A Bounty of Land Preservation Successes

In the Shawangunks

The protection of an additional 700 acres on the Shawangunk Ridge was achieved this summer with the purchase of two parcels, one by the Trail Conference (TC) and the other by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

- On July 24, the TC closed on a 151-acre parcel owned by John Stutzman in the Town of Wurtsboro. The ridgetop parcel offers 360-degree views, is primarily forested, includes several acres of dwarf pitch pine on bedrock, and features white cliffs that face southwest. It also sports one of only two firetowers on the ridge. The Shawangunk Ridge Trail crosses the parcel and is now permanently protected at this location.

This is a crucial acquisition in our ongoing efforts to protect the ridgetop," said John Myers, land acquisitions director for the Trail Conference. The parcel is an important piece in connecting two existing state forests—Shawangunk S.F. and Wurtsboro S.F. “Mr. Stutzman had generously given permission for the Shawangunk Ridge Trail to cross his property for many years, and we are grateful to him for selling it to us for preservation,” Myers continued.

The DEC has indicated an interest in purchasing the land from the Trail Conference and adding it to its other holdings in the area. The $151,000 purchase was made possible by the TC's Outdoor Fund, which is dedicated to conservation projects.

Fahnestock

In June, 699 acres adjacent to Fahnestock State Park in Putnam County were acquired by the Open Space Institute from the Fresh Air Fund. The property is near one of the park’s highest elevations and, says OSI, is an important water source. Wiccopee Creek courses through the property, flowing north toward the Fishkill Creek Aquifer. The site is described as heavily wooded with hundreds of acres of wetlands.

This buy follows a February purchase by OSI of 500 acres known as Glenerye, also adjacent to Fahnestock, specifically, next to the Hubbard-Perrins Conservation Area in the park’s northwest corner. Both parcels are expected to be added to Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park.

Storm King

Nearly 125 acres adjacent to Storm King Mountain have been preserved as open space thanks to a recent purchase by the Scenic Hudson Land Trust. The trust purchased 81.25 acres from the Storm King School that include the 1,350-foot peak known as Better Hill (crossed by the Highlands Trail); the parcel is bordered on three sides by the 1,900-acre Storm King Mountain State Park. Scenic Hudson hopes to transfer the land to the state.

New East Hudson Map Set Now Available

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has published the Fifth Edition of its East Hudson Trails map set. Trails in the East Hudson area offer some of the most outstanding hiking in the New York metropolitan area. With trails ranging from easy to challenging, there are paths for all abilities; many are within reach of the Metro-North Railroad.

The three-map set includes many changes since the 1997 edition. The map set covers the trails from Annsville Circle (Routes 9 and 6/202) to Beacon along the Hudson River to a little east of the Taconic Parkway, all of Hudson Highlands State Park, Fahnstock State Park, Hubbard/Perrins Conservation Area, Hudson Highlands Gateway Park, plus properties owned by the Audubon Society and Scenic Hudson. Additionally, almost 2,000 acres of publicly accessible open space that has been purchased by the Open Space Institute since the last edition (including those reported in this issue; see page 5) is included on the maps.

Each trail track is the result of the latest GPS and digital technology and printed on Tyvek for durability.

To order directly from the Trail Conference, turn to Hikers' Marketplace on page 8 or visit www.nynjtc.org. Discount available to members.
Coming to Our Region in ’07: The AT Conference

At the end of July, I attended the Appalachian Trail (AT) Conference biennial meeting in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. Hosted this time by the Appalachian Mountain Club, the event gave hikers an opportunity to take workshops, hikes, go on excursions, attend concerts, and talk with fellow hikers.

My husband Walt and I have been going to the AT conferences since 1981, when it was held in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Two years later, the NY-NJ Trail Conference hosted the conference at New Paltz. Held every other year, the location for the conference rotates geographically through the three AT regions so that a region hosts it every six years. Another rotation occurs within each region such that a maintaining club or clubs has the responsibility for the conference every 12-24 years. Thus no group is overburdened with a major event. Hosting clubs recognize the conference as a way to show off their sections of AT, local hiking trails, and the local recreational opportunities. (In similar fashion, we rotate our trail maintenance workshops among areas within our region.)

Twenty-two years ago, the hosts did everything in a two-year time frame; the 1983 conference was the first time computers were used for registration. Now the lead time is longer, partially because it is necessary to find a site that can house 600 hikers, provide camping for 250, have nearby off-site lodging facilities for 100-200, and accommodate 1,000 hikers at various events. College campuses are ideal for summer conferences, but they need to be booked well ahead.

In 2007, the Trail Conference will again host the event and I have agreed to chair it. Now, what I need is people willing to help, particularly folks interested in the start-up phase. Some jobs will be short term while others require more involvement. They range from event treasurer, committee chair, hike leader, registration desk staff, envelope stuffers, to traffic director. Committee chairs will be responsible for running their own committees.

For example, the hiking chair, with a group of trusted advisers, needs to schedule hikes and find leaders, or visa versa. Fortunately a great deal of information is passed along from conference to conference, including a set of signposts to use in parking lots. In Waterville Valley, I had opportunity to talk not only to the current conference chair, but also to the immediate past and upcoming chairs. I came home with notes, suggestions, and copies of materials used. The 2007 conference chair handed out excellent documentation on how she ran the conference, complete with lessons learned.

Since Walt and I were in charge of registration in 1983, one might ask, “Why are you getting involved again?” My answer is simple: it’s fun. Just consider how some people don’t care for trail maintenance, while others thrive on it. Helping to organize the conference is an opportunity to try something different. The AT Conference comes more frequently than Halley’s Comet, but in my opinion, both events are not to be missed. If you have questions or are interested in helping, please contact me at jdhiker@optonline.net.

—Jane Daniels
Chair, Board of Directors

Crews Get Rock-work Training

On-the-Job at Twin Forts

Trail Conference crews have been hard at work on an ambitious project to improve the Twin Forts Trail in Bear Mountain State Park. A portion of this trail required rock construction that has served as training for some of our crew members. Under the tutelage of Eddie Walsh, 15 crew members had the opportunity to advance their knowledge in rock step building. Funding for this project has been provided by the Fort Montgomery Battlefields Association.

