highlands through the late 1990s, threatening the water system for millions in New Jersey and New York, endangering wildlife and hemming in recreational spaces.

Hamburg Mountain in Vernon Back in State Hands

A contract for New Jersey’s $7.1 million acquisition of Hamburg Mountain in Vernon to spare it from a large-scale ski resort development was signed in January. Under the deal, the state’s Green Acres program is acquiring 1,849 acres of mountaintop from Intrawest Corp. The land had been approved by Vernon for condos, townhouses, and a golf course as part of the firm’s plans to convert its Mountain Creek ski resort into a world-class tourist destination. The state is buying 451 acres from Intrawest, and the resort is donating to the state an adjacent 1,398 acres, most of which was previously owned by the state and sold to a prior resort owner in 1986 with deed restrictions to keep the land undeveloped. The land will be managed by the state Division of Parks and Forestry.

continued on page 8
**TRAIL NEWS**

Old Mine Road Closed in Delaware Water Gap

Old Mine Road in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area from the Depew Recreation area south to the Worthington State Forest boundary will be closed until at least June for road repairs. This means that the Coppermine and Kaiser trailheads on that road are closed until the work is completed. Access to these trails can only be made from the AT, the closest access point being from Camp Road on the eastern side of the ridge. To get to the trail heads south of the closed section you will need to detour down to 1-86 and up Old Mine Road through Worthington S. E.

**Car Break-ins at Harriman**

After subsiding for a while, car break-ins at Harriman State Park resumed in November. They have been reported to date at the following locations: Reeves Meadow, Rt. 106 (old Rt. 210) lots at the White Bar and RD crossings, and Seabago Boat Launch. Break-ins have occurred mid-week as well as on weekends. Park police remind hikers to leave no valuables in cars, especially credit cards, or anything that might appear potentially valuable. Please report anything suspicious, or any break-ins, to park police at 845-786-2781.

**Hiker Courtesy Lacking?**

Harriman Park management reported a confrontation this winter between some hikers and a cross-country skier on a trail designated for skiing only. One of the hikers is alleged to have threatened to strike the skier when confronted about being on the ski trail and damaging the ski track. Postholes (footsteps deep into snow) can be dangerous to skiers. If hikers need to use a trail that is designated for skiing, they should stay out of ski trails; if on a multiuse trail, courtesy indicates staying out of the ski trails. In other seasons, the protocol is hikers yield to hikers and horses, hikers yield to horses. Of course, as one TC member observes, “We would all be better off if everyone yielded to everyone else and stopped and chatted a bit.”

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP**

TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP continued from page 1

basis; past workshops have been over-subscribed, so be sure to send in your registration early.

Remember to dress for outside work in clothes that you do not mind getting wet or dirty; bring lunch, water, and any other drink or snack you fancy. If you have them, bring any tools appropriate for the workshop for which you register. Basic maintenance tools are hand clippers, loppers (long-handled branch cutters), and small bow or pruning saws. For the construction/restoration session, the tools are grubs and pick mattocks, pry bars, and shovels.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Trail Maintenance Workshop  Saturday, May 10, 2003

Please check the section you want to attend:
☐ Maintenance “101”  ☐ Construction and Restoration
☐ I am a Trail Conference Member.
☐ I am not a Trail Conference Member and I enclose a check for $4.00.

NAME

ADDRESS

STATE/CITY/ZIP

Day Phone (______) __________________  Eve. Phone (______) __________________

☐ Do you currently maintain a trail?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

☐ If yes, do you work  ☐ As an individual or  ☐ with a club?

☐ Name of club, if applicable: ____________________________

☐ Name of trail you maintain:

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

Return by April 15th with a check payable to: NY/NJ Trail Conference, Trail Maintenance Workshop, 166 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792, email rmmarshall@webnet.net
Monica Resort: 732-937-9098, email admant@trailstobuild.com
April 12: Leader, Chris Ezzo - Menomine Trail
April 13: Leader, Claudia Ganz - Menomine Trail
April 24: Leader, Bob Marshall - T.B.A. in Harriman S.P.
April 26: Leader, Claudia Ganz - Twin Forts Trail
April 27: Leader, Chris Ezzo - Twin Forts Trail
May 3: Bob Marshall - RD Trail in Harriman S.P.
May 4: Bob Marshall - RD Trail in Harriman S.P.
May 8: Leader, Bob Marshall - T.B.A. in Harriman S.P.

