The only continued on page 4
contains the big trees, which the forest crew cut, using chainsaws, the week before. As he moved quickly along the Sackett or so trails at Black Rock Forest (BRF) last year, Larry was not wearing a suit or tie when he took a reporter job for white-collar duties, Larry was not aificador. Instead of being told what to do, Larry finds himself with a bit of authority and some big responsibilities.

He meets with agency officials, park superintendents, and museum directors, making lots of phone calls, and sending e-mail. He has become a manager, overseeing the four trail supervisors who monitor maintenance in the four areas that are his responsibility: Black Rock Forest, Storm King State Park, Schunnemunk State Park, and Minnewaska State Park.

Even though he traded in his blue-collar job for white-collar duties, Larry was not wearing a suit or tie when he took a reporter on a quick walk through three of the dozen or so trails at Black Rock Forest (BRF) last fall. As he moved quickly along the Sackett and Short Cut Trails to reach the Compartment Trail, he bent down every few yards to pick up branches that a recent windstorm had dropped across the path.

On the Compartment Trail, he examined the big trees, which the forest crew had cut, using chainsaws, the week before. “They did a great job,” he says, explaining that although the Trail Conference took over maintaining the trails at Black Rock Forest several years ago, to free the forest’s own workers for other jobs, only BRF employees operate chainsaws here. Several employees operate chainsaws here. Several

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HUGE CATSKILLS RESORT PROMPTS CONCERNS

By Neil Woodworth

The Slide Mountain Wilderness, Big Indian Wilderness, and the proposed Hunter-Westkill Wilderness are three areas in the central Catskills that may be affected by a massive development proposed at Belleayre Mountain.

In December 2003, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued a Notice of Acceptance of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Crossroad Ventures’ massive Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park. With this decision, the public hearing and comment phase of the project review process commenced. The Crossroad project consists of approximately 1,960 acres of private land located to the east and west of the state-run Belleayre Mountain Ski Center; 575 of the 1,960 acres are to be developed (331 acres on the east side and 242 acres on the west side). The eastern portion of the site, located on the prominent Belleayre Ridge, is referred to as the Big Indian Plateau. The Big Indian Plateau would include a 15-acre 18-hole championship golf course, the Big Indian Resort and Spa, and Belleayre Highlands. The spa would include a 150-unit hotel building, 95 detached hotel lodging units in 55 structures, a golf clubhouse, golf maintenance buildings, and a wastewater treatment facility. Approximately 3.5 miles of roadway and 292 parking spaces are proposed. Belleayre Highlands would consist of 88 detached hotel lodging units in 22 structures, tennis courts, and a swimming pool. An additional 2.4 miles of road would be constructed to access the area.

The western portion of the site will be composed of the Wild Acres Resort, Highmount Estates, and a Wilderness Activities Center. The Wild Acres Resort would include another 18-hole golf course as well as a 240-unit hotel, 168 detached housing units in 21 structures, a wastewater treatment facility, and golf course maintenance buildings. Approximately 2 miles of roadway and parking areas accommodating a couple of hundred parking spaces are to be constructed. Highmount Estates will be composed of a 21-lot residential subdivision with lots ranging from 2 to 16.8 acres. 2,400 feet of internal roads would be constructed. The Wilderness Activities Center will use existing buildings.

Development could impact Slide, Big Indian, and Hunter-Westkill wilderness areas.

According to the DEIS, approximately 85 acres of the project will be converted to impervious surfaces (roads, roofs, and parking areas) and a total of approximately 530 acres will be clearcut. This Big Indian component of the project will undoubtedly alter the character of these currently wild lands. The creation of this mountain top and mountainside resort and golf complex will involve extensive blasting, excavation, and earthmoving on a narrow mountain ridge. The project proposes to create and maintain a 15-acre 18-hole golf course on the top of this narrow ridge. On either side of this ridge are feeder streams flowing into the Esopus Creek, a critical source of drinking water for the New York City metropolitan area.

The trails and trailheads of the Slide Mountain Wilderness, which are already in danger of overuse, are just a short drive from the resort. In relatively close proximity to the project site are the very popular Big Indian Wilderness and the proposed Hunter-Westkill Wilderness area. The Trail Conference and ADK are urging DEC to require the project sponsors to address the impact of the resort complex and the very large number of potential guests on these Forest Preserve lands. Additionally, as DEC is the legally designated custodian of the Forest Preserve, we are asking the agency to complete its own careful evaluation of the impact of the project on the carrying capacity, long distance scenic views, and future management of these Forest Preserve units. DEC is currently planning a significant expansion of the Belleayre Ski Center, which is located on the same mountain as the proposed resort. If construction of both projects takes place at the same time, the impact on the mountain and the watershed could be greatly increased. DEC must evaluate the combined impact of these two very large projects on the natural and water resources of this critical part of the NYC watershed and the Catskill State Park.

Neil Woodworth, counsel to the TC/ADK Partnership, delivered testimony in January.

COMpletely Revised Edition of NJ Walk Book available in April

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is proud to announce the publication of a completely revised second edition of the New Jersey Walk Book. The only comprehensive guidebook to hiking throughout the Garden State, this book is a must for every hiker in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Walk Book contains detailed descriptions of hiking trails from the Ramapos to the Pinelands on federal, state, county, and municipal parkslands. Directions to each trailhead are provided, and loop hikes are suggested where appropriate. For those who wish to reach the hiking trails without using a car, information on public transportation is included. The book is enhanced by the world-class illustrations of Dr. Jack Fagan, who studied art at the Cooper Union. Dr. Fagan created over 100 illustrations of scenic vistas and historic sites throughout New Jersey specifically for this book. His illustrations provide the reader with a vivid depiction of what they will see when hiking the trails.

Dr. Fagan, a retired professor of geology, also wrote a chapter on the geology of New Jersey for this edition, in addition to geology sections in various chapters. Learning about the rocks underfoot adds interest to any hike, and the geology material is easily comprehended by those without any prior background in the subject.

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Land Use Center

Each one of us wears several hats, and when we’re lucky, the skills that those hats represent work together in surprisingly productive ways. I, for example, wear a Trail Conference hat. It may not always be on my head, but the skills and concerns I have as a hiker and chair of the Trail Conference board are always with me. I also wear the mantle of full-time head of reference at a public library in Mahopac, New York. Ordinarily, these two realms may not have a lot of overlap.