A temporary connecting trail (Twin Forts Trail) between Forts Clinton and Montgomery was built in September of 2002. The trail links the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and Fort Clinton to Fort Montgomery and the 1777-1779 Trails. It has proven to be immensely popular, particularly with inexperienced hikers, due to its relatively short length and connections with the Trailside Museum (Fort Clinton) to the south and the newly completed pedestrian suspension bridge to Fort Montgomery to the north. Though the trail is currently in service, the new bridge will allow pedestrians to cross the seasonal stream in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

In the process of completing the work, Trail Conference volunteers are being trained in valuable technical rock-working skills by Ed Walsh, TC member and formerly on the paid staffs of ADK, AMC, GMS, and Maine ATC. The group will comprise a long-term skilled cohort available to make additional improvements and maintenance to the Twin Forts Trail and other trails in Bear Mountain and Fort Montgomery State Parks.

When completed, the work will “provide a dramatic, long-lasting entrance to the Twin Forts Trail—from the Trailside Museum en route to Fort Montgomery,” says Trail Conference Executive Director Edward Goodell, and the trail will provide a “a wonderful connection between these two very popular parks.”
Road Walk or Woodland Trail?

In the last issue of Trail Walker, I wrote about our efforts to fulfill one of the strategic goals of the Trail Conference—permanent protection of long-distance trail corridors. In this issue, I want to talk about how we can build on those successes to accelerate our efforts to permanently protect all of our trails that are still on roads or private lands.

Long-distance trail corridors connect public open spaces. The need to protect these corridors is growing ever more urgent as available open space becomes more scarce, fragmented, and expensive. Fortunately, there are many partners in this protection endeavor as state and local governments are increasingly taking steps to set aside as much as possible of what is left.

Trail Conference efforts have consisted of two types of protection: 1) protection of the actual pathway itself when it lies on private land; and 2) buffer protection to widen the trail corridor where the pathway is already protected, such as along the Appalachian Trail.

We have used a variety of approaches in protecting land—always seeking to minimize both our use of capital and of risk. In order of preference, our main alternatives have been the following:

Public Agency or Land Trust Purchase:
In cases where the landowner does not urgently need to sell and where public agency has expressed a willingness to purchase, we appeal to them to negotiate and purchase the lands directly. If negotiations fail, we seek other alternatives.

Acquiring an Option to Purchase:
For a fee, we can often secure a purchase option, which gives us the right, but not the obligation, to buy the land for a certain price within a time frame that is typically 12 to 18 months. If a public agency or land trust is not prepared to purchase the property when the option expires, we can attempt to extend the option for an additional fee.

Purchase Using Seller Financing:
If we cannot acquire or extend an option, we can seek seller financing by offering a down payment and assuming a two- to five-year mortgage from the seller with a balloon payment for the balance. During the mortgage period, we can work to arrange a sale to a public agency or land trust.

Direct Purchase:
Often we exhaust all of the previous alternatives and are faced with seeing a critical parcel sold for development. In these cases, we may purchase the property outright with the intention of holding it until the public agency has funding available to purchase it from us.

The Outdoor Fund has been the primary vehicle enabling us to finance this work. Our goal is not to be long-term owners of land, but rather to transfer land as soon as possible into public ownership. Likewise, our goal is not to tie up Outdoor Funds for lengthy periods of time, but rather to roll the money over on a short-term basis and use it again for future acquisition costs.

Because the last and most capital intensive scenario—Direct Purchase—is presenting itself ever more frequently, our needs are exceeding the capacity of the Outdoor Fund. Our challenge in the future is both to find ways to expand the size of this fund and to develop innovative means to stretch the available dollars as far as possible. The consequences are nothing short of the difference between a woodland trail and a road walk.

For example, a frequent scenario involves a segment of a long-distance trail that is on a road through a rapidly developing area of once rural lands. Typically there will be parcels of land that have both road frontage and bulk acreage suitable for a trail corridor and desirable for public open space. With a minimal down payment and short-term mortgage, the Trail Conference may be able to acquire the land for a later transfer to a public entity. This would be the preferred strategy; but if no public entity were available, we could still finance the acquisition of the bulk acreage for a trail corridor by selling the road frontage as a buildable lot.

This technique is called a “limited development” and is used by other land trusts to work with “conservation buyers.” Conservation buyers are people who are interested in owning land that has a conservation easement on it or is adjacent to protected conservation lands. In the past, the Trail Conference has worked with the Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust to find conservation buyers for parcels along the AT. One of the problems we have faced is that most conservation buyers do not have the resources to buy large tracts of land that often come available. The limited development scenario would allow these conservation buyers to acquire smaller developable lots adjacent to larger conservation lands.

Another approach used by other land trusts is to work with individuals sympathetic to our goals, who are willing to “land-bank” key trail properties. The idea behind this “conservation investor” approach is that individuals can put their money to work helping protect important trail corridors and at the same time have the potential for modest return on their investment.

Land-banking by conservation investors accomplishes several important objectives. A key property is taken off the market and made safe from development for two to five years, generally providing us enough time to arrange a sale to a public agency. The investors’ money is safely secured by the value of property. (The value of ridge lands, where most of our trails are located, continues to rise, as developers increasingly target these lands for building expensive “mountain homes with a view.”) Land-banking allows us to secure more critical properties than possible with the Outdoor Funds alone.

The Trail Conference will be exploring and experimenting with these and other approaches over the coming years, as well as raising money to finance them! Ours is the hard work of assembling the many small parcels that connect the large open spaces. Few others are willing to do it and the opportunity to assemble unbroken corridors is dwindling. We feel we must explore every avenue to protect and connect open space. Our success will depend on collaborating with many public and private partners but, most importantly, it will depend on the support of members like you.

If you are interested in becoming a conservation buyer or investor or in any other aspect of our land acquisition program, please contact me, or John Myers, our land acquisition director, at jmyers@warwick.net.