**TRAIL SCHEDULES**

For the latest schedules, check http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trailwork.html

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

**WEST HUDSON**

Crew Chief: Chris Ezzo: 516-431-1148
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563, emailtrail@grandrenovation.com
Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1144, email clganz@earthlink.net

**NORTH JERSEY**

Leaders: Sandy Parr, 732-469-1109
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.

**TRAIL INITIATIVE IN WESTCHESTER DEPENDS ON RECRUITING NEW MAINTAINERS**

Westchester County in New York has about 500 miles of trails, many of which are within county parks. Although not known as a hiking destination, opportunities to enjoy the outdoors abound here. So do opportunities for trail maintenance.

In November, Trail Conference representatives met with Dave DeLuccia, Director of Park Facilities for Westchester County Parks, to discuss the feasibility of the Trail Conference maintaining some of these county trails. The proposal is for the East Hudson Trail Committee to maintain trails in George’s Island Park, Montrose Point, and Kitchawan Park Preserve, conditional on finding a supervisor and maintainers and not impacting the Trail Conference maintaining some of its trails. The possibility of taking on more trails later depends upon the Trail Conference fulfilling the agreed responsibilities and expanding our volunteer base further. The Trail Conference Board and Trails Council approved the initiative, and the next step is to find people willing to help.

**Classification**

George’s Island Park is along the Hudson, south of Peekskill. It has 3.5 miles of trails, most of which are badly in need of maintenance. There is a potential Eagle Scout candidate project of refurbishing trails and building small bridges. The park connects to Montrose Point Park via a short walk along a dead-end street. There are views of and access to the river.

Montrose Point is just north of George’s Island Park, also along the Hudson River and south of Peekskill. The property is owned by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and is to be maintained by Westchester County Parks. There are about 6 miles of trails that need blazes, sidehilling, and water bars. Disused trails need to be revived. One trail connects to the North County Trailway. A paved bikeway would be difficult to make passable and to report back to their supervisor on work accomplished. Trail Conference supervisors are responsible for providing support to maintainers and interacting with park managers. If you have questions or are interested in joining this new initiative as a supervisor, maintainer, or trail crew member, please contact us by phone (914) 245-1220 or email us at info@nynjtc.org.

—Walt and Jane Daniels, East Hudson Trails Chairs
Life in the Leaf Litter

By Liz Johnson

As hikers, many of us spend a fair amount of time looking at the ground, searching for secure footing or perhaps marveling at the beauty of the wildflowers that emerge each spring. But how many of us have ever stopped to consider the forest floor in its own right?

The forests we love to hike through are made up of many layers: the canopy above, the midstory trees and shorter shrubs around us, and the smaller plants on the forest floor. The forest floor itself is also made up of layers. There is a surface layer of leaf litter consisting of fallen leaves, small twigs, seeds, and other woody debris that accumulates each year. This natural litter affords hiding places for smaller animals, such as woodland mice and salamanders; serves as refugia for seeds, protecting them from predation; and provides nesting material for birds and squirrels. A thick layer of litter also helps protect the soil beneath from eroding away and serves to conserve soil moisture.

The soil, in turn is made up of weathered rock, decaying leaves, sticks, roots and other organic matter, moisture, and small pockets of air. It is the soil that provides both nutrients and support for plants and their network of roots.

Within these layers of the forest floor—the litter and soil—live an amazing community of creatures: the bacteria, fungi, and minute invertebrates. Most of us are familiar with the plants of our forests and the larger animals we might see, such as squirrels, chipmunks, deer, and turkeys. It is the life in the leaf litter and soil of the deciduous forests as native earthworms were eliminated from the northeast by the Pleistocene glaciations. Any earthworms we find today in our yards, gardens, and agricultural lands are recent immigrants from Europe and Asia, brought inadvertently in ship ballast or the soil of potted plants, or intentionally as garden amendments. Due in part to the proximity of suburban homes and gardens to our forests, and to the popular use of worms as fish bait (that are released if unused), these exotic earthworms are now spreading into our forest ecosystems with potentially harmful consequences for the native leaf litter and soil community, and ultimately the plants.

Life on the forest floor is not just a feast for leaf-eating millipedes, snails, and other herbivores and detritivores. These animals are themselves a food source to a host of predators (spiders, pseudoscorpions, centipedes, and rove and ground beetles, to name a few). And all of these small invertebrates, predator and prey alike, are in turn fed upon by larger forest animals such as birds, snakes, and turtles. Together with other forest dwellers, all are part of the forest food web, eating and being eaten, thus cycling energy and nutrients through the forest ecosystem. The health of our forests depends on decomposition and nutrient cycling, and the integrity of our soil and litter animal community is essential to this process!