But it turns out that my association with a library is helping people with concerns about land use and conservation, such as those of us who are members of the Trail Conference. The Mahopac Library is scheduled to move into a new 30,000-square-foot building in the middle of April. I have been closely involved with planning the new facility, including a lot of decisions about what will be in it. One of its features – and thought to be the first of its kind in a public library – will be a land use center.

There are such resource centers in academic settings, such as the Pace University Land Use Center, but by and large they are not open to the public. The idea of a land use center at the Mahopac Library was the result of a question raised by my husband Walt, a hiker, about local and regional land and conservation planning activities. Why don’t public libraries have resource materials available for people on local planning boards, conservation boards, etc.? Thinking his suggestion was more than just a good idea, I followed up and talked to Michelle Powers of the Putnam County Planning Department about helping me develop a small collection on land use issues. At first we thought a book budget of about $1,000 might be sufficient. However, when others enthusiastically embraced the idea, a collection limited to 50-75 books suddenly appeared inadequate. With permission from the library director, Patricia Kaufman, a 20 x 20 foot room was made available in the new library to house the proposed collection.

To date, thanks to the generosity of the Smart Family Foundation and the success of State Assemblyman Willis Stephens Trax, in finding some state money, the hardest items to be funded – such as furnishings – have been taken care of. Hudson River Valley Nature Center, Putnam County Protection and Preservation Advisory Commission, and the Putnam County Lake Management Program have provided money for books.

When the Mahopac Public Library opens in mid-April, its Land Use Center will be up and running.

So, if you want to learn about the environmental impact statement process, how to preserve cultural resources, plan land use, negotiate land agreements, or if you want want a report on storm water runoff, a book on lakes, even a video on how to manage Canada geese, visit the Mahopac Library in Mahopac, NY. Anyone is welcome to use the collection during library hours.

Happy Trails and Happy Land Conservation!

Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors

Learn Trail Building, Maintaining, & Monitoring at Annual Workshops

Inexperienced, novice, and seasoned trail maintainers are encouraged to attend one or two of three workshops to be presented by the Trail Conference April 17 and 18 in Cold Spring, New York. (Maintenance 101 will be offered also in May in the Catskills.) All will be taught by experienced trail builders who are members of the Trail Conference.

Registration for all workshops is required. Simply fill out the coupon below and send it to the Conference office by April 10, along with a $4 registration fee for non-members (no fee for TC members). An information packet will be sent to all registrants by April 10. Sign up is first come, first served. Past workshops have been oversubscribed, so send in your registration early.

Trail Maintenance 101 will be offered on Saturday, April 17, in Cold Spring and in May (15 or 22, date to be determined) in the North Lake area of the Catskills. This training session teaches techniques, maintenance standards, and what problems to expect on the trails and how to solve them.

You should take this class if you are interested in becoming a maintainer or enhancing your skills. (By the time of this publication, a definite date should be confirmed for the Catskills training, which is intended primarily for people interested in maintaining trails in that region; please call the office, 201-512-9348, to verify which day. The information packet will be sent one week prior to the workshop date.)

Trail Construction and Restoration will be offered on Sunday, April 18. If you have wanted to help on a trail crew or do some heavy repairs on a trail, this is the workshop for you. Workshop participants will restore a section of a trail by constructing steps, waterbars, and side hills, basic elements of many hiking trails and techniques often used to restore eroded trails.

Monitoring Trail Lands will be offered on Sunday, April 18. Monitors are the “eyes and ears” of our trail system, people who walk trails looking for evidence of misuse or encroachment. This workshop draws heavily on Trail Conference experience in managing the Appalachian Trail on National Park Service property. Participants will learn how to check boundaries and what problems to look for. Take this course if you are interested in helping trails in a different way. You need to feel comfortable in off-trail situations.

All three April workshops will take place at the Hubbard Lodge on Route 9 near Cold Spring, New York, and are open to Conference members, members of Conference clubs, and people from nearby communities. Attending a class is a good way to determine whether you would like to be a maintainer, monitor, or member of a trail crew.

Each day will begin with bagels and coffee at 9 am. Workshops are slated to begin at 9:30 and will include classroom lecture and discussion, field work, and material to take home. At 3:30 all participants will regroup for socializing and sharing their experiences. Sessions will be held rain or shine. Registration can also be done online at www.nytnjtc.org/workshops/index.html.

Registration Form

Trail Maintenance Workshops

Please check the box(es) you want to attend:

- [ ] Maintenance 101
- [ ] April 17, Cold Spring  [ ] May TBD, North Lake
- [ ] Construction and Restoration (April 18, Cold Spring)
- [ ] Monitoring Trail Lands (April 18, Cold Spring)

Name: ________________________________
Address: ____________________________
City/State/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 10. One form per person. If a non-member, include a check for $4 per person made payable to:

NY-NJ Trail Conference, Trail Maintenance Workshop, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

Mission Statement

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

- Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails
- Protecting hiking trail lands through conservation planning activities
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment

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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is a federation of 85 hiking and outdoor groups, and more than 2,000 individual members.
From the Executive Director

An idea for the Bear Mountain Trails

It was New York-New Jersey Trail Conference volunteers who first got to work on Benton MacKaye's idea for an Appalachian Trail (AT). Shortly after his 1921 article calling for an East Coast greenway from Maine to Georgia, Trail Conference volunteers met with MacKaye and began scouting a 160-mile AT route from Kent, Connecticut, to the Delware River. By the end of 1923 the first 20-mile section across Bear Mountain/Harriman Parks was open. In 1925, the Trail Conference helped create the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) and the Trail Conference chair, William Welch, became the first ATC chairman. Part of this original section of the AT, from the Bear Mountain Inn to Perkins Tower atop Bear Mountain, is considered to be the most heavily used section of the entire AT. Park officials report 1.67 million visitors to Bear Mountain annually, including 500,000 visitors to Perkins Tower. All of this traffic has taken a heavy toll on the Appalachian Trail over Bear Mountain. A major and permanent reconstruction of this historic trail is overdue. The magnitude of this construction will include rerouting the trail to a permanent and sustainable location on the east side of the mountain, and eliminating the road walk on the western slope and replacing it with a dramatic, new route, will require offsite materials, external expertise, and a coordinated volunteer effort for several years to come.