—Ed Goodell

Camp Glen Gray to Welcome TC Annual Meeting Oct. 18

Come with your family and friends to Camp Glen Gray in New Jersey for a memorable day of guided and unguided hiking, and viewing the beautiful colors of the Highlands at the peak of the leaf season.

The meeting is open to all Trail Conference members, club delegates, their immediate families, and invited guests. The day will begin with a pancake breakfast (the famous pancake chef, Larry Wheelock, will return for the event) and coffee at 9 am. The business/annual meeting, including awards ceremony, will begin at 9:30 am (see page 6 for slate of candidates for the board). From noon to 4 pm hike the trails of Camp Glen Gray (formerly a Boy Scout camp, now a county park) and the adjacent Ramapo Valley County Reservation and Ramapo State Forest. Those of you staying for the hike, please bring your own lunch. The day’s events will conclude with a refreshment reception from 4 to 5:30 pm.

Please complete the reservation form below and return it to the TC by September 30. Driving and parking directions will be sent to registrants and also posted on the TC website. Early registration is appreciated.
TRAIL NEWS

• All Storm King Trails Now Open

Tim Sullivan, chief ranger for the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, announced in July that all trails in Storm King State Park have been reopened.

A reminder: Hikers must stay on the trails or within a corridor of 25 feet on either side for safety reasons. Areas outside these corridors may not be certified as being clear of unexploded ordnance.

• The Nurian Trail

Tread on the Nurian Trail bridge over the Ramapo River in Bear Mountain State Park was replaced in July by PIPC staff working with men owing community service. Thanks go to Chief Ranger Tim Sullivan and his crew for completing this weekend-long project.

• Reeves Brook Visitors Center

Closed

In July, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission confirmed that the Harriman State Park visitors center at Reeves Brook in Staatsburg is closed. Neither water nor restrooms are available, though parking continues to be permitted. No other details were available as of the deadline for this issue.

• New Parking in Tuxedo

Metro North and the Town of Tuxedo have opened a new 100-space parking lot at Village Square Shopping Center in Tuxedo, less walking on gravel road, and extends half mile in the Glen Gray area. The new parking lot is located near the trailhead and connects with the North Jersey Trails.

North Jersey Trail Updates

John Moran, co-chair of the North Jersey trails committee, sends this summary of recent and not-too-long-ago changes in the trails committee, sends this summary of recent and not-too-long-ago changes in the trails committee, sends this summary of recent and not-too-long-ago changes in the trails committee, sends this summary of recent and not-too-long-ago changes in the trails committee, sends this summary of recent and not-too-long-ago changes in the trails committee, sends this summary of recent and not-too-long-ago changes in the trails committee, sends this summary of recent and not-too-long-ago changes in the trails committee, sends this summary of recent and not-too-long-ago changes in the trails committee.

CAMPGAW

• The entire eight-mile trail system was recently adopted by the Trail Conference, although already shown on maps. It has been entirely reblazed, with significant trail improvements, although much work remains.

CAMP GLEN GRAY

• Millstone Trail: This 1.8 mile-trail featuring real millstone quarry samples along its route, was recently adopted by the Trail Conference and reblazed white. This was an Eagle Scout project, including trail maintenance, one of four such projects in progress.

• Schuber Trail: Created in 2002 (after publication of the 2002 map set; see May/June 2003 Trail Walker, p. 4 for description), this seven-mile long trail (orange blazes) connecting Ramapo Valley County Reservation in Mahwah with Ramapo Mountain State Forest in Oakland has since been relocated approximately one-half mile in the Glen Gray area. The new route is through a more woody area with less walking on gravel road, and extends from the Tindall Lodge area to beyond the Old Orange Turnpike.

• Matapan Rock Trail: Not yet adopted, just under a mile long; refurbished in a Boy Scout project, reblazed red/white, and extended into Camp Glen Gray to connect with the Schuber Trail (orange).

• Yellow Trail: South of Millstone Mountain Road, a quarter-mile reblazed.

Terrace Pond North Trail, Waywayanda S.P.
Replace a series of old puncheon (bog bridges) with new puncheon and stepping stones.

Oct. 25 (Saturday)
Terrace Pond North Trail, Waywayanda S.P.
Replace old puncheon (bog bridges) with new puncheon and stepping stones.

Nov. 8 (Saturday)
Appalachian Trail, Worthington S.P.
Ongoing erosion control and tread repair on this heavily used section between Rte. 80 and Sunfish Pond.

Nov. 22 (Saturday)
Rain date makeup or TBA.

NEW JERSEY

• Halifax Trail: East end trailhead extended to end at Schuber Trail. Habitat and construction, The maintenance course will cover such areas as patrolling, clearing the trail, proper blazing techniques, and reporting trail problems. The construction course will tackle some simple trail rehabilitation and structure-building such as waterbars and stepping.

EAST HUDSON

See our website for crew schedule.

“Maintenance 101” & Construction Workshops

Saturday, October 25

Once again the Trail Conference will be offering an opportunity to take courses that will provide training in basic techniques for trail maintenance, or trail rehabilitation and construction. The maintenance course will cover such areas as patrolling, clearing the trail, proper blazing techniques, and reporting trail problems. The construction course will tackle some simple trail rehabilitation and structure-building such as waterbars and stepping.

The day will begin with coffee, tea, and donuts; continue with some classroom review; and, for the majority of the day, be spent working in the field. If you are considering adopting a trail for maintenance or joining one of our trail crews these are the workshops for you.

Location: Pyramid Mountain Natural Historical Area in Morris County, NJ. Volunteers are required for these courses. Reservation deadline is October 17, 2003.

Contact the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference office during weekdays at 201-512-9348 or send a postcard with your name, address, phone number, email address (if you have one), to: NY-NJ Trail Conference Office, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430-1199
Flatbrook Job Gets Added Horsepower

The West Jersey crew’s project of replacing the Flatbrook Bridge in High Point State Park benefited from a little advance, extra horsepower. Harry Bohlmann and Helen Riggins, owners of the 4-H Timber Harvesters Co., arrived at the Steam Mill campground in Stokes State Forest on Wednesday before the scheduled work weekend with their experienced logging team, horses Tom and Toby. Their mission: to deliver three 2500-pound utility poles to a bridge-building project over the Flatbrook on the Howell Trail in High Point State Park. The route was decided upon, and small blow-downs and such were cleared out by Harry and the park’s staff.