On your next hike, take a moment to consider the hidden diversity of the forest. You’ll be amazed at what you discover when you take a closer look at the earth beneath your feet.

■ Liz Johnson is Manager of the Metropolitan Biodiversity Program at the American Museum of Natural History’s Center for Biodiversity and Conservation and serves on the Science Advisory Committee of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. For more information about the Center or to download a pdf of Life in the Leaf Litter, visit their website: http://research.amnh.org/biodiversity/
TC Partners with Retired Seniors

The NY-NJ Trail Conference and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) have formed a partnership that will benefit both organizations as well as current TC volunteers.

The Trail Conference will benefit when RSVP volunteers come to help with projects; RSVP can benefit by attracting new volunteers to its organization; and current TC volunteers who join RSVP—whether they are working on trails or helping in the office—become eligible for supplemental accident and liability insurance, travel reimbursement, and the RSVP annual volunteer recognition event. Any one 55 years of age or over is eligible for RSVP. When NY-NJ Trail Conference volunteers join RSVP, it can mean added state and national recognition for both groups and attract new sources of support.

RSVP is part of a network of national service programs that provide older Americans the opportunity to apply their life experience to meeting community needs. If you are interested in being part of this program, please call Joshua Erdsneker at the Trail Conference (201-512-9348) or Mary Stuart, RSVP Coordinator (845-291-2176) for more information and an enrollment form. Visit www.seniorserve.org.

New Faces at the Conference Office

Two dedicated hikers joined the TC office staff in January.

Ramon McMillan is the new Administrative Assistant. Ramon graduated from Berea College in Berea, KY, in 1986 with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and received an associate’s degree in forest technology from SUNY Ranger School in 1996. He is an avid hiker throughout our region and has thru-hiked Vermont’s Long Trail and the Adirondack’s Northville-Lake Placid Trail. He also has extensive customer service experience and product knowledge in the outdoor gear business, having worked for such retailers as REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc.) and American Terraform.

Nayarid Barahona is now Membership/Orders Coordinator. Nayarid, too, is a hiker and loves to camp. She graduated from Unity College in Maine with an environmental science degree in 2002, and has previously worked at the Wilderness Conservation Society, animal shelters, and refuge parks.

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS

The Trail Conference offers varied opportunities for volunteers to support trails and hiking. Below are some current possibilities. If you want to volunteer with the TC and don’t see an opportunity that suits you, please contact Volunteer Projects Director Joshua Erdsneker at josh@nynytc.org or 201-512-9348 and he will find a way to get you involved.

Trail Maintainers

What would happen if the trail blazes disappeared? Remember the hike you took last weekend—a dedicated volunteer made your journey through the woods possible. To maintain the hiking trails in good order and protect them from misuse, we need your help. There are more than 60 openings for trail maintainers in New York and New Jersey that need to be filled. Join us now and be part of the team that makes a difference.

Membership Renewals and Communications Officer

Size does matter! The continued growth and retention of our membership greatly impacts the success of our organization’s ability to achieve its mission. Mailings are an essential communications tool used to contact our members. As a result of this work, the Trail Conference will continue to be a strong advocate for land preservation and a regional force for trail development and maintenance. Come join the fun and prepare renewal notices and other bulk mailing projects. All you need is a great attitude and being willing to roll up your sleeves to stick and stuff envelopes.

Database Rescue Worker

The Trail Conference’s database has become an essential tool for accomplishing our mission. Help develop and maintain this tool so that we operate more efficiently. Responsibilities include assisting the database administrator with routine database maintenance, importing and exporting data sets, creating scripts, developing new views and data entry screens, and developing and designing new database modules. Experience working with flat-file and relational databases is essential. Knowledge of File Maker is not required but would be very useful; knowledge of Excel is not required but would be very useful.

Goodwill Ambassador

Ambassadors will help members of our hiking family know that they are not alone in good times or bad. Persons in this position will represent the Trail Conference to its members in times of death, illness, celebrations of new births, and other such events. The Goodwill Ambassadors will coordinate visits, writing and sending of condolence cards, and other notes of sentiment to members of the Trail Conference community. Individuals should have neat handwriting, social graces, and be comfortable making or sending condolence calls and cards.

