



84th Year

TRAIL WALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE — MAINTAINING OVER 1,600 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS

MAY/JUNE 2004

Bill Offers Momentous Opportunity For Highlands Preservation in NJ



Cedar Pond in the Pequannock Watershed from Lookout Tower.

LARRY WHELOCK

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 350,00-390,000-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 Digs Rocks

By Mary Anne Massey

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 Undercliff 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 need, and the tremendous satisfaction that she earns by actually seeing the results of a dedicated crew's efforts.

Of all trail tasks, Claudia is most enchanted with heavy rock work. Indeed, she speaks of it with the passion of the artist she is—Claudia studied art in college and is a licensed architect. "Rocks," she says, "have minds of their own," and she delights in working respectfully with them,

continued on page 8



Claudia Ganz, West Hudson Trail Crew Leader

PAUL MAKUS

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 treasure 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 Assinewikam Mountain. The views are of Saddle Mountain, the Pine Paddies, 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.*

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 New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc.
 156 Ramapo Valley Road (Rt. 202)
 Mahwah, NJ 07430
 201-512-9348
 e-mail: info@nynjtc.org
 editorial e-mail: tw@nynjtc.org
 World Wide Web: http://www.nynjtc.org



NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

Mission Statement

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

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

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

FROM THE CHAIR

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 Hoeflerlin 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 Erdsneker, 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 by and visit.



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 breathtaking 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 swath of matchless physical beauty... capacious reservoirs... pristine stretches of chilly trout-producing streams... mountainous outcrops and sky-grazing trees... unparalleled opportunities for hiking... 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;
- 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:

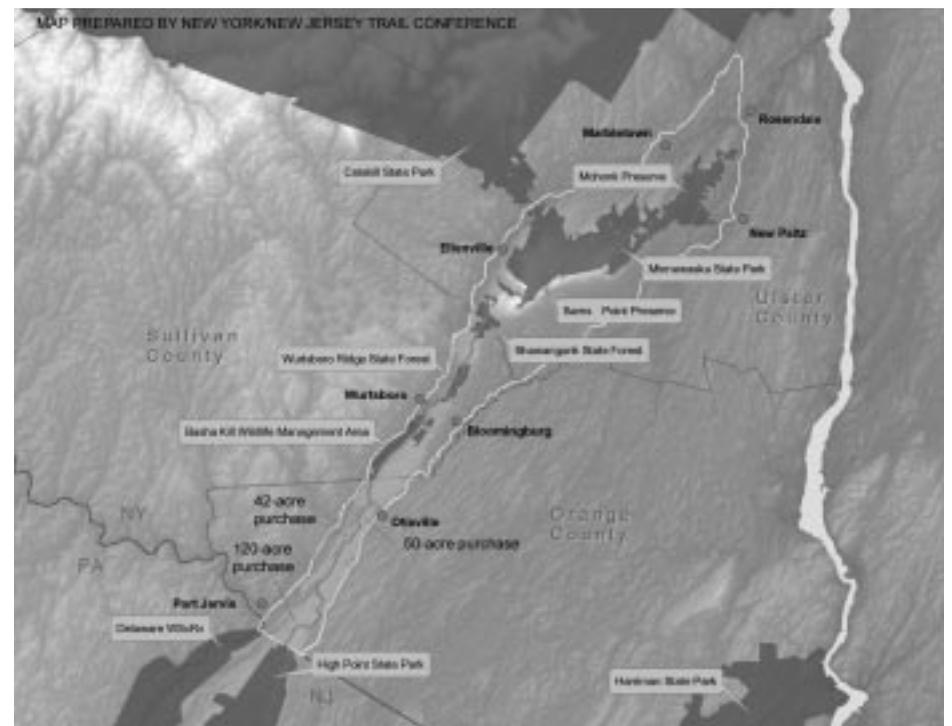
- call and write your legislators and local officials. Instructions for doing this are on the web site;
- make appointments to meet with legislators and local officials with someone from the Trail Conference;
- write letters to editors of local newspapers in response to any articles that you see about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

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION



Protected lands in Gunks are shown on map.

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 Greenville, 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 Conser-

vation (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.8920, 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-

continued on page 7

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 the 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 Cherdack, Gary Haugland, George Petty, and Pete Heckler—c/o the Trail Conference office.

TRAIL NEWS



Alley Pond Park

Four trails in Alley Pond Park in Queens that were adopted by the Trail Conference last fall, are open and ready for hikers, reports Metro Area Trails Committee Chair Bob Ward. The new Alley Pond Committee of Susan and Larry Bernstein, Joe Gandoff, Dana Gumb, Judith King, Albert Slaninka, and area supervisor Martin Grossman, spruced up nearly three miles of trails to TC standards, including the white, green, yellow, and blue trails.

Storm King to Be Closed August-December

At the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission has announced plans to completely close all of Storm King Mountain State Park, on both sides of Route 9W, from August to December. During those months, the Corps plans to complete removal of unexploded historical ordnance discovered in the park during forest fires in 1999.