After a day commuting in their trailer and then being tied up all night, the horses were ready to GO! A pole was chained to and then being tied up all night, the horses were cleared out by Harry and the park’s staff.

Partnering with the Town of Cornwall, the trust also bought a conservation easement protecting 40 acres adjacent to Kenridge Farm, a 178-acre site near Black Rock Forest with trails, meadows, and wetlands that Scenic Hudson owns and leases to the Museum of the Hudson Highlands. The Cornwall town and school district bought the new property and plan to create a park and nature preserve.

Both purchases were made possible through a grant from the Marvin and Donna Schwartz Family Foundation.

Schunemunk

The Open Space Institute added 298 acres at the base of Schunemunk Mountain to its preserve there as a result of a purchase in June. OSI now owns more than 2,700 acres at Schunemunk, which Governor George Pataki announced in March of 2003 is destined to become a state park. (Transfer of the land is pending.) The latest acquisitions include farm fields at the base of the mountain and conservation easements off Taylor and Otterkill Roads, where trailheads are now located.

Nonprofit Land Tax Exemptions Targeted in New York

The Trail Conference-ADK Partnership vigorously opposed legislation introduced in New York that aimed to restrict real property tax (RPT) exemptions for nonprofits that own open space and trail corridors. TC-ADK argued that the proposed legislation clearly violated Article XVI of the New York State Constitution, a section that confers unqualified real property tax exemption for lands used by charitable and educational organizations.

The legislation would potentially harm organizations that hold properties for the state for conservation purposes by mandating that nonprofits prove that unimproved land will be used for its intended purpose within two years. ADK and the Trail Conference argued that it would be unfair to tax these organizations if the state does not purchase the land within two years. These organizations are assisting the state by holding land until the state is able to purchase it. Open space requires little or no municipal services and will provide New Yorkers with additional recreational resources. Instituting such limitations on these organizations will deter nonprofits from assisting the state in land acquisition projects.

Fortunately, this type of legislation did not pass the Senate or the Assembly. We expect this legislation to be re-introduced next year and we will continue our strong opposition in the 2004 legislative session.

Awosting Reserve

The proposed plan for a large housing development and golf course on the 2000-acre Awosting Reserve property has been withdrawn from consideration by local officials. The property, which borders Minnewaska State Park, Sam’s Point Preserve, and Mohonk Preserve, is still set to be developed. The original proposal called for 349 luxury homes to be built right up to the cliffs at Gertrude’s Nose and Hamilton Point and around Mud Pond.

The plans were withdrawn in a large part because they required a central sewage system and cluster housing, neither of which is permitted in the Town of Gardiner, site for most of the property. The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, a project of the Trail Conference, continues to examine the impacts of developing this land and is preparing for the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) that will study the developers’ formal proposal, once it is submitted.

There are several categories of impacts that the coalition is identifying that the state recognizes as potentially harmful to the public interest. These include impacts to water and hydrogeology, biology, air, noise and light pollution, views, public health, traffic, historical/archeological sites, recreation, and economic and community impacts, to name a few.

The towns of Gardiner and Shawangunk are in the process of revising their master plans and zoning laws. If you live in one of these towns you can voice your concern and urge your town officials to do everything they can to protect the ridge. If you live elsewhere in New York, you can write to Governor Pataki and urge him to support protection of the Shawangunk Ridge. The State of New York should take a strong interest in protecting these lands since they neighbor state-owned parklands.

Go to www.shawangunkridge.org for the latest news on Shawangunk developments.

ATV Legislation

The All Terrain Vehicle Trail Development and Maintenance Fund discussed in the last issue of Trail Walker did not pass the NY Assembly or the Senate in 2003’s final legislative session. The ATV interest groups were unwilling to accept bill language that prohibited the creation of new ATV trails in the Forest Preserve. Additionally, the ATV ban bill, which would have prohibited all-terrain vehicle use in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve, did not pass the state Assembly or Senate. We anticipate that legislation regulating the use of all-terrain vehicles on public and private lands will be major focus of the 2004 New York legislative session. Stay tuned.

Community Preservation Fund

The Trail Conference advocated for the passage of legislation in New York State that would create a community preservation fund to be used for acquiring open space in the towns of Montgomery, Goshen, Hamptonburgh, Crawford, and Warwick. The above-mentioned towns requested this legislation authorizing them to create a tax on real estate transfers for the purpose of raising revenue to purchase and retain the remaining number of dwindling operating farms and other open spaces within their respective localities.

The legislation did not pass the Assembly or the Senate. We will advocate for the passage of similar legislation in 2004.

Work Begins on Stony Kill Falls Trail

It has been said that building a new trail involves equal parts sweat, skill, and intuition. At the Stony Kill Falls property on the northwest border of Minnewaska State Park, acquired in 2001, this age-old process is being informed by an additional factor—conservation science.

The Stony Kill property was a high priority for acquisition by the Trail Conference and partner Open Space Institute owing to its strategic position for linkage with park trails, an impending threat of private development, and of course, the spectacular falls. Another important attribute of the property—habitat for rare plants and animals—requires that the new trail merge with the landscape in a way that minimizes possible negative impacts on these resources.

On June 21, nine Trail Conference volunteers and Trails Director Larry Wheelock cleared the first half of the new trail from the parking area on Shaft A Road to a terminus some 300 meters short of the falls. Work planned for June 22 was canceled in the face of steady rains. The completed section, lacking sensitive habitat parameters, was easily routed through a hemlock glade and mountain laurel thickets, mostly within sight of the menacing Stony Kill.

As environmental impacts are a concern for the remainder of the trail, deciding its path will require close work with state authorities in the coming months. Through cooperation and careful planning, the Stony Kill Trail will meet our mutual goals of providing for access and enjoyment of this beautiful property while protecting its significant natural features.