Volunteer Recruitment Specialist

The Trail Conference is a volunteer-powered organization. The ability to recruit and place volunteers in positions of need is essential to the organization’s ability to survive. Recruitment Specialists will collect and record potential volunteer interests. Applicants should be able to navigate a computer using a mouse and be comfortable performing basic electronic data entry. While helping out, you will meet people with like interests, help the Trail Conference meet its needs, discover the diversity of the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and cultivate new interests in the fields of land preservation, nature conservation, hiking, publications, etc.

Public Outreach Representative

Do you remember how excited you felt when you bought your first map and planned your first hike? Empower others to experience the very same feelings by spreading the word to our communities about the Trail Conference and the joys of hiking. Join other TC members at bling events and share your passion for hiking. While spending three to four hours with fellow Conference members, you’ll find new hiking partners and introduce people to the Trail Conference.

COLOR NOTE CARDS

The perfect gift for yourself or a friend.

Limited Edition (only 750).

Eight photo note cards by Herb Chong; $12 nonmembers; $9.60 members (plus $2 shipping/tax).

Fall Color Series. Color photos can be seen on our website: www.nynytc.org. Only available at the NYNJTC. Order at www.nynytc.org or use the order form on page 9.
TC Shapes New Strategic Plan

In December, 35 Trail Conference stalwarts—staff and volunteer leaders—gathered to begin work on a new strategic plan. Professional facilitator Jay Vogt led the group through a process that analyzed the Trail Conference’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and solicited the participant’s best experiences and visions for the organization’s future. Then we ranked a set of strategic priorities for the Trail Conference. Work groups were assigned to fully develop these priorities and project the amount and types of resources that would be needed to implement them. The research is ongoing and will form the basis of TC’s next strategic plan and be incorporated into our 2004 plan and budget. Below is a report on the preliminary results of the work in progress.

STRENGTHS

Our primary strength can be summed up in one word—volunteers. The Trail Conference’s positive reputation and goodwill stems from a long history of volunteer accomplishment in trail development, land protection, and hiking publications. Our on-the-ground volunteer presence allows us to have face-to-face relationships with landowners and agency partners. Our volunteers and staff are backed up by stable and generous membership and member clubs.

WEAKNESSES

Our greatest weakness is probably a lack of visibility, which results in a small membership base and an over-utilization of the small pool of volunteers, members, and donors. Participants felt that there is a far larger group of people who would become involved in and supportive of Trail Conference activities if they only knew we existed. Some also felt that our sole focus on hikers to the exclusion of other trail users limits our ability to forge potentially fruitful alliances.

OPPORTUNITIES

Participants felt that there was a huge potential for membership growth, greater synergies with member clubs, and possibilities for corporate partnerships. The flood of new public lands resulting from open space initiatives at the state and local level creates vast opportunities to develop new trails and trail networks both within and between protected open space. The challenge that public agencies face in managing these open space areas with ever shrinking staff will place new demands on the Trail Conference’s on-the-ground presence and expertise in the area of stewardship and environmental monitoring. Our successful professional counsel and ad hoc grass roots advocacy efforts could be better coordinated to influence smart growth. There are huge knowledge gaps in the field of recreation ecology that are unlikely to be filled without initiative from the Trail Conference. Our marked and maintained trails represent a huge environmental education opportunity for outreach to K-12 education and other informal learning situations. GIS technology could improve and integrate a number of key Trail Conference functions, including mapping, land acquisition, trail land advocacy, trail maintenance, and environmental monitoring.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

At the end of the day, strategies were shaped that will be further refined by designated work groups. What follows is a categorization of some of the most popular ideas.

**Growth:** It was clearly agreed that the Trail Conference should broaden its membership base and work to create greater synergies with member clubs. Greater visibility is important for growth.

**Access:** Our signature work is volunteer trail development and maintenance and everyone agreed that our first priority is to fully support this enterprise. Further, there was a consensus that our maps and hiking books are an important part of providing access to the outdoors. And finally, there was an acknowledgement that improved trailhead parking, signage, and kiosks could make the trail systems more visible and accessible.

**Protection:** The Trail Conference has a proven record of leading public efforts to protect open space, and its work to provide connecting corridors between open space areas is unique among conservation organizations. We must continue to focus on protecting these connections within a broader effort to support smart growth initiatives.

**Stewardship:** There is a clear need for all trail design and maintenance to incorporate environmental considerations and the Trail Conference is in a good position to expand its established network of volunteers into the realm of environmental monitoring. Additionally, there are huge knowledge gaps regarding the environmental factors affecting trail lands that the Trail Conference could help fill.