In addition to the engineering and construction of a safe and permanent trail route to handle the volume of visitors, I believe the Trail Conference should take the opportunity to create a testament to the idea of accessible open space, volunteer trail-building, and the birth of the national and state park movements that was fostered here at the turn of the last century.

To accomplish this, we should bring together expert trail builders, historians, landscape architects, writers, and artists to design a trail that not only takes the visitor up the mountain but that offers interpretive exhibits and signage. For many who hike on Bear Mountain, it is among the few times they are ever on a primitive trail and perhaps the only time they will hike the Appalachian Trail. Many are tourists, immigrants, and members of other groups underrepresented among outdoor enthusiasts who are experiencing the North American backcountry for the first time. Bear Mountain presents an outstanding opportunity for us to foster public appreciation of the role of trails in providing access to open space, the importance of parks and volunteer organizations such as the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission, the National Park Service, the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and the Appalachian Trail Conference.

I think a collaborative design workshop integrating local and professional opinions on a great way to produce a path through an interpretive system that will help the hundreds of thousands of visitors to understand the importance of trails and open space. How this design might manifest in the ground cannot be pre-determined, but it is easy to imagine some of the possibilities. Interpretive signage along the three Bear Mountain trails (Appalachian, Maine Welch, and Sullphen-Bear Mountain) and at the base of the mountain could introduce new hikers to trails and the volunteer organizations that build and maintain them.

Key concepts about trail building and responsible hiking could be demonstrated along the AT as it makes its way up the mountain.

At the top of Bear Mountain, where there is automobile access, a handicapped-accessible trail could encircle the summit, disperse the heavy foot traffic, and include displays interpreting the development of the Appalachian Trail, the Palisades Interstate Park system, and the state and national park movements of a century ago.

Indoor exhibits, or even a museum of the Appalachian Trail, could be located in the restored Hiker's Lodge of the Bear Mountain Inn, and a new pavilion at Perkins Tower at the top of Bear Mountain.

In addition to the AT and interpretive exhibits, which will provide an enduring way to promote and pay tribute to trails and trail volunteers, the construction of the AT itself would provide a high-profile opportunity to recruit and train a whole new generation of Trail Conference volunteers. The project would demand the best design and construction techniques available and would be accomplished concurrently with volunteers under professional guidance. The entire project would proceed as a series of clinics and training exercises. These volunteers could then be recruited for trail maintenance and trail crews throughout the region.

In this way, the trails over Bear Mountain will not only take the awareness of the general public about open space and trails, but will also increase the volunteer capacity of the Trail Conference to maintain its existing trail network as well as expand into new areas.

Announcing New Evening Hours for the Mahwah Office

The Trail Conference Office will now be open late on Mondays and Wednesdays! You can now stop by the office to purchase books and maps or volunteer in the evenings. If you are interested in volunteering, but can’t make it in during the day, now’s your chance to come in during the evening.

Monday: 9:00 am – 8:30 pm
Tuesday: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm
Wednesday: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm
Friday: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

Our new hours are subject to change, so please call 201-512-9348 before you come to ensure we’re open.

Advocacy & Conservation

Last Private Parcel Bought At Stony Kill Falls

With a January purchase by the Open Space Institute (OSI), the last of three privately owned parcels of land at the foot of Stony Kill Falls in Minnewaska State Park Preserve has now been acquired for public ownership. In another recent investment for public access, OSI helped to fund $115,000 to acquire 10 acres in 2001. Those parcels already have been conveyed to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and its members played a crucial role in the protection of Stony Kill Falls by providing key funding that made protection possible. “None of this would have happened if it were not for the vision (and dollars) of the Trail Conference,” said Robert Anderberg, OSI vice president and general counsel. In a special fundraising effort headed by former Trail Conference President Neil Zimmerman, our members contributed $115,000 to fund OSI’s acquisition of two parcels totaling 94 acres in 2001. Those parcels already have been conveyed to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

The final piece of the preservation puzzle was put into place last year, on January 9, when OSI acquired an 18-acre property from Naganoch Sand & Gravel. The former mining site will provide hikers with direct access to the base of the 87-foot falls and offer space for a modest parking area. According to OSI’s executive director, Carol Ash, the parcel will be integrated into the Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

“We’ve had our eye on this property for a long time,” she said. “It provides a wonderful opportunity to protect one of the most scenic spots in the park.”

Trail Corridor at Risk In West Milford

The protection of 420 acres of open space that are currently part of a West Milford, NJ, redevelopment property continues to hang in the balance. Even though this parcels the township, which owns the land, and the state, through the Green Acres program, have signed a contract of sale, the closing has been stayed by a court injunction pending resolution of a lawsuit filed against the sale by three residents of West Milford.

The redevelopment property is important to open space advocates as an undeveloped connector between Norvin Green State Forest and the Newark Watershed, both prime hiking areas; the Highlands Trail traverses the property, connecting the two. On TC Map #21, the area is seen in grid D 4 and E, roughly defined as bounded by Indian Trail Lake to the north, Gordon Lakes to the east, and, to the west, that part of the Pequannock Watershed that includes Echo Lake.

Open space, trail corridor protection, and water protection are key issues for this property. It serves as a major water recharge area, habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species, and contains high-quality wetlands, steep slopes, rock outcroppings, and, dense, contiguous forest. Numerous wells also surround the property.

The Open Space Institute (OSI) has been working with and supporting interested parties as the review process continues.

Orange County Developing Open Space Plan

Over the course of the last six months, a technical advisory committee has been meeting in Orange County, NY, to develop strategies for the county to work with other organizations and government entities to preserve open space in this time of seemingly unchecked sprawl. Formed at the request of the Orange County Planning Department, its members include many Trail Conference partners, among them the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Scenic Hudson, and the Orange County Land Trust. The goal is to produce an Open Space Plan that will become part of the recently adopted Orange County Comprehensive Plan.