—David Day, West Jersey Crew leader, and Larry Wheelock, Trails Director

continued from page 1

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Percherons Tom and Toby and their handler Harry were part of the bridge-building crew.

Old and soon-to-be-new bridge, side by side over the Flatbrook.

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TRAIL WALKER - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2003

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

The Trail Conference-ADK Partnership, contributed to this report.
Board Candidates Nominated
The following are nominated for three-year terms ending in September 2006:
Board of directors: Jane Daniels, Mary Vance Duggan*, Thomas Hambach, Robert Jonas, Anne Osborn.
( all new to board or delegate at large)
Thanks to Robert Cherdack, Jane Daniels, Phyllis Stewart, and Robert Ward for serving on the nominating committee.
—Anne Osborn, Nominating Committee Chair

WANTED: Graphic Designer for Trail Walker
Watch for details online @ www.nynjtc.org.

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS
GET INVOLVED
Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Trail Conference and getting involved is a great way to become part of an active, extended family. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and do not see an opportunity that suits you, contact the Volunteer Projects Director, Joshua Erdsneker, either by email, josh@nynjtc.org, or telephone, 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

Appalachian Trail Leadership Needed
A wide variety of challenges are being faced on the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey. The most daunting: finding leaders to administer and supervise the Trail Conference’s activities on the AT’s behalf in the state, both on and off the trail. As the AT faces increasing threats and challenges, the need for additional volunteers increases too. Help shape the future of the AT in New Jersey by getting involved now. Please contact Larry Wheelock at 201-512-9348 or wheelock@nynjtc.org for more information.

The Great Connector, the Shawangunk Ridge Trail
The scenic SRT is in need of a few maintainers. This marvelous trail connects the AT in High Point State Park to the Long Path along the Shawangunk Ridge. Join our family of maintainers and adopt a section trail. No experience is necessary and training is available. Please contact Josh Erdsneker at 201-512-9348 or joosh@nynjtc.org for more information.

Special Assistant to the Executive Director
Support the Trail Conference by assisting our Executive Director. We are looking for volunteers to work with Edward Goodell for two or three hours a week to assist him with a variety of tasks. Interested persons should have strong organizational skills, be comfortable making phone calls, and work well with others. This is an excellent way to make a difference! To find out more about this exciting and rewarding opportunity, please contact Edward Goodell at goodell@nynjtc.org or call 201-512-9348 for more details.

Do you like to Party??
Have you ever organized a Super Bowl party or birthday party? If you answered YES, then this is the perfect opportunity for you. Coordinators are needed to organize the Trail Conference’s annual meetings, delegate’s meetings, training workshops, outreach events, and other special events. Coordinators are responsible for reserving meeting locations, coordinating food and snacks, invitations, and other activities related to individual events. If you have an extra 15 hours this fall, why not help plan one of our upcoming events. You can work from home or the Trail Conference office. Please contact Josh Erdsneker at 201-512-9348 or joosh@nynjtc.org for more information.

Book Review Coordinator and Librarian
Volunteers are needed to coordinate book reviews. Responsibilities include identifying suitable books for review in the Trail Walker, assigning books to be reviewed by fellow volunteers, selecting additional reviewers, and sending reviews to the Trail Walker editor when received. Subsequently, all reviewed books will be cataloged and entered into the Hoeferlin Library at the office. If you possess good organizational skills, are comfortable working with deadlines, and like books related to the outdoors, then this is the perfect opportunity for you. Please contact Josh Erdsneker at 201-512-9348 or joosh@nynjtc.org for more information.

FOR & ABOUT
Our Members
Oct. 14: Party For TC Author
Bill Myles, celebrated author of Harriman Trails: A Guide and History, is turning 90 years old! Come join Bill’s friends and admirers at a PARTY to celebrate this grand event.
Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2003.
Place: Perkin’s Tower, summit of Bear Mt. Plenty of parking available.
Time: 10:10 am to 12:30 pm.
Bring something to share, something to drink and a folding chair. Rain or shine: Tent, tables, and birthday cake provided.
Bill’s book is the only comprehensive guidebook ever written for the 52,000-acre Harriman/Bear Mountain State Parks. Everyone is invited to attend the party. Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Oct. 26: Torrey Memorial Hike
The 66th Annual Torrey Memorial hike will be held Sunday, October 26, 2003. It honors the Trail Conference’s first president and co-founder, Raymond H. Torrey. We will meet at 11:15 am at the Long Mountain parking lot on Route 6 in Harriman State Park. Long-time event coordinator Meyer Kukle will say a few words on the early days of Mr. Torrey and the Trail Conference. We will proceed to the top of Long Mountain for a brief ceremony at 12:15 pm.
There will be other, longer hikes from different areas of the park, all scheduled to meet at the Torrey marker at 12:15. The details on these hikes will be available on the Conference website after October 10 or by calling the office.
Note: Daylight savings time ends earlier that same day. Clocks go back one hour.

Sept. 13: Family Fun Day At Sterling Forest
The 16th annual Sterling Forest Conservation Day will happen Saturday, September 13, at the Sterling Forest State Park Visitor’s Center. Most events begin at 10:00 am (the long hike begins at 9:00).
Nature walks will be led by some of the most perceptive naturalists of our area. Experienced hikers will lead us along forest pathways with exquisite views. There will be a bike tour of Sterling Forest’s roadways, an orienteering skills program, and a wildlife education program (with real animals). Adults will be fascinated, children delighted.
And of course there will be music and a big picnic lunch. All events are free, except there is no free lunch (the picnic will cost $10 for adults, $5 for children). Please call Tom for information and preregistration, 201-527-9712 or 201-848-1080.

Sept. 20-21: Hudson River Valley Rambles
The Fourth Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble features nearly 140 outdoor explorations and events that highlight the scenic and natural landscapes, and historic and cultural riches of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Hudson River Estuary. Nearly 125 guided walking, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, and biking events led by environmental, historic preservation, land conservation and trail organizations, take place on the weekend of September 20-21 throughout the 10-county region of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area from Westchester and Rockland Counties to the Capital Region.
For a free program booklet, call 800-453-6665 or 845-334-9574, or email ramble@hudsonvalleyramble.com. The program may also be viewed and printed at www.hudsonvalleyramble.com.