**Education:** The concept of using trails and trail lands as outdoor classrooms drew much support. Many felt a corps of trail docents could help educate the public, particularly grades K-12, about the responsible use of the environment.

**Volunteer/Technology:** While the Trail Conference may move in new directions, it needs to maintain and improve the volunteer basis of its efforts. If a volunteer wants to and can fill a need, that

For Walt Daniels

TC Volunteering Is a Second Career

Computer guru, trails master in the East Hudson region, supervisor of the AT in Putnam County, webmaster—the list of Walt Daniels’ volunteer roles for the Trail Conference goes on and on. Some folks might mistakenly assume that he is, in fact, on the staff.

If he were, here’s what he might cost the Conference, according to Volunteer Projects Director Joshua Erdseneker. “Last year, Walt’s non-trail contribution was worth an estimated $76,416. This is calculated using Bureau of Labor Statistics for mean, white-collar, hourly wages in New York, northern New Jersey, and Long Island for a computer systems occupation. Walt worked 1,926 hours at $39.80 per hour. These figures do not include his trail publications, hours.” Sounds like he is really the equivalent of two people.

“We call Walt when the computers break. We call Walt to update the web. We call Walt when we need help. Unfortunately, we don’t call Walt enough to say thanks!” Erdseneker says.

Walt, by the way, stops to look back—he’s busy dealing with the present—but when asked, his wife Jane recalls highlights from his more than 20 years of contributions.

Walt first joined the Trail Conference in 1974 and began volunteering with Letter Day in 1979. Over the years the number and variety of his activities has grown. He notes that the Trail Conference was using PCs soon after their inception and then made sure they were kept humming. He served as registrar for the AT Biennial Conference in New Paltz in 1983, introducing PCs as the means of registration. When the Appalachian Trail in Putnam County needed to be built on National Park Service lands, Walt learned trail construction and organized trail crews. He helped with the New York Walk Book, 6th edition, and the New Jersey Walk Book, 1st edition, checking trails and making sure that information was presented in a consistent manner.

Once Walt retired, in January 1998, from his job doing programming research at IBM’s T. J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights (he is a physicist by training, and has worked with computers since 1956), he became a “professional volunteer.” He evaluated databases and, with the Technology Committee, decided on a database to manage information about trails, members, and volunteers. When the Trail Conference moved to Mahwah, his weekly trips helped new staff learn about TC culture. Amazingly, Walt has time for other activities. He serves on the Appalachian Trail Conference Board of Managers and the Town of Yorktown (NY) Conservation Advisory Committee. He makes time to travel. Since 1992, he and Jane have hiked 1,366 miles out of 2,170 miles of the Appalachian Trail. “He is extremely supportive of me as president and important scenes as well as in the public forum” says Jane, who is the current president of the Conference. He is, she adds, “passionate about the environment, both from the open space preservation standpoint and for the integrity of the ecology.”

Years ago, Walt’s many contributions were formally recognized when in 1992 the Conference gave him the William Hoefler Award and in 1997 when, with Jane, he received the American Hiking Society’s Volunteer of Year Award for New York State. Clearly, those awards did not mark the ending of Walt’s volunteer career. His ongoing value to the Conference is captured in the words of Josh Erdseneker: “Can we clone Walt?”

—Edward Goodell

Individual and club members are invited to contribute to the strategic planning process by contacting Ed Goodell at the Trail Conference office, 203-312-9348 or goodell@nynature.org.

The expenses associated with this strategic planning process were funded by a grant from two Conference board members. The Andreas-on-Hudson Long Term Care Facility provided the meeting space.
New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members: Richard Brause, Marilyn Katz, Karen G. Krueger, Joshua S. Parkhurst, George R. Petty Jr., George Blair Scribner, Manny J. Silberberg, and James F. Slowik.

A Life Membership in the 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 $200; a joint life membership (two adults at the same address) is $370. The next time you renew, please consider becoming a Trail Conference “Life.”

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

Where there’s a Will, there’s a Trail

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

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

IN MEMORIAM

New City lawyer J. Martin Cornell, who worked more than 40 years to improve the life of Rockland County and fought public interest battles all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, died in December of leukemia. He was 69. Martin was, recalls former TC President Neil Zimmerman, “a truly great friend to hikers and park lovers and a dedicated PIPC commissioner.”

David A. Richie, a former National Park Service official who had a significant role in protecting the Appalachian Trail from commercial development, highway building, and other potential threats, died on December 20 at his home in Hampstead, N.C. He was 70. An obituary in the New York Times noted that Richie “set a tone that battled all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.”