The value of our hiking trail network in the county is well recognized. TC’s land conservation efforts in the Shawangunk Ridge have included county-owned parcels, and hikers have a true friend in the county’s planning commissioner, David Church. Since parts of all of our long-distance trails – the Appalachian Trail, the Long Path, the Highlands Trail, and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail – cross Orange County, the Trail Conference is being advocating for protecting these existing hiking trail corridors and developing local trails connecting the parklands, protected private lands open to the public, and newly-protected open space as recommended by this committee, and linking these with the municipalities in the county. As these are times of tight budgets, this important work will require the creative collaboration of many groups, and the Trail Conference is pleased to be among them.

Golf Course Proposed Near HT in Chester

A large development proposal, including a golf course, proposed for the property northeast of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, is seeking approvals to start construction in Chester, NY. The Trail Conference has a stake in the outcome of this plan because of its proximity to the Highlands Trail (HT). The land is situated in Orange County between Bellvale Mountain, not far from where the HT co-aligns with the Appalachian Trail, and Goose Pond Mountain State Park, which is completely traversed by the HT.

The proposal encompasses 400 acres, with different types of housing including high-density planned adult communities and condos in addition to the golf course. There are those who see significant degradation of water quality, increased erosion, fragmentation of natural corridors, and disregard of archaeological importance in the plan as laid out. If a significant portion of this land were to be developed, it would provide a new off-road location for hikers on the HT, while also opening up recreational opportunities for current and future residents. The HT Center for Environmental Preservation & Interpretation (DEP) Commissioner Bradley Campbell has vowed to enforce the purchase agreement in court, if necessary.

Phone calls urging Governor McGreevey (609-292-2885) and the DEP commissioner (609-292-2885) to “stay the course” by vigorously defending the sale in court, could be helpful.
Eagles Galore for TC Bird Counters

Nine TC volunteers spotted approximately 25 bald eagles at the inaugural Winter Bald Eagle survey along the lower Hudson River January 11. At one point, seven eagles were seen giving chase to one of their own that had snatched a fish from the icy waters.

A month later, 18 survey participants conducted a synchronized count of eagles at eight different night roosts—the first count of its kind in New York. By counting night-roosting eagles, we could be sure each bird was counted just once. The result was a whopping 134 eagles counted, a record for the lower Hudson.

The goal of the survey project is to gather data on eagle use of day perches and night roosts in areas with potential for human disturbance, including six sites with hiking trails.
Frogs take hikes too!

With the approach of spring, overwintering frogs will respond to various cues to end their dormancy and undergo a migration back to breeding ponds. Many people are surprised that frogs migrate at all, but frogs do need specific conditions in order to survive our harsh northern winters. Finding suitable sites in the fall, and returning from them in the spring, are the causes of many amphibian journeys.

In northern climates, frogs might need to overwinter for up to six months. They survive this period by building fat reserves through the summer and fall and then finding a sheltered site where they can maintain moisture, keep contact with oxygen, and avoid freezing temperatures. Most people erroneously believe that frogs simply go to the mud at the bottom of their local pond to spend the winter, but the actual adaptations frogs have for surviving the winter can be much more complex.

The green frog is one of the most common frogs in the northeast and is highly aquatic. The ponds where they spend the summer are typically poor locations for overwintering because they become highly anoxic (oxygen poor) during the winter. A recent radio telemetry study, where miniature radio transmitters were surgically implanted into the frogs, found that green frogs undertake extensive migrations away from their breeding ponds. These migrations can be up to 600m (1/3 of a mile) and take the frogs to seeps, springs, or flowing streams where the oxygen content remains higher. It is not known how the frogs navigate to such sites and whether they use them year after year.

Many frogs do not need to worry about anoxic conditions. Frogs such as wood frogs, spring peepers, gray treefrogs, American toads, and pickerel frogs overwinter terrestrially or semi-terrestrially where oxygen is readily available. However, freezing becomes a bigger issue. Toads are known to burrow or follow existing holes below the frost line where they can remain safe and “warm” for the winter. Many frogs (especially pickerel frogs) have been found in caves, lounging about near subterranean streams. Frogs want to avoid freezing temperatures, but some frogs that overwinter terrestrially can freeze without harm. The wood frog, spring peeper, chorus frog, and gray treefrog are not capable of deep burrowing, so they frequently shelter only inches below the surface under logs or in thick leaf mould where they are occasionally subjected to freezing temperatures. To avoid freeze damage, they evacuate their intracellular water (which would expand during freezing and burst the cells) and replace it with natural antifreeze. They then allow the external cellular spaces to freeze while maintaining the inside of the cells. After several weeks in this frozen state, the frogs can thaw without damage.

The cycle of a frog’s life will see them migrating back to breeding ponds with the approach of spring, then a quiet summer feeding, followed by an autumn search for an appropriate overwintering site. While hiking for the scenic vistas this spring, don’t forget to look closer to your feet. You may find yourself hiking right along with an amphibian companion.

Victor S. Lamoureux received his Ph.D. studying the overwintering behavior of the green frog. He currently teaches high school biology and pursues wildlife photography every chance he gets.

By Victor Lamoureux, Ph.D.
Transitions
Two new faces joined the staff of the Trail Conference in January; the Trail Walker welcomes a new designer with this issue and bids fond farewell to its previous designer; and a quiet regime change has occurred in the Hoeferlin Library.

Land Protection Specialist
Richard J. Benning has joined the staff in the new position of Land Protection Specialist. Mr. Benning received his B.A. from Ramapo College and went on to obtain his J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law. In 2001, he was admitted to the New Jersey State Bar. Mr. Benning joined a general practice firm in central New Jersey where he gained experience in real estate, immigration, landlord/tenant, and other practice areas.

Mr. Benning is a lifelong resident of Bergen County. Having grown up in this area, he and his family have made frequent visits to Ramapo Reservation, Shepherd’s Lake, and Harriman State Park. He was greatly inspired by his father, who instilled in him a love and respect for nature, and an appreciation of the area’s state parks.

As a part of the NY-NJ Trail Conference team, he welcomes this opportunity to protect our hiking trails for the benefit of future generations.

Development Associate
Lisa Cargill has joined the staff as development specialist and will be working on the organization’s capital campaign. Ms. Cargill received her J.D. from Albany Law School in 1998 and practiced family and matrimonial law for four years in New York City. Wanting a change of career and pace, she and her husband moved to New Jersey in May. She enjoys the outdoors and keeps active by teaching aerobics part time at the YMCA, biking through the region, and hiking in areas such as Pyramid Mountain.