Mass Transit Changes

In the summer schedule for Short Line buses, please note additions to listings (codes 1A-1E): a new drop has been added at Rt. 17A/Sterling Forest (1D), and at Harriman RR Station (1G), just past Arden at the trailhead of the new Sapphire Trail. Southfields is now code 1E and Arden is 1F. There is also a new stop for the NJ Transit train at Harriman RR Station (9D).

National Trails Day

Saturday, June 5

Catskill lean-to caretakers wanted

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 adrondax@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: _____

Crew Notes Who and Why

By David H. Day

Over many years on various Trail Conference crews, I've learned something about trail workers. They have been—to a person—really great people. Most are volunteers, and their professions—retired or active—have included (among others) doctor, commercial mover, lawyer, architect, computer programmer, nurse, teacher, lineman, corporate executive, and student. Men and women have been fully represented on every crew I have worked on; and ages run from mid-teens through octogenarian.

Before joining a Trail Conference crew, most folks had never done anything like trail work before. Many are hikers who recognized that they have benefited from the work of others and decided to give something back. A few were simply looking for something “to get me out of the house.” Some enjoy the experience and return; others realize that it just isn't for them. And that's OK—at least they gave it a shot.

Whatever their reason for turning out, everybody strives to do what they can, improve the trails, and have fun. There is a great sense of pride and accomplishment in seeing the direct results of your and your co-workers' efforts: a new or relocated trail where once a solid wall of brush or undergrowth stood has a touch of magic to it. To cut and shape a side-hill, construct stone steps, or place a waterbar—all of these give a sense of really having done something useful for the trails and for hikers.

And let's not forget the social aspect of trail work! After a day of slinging mud and rocks, the West Hudson crew, for example, has a traditional ‘tailgate party’ with cookies (and Trudy Schneider's cakes and brownies!) and sodas—a custom we have carried over to the West Jersey crew (minus Trudy's goodies). If the day's work has included stream crossings or other muddy business, recognition is given to the individual displaying the most significant coating of mud on their person. Historically, I think Victor Gabay has gotten it most often, with Mary Hilley and Claudia Ganz in close contention—they are just so ‘into’ their work.

Crew members enjoy a camaraderie born of a common love for the trails and natural places, and a respect and appreciation for each other's work on those trails. Come out and give it a try—you'll never look at a trail the same way again!

David works with the West Hudson crew and co-leads the West Jersey crew with Monica Resor.

Trail Crew Schedules

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

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

WEST HUDSON CREW

Leaders: Chris Ezzo: 516-431-1148
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563,
brian@grandrenovation.com
Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324,
clganz@earthlink.net
Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792,
rmarshall@webtv.net
Monica Resor: 732-937-9098,
adamant@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 leader for information on meeting times and places. We make a special effort to arrange pickups at the nearest Hudson Line train station.

Leaders: Walt Daniels: 914-245-1250
Jack Seirup: 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 unsettling 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 uphill. 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 stony, 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. Plant and animal species, of course, naturally spread to new habitats, and become established in places far from their places of origin. However, humans have vastly accelerated this phenomenon, especially in this era of global travel and global trade.

People have been moving plants around for millennia, carrying the seeds of crops as well as plants useful for fiber, forage, herbs, and medicines as they go. But modern industrial society has accelerated this move-

ment of species many-fold. People introduce new plants for horticulture, to enhance their yards and gardens, for practical purposes such as erosion control or fodder for animals, and they introduce them inadvertently, as seeds or insect larvae hidden in other goods. For example, larvae of the Asian longhorn beetle, an important threat to New Jersey's forests, have been spread 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-flowered 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.



Japanese barberry

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Lawns of Japanese stilt grass are invading local forests.

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 barberry, 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 euonymus (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 starkly 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 ehrenfel@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

Contact TC Science Director Edwin McGowan at mcgowan@nynjtc.org or visit <http://www.nynjtc.org> "science projects" for more information.

Natural Heritage Monitoring Program on trail corridors: Join other TC members to help keep track of rare and at-risk species of plants and animals along our trail corridors. Volunteers will be trained to identify and monitor select species of concern. 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 Plant Project: Non-native invasive plants 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 two to four field days. Hours flexible. Location: Harri-man State Park.

NY 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 raptor (hawks, eagles, falcons, owls) or vulture observations. Time commitment: May to early July. Hours flexible. Location: entire New York region.

SCIENCE & ECOLOGY

Connecting Our Region's Conservation Islands

By Edwin McGowan

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 mainlands 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.

Size may also influence the likelihood that an island will be reached by a dis-

persing organism, such as an airborne insect or a reptile adrift at sea on a floating log. The bigger the target, the greater the probability that the chance trajectory of an incidental traveler will bring it ashore.

Distance from source populations similarly affects the probability for colonization. An island within sight of a mainland may receive numerous colonists, including types not particularly suited for long-distance sea travel, while a remote landmass would likely receive fewer and more far-roaming types. For example, the islands of New Zealand lack native land mammals but support a diverse bird fauna, including flightless types descended from winged ancestors.

