Claudia Ganz Digs Rocks

By Mary Anne Masey

Claudia Ganz, a trail crew leader with the West Hudson Crew, inherited her love for the outdoors from her father. If there is a gene for this kind of thing, he likely brought it with him from Germany when he was 13. Certainly, as a father, he nurtured young Claudia's inheritance with hikes on the Palisades, experiences she warmly remembers. That inheritance lives on, expressing itself in the delight and passion Claudia enjoys in trail crew work.

Claudia says she is most herself when she is in the outdoors. She loves the woods, the birds, the trees, and, most of all, the dirt. The dirtier and sweatier she is, the happier she is—a perfect match for the life of a trail crew member and leader.

Claudia's adventures on crew began about eight years ago when she responded to an ad in the Trail Walker for a "Beginner Special" in crew work. A New York City dweller who needed to "dig in the dirt," Claudia signed up to help build the Underground Trail in the East Hudson Highlands; she has been working the dirt with Trail Conference crews ever since.

After a relatively short two years as a crew member, Claudia's enthusiasm, dedication, and technical expertise were recognized with her promotion to crew leader, a title she wears a little uncomfortably. She admits that she has an innate aversion to giving people directions and doesn't really think of herself as a "leader"; nevertheless, those discomforts are offset by her love of the work, the fact that she is meeting a real sale is executed; • require the state Department of Environmental Protection to adopt, within nine months, rules setting strict standards for land use and state permits for development in the preservation area; • provide for coordinated review among agencies of major development proposals within the preservation area.

A full copy of the act and information about advocacy efforts is available at the Trail Conference website (www.nynjtc.org). Executive Director Ed Goodell addresses the importance of the act in his column on page 3.

Claudia Ganz, West Hudson Trail Crew Leader

Legislation that would create a regional authority to protect hundreds of thousands of acres in the New Jersey Highlands has been targeted as a top advocacy priority by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Board of Directors.

Draft legislation, officially titled Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, was introduced into the state legislature in March and followed recommendations announced earlier in the month by the Highlands Task Force, an advisory committee appointed by Gov. McGreevey in 2002.

Trail Conference Executive Director Edward Goodell, in an open letter to Conference members, expressed the urgency of this preservation effort when he wrote, "We will never again have as good an opportunity to protect the Highlands. Highlands protection has been a long-time goal of the Trail Conference, which is a founding member of the Highlands Coalition.

Among the provisions of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, it would:

• establish a Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council to create a regional master plan and oversee a core preservation area of 350,000-390,000 acres;
• give the state right of first refusal to acquire land whenever a contract of sale is executed;
• require the state Department of Environmental Protection to adopt, within nine months, rules setting strict standards for land use and state permits for development in the preservation area;
• provide for coordinated review among agencies of major development proposals within the preservation area.

A full copy of the act and information about advocacy efforts is available at the Trail Conference website (www.nynjtc.org). Executive Director Ed Goodell addresses the importance of the act in his column on page 3.

Claudia Ganz, West Hudson Trail Crew Leader

National Trails Day Events: June 5

Highlands Critical Treasures Hike
The Highlands Coalition, Skylands CLEAN, and the NYNJTC are joining forces to offer a National Trails Day hike through a critical preserve of the Highlands of New Jersey. The "treasure" is 425 acres adjoining Norvin Green State Forest. The hike will follow various trails to the new Will Monroe Loop, which travels along the summit of Assinwikelam Mountain. The views are of Saddle Mountain, the Pine Paddles, and most of the 425 acres threatened by the proposed construction of luxury homes and an 18-hole golf course.

The 5+ mile hike is rated class B and will be at a moderate pace. Meet at the Weis Ecology Center at 9:30 am. Park in the outer lot, then meet at the Weis Building. There will be a brief presentation by the H-C and NYNJTC.

Bring lunch or a snack and water. Hiking boots a must. Return route depends on group.

Co-leaders: Bob Jonas (NYNJTC), Estelle Anderson (NYNJTC), Don Weise (Weis Ecology Center). Contact: Trail Conference office at 201-512-9348.

Trail Work at Alley Pond and Staten Island Greenbelt
The Metro Area Trails Committee plans two events on June 5 to mark National Trails Day. In cooperation with the New York City Dept. of Parks and Recreation, MATC is planning trail work in Alley Pond Park in Queens. The group will line trails to delineate them and prevent erosion and will cover them with a bed of wood chips. If time permits, an extension will be built on one of the trails.

On Staten Island, working in cooperation with the Staten Island Greenbelt Conservancy, the committee also plans to build new trails to connect the Staten Island Greenbelt network with the newly opened Greenbelt Visitor’s Center at Rockland and Brielle Avenues. Also, there will be an official link-up with the Great Kills Section of Gateway National Recreation Area.

In both areas, breakfast, lunch, and proper tools will be provided for all volunteers. For more information, call Metro Area Committee chair Bob Ward at 718-471-7036 after 8 pm.

See Hikers’ Almanac for June 5 for other National Trails Day events.
Building Strength in Numbers

The hiking community in our region is far larger than the membership of the Trail Conference or the sum of all the members of our member clubs. All one need do is witness the exodus from the Metro North Cold Spring train station during the weekend in prime hiking season to realize there are lots of people who enjoy hiking. The questions are, how can we make these hikers aware of who we are, what we do, and why they should join the Trail Conference? The short answer to the last two questions will be familiar to members:

• to support a strong voice for hiking and conservation;
• to sustain a broad cooperative effort for building and maintaining trails;
• to publish quality maps and guides that focus on our region;
• to take advantage of a 10 percent discount on TC maps and books offered to members;
• to take advantage of a 10 percent discount offered to Trail Conference members by many outdoor stores and other merchants.

In the search for ways to answer the first question—how to reach potential new members—the discount benefit emerged as a point of inspiration. Thanks to one of our long-time supporting businesses, a new outreach project was proposed that would feature the discount benefit. A small but enthusiastic group from our Marketing Committee tackled the project and soon spun off as our new Membership Committee. We’re calling the project that inspired this activity the Campmor initiative, because it began and is happening right now in collaboration with that popular outdoor merchant.

Campmor is supporting the Trail Conference both by placing membership brochures in their mail order packages for customers in our region and by selling TC memberships at their store in Paramus. A special brochure was designed, printed, and delivered to Campmor for use starting just after the first of the year. The idea is to attract people by highlighting one big benefit to Trail Conference membership: the 10 percent discount Campmor offers to shoppers who show their TC credentials.

In just the first three months of this new effort, more than 230 memberships have been sold. Most of the membership sales occur in the store, with the new member taking advantage of their discount benefit immediately. It is an easy sell as the savings on just a new pair of hiking boots almost pays for the membership. The Trail Conference is quite pleased with the results and is grateful for Campmor’s support. The committee is looking to expand this type of initiative to other outdoor stores.

In addition, the committee is looking to improve the discount benefit to members by increasing the number and kinds of establishments that will offer it. (The complete list of participating merchants in both New York and New Jersey can be seen at http://www.nynjtc.org/commerce/discount.html.)

Store discounts, and discounts on Trail Conference maps and books, can be counted as dollar-and-cents benefits to members, and promoting these is a good way for the Trail Conference to attract new members who may progress to greater awareness of our work, continue to support it financially, and perhaps even become active members. We can all help spread the word by reminding our friends and families of these benefits. “Members,” says Doug Sohn, hiker, maintainer in Norvin Green State Forest, and newly appointed chair of the Membership Committee, “are the lifeblood of an organization, and their importance to the mission of the Trail Conference cannot be underestimated.”

Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors

Thanks from Rangers for ORV Helmets

On behalf of the New Jersey State Park Service, I would like to thank your organization for the donation of helmets. Our team is now uniformly outfitted with some top-of-the-line equipment! Your organization’s collaborative donation with the Morris Trails Conservancy was an extremely generous gift.