New Jersey Society Gifts of $299


In Memory of David Ritchie

In Memory of Martin Cornell

In Memory of James F. Slowik

New Meadowlands Park Proposed

A 13-square-mile zone along the Hackensack River would remain undeveloped under a plan to create a Meadowlands preserve for the largest open space left in northern New Jersey. Rep. Steven R. Rothman, an advocate of the plan, calls the 8,400 acres from Little Ferry to Kearny “the last contiguous parcel of open space in the most densely populated part of the most densely populated state that is largely undeveloped.” Of that, the river comprises 1,600 acres and its tributaries, 200 acres. For the park to become reality, thousands of acres must be acquired and polluted areas cleaned or capped; the price tag has been estimated at up to $300 million. In late January, federal and state officials kicked off a $3 million wetlands restoration agency study.
**NY-NJ TC member?** ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ JOINING NOW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Conference Maps</th>
<th>Retail</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>P/H</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEW! Sterling Forest Trails (2003)</td>
<td>$7.95</td>
<td>$5.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Jersey Trails (2002)</td>
<td>$7.95</td>
<td>$5.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails (2002)</td>
<td>$8.95</td>
<td>$6.75</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW! East Hudson Trails (available Spring 2003)</td>
<td>$9.95</td>
<td>$7.75</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Hudson Trails (2000)</td>
<td>$7.95</td>
<td>$5.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catskill Trails (2003) &amp; see combo</td>
<td>$13.95</td>
<td>$10.45</td>
<td>+$1.10</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kittatinnny Trails (2000)</td>
<td>$12.95</td>
<td>$9.75</td>
<td>+$1.10</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawangunk Trails (2000) &amp; see combo</td>
<td>$9.95</td>
<td>$7.75</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Taconic Trails (1998, rev. 1998)</td>
<td>$4.95</td>
<td>$3.75</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson Palisades (1991)</td>
<td>$5.95</td>
<td>$4.75</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Books</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEW! A.T. Guide for NY &amp; NJ (2002) w/6 maps</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
<td>$15.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW! Day Walker (2002)</td>
<td>$16.95</td>
<td>$13.55</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW! Hiking Long Island (2002)</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
<td>$15.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW! Circuit Hikes in New Jersey (available Spring '03)</td>
<td>$11.95</td>
<td>$9.55</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Walk Book (2001) &amp; see combo</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
<td>$15.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Walk Book (1998) &amp; see combo</td>
<td>$15.95</td>
<td>$12.75</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harriman Trails Guide (1999) &amp; see combo</td>
<td>$16.95</td>
<td>$13.55</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Mine Trails. NY-NJ Highlands (1996, rev. 1999)</td>
<td>$8.95</td>
<td>$7.15</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Hints for Hikers (1994)</td>
<td>$5.95</td>
<td>$4.75</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doddleton-Hiking Through History in a Vanishing Hamlet on the Hudson (1996)</td>
<td>$12.95</td>
<td>$10.35</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Two: The Central Catskills (2000)</td>
<td>$14.95</td>
<td>$11.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic &amp; Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) &amp; see combo</td>
<td>$10.95</td>
<td>$8.85</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic &amp; Walks in the Southern Shawangunks (1999) Hardcover</td>
<td>$11.45</td>
<td>$9.75</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Walks in New Jersey (1998)</td>
<td>$12.95</td>
<td>$10.35</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley (2002)</td>
<td>$16.95</td>
<td>$13.55</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Hikes in New Jersey (1997, rev. 1999)</td>
<td>$14.95</td>
<td>$11.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills &amp; Hudson River Valley (2002)</td>
<td>$14.95</td>
<td>$11.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years (2001)</td>
<td>$27.50</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td>+$3</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combo-Packs</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catskill (5-map set &amp; ADK book)</td>
<td>$27.80</td>
<td>$21.60</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harriman (2-map set &amp; book)</td>
<td>$22.40</td>
<td>$17.55</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$4.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY &amp; NJ Walk Books</td>
<td>$32.35</td>
<td>$25.85</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawangunk Combo (4-map set &amp; book)</td>
<td>$17.90</td>
<td>$13.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$3.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Personal Touch</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEW! Note Cards (2002)</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>$9.60</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking Cap</td>
<td>$12.90</td>
<td>$10.50</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-sleeve Denim Shirt Circle: S M L XL</td>
<td>$29.90</td>
<td>$22.90</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polo Shirt (Forest Green) Circle: S M L XL</td>
<td>$19.90</td>
<td>$15.50</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY-NJTC T-Shirt Circle: L XL</td>
<td>$13.95</td>
<td>$13.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harriman Map Bandanna</td>
<td>$6.85</td>
<td>$5.95</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Logo Patch</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
<td>+$0</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Path Logo Patch</td>
<td>$2.75</td>
<td>$2.75</td>
<td>postpaid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Logo Decal</td>
<td>$3.85</td>
<td>$3.85</td>
<td>postpaid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** $______