Here in the northeast, our parks and preserves are becoming increasingly island-like as development creates barriers to animal dispersal. And these habitat islands are shrinking as surrounding private properties, which have long served

as de facto conservation lands, are rapidly converted to other uses. The implications of these changes for our natural heritage are not fully understood, but it is reasonable to predict that the principles of Island Biogeography, first articulated in the 1960s, will come into play. As patch size declines and isolation increases, species diversity is sure to decline as well. Many of our endangered species, such as the bog turtle and Allegheny woodrat, already show the affects of dwindling habitats and fragmented populations.

To combat these trends, we need to act now to preserve the natural connectivity between our open spaces of conservation value—before potential links are lost forever to development. The Trail Conference's Green Corridors Project (see page 3), a strategy to create green hiking trail corridors between our parks, is a step in the right direction, and one that will benefit biodiversity as well as people. With much of the conservation community focused elsewhere on protecting critical habitats for rare species, our land acquisition efforts in these corridors are providing vital links—links that in the long run should favor species colonization over extinction.



Meet New TC Librarian



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 waned 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.

New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members:

Karen Andrews and Mary Alice Rudovsky
Denise 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

Zinn Is Celebrity Volunteer

On March 3, 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!



Richard Zinn, above right, and friends.



Thanks for 15 Years

On the High Peters Kill

Larry Braun, 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 Minnewaska State Park. They recently retired from active maintainer duty. Stan and Jenny Roberts, long-time activists with the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, and fellow Mid-Hudson ADK members Adrienne and Dave Wiese, all have passed their manicured 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.

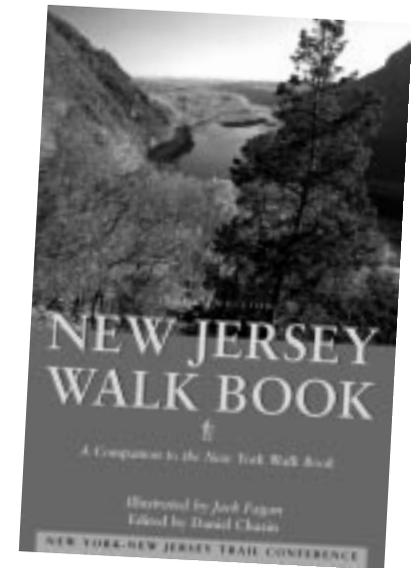
Correcting the Record:

Bob Busha Is Hoeflerlin Award Winner

Due to an oversight, one winner of the William Hoeflerlin 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 Hoeflerlin Award.

NJ Walk Book Crew

Hearty thank-yous are in order for the volunteers who donated their time and expertise to the second edition of the *New Jersey Walk Book*. Without contributions by Jack Fagan, Joan Ehrenfeld, Nick Zungoli, John J. Moran, Martin Cohen, John Jurasek, Bob Jonas, Alan Abramowitz, Fred Hafele, Bob Isley, Doug Steig, Bob Boysen, Ken Lewaine, Cass and Ruth Lewart, Ken Seiben, Bob Fuller, Dave Kientzler, H. Max Lopp II, Bob Sickley, Brian Sniatkowski, Loren Mendelsohn, Geraldine Ryan, Sue Deeks, and Barbara Erdsneker, and of course Daniel Chazin, this book would never have been published. Thank you all for a job well done!



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 Erdsneker, 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. If you would like to contribute to the premier hiking newsletter in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area, please contact Josh Erdsneker at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

Map Assembly Team Member

Join your fellow hikers for a few hours of swapping stories and telling trail tales while assembling maps sets. Hiking maps are a tremendous source of income for the Trail Conference. This income is used to support the work of the volunteers

who produce the hiking maps, build and maintain hiking trails, and dozens of other activities that our organization is involved in. For dates and times of the map crew's activities, please contact Maureen Walsh at walsh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

Recognition Patch Designer

Help recognize the men and women whose blood, sweat, and tears build and restore the hiking trails in our area. If you are artistically inclined, your skills are requested to help design a recognition patch for our trail crews. Please contact Josh Erdsneker at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 for more details.

Publications Committee

Project Managers

Project managers supervise the writing of hike descriptions, preparing of maps and photos, field checking of hike descriptions, scheduling of steps toward publication, coordinating of activities with the marketing committee, final proofreading, and oversee the printing of new or reprinted books or maps. Interested persons should be experienced hikers, though not necessarily for all the trails in the project being managed. Must be adept at editing, accepting new responsibilities and, most important, working

easily with others. Mentoring and training is available. 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 on an area of interest to you current. We are seeking writers and recreational enthusiasts in a variety of areas to help provide up-to-date information for activities and events for the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition's website. Please visit: <http://www.shawangunkridge.org/recreation.htm> for the content topics. Please contact Josh Erdsneker at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

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](mailto:Tilgner@verizon.net).