As illegal ATV/ORV use continues to increase, we will continue to do our best to curtail it in the parks. Your donation better equips us to safely access remote areas where illegal activity is highest.

I greatly appreciate the cooperative relationship that our organizations have developed. Please relay our thanks to your members, as we could not have accomplished this without their support.

— Melissa D. Brown, Chief Ranger

TC Office Now More User Friendly; Available for Group Use

The Trail Conference office has been revamped with the goal of offering greater usefulness and comfort to members and visitors. The welcome area has been enhanced to reflect a more inviting and educational atmosphere. Ramon McMillan, the Trail Conference administrative assistant, notes that the entry now gives “the new hiker and prospective member a taste of what we are about and what we have to offer.” Besides providing an “introduction” for newcomers, the entry area now has a “Hiker’s Bulletin Board” reserved for Trail Conference members. The bulletin board, says Ramon, “will give our members a chance to publicize upcoming events, sell used gear, and post other hiking related news.”

Beyond the entry, office space has been transformed as well. “Hikers’ Marketplace” stands out as more browser friendly and the Hoefflin Memorial Library has been moved to the front to provide members with easy access to its collection of books. Finally, the recently re-designed office space boasts a main conference area that is available, by appointment, for member hiking groups of up to 40 people. As Josh Erdnaker, the TC volunteer projects director, points out, “These changes are meant to make the TC office a destination point for hikers to plan outdoor activities and share experiences.” In short, the TC staff invites everyone to come and visit.

Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors

From the Chair

Volunteers prepare a mailing in the new conference room.
From the Executive Director

Highlands Protection Is within Our Reach

The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act introduced in the New Jersey Legislature in March represents a breath-taking opportunity to protect the remaining open space and hiking lands of northern New Jersey.

Superlatives fail me in describing the conservation opportunity this represents, but the drafters of this legislation rose to the occasion. When describing the region, the legislation’s preamble includes phrases like “a wealth of matchless physical beauty... capacious reservoirs... pristine stretches of chilly rivers... hop-scotch suburban development.”

The draft legislation has just been released as I write this and I have not had time to read each detail of its 103 pages. But the broad strokes of the legislation are clear. It takes a bold and comprehensive approach to the protection of water and other natural resources of the New Jersey Highlands. It proposes:

- establishment of a Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council charged with the preparation of a regional master plan;
- identification of almost half of the 800,000-acre New Jersey Highlands as a core “preservation area” that would be subject to stringent water and natural resource protection planning and regulation, including standards for steep slopes, impervious cover, septic and wastewater treatment, forest and wetlands protection;
- the core preservation area be connected to provide contiguous open space, and environmentally important lands outside the preservation area be accorded protection;
- smart growth strategies be encouraged in areas where development and redevelopment is appropriate;
- upon enactment, a moratorium on large developments be put in place while standards are being created;
- agricultural enterprise be encouraged to the maximum extent possible; and
- regulations include “hardship waivers” that address single-family residences.

What does this legislation mean for hikers? For a long time, the Trail Conference has worked on the vision of an interconnected system of backcountry trails. Beyond trail building and maintenance, volunteers and staff have invested countless hours over the decades into advocating that mission. This legislation will create a regional plan and process for protecting hundreds of thousands of acres of forested watershed and hiking lands.

The Trail Conference has always worked cooperatively with government agencies to protect recreational resources, but we can no longer rely on a laissez faire approach. The system of home rule is good for many things but not for creating an interconnected network of open space. We need to try a regional approach before these lands are lost or irreparably fragmented.

Given the momentous opportunity this legislation represents, the Trail Conference Board of Directors has authorized staff to work with members, within the confines of our 501(c)3 status, to positively influence the passage of this legislation. In particular, we want to make sure that the final legislation provides for open space connectivity and addresses long-term management and stewardship issues. Once passed, we will carefully monitor its implementation to ensure passive recreation is adequately accommodated in all plans and regulations.

For this effort to be successful, we need Trail Conference members to become informed and involved. In particular, we need you to:

- call and write your legislators and local officials. Instructions for doing this are on the web site;
- make appointments to meet with legislators and local officials with someone from the Trail Conference;
- write letters to editors of local newspapers in response to any articles that you see about this legislation;
- organize the efforts of other advocates in your area.

We’ve created a website devoted to passage of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (http://www.nynjtc.org/issues/2004/highlands.html) where you can indicate your interests, level of involvement, and get the information you need to do all of the above.

Together, we can get this done. And we’ll be glad we did!

— Ed Goodell

Call for Candidates for TC Board, Delegates

Annual NYNJTC elections will take place at our October meeting. If you are interested in submitting name(s) as prospective nominee(s) for this board of directors or as delegates-at-large, please contact Phyllis Stewart, chairman of the nominating committee, at p.a.stewart@att.net, or one of the committee members Bob Cheadarko, Gary Haugland, George Petry, and Pete Heckler—c/o the Trail Conference office.

Trail Conference Acquisitions Protect Gunks Trail Corridor

In February, the Trail Conference closed on three parcels of land on the Shawangunk Ridge: Holley (50 acres) located in Deer Park, NY; Orange County Firetower (42 acres); and Walsh and Shulman (120 acres) located in Greeneville, NY. The acquisitions are part of the Trail Conference’s continuing focus on protecting the Shawangunk Ridge Trail corridor.

In New Jersey the Conference has applied for Green Acres funding to aid in acquisition and protection of connecting trail corridors. The TC project is known as “Project Green Corridors 2004.”

Trail Conference Begins NJ Green Corridors Project

The Trail Conference has initiated a new “Green Corridors Project” in New Jersey. The aim is to preserve, protect, and expand the public hiking trail system, working with various New Jersey towns and counties, as well as New Jersey’s Green Acres program.

Green Acres has funding available to assist in land acquisition projects. The Conference submitted Phase One of our plan to Green Acres in March and requested funding assistance. The TC acquisition plan for New Jersey includes 20 different new trails that will connect public parks, watershed areas, and other public open spaces.

Other funding may soon be available to protect and acquire more trails, owing to the new state focus on protecting the New Jersey Highlands.

ATV Proposal in NY Threatens State Forests

The 2004 Executive Budget proposal for New York includes bill language that creates an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trail development and maintenance fund. The intended purpose of the legislation is to promote ATV trail development on private and municipally owned lands. Unrelated to the intent of the legislation, however, the bill proposes to grant the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) sole discretion to open up state lands under her jurisdiction outside of the Forest Preserve to ATV use. These lands include state forests, unique and natural areas, wildlife management areas, and state reforestation areas. The Trail Conference and Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) are strongly opposed to this provision and have been working hard to ensure that this language is removed from the legislation.

Existing Vehicle and Traffic Law already permits a state agency to designate, by regulation or order, “appropriate” lands under its jurisdiction as a place open for travel by ATVs. However, the state agency is subject to critical environmental safeguards such as the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

The Trail Conference and ADK are very concerned that the proposed bill language is intended to exempt the commissioner of DEC from the regulatory process and existing legal safeguards. This special provision singles out DEC and its conservation lands for special pressure from the ATV lobby.

Another weakness of the bill is that it lacks a provision requiring impoundment of ATVs in cases where the rider has repeatedly violated trespass laws. We believe that impoundment of ATVs is a critical enforcement measure and will deter future ATV trespass on state and private lands.

Alternative ATV Bill Endorsed

The Trail Conference and ADK strongly support alternative ATV legislation, A.9220, sponsored by Democratic Assemblyman Joseph Morelle (D-Rochester). This bill would also create an ATV trail development and maintenance fund, but expressly prohibits the development of ATV trails on state owned lands; no discretion to do otherwise is extended to the DEC commissioner.