The Ramble is sponsored by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Hudson River Valley Greenway with assistance from the Hudson River Estuary Program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.
Leaders from the Trail Conference are guiding two of the outings.
Sept. 20 - PALISADES LONG PATH TREK
Hike New York’s Long Path along the crest of the Palisades featuring stunning views of the basaltic cliffs, the Hudson River, and Westchester County. Led by Long Path South Chair Jakob Franke, the trek includes a Buchanan run down to Shank Hollow, an historic 19th-century black settlement, and a shore walk along the Hudson River and over the Giant Stairs to Peanut Leap Falls and the remnants of Lawrence Gardens. Difficult 6 miles. Sat. 11 am; Sun. rain date. From Palisades InterstatePkwy., take Exit 40 north on Rt. 9W to Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Meet at entrance. Public from George Washington Bus Terminal at 178th St. Red and Tan bus 9A, or from 41st St. Term. 9W bus to starting point at Lamont-Doherty. 201-768-1612.
Sept. 21 - CAMP SMITH TRAIL
Running parallel to the Hudson River, the trail’s spectacular views make this strenuous hike, with its many elevation gains and losses, worth the work. The view from Anthony’s Nose is as famous as its name. At each viewpoint, you’ll also learn about the history of the Hudson Highlands from leaders Wande Lake and Jane Daniels. Bring lunch/ water/windbreaker in daypack. Difficult 3.7 miles. Sun. 9:30 – 3:00. From east side of Bear Mt. Bridge, park on river side of Rt. 9D just north of bridge.

www.shawangunkridge.org
This website of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition has been redesigned and should be your one-stop source for up-to-date news about the Shawangunks.

Features
• Regular News Updates on Development Threats
• Action Alerts
• Recreation Resources (Please help us keep these items up-to-date.)
• Environmental Information
• Media Links
• Maps
• Planning Tools
• Links to a host of Coalition members and partners
Add it to your list of Web favorites.

The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition is a project of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.
By Ed McGowan

Expansion of ‘Citizen Scientist’ Program Is Newest Trail Conference Initiative

By a fortuitous accident of geologic history, the New York-New Jersey region is blessed with vast rocky uplands—now known as the Highlands, Ramapos, Palisades, Kittatinneys, Shawangunks, and Catskills. Abundant surface rock and steep terrain made these formations resistant to dense settlement during historic times and as a result provided opportunity over the past century for protection of a relatively unpeopled and forested landscape in close proximity to major urban centers. As conservationists and developers play out a veritable “arms race” to claim what remains of these uplands, attention has now turned to how best to protect and manage their remarkable biodiversity.

As a first step, ecologists in New York and New Jersey have begun the difficult task of documenting the region’s rare plants, animals, and ecological communities. What has emerged from these efforts is a portrait of a region rich in species diversity and community types, where northern and southern forms meld together. But talk to a state heritage ecologist and they will be the first to admit that we know only part of the story. For most rare species, occurrences have been mapped using state databases, but prospects for their long-term persistence are poorly understood. This is true for species groups as divergent as sedges and dragonflies. Changing conditions—whether from competition with new invasive species, habitat loss, excessive deer browsing, climate change, or a host of other threats—require that status assessments be constantly updated. This task greatly outstrips the capacity of understaffed and underfunded state natural heritage programs. Meanwhile, many plant and animal species have simply been labeled “Special Concern” or “Status Undetermined,” reflecting current uncertainty about their true standing.

The pressing need for greater insight into the status of local biodiversity provides an exciting opportunity for the Trail Conference, and one that is wholly consistent with its tradition and mission (see “Why Science?” Sept.-Oct. ’02 issue). The Trail Conference already contributes immeasurably to biodiversity protection through the acquisition of open space and advocacy for contiguous trail corridors. Our ongoing commitment to expert trail construction and maintenance helps minimize hiker impacts on the environment by concentrating public use where most appropriate. With an existing corps of trail maintainers and a long tradition of volunteerism, the Trail Conference is poised to play an important role in ecological stewardship as well.

The Trail Conference is well positioned to play a vital role in documenting the ecology of our region’s trail corridors and other natural areas. The data will support better trail stewardship.

By Ed McGowan

Somehow, Daniel has time for another passion—trains. He boasts of having traveled every long-distance Amtrak route in the United States. Whether by design- and implementing research or acting as a conduit for volunteer participants, the Volunteer Science Program will engage citizen scientists in studies of trail land ecology. With the help of volunteers, the Trail Conference will play an even larger role in the stewardship of our trail lands. Ed McGowan is the new Science Director for the Trail Conference.
### Official Conference Maps

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Make check or money order payable to NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. For a descriptive catalog, please write or call 201-512-9348. *Tax must be paid by NJ residents on books, maps, etc., but not on clothing. Thank you!*

### New Life Member

**The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Member:** Frank W. Keane.

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 $750; a joint life membership (two adults at the same address) is $770. The next time you renew, please consider becoming a Trail Conference “Life.”
Try These Favorite Fall Hikes

For many, fall is the favorite season for hiking. Temperatures moderate, trails are generally free of spring’s mud; and of course, the forests turn from green to redyelloworange. Trail Walker asked a few volunteers to name their favorite fall hikes.

David Day, co-chief of the West Jersey Crew, cites a hike in his home section of northern New Jersey. “One of my favorite ‘view’ hikes in this area is the stretch between Mt. Peter and Surprise Lake, thence on over into Waywayanda State Park. This is the Appalachian Trail, ... as you hike along you move in and out of a wide range of micro-environments. One moment you are in a magical hemlock forest; then around the next bend, you discover that you are in a centuries-old farm site, filled with fruit trees and grape vines. ... On the many open ridge edges, you can see for miles to the east. During the autumnal color season, with the weather permitting, you get quite an eyeful.”

Stella Green, former TC vice president and co-author of 50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley (2002), had time while traveling to cast a quick vote via email for a hike in the southern Catskills. “I probably would vote for Ashokan High Peak. The blueberry bushes are usually wonderful.”