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, 46, I-80, I-95:** Take the exit for Fort Lee / Palisades Interstate Parkway. Continue straight on Bridge Plaza South past several traffic lights. At the last light ("T" intersection), turn right onto Bigler St. At the stop sign, turn left (east) onto Main St., then keep in the right lane to bear right (south) at River Road. The southern park entrance will be on the left. Follow Henry Hudson Drive about one mile to the Ross Dock circle and follow signs. **From the Palisades Interstate Parkway (southbound):** Take the last exit before the George Washington Bridge (Hudson Terrace). Turn left onto Hudson Terrace. Then follow as 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 Benning, TC land protection specialist, and Neil Woodworth, TC-ADK counsel.

West Hudson North Creates Blowdown Crew



ADDIE HAAS

It was a banner day for West Hudson North Trails. On March 11, 2004, WHNT successfully mounted its first Blowdown Trail Crew (BDTC) 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, Addie Haas, and Larry Braun—took out eight blowdowns on the High Peters 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 thought 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 then this winter caused further blowdowns 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 BDTC chief. Majestic Hardware, in Larry's home town of Gardiner, donated a good discount 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.



JOSHUA ERDSNEKER

Members of the West Hudson crew enjoy a simple hike.

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. Send 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 Hoeflerlin 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. Throughout May and June, the crew will be improving and enhancing our trails by installing a bridge over the Popolopen Gorge, working on the Nurian 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/vtrails.html#crew> to find out where and when to join these projects.

HIKERS' MARKETPLACE

YOU CAN ALSO ORDER AT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NYNJTC.ORG

NY-NJ TC member? YES NO JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price

	Retail	Member	P/H	Total
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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 (2000)	\$12.95	\$9.75	+\$1.10	_____
Shawangunk Trails (2000) & see combo	\$9.95	\$7.50	+.95	_____
South Taconic Trails (1988, rev. 1998)	\$4.95	\$3.75	+.65	_____
Hudson Palisades Trails (available summer 2004)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.80	_____

Books

A.T. Guide for NY & NJ (2002) w/6 maps	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.00	_____
Long Path Guide to NY/NJ (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$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	\$15.96	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman Trails Guide (1999) & see combo	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
Iron Mine Trails: NY-NJ Highlands (1996, rev. 1999)	\$8.95	\$7.15	+\$2.00	_____
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				
Book One: The Northern 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 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	_____
ADK Guide to Catskill Trails (1994, repr. 1998)	\$17.95	\$14.40	+\$2.00	_____
Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years (2001)	\$27.50	\$22.00	+\$3.00	_____

Combo-Packs

Catskill (5-map set & ADK book)	\$27.80	\$21.60	+\$2.00	_____
Harriman (2-map set & book)	\$22.40	\$17.55	+\$2.50	_____
NY & NJ Walk Books	\$35.91	\$28.73	+\$3.50	_____
Shawangunk Combo (4-map set & book)	\$17.90	\$13.95	+\$2.00	_____

The Personal Touch

Note Cards: TC Collection	\$12.00	\$9.60	+\$2.00	_____
Hiking Cap	\$12.90	\$10.50	+\$1.75	_____
Long-sleeve Denim Shirt Circle: S M L XL	\$29.90	\$22.90	+\$4.00	_____
Polo Shirt (Forest Green) Circle: S M L XL	\$19.90	\$15.50	+\$4.00	_____
NY-NJTC T-Shirt Circle: L XL	\$13.95	\$13.95	+\$3.50	_____
Harriman Map Bandanna	\$6.95	\$5.95	+\$1.50	_____
Conference Logo Patch	\$2.50	\$2.50	postpaid	_____
Long Path Logo Patch	\$2.75	\$2.75	postpaid	_____
Conference Logo Decal	\$.85	\$.85	postpaid	_____

Subtotal _____

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

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

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

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

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 Hoferlin 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 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.

Mary Anne Massey is Trail Conference Supervisor of the East Hudson Highlands.

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Eight photo note cards by Herb Chong (Two each of four different photos).

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\$12 nonmember; \$9.60 members (plus \$2 shipping; New Jersey residents add 6 percent tax).

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 Mohegan. 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.

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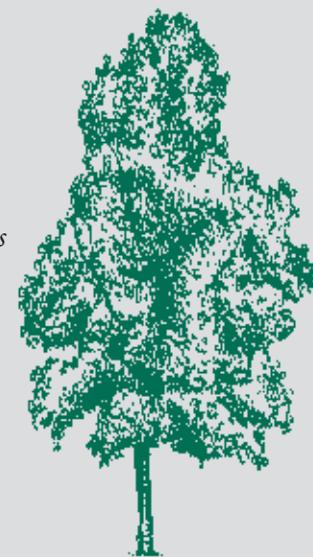
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Rt. 46 Ledgewood 973-584-7799

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.