Additionally, the bill provides for impoundment of ATVs for offenses such as operating an ATV on other than designated routes in the Forest Preserve, on public lands that have not been designated for ATV travel, and on private property with

Advocacy & Conservation

Protected lands in Gunks are shown on map.

MAY/JUNE 2004 3
The Trail Conference has responsibility for caretaking many of the lean-tos in the Catskill Forest Preserve. Some vacancies are available for these caretakers. Find out more by completing the coupon below and returning it to: Lean-to Supervisor, Elie Bijou, P.O. Box 26, Elizabethtown, NY 12932, or by contacting him at adfrondzt@localnet.com.

**ADOPT A CATSKILL LEAN-TO**

☐ I would like to know more about adopting a lean-to in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

Name: ____________________________

Address: __________________________

City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: _____

Phone: day (____) __________________ eve (____)___________________

Email: ____________________________

**For the latest schedules, check www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trvolop.html#crew**

**TBA = To be announced**

**WEST HUDSON CREW**

Leaders: Chris Ezoo: 516-431-1148
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563, brian@grandrenovation.com
Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1234, clganz@earthlink.net
Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792, rmmarshall@webtv.net
Monica Resor: 732-937-9098, admarshall@trailstobuild.com

**June 5 (Saturday)**

Stillman Trail Relocation, Storm King State Park, Monica Resor

**June 6 (Sunday)**

Stillman Trail Relocation, Storm King State Park, Claudia Ganz

**June 12 (Saturday)**

TBA, Brian Buchbinder

**June 13 (Sunday)**

TBA, Robert Marshall

**EAST HUDSON CREW**

If you would like to volunteer for any of the below projects please contact the listed leaders for information on meeting times and places. We make a special effort to arrange pickups at the nearest Hudson Line train station.

Leaders: Wilt Daniels: 914-245-1250
Jack Scupic: 914-232-4871

If you are coming by train, be sure to let the leader know so that we wait for the train.

The East Hudson Trail Crew has some exciting projects this season with opportunities to build several new trails. The East Hudson region has a new supervisor for trails in Westchester County. These will include trails in Kitchawan Preserve, George’s Island, and Montrose Point, which need work to bring them up to Trail Conference standards before they can be turned over to maintainers. Several other new trail possibilities are in the process of getting approvals and will be announced when the permissions are in place. There are several small projects where a few people (preferably mid-week) can do the work.

We are short on crew leaders to achieve this ambitious program, so early trips will have an emphasis on crew leader training. No special skills are required; the crew leader and other experienced crew members will teach newcomers. New trail construction generally has more opportunities for lighter work. Work on new trails guarantees you an opportunity to maintain the trail that you helped to build.

May

TBA, Leader needed

June 12 (Saturday)

TBA, Walt Daniels

**WEST JERSEY CREW**

Leaders: David Day and Monica Resor

Phone: 732-937-9098

Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com

All events begin at 9 am, and most involve travel to the work site, so please be there on time. Call or email leaders for meeting place details and other questions. Heavy rain in the morning will cancel; if in doubt, call leaders that morning!

May 1 (Saturday)

Blue Dot Trail, Worthington State Park
We will continue the work of repair and relocation of this very popular trail at its junction with the Dunnfield Creek Trail. Meet: Dunnfield Creek parking area, just off I-80.

May 15 (Saturday)

Appalachian Trail, High Point State Park
We will be putting the finishing touches on the final stepping stone project from last fall. The work is on the AT near its crossing with the Iris Trail. Meet: Iris Trail parking area on Deckertown Road.

May 23 (Sunday)

Terrace Pond South, Waywayanda State Park
We will be building step-stones through a very wet area on this trail, replacing defunct puncheon. Meet: Terrace Pond trailhead parking lot on Clinton Road

June 13 (Sunday)

Terrace Pond South, Waywayanda State Park
We will continue replacement of puncheon with step-stones on this very wet area on the trail. Meet: Terrace Pond trailhead parking lot on Clinton Road

June 19 (Saturday)

TBA, Contact Leaders

June 26 (Saturday)

Appalachian Trail, Worthington State Park
It’s a “Spring Cleaning” trip to this incredibly popular section of the AT in the Delaware Water Gap. We will be cleaning and refurbishing some of the many, many waterbars. Meet: Dunnfield Creek parking area, just off I-80.

**NORTH JERSEY CREW**

Leaders: Sandy Parr, 732-469-5109
Dick Warner, 201-327-4945

Second Sunday of each month.

Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in northern New Jersey.
EXOTIC SPECIES IN OUR FORESTS

By Joan G. Ehrenfeld

Heading up the first steep section of the Douglas Trail in the Kittatinny Mountains, I paused to catch my breath and look around at the forest. Large ash, maple, and oak trees cast a pleasant shade, and a dense wall of green filled the understory. But the view was amazing because the thick growth of shrubs and herbs were all foreign to this forest, newcomers that had replaced the native species during the last decade.

Walking more slowly, so that I could look at the forest more carefully, I proceeded up the hill. As far as I could see, none of the native plants that should be present in a mature forest in this part of New Jersey could be found. Instead, there was a vista of these newcomers. It was only when I got near the top of the hill, where soils become shallow and stoney, that the native blueberries and huckleberries took over from the nonnative species.

This experience—finding the native plants of New Jersey replaced by recently introduced plants that are not naturally found here—is depressingly frequent throughout our hiking region. Exotic species—plants and animals that are normally found living on other continents, but that have been transported here and have managed to establish themselves as part of the state’s forests—are considered one of the most important threats to the preservation of biodiversity in the world today.

And it’s not just the forests that are threatened. Exotic species—plants and animals that are not naturally found here—are depressingly frequent introduced plants that are not naturally found here. For example, the larvae of the Asian longhorned beetle, an important threat to New Jersey’s forests, have been found in the wooden pallets used to ship merchandise from China to the U.S. It is estimated that one-third to nearly one-half of the species that are endangered in the U.S. are suffering in part due to the introduction of nonnative species in their habitat.

Some exotic species cause great economic hardship when they spread uncontrollably. The glassy-winged sharpshooter, for example, is an exotic newly introduced into California, where it has already caused an estimated $35 billion in losses to the wine and associated tourist industries. The control of aquatic weeds in rivers and canals is estimated to cost about $100 million annually. Attempts to limit the spread of purple loosestrife—the bright purple flowers of a fast-growing plant that now dominates many of the freshwater marshes in New Jersey, New York, and throughout the country—are costing $45 million per year. The problem is sufficiently severe that President Clinton issued an executive order in 1999 creating a national council to develop strategies to limit the problem.

In the forests of New Jersey and New York, several nonnative species have become so widespread that in places they are completely replacing the native plants. Prime among these are Japanese barley, a shrub I saw in abundance along the Douglas Trail, stilt grass (the lawn of grass seen between the barberry bushes on the Douglas Trail, also found growing along the Appalachian Trail in many spots, and abundantly found in forests throughout the region), Japanese honeysuckle, wineberry (a prickly and widespread relative of blackberries and raspberries), and winged euonymous (common, for example, along the Green Trail in Pyramid Mountain County Park). The NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection has recently released a report (http://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/InvasiveReport.pdf) that carefully reveals the scope of the problem. Nearly two-thirds of New Jersey’s plants did not originate here, but were brought here by people.

Researchers at Rutgers University are currently conducting studies of these species in Allamuchy State Park, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and Morristown National Historical Park. The research is intended to help us learn more about how these problem species affect the soil, and by doing so affect the ability of native plants to grow in these forests. We are seeking volunteers to help set up and maintain these experiments. If you are interested in learning more about the problem of exotic species in our forests and/or in helping with our studies, please contact the author at ehrenfeld@rci.rutgers.edu.