Larry Braun, West Hudson North trails chair, picks the Gertrude’s Nose circular in Minnewaska State Park. “This is a six-mile loop that begins at the Upper Minnewaska carpark.” Larry suggests hiking counterclockwise around Lake Minnewaska to the Millbrook Mountain Carriageway (CW) near the eastern end of the lake. “At 0.4 miles beyond Patterson’s Pellet the Gertrude’s Nose Path enters on the right.” At the Nose, he says look for “spectacular views into the Shawangunk and Walkill valleys close by, and Breakneck Ridge and Storm King where the Hudson River cuts through the Highlands.” Continue north on the red trail to Millbrook Mountain, where, at the end of the Millbrook Mountain CW, you will find another red-blazed trail that will take you back to Lake Minnewaska. “Plan to take three to four hours for the hike and more time to enjoy the terrific views.”

Finally, Gary Haugland, former TC president, current board member, and Trails Council chair, reminds us that there is more to autumn than magnificent tree color enjoyed from grand vistas. “When people plan a fall hike it is to take in the maximum amount of color in the most dramatic settings. As fall is a transition season, it has other charms as well, and all that color can be a distraction. I recommend the following hike on the Shawangunk Ridge Trail where it follows the shore of the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, one of the largest wetlands in southern New York State. The trail follows an abandoned railbed, the remnants of its wooden ties stretching for seven miles, tracing the undulating contours of the shoreline. Here nature is busy preparing for winter. “I like to go just after the leaves have fallen, when there is that flurry of activity as small mammals and large birds prepare for the winter. Some scurry for food to store, others assemble for their collective flights to ports south. The magnificent blue herons loom large against the bare trees along the shore, while other lesser creatures dot the skies and the waters and the woods. In the distance are the ridges of the southern Gunks, mountaintops that we are striving to protect from the invasion of casinos and massive residential developments. Enjoy them, and treasure them, in the solitude of a late fall afternoon.”

In Memoriam

Frances Stevens Reese, the influential and well known Hudson Valley environmental activist and land preservationist, died July 2, 2003, the result of a car accident. Mrs. Reese, a founder of Scenic Hudson and a key participant in stopping the industrialization of Storm King Mountain in the 1960s and 70s, was a Trail Conference member since 1985. Anyone who hikes or enjoys Storm King State Park or any of countless other parks and open spaces in the Hudson Valley is a beneficiary of Mrs. Reese’s legendary vision, courage, energy, and hard work.

Though not a member of the Trail Conference, Richard Pough is a name to be remembered by lovers of the outdoors everywhere. Mr. Pough was a founder of the Nature Conservancy and of the Open Space Institute, two organizations that have made significant contributions to saving and preserving open space in our region. Mr. Pough, whose long career included work for Audubon and the American Museum of Natural History, died at age 99 at his home in Chilmark, Mass.

Opinions Wanted

Attention Walkers, Hikers, Book & Map Users

The Trail Conference wants your opinion on our maps and books. What do you like about them? What do you dislike? What kinds of maps & books would you like to see? Map & book sales comprise one-third of the TC’s revenue; it is extremely important that we understand our users and potential users. Please go to the Trail Conference website, www.nynjtc.org, and give us your opinions. Thanks so much for your help.

Hiking the Path of Asset Protection

Assets—your piece of the earth and our trail lands. Each can be protected through a Charitable Gift Annuity.

You make an irrevocable gift, and we pay you—a high rate payment, paid quarterly and guaranteed for your lifetime.

You also get tax benefits—more than enough to buy a new pair of hiking boots.

Your generous gift rewards you and the Trail Conference.

For information specific to you, contact Jim Davis or Maureen Walsh at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9194. Provide your name, address, phone, and date of birth. All inquiries are confidential.

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

Sample Rates

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

**NEW YORK**
Southern Zone (including Catskills)

**Deer Season**
- Regular: Nov. 17–Dec. 9
- Archery: Nov. 1–Dec. 31
- Muzzleloader: Dec. 10–16

Special regulations apply on Long Island. For details, go to: dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwrm/wildlife/guide/bgseasons.html

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park. However, it is allowed in parts of Minnewaska, Sterling Forest and Storm King State Parks. Call 845-786-2701 for more details about hunting in these parks.

**NEW JERSEY**

New Jersey has very complicated hunting seasons that vary depending on location and kind of weapon permit. It is recommended that hikers verify the dates in which they are interested. Call 609-292-2965 or visit www.njfishandwildlife.com. The following dates for deer season apply in many zones.

**Black Rock Forest** closes to all hikers from Nov. 17 to Dec. 9, inclusive. For details, call 845-534-4517.

More information about New York’s hunting schedules is available from the Department of Environmental Conservation at www.dec.state.ny.us.

**NEW YORK**

**Southern Zone (including Catskills)**

**Deer Season**
- Archery: Sept. 27–Oct. 24, excluding hunting dates for deer season apply in many zones.
- **Firearms:** Dec. 8-13

**NEW JERSEY**

**Firearms:** Dec. 8-13
**Archery:** Oct. 15–Nov. 16; Nov. 1–Dec. 9

The exception is between the parking lot and the AT crossing. (A left turn here onto the AT will take you back to the CLT terminus in .3 mile for a total circuit of 1.35 miles.) Here, the trail, formerly known as the Hemlock Pond Trail, starts downhill on a stony path, crossing a rock face and descending through maple and oak and then laurel and hemlock. Near the bottom you’ll cross one woods road and turn left briefly onto a second, then right to descend to Hemlock Pond. You will note many former cabin sites and fireplaces—evidence of the camps that once were here. Cross two woods roads and continue to the crest of the small ridge where the Crater Lake Trail again crosses the AT. (A left turn here onto the AT will take you back to the CLT terminus.)

Continue through the picnic area along the lake edge on a gravel road that undulates up and down. At 1.2 miles the road turns right toward a fire monitoring station while the CLT turns left back onto a grassy woods road that goes uphill away from the lake. You will note many former cabin sites and fireplaces—evidence of the camps that once were here. Cross two woods roads and continue to the crest of the small ridge where the Crater Lake Trail again crosses the AT. (A left turn here onto the AT will take you back to the CLT terminus.)