CONTRIBUTIONS

GIFTS

ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter, Jason Ares, Amazon.com, William J. Cofone, Harriet Cornell, Gary Custis, Jane and Walt Daniels*, Catskill 3500 Club, Patrick Devine, Daniel and Melissa Eagan, Joan Ehrenfeld, Noel S. Fernandez, The Friends of Long Pond Ironworks, Inc., Peter Gabriele II, Lila M. Gardner, George Gentsch and JoAnn Abbadessa, Gladys and Lester Goldstein, Peter W. Hannan, Nancy G. Hassanein, ADK North Jersey Chapter, Robert Heilferty Jr., David and Claire Hogenauer, Estate of Ruth G. Horowitz*, John Hunkele, Wayne A. and Rosemary Knapp, Maryellen and Robert Loreface, Michael Mezzio, Richard W. and Barbara F. Moore, New York Hiking Club, Robert and Alma Newton*, Herbert Persky, Frederick J. Pinkney, Priscilla Pogact, Ronald B. Rosen, Henry T. and Alexandra Samataro, John W. Sheppard, Jim Sligar and Diana Sattelberger*, Donald B. and Janet B. Steig, Anthony M. Stolarz, Steven Weissman, Janice M. Whipple, Michael J. and Lois V. Williams, Gary Willick, Mark E. Wilson, Margaret J. Wissler, Franklin W. and Bernice Wortman, Jerome Wyckoff, Barbara Wyession

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Betty Lesem

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In memory of Don Hendrickson

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In memory of Ed Holovach

John B. Bleninger*

In memory of Janet Stoltzfus

Robert J. Jonas

In memory of Jay Schwarz

Lynne R. Cashman, Alan Melniker, Kurt D. Ramig, David and Naomi Sutter, Richard Wolff

In memory of Julie Russell

Janice M. Vicine

In memory of Sam Gordon

Jonathan C. Taube

SPECIAL GIFTS

In honor of Richard Zinn's 80th birthday

Jack and Judy Kossover, Mary Smart

For Land Acquisition & Stewardship

Howard Tokosh

To Shawangunk Ridge Coalition

Basha Kill Area Association, Mohonk Preserve*

MATCHING GIFTS

IBM*

*Members of the Raymond H. Torrey Society

Events for Hikers

ADK Plans Weekend of Hikes

June 18-20

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/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

Planned on Staten Island

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
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- Links to a Host of Coalition Members and Partners

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



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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 Kittatinnies* by 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 Kittatinny 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 about 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 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 (17 percent average slope). The Shawangunk Trail, in theory, starts where the AT contacts the Monument Trail and is co-aligned with the Monument and Kuser Trails before leaving to the north. However, there is little or no blazing to indicate this.

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

that lies wholly within the loop of the Monument Trail and intersects it in two spots—one at the stream crossing near the New York border and again just before the Shawangunk Ridge Trail. This is the Kuser Trail (see below).

Trail Surface: From the monument parking area, all the way to the second stream crossing near the Steeny Kill Trail intersection, the trail is a moderate to lightly stony woods path.

The climb after the second stream crossing is mostly on rock steps, obviously installed with a great deal of work many years ago (probably by the CCivilian Conservation Corps).

Along Lake Marcia the trail is wider and practically stone free. When the trail veers away from the lake until just before ascending the final High Point Monument hill, the trail is extremely rough with many large boulders and is totally stone covered in sections. This piece of the trail can be easily avoided, however, simply by walking the park roads back to the monument.

Scenery/Points of Interest: High Point State Park lands were donated by Colonel Anthony and Susie Dyden Kuser in 1923. The highest point in New Jersey is marked by the obelisk-shaped 220-foot-tall monument, the base of which is at 1,803 feet above sea level. Views from the monument and from the area surrounding it are quite spectacular, including the towns of Port Jervis, NY, and Matamoras, PA. The tower construction was completed in 1930.

Lake Marcia is a spring-fed natural lake and has a swimming beach.

The Cedar Swamp area inside the loop

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.



BOOKNOTES



DON'T GET EATEN The Dangers of Animals That Charge or Attack

Dave Smith

The Mountaineers Books, 2003

DON'T GET BITTEN The Dangers of Things That Bite or Sting

Buck Tilton

The Mountaineers 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.”

Each chapter describes the animal's behavior, what to do if approached or charged, and how to avoid an encounter. The information is thorough and clearly presented. Good examples are provided of people's behavior in actual situations that resulted in injury or death. The author covers many contingencies, including situations that arise when camping with kids. Helpful sidebars appear throughout,

and well-placed, occasional cross-references enhance the book's usefulness.

One small editorial weakness slightly marred this otherwise good book. Each chapter (in both books) begins with a brief “Imagine This” scenario, describing a possibly threatening situation and asking the reader what he or she would do in such a situation. Unfortunately, no immediate or easy-to-find follow-up answer is given. Although the relevant information is provided later in the chapter, it would have been more helpful had it followed immediately, or had the reader been directed to the relevant page, or had the narrative circled back to the situation at the end of the chapter. As it is, the reader is left to grope for the answer. But this is a small complaint in a very comprehensive and engaging little guide. You would do well to add *Don't Get Eaten* to your backpack.