Trail Walker Bids Goodbye to Nora Porter
In 1999, graphic designer Nora Porter was called upon by the Trail Conference to bring its newsletter the Trail Walker into modern times. “It was a very nice newsletter, for 1920,” she recalls with a laugh. Nora had already worked with the Conference on the sixth edition of the New York Walk Book (1998) and had come to know the group’s staff and volunteers to be “friendly, eager, enthused about their subject, and dedicated to putting out a good product.” She stayed with the Trail Walker as managing editor for the next five years, designing each issue and managing it through “a killer production schedule.” All the while she has maintained a full-time job as a designer with the Hastings Center and handled numerous other freelance design projects – mostly books, including others on Trail Conference list.

At the end of the 2003, Nora decided to relax her schedule and turn the newsletter over to new hands, though she will continue to work with Conference’s publications committee on book projects. The new edition of the New Jersey Walk Book is the latest of her design projects to be published; Bob Boyen’s new guide to the Kittatinnties is next on her agenda. “She is a real professional, with outstanding skills both in layout and design and in editing”, says frequent Conference book editor Daniel Chazin. “And it is also a pleasure to deal with her. I hope to continue working with her for many years to come.”

Hello, Lou Leonidis
With this issue, graphic designer and Trail Conference member Lou Leonidis takes on the job of designing Trail Walker. Lou is a graduate of the DeCrest School of Art and Design in New Jersey and studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York. A resident of Chatham, NJ, he is currently senior graphic designer for Creative Ink in Short Hills. Lou has been a serious hiker since 1995, a member of the Trail Conference since about 1998, and has volunteered his professional talents for several Trail Conference projects the past two years. He has hiked in the Alps, the Andes, and the Rockies, and notes, “tranquility, majesty, and friendly people are a sure bet while hiking in our area.”

Meanwhile, in the Library
Stella Green has served in many roles for the Trail Conference over the years. One of the most recent was as Head Librarian for the Hoeferlin Library, housed in the TC headquarters. The library includes thousands of books related to hiking and outdoor recreation and experience, and the job of the volunteer librarian is to oversee the collection — cataloguing, shelving, and tracking loaned books — and, when appropriate, selecting books for review in the Trail Walker. As with her other TC jobs, Stella has done this one steadfastly and thoroughly; a backlog of reviews assigned by her will fill the pages of the next few issues of this publication.

As of this year, Stella is turning over the library to a new librarian, Bob Krumm. Thanks go to Stella for her many years of dedicated attention to this job, and to Bob for stepping up to it.

The Hoeferlin Library is available to all TC members and is open during regular business hours. Books are available for three-week loan, but must be checked out in person. Anyone interested in reviewing books received for the library is invited to contact tw@nynjtc.org.

New Books in the TC Library
In addition to the books reviewed in this issue (see page 10), books recently added to the Trail Conference Hoeferlin Library, located at TC offices, include the following:

• Nature Walks in New Jersey
  AMC Guide to the Best Trails from the Highlands to Cape May
  2nd edition, Glenn Scherer
  Appalachian Mountain Club, 2003

• Day Hiker’s Handbook
  Get Started with the Experts
  Michael Lanza, The Mountainaineers, 2003

• A Guide to Green New Jersey
  Nature Walks in the Garden State
  Lucy D. Rosenfeld and Marina Harrison, Rutgers University Press, 2003

New Life Members
The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members:

Robert J. Berlin
Dahla L. Gottlieb
Lily Ann Gottlieb
Reggie D. Hahn
LaVonne Heydel
Bob and Florence Jensen
Russ B. Levinsky
Jennifer Lewin
John and Karen Magelien
Malcolm J. Matthews
Jane Restani

A Life Membership in the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a wonderful gift to yourself or a loved one, and to the Trail Conference. An individual life membership is just $500; a joint life membership (two adults at the same address) is $750. If the recipient you sponsor, please consider becoming a Trail Conference “lifer.”

Volunteer Classifiers: Get Involved!
Are you looking for new challenges and opportunities to get involved with Trail Conference activities? Please review the TC Volunteer Classifiers for exciting and interesting ways for members to become involved with the Conference’s efforts. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization.

Become an active part of our family and get more involved. Volunteer Science opportunities are listed on the science pages of this edition. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and do not see an opportunity that suits you, contact the Volunteer Projects Director, Joshua Erdnserk, either by email joshd@nynjtc.org or call the office 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

Appalachian Trail Leadership Needed
The New Jersey Appalachian Trail Management Committee seeks a chairperson. This is a rare opportunity to get involved at a high level in the planning and protection of the nation’s premier long distance hiking trail. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Larry Wheelock at Wheelock@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

TC Quartermaster
The Trail Conference is looking for a quartermaster to oversee the distribution and maintenance of our tool supply. If you have good organizational skills and would like to learn more about the upkeep and maintenance of grip hoes, rock bars, snatch blocks, generators, rock drills, and other tools used to maintain and rehabilitate the 1,600 miles of trails that the Conference volunteers work on, contact Larry Wheelock, Wheelock@nynjtc.org, for more details.

Workshop and Training Coordinator
We are looking for a person(s) to help coordinate our workshops. Interested person(s) will be responsible for planning an entire year’s training agenda, have good communication skills, and be willing to work with Trail Conference staff and volunteers to maximize the impact of our workshops and training sessions. For information, please contact Josh Erdnserk, joshd@nynjtc.org, at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348.

National Trails Day Coordinators
Help promote the Trail Conference by coordinating a Trail Conference National Trails Day Event June 5, 2004. Events will be held throughout New York and New Jersey. Plan a small event, such as a hike or trail cleanup along your favorite trail, or something bigger like a work trip or bridge dedication ceremony.