Joan Ehrenfeld is a professor in the Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Cook College, Rutgers University and a member of the Trail Conference Science Advisory Committee.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR TC FIELD SURVEYS

Nearly 40 years ago, two inquisitive young ecologists made an interesting observation about the biota of oceanic islands. After comparing species diversity on various islands, it became clear that larger islands supported more species than smaller ones, and that islands closer to the mainland were more species rich than those farther away. Remarkably, these relationships held up for island archipelagos around the world and could even be expressed in a simple mathematical formula. But why?

The key to this relationship appears to be the dynamic between the rate of species extinction and colonization on islands. Species on large islands tend to have larger populations, which in turn are less vulnerable to extinction from catastrophic events than are smaller populations. Larger islands also typically provide more habitat niches for species to gain a foothold in and occupy.

Scientists also have long known that an island will be reached by a diverse community of plants and animals beyond what is present by chance. As a result, the species richness of island communities are much greater than expected by chance alone. Isolated islands are often considered as de facto conservation lands, and are managed as such. As we learn more about the problem of invasive species, and the ability of these species to spread to new areas, we can begin to understand how and why these species are so successful.

Invasive Plant Project: Non-native invasive species pose a serious threat to our region’s rich biodiversity. This project aims to characterize the distribution of invasive plants along trail corridors in state parklands of high conservation value. Volunteers will be trained to identify target invasive species and collect distribution data along assigned trail corridors. Results will help us identify at-risk habitats and improve management strategies. Time commitment: workshop and one to two self-directed field visits to a survey site during the appropriate season. Hours flexible. Location: entire region.

Invasive Bird Project: The Breeding Bird Atlas: The Trail Conference is teaming up with the New York Breeding Bird Atlas Project to collect breeding bird data in this final year of the five-year project. Sign up for one of the remaining survey blocks in a New York state park or just submit breeding bird observations (nests, fledglings, territorial behavior) to the project. We are especially interested in breeding raptors (hawks, eagles, falcons, owls) or vulture observations. Time commitment: May to early July. Hours flexible. Location: entire New York region.
Meet New TC Librarian

Zinn Is Celebrity Volunteer

On March 5, 2004, more than 65 hikers celebrated TC volunteer Richard Zinn’s 80th birthday by joining him on a hike at Bear Mountain. Hikers were treated to beautiful blue skies, an early taste of spring, and of course a great hike. On Monday mornings, Richard can be found at the Trail Conference office, lending a hand with whatever needs to get done. Together with Al Leigh, Richard’s hiking buddy and partner in crime, this dynamic duo keeps the office young at heart and eager to hit the trails. From the staff, hiking buddies, and all the volunteers you work with, Happy Birthday, Richard!

New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes its new volunteer book review coordinator and librarian, Robert Krumm. Bob grew up in northern New Jersey, exploring the local woods, fields, and streams, which today, sadly, are gone. At 21 he moved to San Francisco intending to stay only a brief time, but instead remaining 18 years. Not owning a car, he became an avid bicyclist and co-founded Different Spokes, a bicycle club that still goes strong today, 22 years later. In 1976 he pedaled across the country west to east, and in 1982 north to south. In the late ’80s, Bob moved to New York City and earned a master’s degree in library studies from Queens College. Since then, Bob has been employed at Con Edison as the corporate librarian, archivist, and engineering records manager. His fondness for bicycling has waxed a bit here in the east because of the harsh weather and heavy traffic, but he stays in touch with the outdoors by hiking with Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society. Bob now lives in Glen Rock, NJ.

Recognition and Thanks

Thanks for 15 Years on the High Peters Kill

Larry Beam, West Hudson North Trails Chair, thanks two Trail Conference couples for their dedicated 15 years of yeoman service as maintainers of the High Peters Kill Trail in Muscootawka State Park. They recently retired from active maintenance duty. Stan and Jenny Roberts, long-time activists with the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, and Robert and Mary Sesemann, members Adirondack Friends, have all passed their matured sections of this beautiful footpath on to the care of others. Fellow MH-ADKers, Henry Jenkins and Joan and Ken Davies have stepped in to carry on the excellent work of the Robertses and Wieses.

Correcting the Record: Bob Busha Is Hoeferlin Award Winner

Due to an oversight, one winner of the William Hoeferlin Award in 2003 has never been publicized. Last July, Bob Busha was honored by his friends and park officials on the occasion of his 80th birthday at the Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area in Boonton, NJ. He had just stepped down as supervisor of Morris County trails, where he helped to establish a strong Trail Conference presence that continues to grow. Bob was always an active participant in Trails Council, often bringing his ideas to improve and revitalize the trails to the group for approval, and for his exemplary volunteer work we presented him with the Hoeferlin Award.

Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

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

Trail Walker Assistant

We are looking for field reporters to highlight the work of our volunteers. Exciting opportunities are available for writers and photographers to report on the activities of our trail crews, write profiles on volunteers, or create your own assignment. Other positions available:

• Workshop and training coordinator
• Blaze Fabricator Needed
• Sterling Forest Blaze Fabricator Needed

Adopt a recreational activity from the SRC website and keep the website’s information up to date. For dates and times of the map crew’s activities, please contact Maureen Walsh at walsh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 for more information.

Shawangunk Ridge Coalition Website Content Providers

Adopt a recreational activity from the SRC website and keep the website’s information up to date. For dates and times of the map crew’s activities, please contact Maureen Walsh at walsh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 for more information.

Sterling Forest Blaze Fabricator Needed

Work at home or at the park making tag blazes. Contact Pete Tilgner and/or Susan Gordon for details at 201-871-3531 or email Gordon.Tilgner@verizon.net.

Other positions available:

• Carpenter/wood craftsman
• Assistant web master (webpage development)
• Workshop and training coordinator

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

Trail Walker Assistant

We are looking for field reporters to highlight the work of our volunteers. Exciting opportunities are available for writers and photographers to report on the activities of our trail crews, write profiles on volunteers, or create your own assignment. Other positions available:

• Workshop and training coordinator
• Blaze Fabricator Needed
• Sterling Forest Blaze Fabricator Needed

Adopt a recreational activity from the SRC website and keep the website’s information up to date. For dates and times of the map crew’s activities, please contact Maureen Walsh at walsh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 for more information.

Shawangunk Ridge Coalition Website Content Providers

Adopt a recreational activity from the SRC website and keep the website’s information up to date. For dates and times of the map crew’s activities, please contact Maureen Walsh at walsh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 for more information.

Sterling Forest Blaze Fabricator Needed

Work at home or at the park making tag blazes. Contact Pete Tilgner and/or Susan Gordon for details at 201-871-3531 or email Gordon.Tilgner@verizon.net.

Other positions available:

• Carpenter/wood craftsman
• Assistant web master (webpage development)
• Workshop and training coordinator

Meet New TC Librarian

Zinn Is Celebrity Volunteer

On March 5, 2004, more than 65 hikers celebrated TC volunteer Richard Zinn’s 80th birthday by joining him on a hike at Bear Mountain. Hikers were treated to beautiful blue skies, an early taste of spring, and of course a great hike. On Monday mornings, Richard can be found at the Trail Conference office, lending a hand with whatever needs to get done. Together with Al Leigh, Richard’s hiking buddy and partner in crime, this dynamic duo keeps the office young at heart and eager to hit the trails. From the staff, hiking buddies, and all the volunteers you work with, Happy Birthday, Richard!