The lack of follow-through for the “Imagine This” scenarios is more pronounced in *Don't Get Bitten*, which suffers from a few other weaknesses as well. Divided into chapters on reptiles, spiders, scorpions, ticks, mosquitoes, more blood-feeding arthropods, stinging arthropods, and miscellaneous biters and stingers, *Don't Get Bitten* provides much detail about the characteristics of these creatures, with useful—although sometimes incomplete—information on signs, symptoms, and treatment of bites and stings. The information on prevention and avoidance is sketchier and less helpful. (This problem 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 venomous 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 types of venom and levels of danger); and types of “biting” creatures, followed by sections on specific creatures (types of reptiles, spiders, etc.) including signs and symptoms of various 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-philies” 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 altogether accurate. The author says, 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.

There were occasional, but not lethal, typos in both books.

DON'T FORGET THE DUCT TAPE Tips and Tricks for Repairing Outdoor Gear

Kristin Hostetter

The Mountaineers 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 guying 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 a standard and insanely useful material for short-term repair. There are useful hints within; perhaps enough to justify purchase, but not enough of them to justify carrying this book on your next backpacking jaunt.

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SUNDAY, MAY 16

IHC. Kakiat Lollipop, NY. Leader: Hank Perrine, 212-666-0694. Meet: 9 am at Kakiat County Park, Rt. 202, Suffern, NY. Strenuous, long loop on various trails with lots of views; many ups and downs; we might even see Grandma and Grandpa. Rain cancels.

WEC. Clinton Reservoir, NJ. Leader: call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for details and to register. Meet: 9:30 am. Charlie Toole will lead this moderate 4.5-mile hike in the Highlands; highlights include Bearfort Mt., Hanks Pond, and one short steep climb. Cost \$8.

OUT. Fort Tryon Park to Van Cortlandt Park, NY. Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-9457; call 7-8 am. Meet: 1 pm at Fort Washington Ave. entrance to 190th St. station of A train. 4-5 miles with some steep ups and downs. See the natural high points of the city.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Joan Lepseter, 908-273-4188. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl. across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 4-5 miles with one steep uphill and some rocky sections. Suitable for strong beginners. Steady rain cancels.

THURSDAY, MAY 20

UCHC. Buttermilk Falls to Tillman Ravine, NJ. Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 9:30 am; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 8 miles. Steady rain cancels.

PMNHA. Moderate Morning Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville. For adults; get the kids off to school and join us.

FRIDAY, MAY 21

OUT. Sparkill to Nyack, NY. Leader: Jim Peborde, 718-352-0381. Meet: 10 am at GWB bus terminal near ticket windows for 10:10 bus to Sparkill. 6 steady, continuous miles at moderate pace. Mostly flat hike from Sparkill to Piermont Marsh, ending in Nyack. Rain cancels. Nonmembers \$3.

SATURDAY - SUNDAY, MAY 22-23

WEC. Catskill Getaway Weekend. Leader: call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for details and to register. Meet: 9 am. Two very strenuous 8-11 mile hikes at a fast pace. Summit the tallest ski mountains, Hunter and Windham, along with several other breathtaking peaks. Hike the spectacular Escarpment Trail and Devil's Path. Cost \$8.

SATURDAY, MAY 22

WEC. Hikes with Tykes, NJ. Leader: call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for details and to register. Meet: 1 pm. Easy kid-friendly 1.5 miles to Roomey Mine with leader Jefferson McLaughlin and his family. Not suitable for strollers; story or craft after the hike. Cost \$8.

UCHC. Cheesequake State Park, Matawan, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Easy hike with some hills and some wet spots. Pine barrens, freshwater swamp, with many birds, red foxes, and maybe the elusive pink Lady's-slipper.

WEC. Palisades Park Bird Walk. Leader: call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for details and to register. Meet: 8:30 am. Naturalists will lead outing focused on the bounty of spring bird migration along the Palisades. Cost \$10.

WTW. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, NY. Leader: Ruth Harwood, 212-749-3994. Meet: noon at Refuge administration building for picnic lunch. Easy walk of 2-3 miles around a fresh water pond and marsh, separated from the ocean by a sandy upland. Excellent habitat for birdlife, so bring binoculars. Rain cancels.

SUNDAY, MAY 23

IHC. East Hudson Highlands, NY. Leader: Jane Egan, 973-636-0444. Meet: 9 am at Stop & Shop, Rt. 202, Mt. Ivy, NY. Moderately strenuous hike; climb up Fishkill Ridge from the east for great panoramic views. Rain cancels.

OUT. Albert "Cap" Field Memorial Hike, NY. Leader: Bettye & Steve Soffer, 718-720-1593; call 7-9 pm. Meet: 10:40 am at train station in rear of Staten Island ferry terminal (take the 10:30 ferry from Manhattan). 6-7 miles with some hills. Cap Field was the trail maintenance supervisor for Staten Island trails for many years. See the new Nature Center and Staten Island in springtime, with wild azaleas and rhododendrons. Hiking boots recommended. Rain cancels; rain date is May 30.