Other opportunities:
• Delegates Meeting Coordinator
• Minute Takers
• Assistant Web Master
• Network/Server administration
• Desktop computer support (hardware and software)
• Writers, to help with a new Hike-of-the-Week column being developed with the Poughkeepsie Journal in the Mid-Hudson Valley and/or to write profiles for Trail Walker
• Graphic Designers
Stewart Buffer Lands
Get Highway Reprieve
New York State cannot ignore 30 years of recreation use of lands that buffer Stewart International Airport in Orange County, NY. That was the impact of a December decision by a federal appeals court. The court ruled that the state had improperly bypassed a requirement that it review the project’s impact on recreation in its planning for a major new access road to the airport through open space that has served as recreational land for three decades. The decision was seen as a victory for open space advocates on the issue, especially the Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition (SPARC), which led the legal battle with help from a $2,500 T rail Conference contribution. The ruling effectively blocks the road project until its sponsors either appeal the decision or conduct the mandated review.

Pataki Pledges More Parks,
More Land Buys
In his 2004 State of the State address, New York Governor George Pataki stated that in the next two years, five state parks will be opening; he also pledged to open or expand 20 more state parks over the next five years. In his budget presentation for 2004-2005, the governor again proposed to spend $125 million from the Environmental Protection Fund. This year, unlike the last three years, there is no proposal to tap the EPF for staff salaries for either the Dept. of Environmental Conservation or the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, though he does propose to fund various capital projects with EPF dollars that in the past have been paid from general operating funds.

The governor’s budget also proposes to spend about $30 million for land purchases, open space programs, and a new $150,000 urban forestry initiative. Another $8.5 million is available for farmland preservation projects. Last year the TC/ADK Partnership successfully lobbied for an increase in land stewardship monies from $5 million to $5,750,000. This year’s budget proposes to spend a million more, a total of $6,750,000. This is the key category that funds hiking trail maintenance programs, the Summit Stewards, and implementation of the Forest Preserve unit management plans.

A major initiative is a proposal to increase snowmobile (now $25) and all terrain vehicle ($10) registration fees to an annual fee of $45. The governor proposes to use $850,000 of the estimated $7.5 million in ATV registration proceeds to fund an ATV Trail Maintenance and Enforcement Fund. The balance of the money would go to the General Fund. The governor’s staff indicated that the money would only be available for ATV trail maintenance and construction projects on private lands and conservation easements. It would not be available for the creation and upkeep of ATV trails on any kind of state land, state park land or the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves.

Bob Moss, Don Weiss, Gary Haugland, Neil Woodworth, Marisa Iannacito, and Neil Zimmerman contributed to this report.

Where there’s a Will, there’s a Trail
When we build them, you hike them. We’ve been building and protecting trails for at least four generations of hikers since 1920. That’s 1,600 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.

ADK Spring Outing
Sponsored by Mid-Hudson Chapter
June 18-20, 2004
• Enjoy an exciting weekend
• Hike the Catskills and AT
• Canoe/Kayak the Hudson & marshes
• Spend the day at Mohonk
• Sat. evening Happy hour/Gourmet dinner
Registration fee $25.00
LARRY BRAUN  
continued from page 1

blowdowns that had been blocking the trail had been cut into neat logs to open the path. He points out blue plastic tape, which he and John Blenninger, the trail supervisor for BRF, feed on branches earlier to mark a new route for some sections of the trail. “Parts of the trail, which used to be a wood road, were eroded and wet all the time, so in a few places we are moving traffic a few feet to the side, to dry ground.” As those spots, the trail crosses the creek. “We need to get a trail crew in here,” he says, “to move some big rocks and create stepping-stone crossings for the wet years.” This will mean more phone calls with Blenninger, who will work with other Trail Conference volunteers to organize and schedule the work.

The hour or two we spent in Black Rock Forest revealed the different levels at which Larry works to maintain and add trails in his neck of the woods. He meets with those who control the land — in the case of BRF, a consortium of universities, schools, museums and the Trail Conference — to deal with questions related to trails. He is in frequent touch with his trail supervisors, planning the clearing and rerouting of the Comprised Trail, for example, but helping lay out new trails as well. And he gets his own hands dirty, too. We removed about 30 substantial branches from the trail that day, and he noted fading blazes and an upside-down sign. “I hike every trail in my region at least once a year,” he adds.

Before descending from the ridge and returning to our cars parked at the trail head, we stop to enjoy the beautiful view west, across the valley, with Storm King Art Center’s outdoor sculptures gleaming in the sunlight, and the traffic on the New York State Thruway. The other side of the valley is bounded by Schunemunk Mountain, and Larry points out the Moodna Viaduct at its north end, where the Port Jervis line of Metro-North crosses some low ground before turning west toward Wallkill. Commuter trains run at the base of Schunemunk, and Larry sees an opportunity there for hikers. He is talking to people at Metro-North and New York State agencies about creating a station at the mountain for hikers.

On the plus side, a flag stop at Schunemunk would make it possible for hikers from the city to get to the mountain, starting and ending their treks from a platform on the mountain side of the tracks, at the Jesup Trail. On the other hand, funding will be needed to build the platform, and the state will have to okay the plan. But Larry is hopeful. “There are flag stops for hikers at the bottom of Bearneck Ridge and on the Appalachian Trail, on the other side of the Hudson, and they have been a success for both hikers and the railroad.” Larry may be exploring new ground for himself as a manager, but he has lots of experience in the outdoors. For many years he took advantage of his flexible work schedule — “there is not a lot of construction going on in the winter” — to go mountain climbing and hiking in America and other places around the world. But he wanted to “give something back,” he’s led almost a thousand group trips, beginning with “day hikes, then moving on to multi-day backpacking and bus trips to the Adirondacks, then two-week snorkeling in the Virgin Islands, and mountain hiking trips to Ireland and Scotland.” Now, though he is beginning to feel his age and is thinking of selling his rock climbing gear.

But his avocations can never be far from his mind. From the living room of his home in Gardiner, NY, Larry looks out to a great view of Millbrook Mountain in Minnewaska State Park. It’s an inspiring scene, though it also reminds him of work. The park, he notes, “is expanding like crazy, which will probably mean more trails for us to maintain.”


IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Dombroski  
The College Alumni Hiking Club regretfully announces the passing of its long time and very esteemed member Dorothy Dombroski in December 2003. She is survived by her son Andrew and husband Daniel.