New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members:

Karen Andrews and Mary Alice Rudovskiy
Denis J. Kaminski Jr.
Gwenna Nielsen

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

Recognition and Thanks

Thanks for 15 Years on the High Peters Kill

Larry Beam, West Hudson North Trails Chair, thanks two Trail Conference couples for their dedicated 15 years of yeoman service as maintainers of the High Peters Kill Trail in Muscootawka State Park. They recently retired from active maintenance duty. Stan and Jenny Roberts, long-time activists with the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, and Robert and Mary Sesemann, members Adirondack Friends, have all passed their matured sections of this beautiful footpath on to the care of others. Fellow MH-ADKers, Henry Jenkins and Joan and Ken Davies have stepped in to carry on the excellent work of the Robertses and Wieses.

Correcting the Record: Bob Busha Is Hoeferlin Award Winner

Due to an oversight, one winner of the William Hoeferlin Award in 2003 has never been publicized. Last July, Bob Busha was honored by his friends and park officials on the occasion of his 80th birthday at the Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area in Boonton, NJ. He had just stepped down as supervisor of Morris County trails, where he helped to establish a strong Trail Conference presence that continues to grow. Bob was always an active participant in Trails Council, often bringing his ideas to improve and revitalize the trails to the group for approval, and for his exemplary volunteer work we presented him with the Hoeferlin Award.

Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

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Other positions available:

• Carpenter/wood craftsman
• Assistant web master (webpage development)
• Workshop and training coordinator
Delegates’ Meeting June 10; New Location; All Welcome

All Trail Conference members are invited to attend the next meeting of the hiking club delegates on Thursday, June 10, 2003, at the Ross Dock, in Fort Lee, New Jersey. This is a newly renovated, large, scenic, riverfront picnic area with access to a trail system, Henry Hudson Drive, car-top boat launching, fishing, restrooms, and public phones.

The meeting and program start at 7 pm. Please join us for a social hour, beginning at 6 pm, for a chance to share refreshments and chat with hiking club representatives.

Getting There: From Routes 4, 66, 1-80, 1-95: Take the exit for Fort Lee / Palisades Interstate Parkway. Follow signs. From Palisades Interstate Parkway (southbound) Take the last exit before the George Washington Bridge (Hudson Terrace). Turn left onto Hudson Terrace. Then follow above. From New York City: Take the upper level of the George Washington Bridge to the first Fort Lee exit. Bear right and proceed down the ramp to the traffic light. Then as above.

Driving directions are also available by calling the Trail Conference office.

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION continued from page 3

out the consent of the owner. The legislation establishes a remediation account to compensate both private and public landowners, including the state, for property damage caused by ATV trespass. It also dedicates 50 percent of the proceeds collected for the ATV fund to DEC for the purpose of ensuring that ATVs do not trespass on state-owned lands. Registration of ATVs would be required at the time of sale and license plates would be required.

New Trail for New State Land?

Trail Conference volunteer Paul DeCoste is leading an effort to create a trail across new state lands in New Jersey that would connect the Highlands Trail near Lake Hopatcong with Wawayanda State Park. For more information about this effort, contact Paul DeCoste at 973-764-4481 or pdcoste@warwick.net.

The land involved includes a 1,198-acre property known as Gerard Woods in Sparta, purchased by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in March. The site, adjacent to the Newark Pequannock watershed and the Sparta Mountain and Hamburg Mountain wildlife management areas, will be managed by the DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The property surrounds Lake Gerard and Beaver Lake and includes hiking access to Gerard Lake. The land includes forested mountain terrain and several streams.

Contributors to this column include Richard Bening, TC land protection specialist, and Neil Woodworth, TC/ADK counsel.

West Hudson North Creates Blowdown Crew

It was a banner day for West Hudson North Trails. On March 11, 2004, WHNT successfully mounted its first Blowdown Trail Crew (BTC) work trip. A team of four—Ed O’Brien, Tim Donovan, Ed Morrison, and Larry Braun—working on Schunemunk Mountain State Park, cut through the last of the horrendous blowdown blocking the Barton Swamp Trail. They also cut out a blowdown on the Jessup Trail.

Four days later, a team of three—John Blenninger, Adelle Haas, and Larry Braun—took out eight blowdowns on the High Hills Kill Trail in Minnewaska State Park. Snow cancelled a trip planned for the very next day to remove severe blowdown covering 100 yards of the Howell Trail in Storm King State Park.

Creating a WHNT chainsaw crew was hardly a truth until the disastrous storm of Nov. 16-17, 2002. Heavy ice and strong winds caused countless branch and whole tree blowdowns blocking every footpath in Minnewaska. Massive blowdowns kept the entire one-and-a-half mile marshy section of the Barton Swamp Trail largely impassable for over a year. A heavy wet snowstorm in January 2003 broke more branches, creating additional blowdowns. The wet weather of last spring and summer and the sudden winter caused another blowdown when many trees toppled as the saturated soil that secured their roots no longer held these trees upright.

WHNT chair, Larry Braun, learned that having a wish and making it come true takes more than stardust. Braun took the U.S. Forest Service two-day course in chainsaw operation and safety. After receiving certification, he took on the job of BTC chief. Majestic Hardware, in Larry’s home town of Gardiner, donated a good bargain on a Stihl saw, a file and gauge, an in-the-field vise, bar and two-cycle oil, and a fuel container. Mid-Hudson ADK generously paid the bill. Ed Morrison donated a pack frame with attached box to carry the equipment. Everyone’s old friend, Anonymous, donated personal protection equipment (PPE)—chaps, helmet, ear and eye protection. Braun donated the first gallon of fuel and a backpack to carry the PPE.

Now that WHNT’s specialized crew has experience removing blowdowns, let Mother Nature and Jack Frost have their way. The Blowdown Trail Crew is ready for action.

Call for Candidates for TC Awards

Each year, the TC board of directors selects individuals to honor for their contributions to the hiking community. Nominations are welcomed from the membership, and should include supporting background information and your nominations to Recognition Awards, in care of the NY/NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430; telephone 201-512-9348; email info@nynjtc.org. The deadline is May 15, 2004.

The annual awards are as follows:

William Hoeferlin Award: recognizes Trail Conference volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.

Next Generation Award: given to those under age 21 who are making significant contributions of time and energy to trail building and/or protection.

Major Welch Trail Partner Award: presented to those outside the Trail Conference—for example, state, federal, or local agency partner officials—who have given long and/or significant assistance to the local hiking community.

Corporate Partner Award: presented to a company that has furthered the hiking trail experience and/or protection effort.

Raymond H. Torrey Award: the Conference’s most prestigious award, given for significant and lasting contributions that protect our hiking trails and the land upon which they rest.

Leo Rothschild Conservation Award: presented to a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to the protection of our trails and/or the natural lands that surround them.

The Ken Lloyd Award: honors a member of a club who has given exemplary service to his/her club.

The Extra Mile Award: is given to volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to a 3-5 year project, such as a book, map or advocacy project.