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Keep left here onto a second AT crossing and Hemlock Pond, which is a typical steep and stony woods path.

**Scenery/Points of Interest:**
Crater Lake is a beautiful, small, high-elevation Kittatinny lake. It has a small beach swimming is permitted at your own risk) near the parking area and interesting bluffs above the lake on the west side. Views of the lake are available from several points on the trail.

**Permitted Uses:** Hiking and cross-country skiing.
NYHC. Great Kills Park and Monarch Butterflies. Information. Moderate 6-mile hike.


OCTOBER

FRIDAY – MONDAY, OCTOBER 10-13

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

PMNHA, Bear Rock Hike. NJ Leader: Call 973-534-3130 for information. Meet: 9 am at Bear Rock Visitor Center, 428 Bear Mountain Ave., Montville, NJ. Moderate hike to one of New Jersey’s largest glacial erratics.

MJDMC. South Taconic Trail – NY, CT, and MA. Leader: Lanny Heger and Pam Basch, rrheger@att.net. To register, check website (www.miramar.org) for info and coupon, or leave message at 212-978-2724. Non-members $5. Meet: call for details. Moderate hike on the Appalachian Trail.


ICH. Hook Mountain, NY. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 9 am at Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville, NJ. Strenuous hike on the AT, RD, SBM, and AT trails. Bring lunch, water, and large clippers (or use tools provided). Rain postpones to Saturday, November 1.

GAHC. Hudson Highlands Park, NY. Leader: Donald Heger, 914-226-6573. Meet: 9 am at Castle Rock parking lot, approximately 4 miles north of Bear Mountain Bridge (on 199). Moderate hike to Anthony’s Nose.

WEC. Fall Foliage Family Hike. Leader: Weis naturalist. Meet: 9:30 am at Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ; 973-265-2150 for information and to register. Moderately easy to long steep steps (2 1/2 miles in Norvin Green State Forest); stop at abandoned mine. For families with pre-teens. Rain or shine. Members of NJ Audubon $5; non-members $8.


SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12


SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

PARKS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

IHC. Schunemunk Mountain Trail Maintenance, NY. Leader: Bob Ward, 718-471-7036, call after 8 pm. Meet: call for reservations at least one month in advance. Annual Catskills weekend to enjoy the fall colors. Bring lunch, water, work gloves, and large clippers for use tools provided. Rain postpones to Saturday, November 1.


OUT. Watchung Reservation, NJ. Leader: Joel Pometsos, 212-691-3844. Meet: 9 am at commuter’s statue, Port Authority Bus Terminal. Steady pace, only 10 miles from Cranford to Summit; go north following Riverway Path. Non-members $3.


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

Bridgewater, NJ – (908) 725-7255
347 US Rt 202/206 S
Paramus, NJ – (201) 670-6464
820 Rte 17 N
Princeton, NJ – (609) 520-8310
Princeton Marketfair
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)
Manhattan, NY – (212) 966-8730
591 Broadway
West Nyack, NY – (845) 348-6486
Palisades Center
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.

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


SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

IHC. Sabog-Surprise, Harriman State Park, N.Y. Leader: Jim Hay, 201-258-9301. Meet: Format Lake Sabog parking, Seven Lakes Dr. Moderately strenuous hike to see if blueberries and trees are standing to show their fall color. Rain cancels.

WWYWD. Shady Side of Schunnemunk, N.Y. Leader: Dan Wnye. Meet: 9 am at Wnye Lake, call 835-3160 for information and to register. This hike does not meet at Wnye. Very fast-paced, flat 8 miles—exploring the quartz ridgetop of beautiful Schunnemunk Mt. Rain or shine. Members: NYHC $10; non-members $15.

AMC. Beginner’s hike, Harriman State Park, N.Y. Leader: Stanley Levine, 212-997-7107, call before 9:30 am at police/RR station parking on Rt. 17, Tuxedo, N.Y. 10987. Short hike from Port Authority to Tuxedo. Moderate pace, 8 miles with some hills. Explore various trails together in Harriman, bustle, backpacking; plenty of water required. Rain cancels; call morning of hike if 7:30 am in doubt.

AMC. Group hike, Harriman State Park, N.Y. Leader: Bob Weise. Meet: 9:30 am; call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, N.J. at 973-835-2160 for information and to register. Like a “play group” on the move; family pace. 8 miles in the Catskills. All-day restrooms. Rain cancels; members of NJ Audubon $5; non-members $8.


SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21


AMC. Spring Farms to Bonticou Crag, N.Y. Leader: Call 845-258-6170 to register. Bike 9-10 miles to Spring Farms. Moderate pace, 10 miles total. Bike 9 miles; call leader 3 weeks before hike. 9 miles; spectacular views from Bonticou Crag. All-day restrooms; members of Mohonk Preserve.


WTA. Appalachian Trail, Leader: Stewart Matterly, 914-582-1257. Meet: for details. 5 miles, easy to moderate, along the Hudsonian north from Kent, CT. Transportation contribution: 50¢.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27


IHC. Catskill Core, Orange County, N.Y. Leader: Anne Giblet, 938-639326. Meet: 10 am at Central Island Park; call for details. Easy walking along the edges of a country park; learn about native wildlife at the environmental center. Rain cancels.

AMC. Milly Carriage Trail, Minnewaska State Park, N.Y. Leader: Call 845-744-3577; call leader for information. Strenuous 13 miles, shuttle required. 50 miles of walking at Minnewaska. Lake Association hosted by Bklyn, then to Bklyn Road Trail.

WEC. Hills with Tykons. Leader: Gina and Jeffrey McLaughlin and Villa naturalis. Meet: 10 am at WecorexEcology Center, Ringwood, N.J. at 718-356-2160 to inform; leaders to register. Use a “play group” on the move; family pace. 15 miles in the Catskills. Rain or shine. Members of NJ Audubon $5; non-members $8.


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