Allan Levins  
We are sad to announce the passing of long-time hiker Allan Levins. Allan was a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and Sierra Club. He led hikes for both organizations in the 1970s and 1980s. Allan was a serious and unusually strong and fast hiker. Friends remember him running up and down mountains with a heavy pack on his back. He was a passionate and invertebrate traveler, proudly stating that he had visited every state in the U.S, and he had hiked in most of the U.S. national parks. Allan died suddenly on November 15, 2003, from complications related to diabetes. He was 64 years old. He will be sorely missed by those close to him. A memorial hike and dinner is planned for the spring. For details, contact Marsha Lipshitz, 212-734-9004 or syoung5@juno.com.

James A. Robson,  
Nuclear Lake Ranger  
James A. Robson, a dedicated VIP Park Ranger at Nuclear Lake in Dutchess County with the National Park Service for 24 years, died Dec. 24, 2003, Jims a resident of Poughquag, NY, worked often with Trail Conference and Appalachian Trail volunteers in his region. Survivors include his wife of 29 years, Patricia Mollica Robson, 212-734-9004 or syoung5@juno.com.
The white-blazed trail continues to ascend on a wide footpath. After crossing a stream, it levels off through forested areas. A little more than half a mile from the start, the trail descends briefly before returning to a wider stream and continues through a rhododendron grove. At the end of the rhododendrons, a blue-blazed trail leads to the Warwick Turnpike goes off to the left. Continue ahead on the white-blazed trail.

The Bearfort Ridge Trail now begins a steady, rather steep climb. About a mile from the start, it passes a large, lichen-covered outcrop to the right. It continues to climb until it reaches the crest of the ridge, marked by pitch pines. Here, a large conglomerate rock outcrop to the left offers an expansive view to the south. Upper Greenwood Lake is visible to the west and, on a clear day, the New York City skyline may be seen in the distance to the east.

After taking in the view and resting from the steep climb, continue ahead, following the Bearfort Ridge Trail north along the puddingstone conglomerate ridge, through pitch pines. You’ll make a brief 45-degree climb, and the vegetation will change to hemlocks and laurels. The trail continues at an elevation of about 1,300 feet, having climbed about 600 feet from the trailhead.

After about half a mile of walking along the ridge, the trail crosses an open rock outcrop, with several large glacial erratics, and passes more pitch pines. It descends to cross a wet area and then climbs to reach a rock ledge overlooking a swamp to the west. Here, a narrow wedge of the bedrock has split away from the main ledge, forming a deep crevice. You’ve now gone about two-thirds of the way from the start, and this is a good place to take a break.

When you’re ready to continue, proceed north along the trail, which climbs to a rock outcrop with a huge boulder. It continues along a whaleback rock, through pitch pines, and reaches a limited viewpoint to the east. The trail now descends steeply, passing through hemlocks and laurels. After crossing a stream amid jumbled rocks at the base of the descent, the trail climbs to an east-facing viewpoint from a rock outcrop with pitch pines. From the outcrop, the trail descends gently, levels off, and then climbs to another rock outcrop – marked by several cedar trees – with a magnificent view to the north and east. Surprise Pond is visible to the north, and Sterling Forest and the Wyanokes may be seen to the east. A short stream arm of the Monkville Reservoir visible in the distance. You’ve now gone three miles from the start of the hike.

The white-blazed Bearfort Ridge Trail ends here, at a junction with the yellow-blazed Ernest Walter Trail. Turn right and follow the yellow-blazed trail a few hundred yards downhill through a rocky area and soon crosses a stream. The trail continues through a dense rhododendron grove, with the thick rhododendrons forming a canopy over the trail in places. About half a mile from the end of the Bearfort Ridge Trail, you’ll notice an orange-blazed trail coming in from the right. Continue ahead on the yellow trail for about 100 feet to an open area which overlooks Surprise Pond – a pristine, spring-fed lake. This is another good spot to take a break.

Now retrace your steps along the yellow trail, but when you come to the junction with the orange trail, bear left and follow the orange blaze. You’re now on the Minnewaska Trail, a woods road that will lead you back to the start of the hike. Follow the orange blazes as they climb gently for a short distance, and then they make a sharp right. In three-quarters of a mile, you’ll cross a stream on rocks. This crossing can be a little tricky if the water is high. In 500 feet, the trail crosses another stream and then climbs briefly, soon resuming its descent.

A third stream is crossed in another mile. A third of a mile beyond, be sure to bear right, as another woods road goes off to the left. When the orange-blazed trail ends at a junction with the white-blazed trail, continue ahead along the road and then bear right, following the white blazes downhill, back to the trailhead.
**NW2003**

**SUNDAY, MAY 31**

**MCCANN LARKIN, Andrew.** Call 973-245-4675. Meet: 9 am at the National Gallery of Art, WC, lower level. Return to Gallery at 5 pm. Rain cancels.

**MONDAY, JUNE 1**

**SMITH, Merle.** Call: 973-334-0421. Meet: 10 am at the Port Authority Bus Terminal near The High Line. Wearing sensible shoes, we will walk for about 13 miles, while enjoying the entire length of the High Line and its environs.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 2**

**ILBAHN, Clarke.** Call: 973-334-0421. Meet: 9 am at the Madison at 14th, near Flatiron Plaza. Return for the High Line walk, while enjoying the entire length of the High Line and its environs.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3**

**GRIFFIN, William, and Sue.** Call: 973-334-0421. Meet: 9 am at the Port Authority Bus Terminal near The High Line. Wearing sensible shoes, we will walk for about 13 miles, while enjoying the entire length of the High Line and its environs.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 4**

**TUCKER, John.** Call: 973-334-0421. Meet: 9 am at the Port Authority Bus Terminal near The High Line. Wearing sensible shoes, we will walk for about 13 miles, while enjoying the entire length of the High Line and its environs.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5**

**MUIR, John.** Call: 973-334-0421. Meet: 9 am at the Port Authority Bus Terminal near The High Line. Wearing sensible shoes, we will walk for about 13 miles, while enjoying the entire length of the High Line and its environs.
The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikes are welcome subject to club regulations and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Wear hiking boots or strong, low-heeled shoes. Bring food, water, rain gear, first aid kit, and flashlight in your pack. License. Be the right and responsible to anyone whom they believe cannot complete the hike or is not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are indicated by club leaders. Meet details.