UCHC. Sourland Mountain Preserve, Hillsborough, NJ. Leader: Bob Laudati, 908-322-7762. Meet: Before 9:30 am for carpool or 10 am at the park; call for directions. Moderate 5 miles on rocky trail, partly unmarked and rough. Optional lunch at diner. Rain cancels.

WTW. Lewis Morris County Park, NJ. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194. Meet: 10 am in parking area overlooking Sunrise Lake. (Bus riders call leader.) An easy hike of 4.2 miles on the Yellow Trail, followed by an option to hike the Green Trail (1.6 miles). Poor weather postpones.

MONDAY, MAY 24

RVW. Hunter Mt. (4040'), NY. Leader: call 845-246-1823 for details. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. 8-mile hike in the Catskills; expect hike to last 6 hours. Rain date is following Monday.

THURSDAY, MAY 27

UCHC. Skannatati Circular, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: George Pullman, 973-773-2678. Meet: 10 am at Skannatati parking on Seven Lakes Dr.; call for directions. Fast-paced hike on many different trails. Steady rain cancels.

PMNHA. Bird Watching Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 to register. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville. Moderate hike focusing on bird life (bring binoculars); must pre-register.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

OUT. Waterfront Parks, New Rochelle to Larchmont, NY. Leader: Helen Mangione-Yee, 212-348-5344; call morning of walk 8-9 am only. Meet: 11 am at Pelham Bay station token booth of #6 subway (last stop in Bronx), to catch #45 Bee-Line bus to New Rochelle (return via Metro North train or #60 Bee-Line bus). 7 moderate miles with ups and downs and some road walking. Walk along the water from Hudson Park to Larchmont. Heavy rain cancels. Nonmembers \$3.

ADK-R. Appalachian Trail. Leader: call 845-354-0738 for details. Strenuous 16-mile hike.

UCHC. High Mountain Preserve, Wayne, NJ. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0766. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Climb to the 885' peak, with unsurpassed views of Passaic Valley, NYC skyline, and many other peaks. Return on steep and rocky trail. Rain cancels.

PMNHA. Singles Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville. Moderate singles hike (everyone welcome).

SUNDAY, MAY 30

IHC. Anthony's Nose, NY. Leader: Ilse Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am at Stop & Shop, Rt. 202, Mt. Ivy, NY. Moderately strenuous hike up Camp Smith Trail to high above Hudson River, Bear Mt. Bridge and Iona Island; then Bear Mt. Inn, SBM and 1777 trails. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, W. Orange, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call 9 am - 9 pm only. Meet: 10 am at Turtleback Rock parking; call for directions. Moderate 4+ miles with some rough spots in nicely wooded area; see the turtle rock.

UOC. Palisades, NJ. Leader: Dan Greenwald, 732-246-4132. Meet: 9 am at Johnson Park, River Rd., Piscataway, NJ; call for directions. Moderate hike along slightly rugged trail.

MONDAY, MAY 31 (MEMORIAL DAY)

OUT. Cold Spring, Boscobel, and Little Stony Point, NY. Leader: Jim Peborde, 718-352-0381. Meet: Call leader week before hike for train schedule to Cold Spring. 8 miles at steady, continuous pace. Explore the lovely waterfront, town foundry, Boscobel, and Little Stony Point Park. Rain cancels. Nonmembers \$3.

JUNE

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

UCHC. Stokes State Forest, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenaur, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at Stokes office; call for directions. Brisk pace; climb to Appalachian Trail and tower. Steady rain cancels.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

OUT. Belmar Beach, Spring Lake and Seagirt, NJ. Leader: Jim Peborde, 718-352-0381. Meet: Call leader for train schedule to Belmar Beach from Penn Station, NY, week before hike. 7 miles at steady, continuous pace. Walk the boardwalks. Rain cancels. Nonmembers \$3.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

NYNJTC, et al. Highlands Critical Treasures, NJ. For information, call TC office: 201-512-9348. 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 Assiniwikam Mountain. The views are of Saddle Mountain, the Pine Paddies, 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.

NYNJTC Metro Area Trails Committee. Ailey Pond Park Trail Maintenance, NY. Contact: Bob Ward at 718-471-7036 after 8 pm. 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.

NYNJTC Metro Area Trails Committee. Staten Island Greenbelt Trail building, NY. Contact: Bob Ward at 718-471-7036 after 8 pm. 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.

OUT. High Rock Park, Staten Island, Trail Maintenance. Leader: Bettye & Steve Soffer, 718-720-1593; call 7-9 pm. Meet: Call leaders for details; take Staten Island Ferry then bus to Rockland Ave. Join volunteers as we help clear trails, plant gardens, etc.

WEC. Spring Wildflower Walks, NJ. Leader: call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for details and to register. Meet: 10 am. Learn where and when to look for precious and ephemeral spring wildflowers with naturalist George Petty. Rain date, Sunday, June 6. Cost \$8.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832; call before 9 pm. Meet: 10 am at corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 5 miles with steep up at start and rocky ups and downs throughout the day. Steady rain cancels.