West Hudson Crew Gears Up for Another Season

Late in February, members of the West Hudson Trail Crew gathered to share tales of their winter adventures and discuss the exciting activities that were on the horizon. This group of dedicated men and women are already gearing up for the upcoming work season. Through the month of May and June, the crew will be improving and enhancing our trails by installing a bridge over the Popolopen Gorge, working on the Nutian Trail, working on the Pine Meadow Bridge, and the Stony Brook Trail. We are looking forward to seeing the marvelous work they do on our trails. Please see the trail crew schedule this issue or visit: http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/extra.html?crew to find out where and when to join these projects.
NY-NJ TC member? □ YES □ NO □ JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price
Retail Member P/M Total

Official Conference Maps
Sterling Forest Trails (2003) $7.95 $5.95 + .80
North Jersey Trails (2002) $7.95 $5.95 + .95
Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails (2003) $8.95 $6.75 + .95
NEW! East Hudson Trails (2003) $9.95 $7.50 + .95
West Hudson Trails (2000) $7.95 $5.95 + .95
Catskill Trails (2003) & see combo $13.95 $10.45 + $1.10
 Kittatinny Trails (2002) $12.95 $9.75 + .95
Shawangunks (2000) & see combo $9.95 $7.50 + .95
South Taconic Trails (1988, rev. 1998) $4.95 $3.75 + .95
Hudson Palisades Trails (available summer 2004) $7.95 $5.95 + .95

Books
A.T. Guide for NY & NJ (2002) w/6 maps $19.95 $15.95 + $2.00
Day Walker (2002) $16.95 $13.55 + $2.50
Hiking Long Island (2002) $19.95 $15.95 + $2.50
Circuit Hikes in Northern New Jersey (2003) $11.95 $9.55 + $2.00
New York Walk Book (2001) & see combo $19.95 $15.95 + $2.50
NEW!! New Jersey Walk Book (available April 2004) $19.95 $15.95 + $2.50
Harriman Trails Guide (1999)&see combo $16.95 $13.55 + $2.50
Health Hints for Hikers (1994) $5.95 $4.75 + $2.00
Doodletown: Hiking Through History in a Vanishing Hamlet on the Hudson (1996) $12.95 $10.35 + $2.00
Catskill Trails: A Ranger’s Guide to the High Peaks $14.95 $11.95 + $2.00
Book One: The Southern Catskills (2000) $14.95 $11.95 + $2.00
Book Two: The Central Catskills (2000) $14.95 $11.95 + $2.00
Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) (hardcover) & see combo $10.95 $8.75 + $2.00
Shawangunks Trail Companion (2003) $18.95 $15.15 + $2.50
Nature’s Walks in New Jersey (1998) $12.95 $10.35 + $2.50
50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley (2002) $16.95 $13.55 + $2.50
50 Hikes in New Jersey, 1997, rev. 1999) $15.95 $12.95 + $2.00
Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills & Hudson River Valley (2002) $14.95 $11.95 + $2.00
Best Hikes w/ Children in New Jersey (1992) $12.95 $10.35 + $2.00
AMC Catskill Mountain Guide (2002) $19.95 $15.95 + $2.00
Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years (2001) $27.50 $22.00 + $3.00

Combo-Packs
Catskill (5-map set & ADK book) $27.80 $21.60 + $2.00
Harriman (2-map set & book) $22.40 $17.55 + $2.50
NY & NJ Walk Books $35.91 $28.73 + $3.50
Shawangunk Combo (4-map set & book) $17.95 $13.95 + $2.00

The Personal Touch
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Hiking Cap $12.90 $10.50 + $2.00
Long-sleeve Denim Shirt Circle: S M L XL $29.90 $22.90 + $4.00
Polo Shirt (Forest Green) Circle: S M L XL $15.90 $13.45 + $4.00
NY-NJTC T-Shirt Circle: L XL $13.95 $13.95 + $3.50
Harriman Map Bandanna $6.95 $5.95 + $1.10
Conference Logo Patch $2.50 $2.50 postpaid
Long Path Logo Patch $2.75 $2.75 postpaid
Conference Logo Decal $.85 $.85 postpaid

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

For non-clothing items, New Jersey residents add 6% tax*
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Make check or money order payable to NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. For a full descriptive catalog, please write or call 201-512-9348.

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

Claudia Ganz... continued from page 1

interacting with them using both her mind and body to build aesthetically pleasing steps and crib walls. Her handiwork and that of her crew members can be appreciated in Harriman State Park, where the bulk of her work has been accomplished, as well as at Storm King, Schunemunk, Black Rock Forest, and Minnewaska.

For Claudia, the rewards of trail work include the satisfaction intrinsic in a job well done; recognition from the Trail Conference, which in 2002 awarded her its Hoeferlin Award; and her “soul mate,” boyfriend Brian Buchbinder. The two connected through an AMC personal ad, and their first date was on a trail crew project. They found they shared a strong love of the outdoors and trail dirt. Now Brian is a trail crew leader as well, and though they often work together, they know better than to co-lead work details — when one serves as crew leader, the other is a member of the crew. The couple love their volunteer work so much that they have spent vacations with the American Hiking Society doing trail work in the Wheeler Peak Wilderness Area in New Mexico and south of the Grand Canyon.

Claudia Ganz has clearly found a way to give her skills to an organization that matters to her. She says she is “lucky” to have engaged with the Trail Conference doing work that gives her such deep satisfaction. Clearly, the Trail Conference is lucky too.

IN MEMORIAM

Carol Derr

The hiking community extends its sympathy to former Trail Conference president Don Derr, whose wife Carol died March 24. Carol was a life member of the Trail Conference, a member of Westchester Trails Association and ADK Mohican.

Hiking was central to the lives of both Don and Carol. They became engaged during a hike in the East Hudson Highlands, an occasion memorialized on TC maps by Engagement Rock on Anthony’s Nose, named by Don in his capacity as cartographer for the Trail Conference.

Their honeymoon in New England included a hike up Mount Mansfield; they then hiked for 34 years in the U.S. and other countries. Carol was very active in WTA, having served on the board and as chair of the weekend outings committee. Together with Don, and under the auspices of WTA, Carol maintained a three-mile section of the Appalachian Trail in Fahnestock Park for 27 years. Carol will be remembered by her many friends for her strong personal dedication and positive attitude.

Color Note Cards
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Limited Edition. Only 500 made! Eight photo note cards by Herb Chong (Two each of four different photos). Only available at the NYNJTC. Order at www.nynjtc.org or use Hikers’ Marketplace form to the left. $12 nonmember; $9.60 members (plus $2 shipping; New Jersey residents add 6 percent tax).

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, and help 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.

Claudia Ganz has clearly found a way to give her skills to an organization that matters to her. She says she is “lucky” to have engaged with the Trail Conference doing work that gives her such deep satisfaction. Clearly, the Trail Conference is lucky too.

WHERE THERE’S A WILL, THERE’S A TRAIL...
**Events for Hikers**

**ADK Plans Weekend of Hikes June 18-20, Staten Island**

The Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK-MH) will be hosting ADK’s annual Spring Outing, a weekend of hikes and paddles, June 18-20. All activities are open to nonmembers.

Hikes are scheduled for all levels and at many locations, including the Catskills, Shawangunks, Appalachian Trail, and East Hudson Highlands. Walks of historic sites, gardens, and Vassar College are included. In addition, a special day is planned of lunch and hiking at the Mohonk Mountain House and Preserve. Paddles will take place on the Hudson River, Tivoli and Constitution marshes, and Mid-Hudson area lakes and streams.

Registration is required; the public is welcome. Check the ADK website, www.adk.org, for additional information, or call 845-461-3389.

**Catskill Park Centennial Celebration**

2004 marks the 100th anniversary of the Catskill Park. Created by law in 1904, the Catskill Park includes over 1,100 square miles and over 700,000 acres of state-owned land known as the Catskill Forest Preserve.

In honor of the Catskill Park’s centennial, a committee composed of individuals representing Catskill interest groups, local businesses, and residents is planning a Catskill Park Centennial Celebration that will focus on the people and the landscape of the Park. The celebration will be composed of activities throughout the Catskill Park in 2004.

Although planning is still underway for many of the activities, scheduled events already include a Catskill Park Centennial Lark in the Park composed of hikes and visits to cultural and historical sites in the Catskill Park, a lecture/activity/even event series, and a Catskill Chautauqua. Hikes, music, art, and other cultural events focusing on the Catskills are scheduled for the remainder of the year. For a listing of events as well as dates and times, please visit the Centennial website at www.catskillpark100.org.