More than 80 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliated groups sponsor hikes listed not the Hikers’ Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, visit our website or send a SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

**Hikers’ Almanac**

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs

**March**

### Saturday, March 6


**PMNH.** Highlands Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3710 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 4230 Booan Ave, Montville Twp., NJ. Moderate hike on our outdoors trails.

**UCMH.** South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Leo Fanger, 973-786-3160; Meet: 10 am at Tups Springs Parking lot, Roselle Ave, Millburn; just north of 5. Scenic hike, Avoca Bridge hike of a little over two hours. Rain cancels.

### Sunday, March 7

**UCCH.** Scheutzer-Hoffman Sanctuary, Bernardsville, NJ. Leader: Philip O’Brien, 988-763-8812; call before 9 pm. Meet: 10 am at the sanctuary; call for directions. Hike the moderate Congarah Trail and Panther Path; half-mile ending at about 3 pm. Rain cancels.

**HGC.** Setano-Panther Mtns., NY. Leader: Ian Dunham, 973-838-8001; Meet: 9 am at Lake Setano, Seven Lakes Dr, Harrison State Park; NY. Moderately strenuous hike to Pine Mountain Lake; visit the Egg, climb Panther Mtn, and along the Taconic NY AIV Trail. Rain, heavy snow or poor hiking conditions cancel.

**UCMH.** Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Carol Mathisen, 201-736-2054; call before 8:30 pm. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave, at New Providence Rd. Brisk hike of 4-5 miles with many rough trails. Sturdy rain cancels.

**NYCH.** Teshorne to Roundout Beach. Leader: Peter Lynn, 718-405-4904; Meet: 10:15 am in the waiting room for the Staten Island Ferry at the Battery. About 7 miles of moderate beach walking with a mile road walking in their middle. Hike along Roundout Bay and the Atlantic Ocean on Staten Island beaches. Views of the nearby Jersey island and the distant Sandy Hook highlands. Join with other clubs.

### Sunday, March 14


**IHC.** Tsiotinos Tramp. Leader: Jim Hayen, 201-825-9906. Meet: 9 am at Trinity Circle parking, Harrison State Park, NY. Memberships sieve many with possible options. Inclement weather cancel.

**ADK-MH.** Struensee Cross-Country Ski or Hike. Leader: Rachel Faws 908-207-1216; cancel before 8:30 pm. Meet: 7 am; call leader for details. We’ll ski whenever the snow is best. If no snow, we’ll hike.

**PMNH.** Hike with Neil. NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3703 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 4230 Booan Ave, Montville Twp., NJ. Moderately strenuous 5-mile hike with one of our volunteers.

**WTW.** Lewis Morris County Park, NJ. Leader: Ernest Wragg, 973-223-3655; Call 973-223-3655 at 4pm on the parking lot; follow trail to parking near Saw Mill Stream. EK. Ride bikes or hike on the parking lot; follow trail to parking near Saw Mill Stream.

**GAC.** Appalachian Trail NJ- NY state line, Greenwood Lake, NJ. Leader: Matthew Wurtz, 908-263-9042; Meet: 9:45 am at shopping center 1000 feet west of junction of Rts. 319 and 519. Moderate and easy hikes.

### Monday, March 8

**RVM.** Mt. Everett (2654 ft) and Garden Pond, Taconic, MA. Leader and info: call 845-496-4570. Meet: 8 am, Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 67 Market St, Saugerties; Moderate: 4.5 miles, 3 hours. Snowshoes and crampons may be necessary. Inclement weather postpone.

**TUESDAY, March 9

Banff Mountain Film Festival. 7pm at Lyellite Theater in Salts, NY. Visit our website at Lyellite.org for more information, visit www.rockandfitnesssolutions.com.

### Saturday, March 13

**UDC.** Cooper Hill, Mountain, NJ. Leader: George Strauss, 720-489-2556. Meet: Call leader. Visit this environmentally friendly hill, still in operation, and the surrounding area.

**ADK-MH.** Hasbrouck River Walk, CT. Leader: Linda Suffolk, 404-466-1937. Meet: Call leader for details. Easy 4.5 mile walk on the very flat section of the AT between Maine and Georgia. Shuttle hike, possible on trip to Kent Falls.

**UCMH.** Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Joann Lepcet, 609-273-4158; Meet: 10 am at Trinidad Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave, at New Providence Rd. Brisk hike of 4-5 miles with some rocky trails, often muddy. Suitable for a strong beginner. Sturdy rain cancels.

**NYHC.** Tothernal to Roosevelt Beach. Leader: Peter Lynn, 718-405-4904; Meet: 10:15 am in the waiting room for the Staton Island Ferry at the Battery. About 7 miles of moderate beach walking with a mile road walking in their middle. Hike along Roundout Bay and the Atlantic Ocean on Staten Island beaches. Views of the nearby Jersey island and the distant Sandy Hook highlands. Join with other clubs.

### Sunday, March 20


**UUCH.** Wyconewe Circle, Watchung, NJ. Leader: Al Leigh, 973-471-7528; Meet: 7-7 pm on Friday. Meet at 10 am at Wells Ecology Center. spring enthusiastic kids up our feet to 7-8 miles in pleasant area. Hilly but not rupturing serious.

**PMNH.** First Day of Spring, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3703 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 4230 Booan Ave, Montville Twp., NJ. Continue the return to Spring on this moderate hike.

**UCMH.** Yancou Mountain. Montville, NJ. Leader: Nicky Siegel, 973-776-7054. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain visitor center parking lot. Moderate 5-mile hike along the railroad and then up to TopRock.

**NYCH.** Signs of Spring in Nassau County, NY. Leader: Jeanine Tew, tjw@nrtrust.org. Meet contact Natural Environmental Association, 521-608-9009 for details and to register. A lot more info about 2 hours.

**RJU.** Walking Dunes, NY. Leader: Lonye Winder, 616-664-5867, happybird@optonline.net. Register by Thursday, March 18; non-members. 10 $ Meet at Rockland County LIRR station. We’ll be hiking 11 miles on the Stepoff Thruhike and Paulson Path, among the Walking Dunes. The trail snakes its way through pine forest and along sand dunes, dramatic views of Gardiners Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Bring lunch and 2 liters of water.

**Continued on page 11**

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