**Method of Payment:**
☐ Check or money order enclosed
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex
Card #___________ Exp Date: /____

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

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

---

**A BATTLE BREWS IN THE GUNKS**

The Trail Conference will be recruiting new members and extolling the joys and benefits of hiking at several upcoming events. If you can help represent us at any of these events, contact Joshua Erdnaker, Volunteer Projects Director, at 201-512-9348 or josh@nyntjc.org. Stop by and say hi if you are in the area.

- **“Get Out More,”** at Campmor, March 1, 5:00 pm to 5:00 pm, sponsored by Backpacker magazine and Campmor
- **Banff Mountain Film Festival,** March 5 & 6, 7:30 pm at the New York Society for Ethical Culture Auditorium
- **Banff Mountain Film Festival,** March 11, 7:00 pm, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack, NJ
- **Small Press Fair,** March 29 & 30 in NYC, times TBA
- **ABC Earth Day Event** on April 22, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at ABC’s NYC corporate headquarters
- **Club Day at EMS in Paramus,** NJ, April 26, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
- **Earth Day in Van Cortlandt Park,** Bronx, NY, April 26, 12:00 to 5:00 pm

**Spreading the Word**

The NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will be the lead agency reviewing the environmental impacts. “DEC has far greater resources and expertise for a comprehensive environmental review than the towns,” noted Neil Woodworth, counsel to the NY-NJ Trail Conference and Adirondack Mountain Club partnership. “DEC tends to keep the regional impact of a project in mind as well.” The DEC and the affected towns will be involved in the extensive permitting process. The towns of Shawangunk and Gardiner were already reviewing their land-use master plans and zoning laws, which allows them to hold off on the approval process of large development projects until such review is near completion.

Local residents have formed a grassroots group called “Save the Ridge.” Working with the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, and other ridge organizations, Save the Ridge members are very concerned about drinking water resources, their rural economy, destruction of forest and wetland habitats, pollution of surface water, decrease in property values, increased traffic, and runoff of lawn chemicals, salt, sewage, and golf course chemicals.

This fragile and special land on the Shawangunk Ridge needs to be protected. Everyone has an interest in protecting it and the best way to do that is by choosing preservation over development. There are resources to purchase it and keep it preserved in perpetuity.

To keep up with the latest news on this issue and to get involved, visit www.ShawangunkRidge.org; email Info@ShawangunkRidge.org; or call 845-255-7586.

Amy Little is Coordinator of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition.
The place where I most like to hike offers woods and waterfalls, ponds and parks, serenity and beauty. This remarkable place is close to my home and is much easier to reach than most other hiking areas I know. It has features not commonly associated with many favorite hikes. There are ball fields and quiet residential streets. There are beach views in one direction, skyscrapers in another. There are historic cemeteries and a "mountain" made of the excavated rock from a highway project.

I am referring to the Greenbelt on Staten Island. And in spite of being within New York City limits, with wooded trails that lead out to golf courses, scout camps, and busy streets, there also are areas where visitors will find no evidence of civilization.

Within the Greenbelt, I have a choice of four long trails for hiking and many short walks. Each is well marked and maintained by dedicated volunteers of the Metro Area Trails Committee and members of the Greenbelt maintenance crew. Most trailheads are reachable by bus or car, and parking is ample in dedicated areas.

The blue-blazed Greenbelt Circular Trail at 13.4 miles is one of the long trails. (Take the S48 bus to Forest Avenue and Clove Road. Trailhead is on the left.) This trail runs through Clove Lakes Park, past several waterfalls. It climbs through forests, passes ponds, two golf courses, a former seminary, and follows quiet residential streets. It offers splendid views of Raritan Bay, the Atlantic Highlands, and Sandy Hook. It ends at Brielle Avenue near Rosanoke Avenue, where one can return to the Staten Island Ferry by the S44 bus, transferring to the S62 at Victory Boulevard.