**Nature Camps for Kids**

The Greenbelt Conservancy of Staten Island will conduct a series of nature-oriented summer camps for children ages 5-12 and mini-camps for children ages 3-5 with an adult. The day camp program for the older children comprises three different sessions, each two weeks long, in July and August. Sessions will focus on plants, animals, and ecosystem explorations. For the younger set, three-day sessions will be conducted during four weeks in July and early August and will introduce youngsters to plants, and animals that fly, are tiny, or live in the cold. The Greenbelt Nature Center at High Rock will be headquarters for all programs. For information, call 718-667-5155/2165; www.sigreenbelt.org.

**Land Trust Offers Hudson Highlands Hikes**

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust has announced its 2004 Take a Hike program. Information about each of the hikes, including starting times, hike descriptions, and locations, can be obtained on the Hudson Highlands Land Trust website at www.hhlt.org or by calling the Land Trust office at 845-424-3358. Space is limited on most of the hikes, and they fill up quickly, so early registration is recommended.

The Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) is a nonprofit organization that seeks to protect the special character of the Highlands through land conservation, advocacy, and the promotion of sound long-term planning.

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**IF YOU LOVE THE SHAWANGUNKS YOU’LL WANT TO VISIT**

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.*
FAVORITE HIKE
Monument Trail
By Bob Boysen
This hike description is excerpted, and slightly adapted for Trail Walker, from the forthcoming new Guide to the Kittatinny from Bob Boysen, to be published this summer by the Trail Conference.

General Description: A loop trail that touches the High Point obelisk, the New York border, and Little Lake Marcia, the Monument Trail is among the most popular trails in the Kittatiny range. A good place to start is in the High Point Monument parking area. There are views in all directions from the lot. Proceeding northeast along the ridge line, there are multiple views of the Great Valley, especially in winter.

The trail then descends to the north, crossing a small stream (bridge, 1.1 miles) and looping back to the southwest just short of the NY state border. At 1.7 miles from the monument parking area, the Shawangunk Ridge Trail leaves to the right. This trail extends along the Shawangunk Ridge to the Long Path, 36 miles to the north.

Views to the northwest toward Pennsylvania now emerge, until the path again descends to a small stream and to the Steeny Kill Trail on the right at 2.45 miles. Beyond the stream, again crossed via a footbridge, the trail rises steeply on rock steps. The climb is almost 300 feet and the slope is not 20 percent, but the stone steps make it relatively easy going.

Next the trail descends about 100 feet to a park road, which it follows for 100 yards before crossing Kuser Road to the shore of Lake Marcia. It follows the northeast shore of the lake for about 200 yards and veers left up the hillside on a very rough trail, then crosses Scenic Drive park road and contacts (kisses) the AT 3.1 miles, then veers left to cross another park road before finally ascending to the High Point Monument.

It is about a 250-foot climb from Lake Marcia to the monument, done in about 0.3 miles. A 17 percent average grade. The Shawangunk Trail, in theory stars where the AT contacts the Monument Trail and is co-aligned with the Monument and Kuser Trail before leaving to the north. However, this is not to be taken to indicate this trail.

Access: Easiest access is from the High Point Monument parking area, but the trail can also be accessed from lower parking areas around Lake Marcia. And, of course, the AT, the Shawangunk Ridge Trail, and the Steeny Kill all intersect it.

There is a park-maintained but unmarked trail through the cedar swamp of the Monument Trail is preserved as a “natural area.” It is timbered with eastern white cedar. A self-guided trail booklet is available from the park headquarters.

Climbing: There are two steep climbs, already mentioned — one just southwest of the Steeny Kill Trail, and a second just prior to the monument itself. Each is about 250 feet with slopes in the 15 percent to 20 percent range. All other slopes are quite gradual. Lowest point on the trail to the highest point (at the monument) is only 350 feet.

FEBRUARY 2004
TRAIL WALKER
10

BOOKNOTES
DON'T GET EATEN
The Dangers of Animals That Charge or Attack
Dave Smith
The Mountainers Books, 2003

DON'T GET BITTEN
The Dangers of Things That Bite or Sting
Butch Tilton
The Mountainers Books, 2003
Reviewed by Alice L. Tufel

These two pocket guides for coping with potentially harmful creatures on the trail use similar formats with somewhat different results.

DON'T GET Eaten, the stronger of the two books, covers black bears, buffalo, cougars, coyotes, grizzly bears (the longest and most comprehensive chapter), javelinas, moose, and wolves. It also has a very good chapter on rabies. The book delivers on its promise to “help you avoid conflicts and confrontations with potentially dangerous North American land mammals, and it explains how to respond to encounters in worst-case scenarios.”

DON'T GET BITTEN, on the other hand, is aimed primarily at the “natural area.” It is timbered with eastern white cedar. A self-guided trail booklet is available from the park headquarters.

Climbing: There are two steep climbs, already mentioned — one just southwest of the Steeny Kill Trail, and a second just prior to the monument itself. Each is about 250 feet with slopes in the 15 percent to 20 percent range. All other slopes are quite gradual. Lowest point on the trail to the highest point (at the monument) is only 350 feet.

Aspects that arise when camping with situations that arise when camping with animals may, of course, be inherent in any book about flying/crawling creatures, who are more numerous and probably more elusive than their larger, teeth-gnashing counterparts. The back-cover copy claims that the book includes an appendix, which it does not. (It includes References.)

The introductory material in each chapter varies somewhat, but might provide statistical information (such as how many people are estimated to suffer from snake bites each year in the U.S.); general descriptions; brief physiognomy (important because different types of snakes, for example, behave differently and have different methods of striking); and types of “biting” creatures, followed by sections on specific creatures (types of reptiles, spiders, etc.) including signs and symptoms of the bite. There were occasional kinds of bites, and treatment guidelines. Each chapter concludes with a brief checklist of preventive measures. The book also includes some extraneous information (often in the form of sidebars) that will interest “insect-philes” but is not otherwise helpful.

Nowhere in the chapter on ticks does the author mention how tiny they are, or what parts of the human body they favor. Although he recommends a full body check after hiking, he does not specify that another person should help, as ticks often embed in hard-to-reach places. The description of the Lyme disease rash is incomplete and not accurate. The author mentions, for example, that there is no relationship between where the tick bit and where the rash appears, but the literature has indicated that a circular rash often develops at the site of the tick bite, although this rash generally fades and can reappear elsewhere. Similarly, descriptions of other rashes are not as detailed as they could be.

DON'T FORGET THE DUCT TAPE
Tips and Tricks for Repairing Outdoor Gear
Kristin Hostetter
The Mountainers Books, 2003
Reviewed by Edward Ripley-Duggan

This pocket-sized book of 85 pages looks, at first glance, to be a guide for emergency repairs on the trail, else why issue it in such a small format? Unfortunately, first appearances are deceptive: despite discussion of backpacking repair kits, a large fraction of the book is concerned with tips that have no potential application in the field. Reviving waterproof fabrics, cleaning sleeping bags, and waterproofing leather boots are all useful lessons, especially for the novice, but are hardly pertinent when dealing with the failure of a critical piece of gear in the backcountry.

Omitted are discussions of the repair of hiking poles, the sharpening of crampons, the tying of tents, and too much else to list. Surprisingly, not a single knot is shown, although Z-hitches, prussiks, strap knots, and the like are all handy for improvised repairs. An equally significant omission is the use of Velcro, in various forms and a standard and insanely useful material for short-term repair. There are useful hints within, perhaps enough to justify purchase, but not enough to justify carrying this book on your next backpacking jaunt.

DON'T FORGET THE DUCT TAPE
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The Mountainers Books, 2003
Reviewed by Edward Ripley-Duggan

This pocket-sized book of 85 pages looks, at first glance, to be a guide for emergency repairs on the trail, else why issue it in such a small format? Unfortunately, first appearances are deceptive: despite discussion of backpacking repair kits, a large fraction of the book is concerned with tips that have no potential application in the field. Reviving waterproof fabrics, cleaning sleeping bags, and waterproofing leather boots are all useful lessons, especially for the novice, but are hardly pertinent when dealing with the failure of a critical piece of gear in the backcountry.

Omitted are discussions of the repair of hiking poles, the sharpening of crampons, the tying of tents, and too much else to list. Surprisingly, not a single knot is shown, although Z-hitches, prussiks, strap knots, and the like are all handy for improvised repairs. An equally significant omission is the use of Velcro, in various forms and a standard and insanely useful material for short-term repair. There are useful hints within, perhaps enough to justify purchase, but not enough to justify carrying this book on your next backpacking jaunt.

DON’T FORGET THE DUCT TAPE
Tips and Tricks for Repairing Outdoor Gear
Kristin Hostetter
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SATURDAY - SUNDAY, MAY 22

**UCHC.** Callant Weekend Merger. Leader: Weis Ecology Center. 973-762-1475 for directions. Meet: 10 am at Skippack Office, 229 N. Main St., Collegeville. Easy hike with ups and downs in this beautiful park with a stream, lake, and other natural beauties. Stay dry rain cancels.


**SUNDAY, MAY 23

OUT. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge to Far Rockaway, NY. Leader: Helen Mayer, 212-344-1580. Meet: 8 am at Croton Aqueduct, 229 N. Main St., Collegeville. Easy hike with ups and downs. Walk on the boardwalk, then across Croton Bridge and take a boat to 440th St. rain cancels. Heavy rain cancels. Nonmembers $3.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 3


**SUNDAY, JUNE 6**

**ADK.** Trail maintenance hike on the Sierra Trail, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Bob Laski. 908-322-7792. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature and Science Center; for directions: 2-3 hour moderate hike; optional lunch at other hike.

**MONDAY, JUNE 7**

**RVW.** Wridge Trail (3800') from Sprocket Road, Livingston, NJ. Leader: 908-338-0572 for details. Meet: 10 am at parking lot near Natural History Area Visitor Center, 242 Bowne Ave., Montville. Heavy rain cancels. Nonmembers $3.

**MONDAY, JUNE 21

**RVW.** Westkill Village (3800') from Sprocket Road, Livingston, NJ. Leader: 908-338-0572 for details. Meet: 10 am at parking lot near Natural History Area Visitor Center, 242 Bowne Ave., Montville. Heavy rain cancels. Nonmembers $3.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 20

**ADK-R.** Wearing the Laurel. Leader: 908-946-9515 for details. 8 miles. It has beautiful mountain views and is following Monday.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 20**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Join the volunteers who bring you the great outdoors!

1,600 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 20-25% discount on all Trail Conference maps and books.

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

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<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Joint/Family</th>
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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.

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 a flashlight in a backpack. Leaders have the right and responsibility to refuse anyone whom they believe cannot complete the hike or is not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are mild to strenuous; call leader if in doubt.

More than 165 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers’ Almanac. For a description list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

May 2004

SATURDAY, MAY 1

UHC. Washington Valley Park, Martinsville, NJ. Leader: Bob Keller, 908-560-1779. Meet 9 am for location. This moderately difficult hike features a 2½-mile reservoir, pine and hemlock forests, and an impressive waterfall. Rain cancels.


UHC. Cooper Mill to Kay Environmental Center, Chester, NJ. Leader: John Gilris, 973-762-1475. Meet 10 am at Arnie Seymour-White’s parking lot; 973-762-3844. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. It is finally re-opened, so let’s go. Moderately strenuous hike, with an early out half way. Steady rain cancels.

OUT. Rockland Lake to Nyack, NY. Leader: Jim Podosek, 718-435-4994. Meet: 10 am at ticket windows of George Washington Bridge bus terminal (175th St. stop on a train) for 10:15 bus to Rockland Lake. It runs at a steady, continuous pace. Walk around Rockland Lake, along the Hudson River to Nyack Beach, then past lovely maisonnes of upper Nyack and Nyack’s main street additions. Rain cancels. Nonmembers $3.

SATURDAY, MAY 8

UHC. Cooper Mill to Kay Environmental Center, Chester, NJ. Leader: John Gilris, 973-380-1168. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate 4½ miles, suitable for beginners. Hike along Black River, mostly flat trail. Rain cancels.

OUT. Hastings to Van Cortlandt Park, NY. Leader: Ray Kowal, 646-438-4899. Meet 9 am at Grand Central Station information booth, upper level, 14 easy to moderate miles. Through parks, woods with variety of conifer with open and wooded areas; drop out point in middle of hike. Ends at 242 St. stop on #1 subway train. Nonmembers $3.


SUNDAY, MAY 2


OUT. Belmont Lake State Park, Long Island. Leader: Paul Devetak, 516-488-5202. Meet: 9 am LIRR train from Penn Station to Babylon, arrive 10:23 (check list scheduled); meet leader at Babylon train station 10:25. 8 miles at moderate pace, with easy terrain. Pleasant springtime walk in woods along a stream to Belmont Lake, Nonmembers $3.

WEC. Bird Walk. Leader: call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for details and to register. Meet: 8 am. Naturalist will target outing focused on basic skills in finding and identifying birds. Cost $10 (includes handouts)

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Mary Dell Morrison, 908-684-5175. Meet: 10 am at Jockey Hollow Visitor Center. Enjoy a scenic 4-5 mile hike in this national historic park, oldporom park, tree.


WTW. All Trail Maintenance, Bear Mountain, NY. Leader: Sarah Gilkes, 973-744-5126. Meet: Leader call before 4 pm, Sat., May 1. This is one of the most famous trails of the AT. Great for slower hikers.

TUESDAY, MAY 4

PMNHA, Full Moon Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 to register. Meet: 6:30 pm at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 4724 Boonton Ave., Montville. Moderate 2-hour hike by moonlight must be pre-registered. $3.

THURSDAY, MAY 6

UHC. Storm King Mountain, NY. Leader: Anne Seymour-Jones, 201-769-3844. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. It is finally re-opened, so let’s go. Moderately strenuous hike, with an early out half way. Steady rain cancels.

FRIDAY, MAY 7

OUT. Rockland Lake to Nyack, NY. Leader: Jim Podosek, 718-435-4994. Meet: 10 am at ticket windows of George Washington Bridge bus terminal (175th St. stop on a train) for 10:15 bus to Rockland Lake. It runs at a steady, continuous pace. Walk around Rockland Lake, along the Hudson River to Nyack Beach, then past lovely maisonnes of upper Nyack and Nyack’s main street additions. Rain cancals. Nonmembers $3.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

UHC. Trail Maintenance, Somerset, NJ. Leader: Mario Guadagnino, 718-860-7708. Meet call leader 2-4 pm; help clear multihuia from the trail.

OUT. Bratschilf-Peekskill Trail and Croton Aqueduct, Westchester County, NY. Leader: Nater-Weehawken, 917-671-2058. Meet 4-8 am at Grand Central Terminal information booth, upper level, 12 moderate miles with 2 hills. Discover a little-used trail. Lunch at Taste of the Region; view Croton Dam and return to Croton Aqueduct to Oscoing, NY. Nonmembers $3.


PMNHA. Power Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet 10 am at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 4724 Boonton Ave., Montville. Burn some calories on this moderately strenuous hike.

WTW. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Leslie MacSuen, 973-252-8122. Call to confirm. Meet 10:30 am at Long Path parking lot off Route 6 West. Hike on the Long Path to South capabilities. Return to Manhattan Trail to Newark Fire Road. Moderate, 6-7 miles. Optional dinner afterwards.

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