In the heart of the 4,800-acre Greenbelt is High Rock Park, where restrooms and parking are available. Also within the Greenbelt's borders is Historic Richmondtown, a historic village that offers woods and waterfalls, ponds and elevations, history, and points of interest. It is a very handy aid for hiking in this area. Visitors may request a copy by calling the Greenbelt at 718-667-2165 or download one from the Greenbelt Conservancy's website: www.sigreenbelt.com.

—Bob Ward
Chairman, Metro Area Trails Committee

With help from
Dorothy A. Reilly, Director of Public Relations, Greenbelt Conservancy, and
Bettsey Soffer, Staten Island Area Supervisor

The Club Day offer is valid at all of our stores in New York and New Jersey:

**Bridgewater, NJ** – (908) 725-7255
347 US Rte 202/206 S

**Paramus, NJ** – (201) 670-6464
820 Rte 17 N

**Princeton, NJ** – (609) 520-8310
Princeton Marketfair

**Woodbridge, NJ** – (732) 634-8787
Woodbridge Center

**Carle Place, NY** – (516) 747-7360
221 Glen Cove Road

**Lake Grove, NY** – (631) 724-1933
Smith Haven Mall

**Manhattan, NY** – (212) 397-4860
20 W61st (at Broadway)

**West Nyack, NY** – (845) 348-6486
Palisades Center
In the Valley near what was the hub of this small settlement. Transportation: 14.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

IHC. The hiking Stirling Ridge Trail. Leader: Stone River, 917-932-4140, Albert St to southeast of the Stirling Ridge Trail, Rte. 511, Hewitt, NJ. Strenuous. This is our main trail, but today we will enjoy hiking in a new area. Come out for one of the great weeks we have planned on this trail. We hope you will be out enjoying us maintaining the beautiful trail. Rain, ice, or poor driving conditions cancel. Car pool brochure to inland.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21


NYC. Harlem Valley Rail Trail. Leader: Theodore, 516-608-4489; 10 am at field entrance of 200th St. 2011, near the west entrance of Taghkanic Station. Rain cancel.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

IHC. RSIS. Echo Lake to Wyanokie, One-Way. Leader: Mike Puder, 718-743-0920; call during week of hike for information. Hike on the new Turn Trail; cross the newest bridge in NYS. Car pool.


THURSDAY, MAY 1

FVTW. Echo Lake to Wyanokie, One-Way. Leader: Jim & Theresa McRae, 718-937-0756; 9:30 am at Echo Lake Field. Car pool. Hikes from Echo Lake to Echo Lake Field on the Highlands Trail Conference's Visitor Trail and others.

Catskill Day Hikes: For All Seasons

Softcover $12.95

ADK's newest day-hiker guide covers sixty hikes throughout the Catskills. Difficulty ratings, distances, parking, and sixty hikes throughout the Catskills. Difficulty ratings, distances, parking, and

Order from http://www.adk.org/ for more information.

Softcover $12.95

Comming Soon to Fishkill Ridge

In hike – Hike out Camping!!!

All you need is a sleeping bag and
we will supply the rest.

Check us out at

www.MALOFSMOUNTAIN.COM

New! From the Adirondack Mountain Club

Catkill Day Hikes

For All Seasons

Order from http://www.adk.org/ for more information.

Softcover $12.95

ADK's newest day-hiker guide covers sixty hikes throughout the Catskills. Difficulty ratings, distances, parking, and more than 35 maps and photos are included.

Order from http://www.adk.org/ for more information.

Softcover $12.95

ADK's newest day-hiker guide covers sixty hikes throughout the Catskills. Difficulty ratings, distances, parking, and more than 35 maps and photos are included.

Order from http://www.adk.org/ for more information.

Softcover $12.95

ADK's newest day-hiker guide covers sixty hikes throughout the Catskills. Difficulty ratings, distances, parking, and more than 35 maps and photos are included.

Order from http://www.adk.org/ for more information.
Join the volunteers who bring you the great outdoors!

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

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

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

**Join the volunteers who bring you the great outdoors!**

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

**Membership Level**

- Individual: $25
- Joint/Family: $31

- Sponsor: $50
- Benefactor: $100
- Senior/Student: $18
- Life: $750

**Address**

Name
City State Zip
Day Phone Evening Phone
E-MAIL

- Check or money order enclosed
- Visa
- Mastercard
- Annex

- Exp Date: __/__/____

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

---

**NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE**

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

**Volume XXXX, Number 2**

**ISSN 0749-1352**

**March/April 2003**

Permit #970-100

---

**HIKERS’ ALMANAC**

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs

---

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16**


---

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**