UOC. D&R Canal to Griggstown, NJ. Leader: Charlie Severn 732-246-3387. Meet: 9:30 am at Johnson Park, River Rd., Piscataway, NJ; call for directions. 6-mile moderate hike.

WTW. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 973-252-8122. Meet: contact leader to confirm. Hike the Seven Hills Trail from end to end. A moderate 6.6-mile hike with the usual ups and downs. Optional dinner afterwards.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

OUT. Bethlehem to Easton, PA. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 8:30 am at Port Authority bus terminal near statue of commuter. 12 moderate, level miles at steady pace. Hike along Lehigh Canal; great variety of scenery: water, woods, parks. Nonmembers \$3.

UCHC. Garrett Mountain, Paterson, NJ. Leader: Walter Koenig, 973-684-5528. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate circular with splendid views of historic Paterson; optional diner lunch after hike.

MONDAY, JUNE 7

RVW. Plateau Mountain (3840') from Mink Hollow Road, NY. Leader: call: 845-246-7616 for details. Meet: 7:30 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. Strenuous, slow-paced hike: 5.6 miles, 5 hours. Rain date is following Monday. (Ascent 1650'; car spots.)

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

UCHC. Sterling Ridge End-to-End. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 9:30 am at Long Pond parking; call for directions. Strenuous hike; shuttle required. Steady rain cancels.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

ADK-R. Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: call 845-359-2465 for details. 6-7 mile circular hike.

OUT. Morningside Heights and Riverside Park, Manhattan. Leader: Devra Zetlan, 212-662-8922. Meet: 1 pm at NE corner of 110th St. and Broadway. 3 miles at easy pace. Spot peacocks in Cathedral Gardens, walk around Columbia campus, check out Riverside Church, then through Riverside Park to the 70s. Steady rain cancels. Nonmembers \$3.

IHC. Search for Hidden Pond in the Gunks, NJ. Leader: June Slade, 845-358-5215. Meet: 8 am at municipal parking lot, Rt. 202 & Rt. 59, Suffern, NY. Moderate hike to jewel of a pond in remote corner of Minnewaska State Park; mountain laurel should be in bloom. Bring sneakers or Tevas for possible stream crossing. Rain cancels.

UCHC. Pyramid Mountain, Kinnelon, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at Kinnelon ball fields; call for directions. Brisk walk to largest glacial erratic in NJ, then to Tripod Rock. Two fairly steep sections; out by about 1:30.

WTW. Pyramid Mountain Trail Maintenance, NJ. Leader: Bob Busha, 973-777-5016. Meet: 10 am at Visitor Center; bus riders call leader. Work will be on the Green Trail. Bring clippers, work gloves.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Rick & Ellen Jeydel, 908-232-2413. Meet: 10 am at corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 5 miles with steep up at start. Steady rain cancels.

PMNHA. Butler Reservoir, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 to register. Meet: 8:30 am at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville. 8 miles, about 5 hours; must pre-register, \$5 fee.

WTW. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Glenn Collins, 973-744-5126. Meet: call leader before 4 pm, Sat., June 12 for details. A scenic, moderate hike of about 6 miles.

MONDAY, JUNE 14

RVW. Franklin D. Roosevelt Estate to Val Kill, NY. Leader: call 845-246-4145 for details. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. Easy hike: 4.0 miles, 3 hours. Rain date is following Monday.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

PMNHA. Hedden Park, Randolph, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 to register. Meet: 10 am. Moderate morning hike for adults; must pre-register.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18-SUNDAY, JUNE 20

ADK-MH. ADK Spring Outing. A weekend of outings at all levels in the Catskills, Shawangunks, East Hudson Highlands, on the AT, and more. Registration required. For information and schedules, visit www.adk.org. Contact: Ralph Pollard: 845-462-3389.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

IHC. High Peters Kill, NY. Leader: Ilse Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 8:30 am at municipal parking lot, Rt. 202 & Rt. 59, Suffern, NY. Moderately strenuous hike. Truly a hiker's paradise: cliffs in one of the finest areas of the Shawangunks and mountain laurel can be a sea of white blossoms this time of year. Supper at area restaurant. Rain cancels.

OUT. Philips Manor to Pleasantville, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 10 am at Grand Central terminal information booth. Easy-moderate 9 miles. Rockwood Hall State Park, Croton Aqueduct, and entire width of northern Pocantico Hills. Nonmembers \$3.

PMNHA. Survival Skills Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville. Learn about survival in the outdoors on this moderately strenuous hike.

UCHC. Rifle Camp Park, Paterson, NJ. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0766. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate pace with nice views midway. Rain cancels.

WTW. Patriots' Path in Morristown, NJ. Leaders: Hermann and Marlene Memmer, 973-267-0539; call to confirm. Meet: 10 am at Jockey Hollow Visitor's Center. A moderate hike of about 6 miles through Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, Cross Estate, Jockey Hollow.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

ADK-R. Wearing the Laurel. Leader: call 201-846-9165 for details. 8 miles, hopefully with beautiful mountain laurel in bloom.

UCHC. Sierra Trail, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Bob Laudati, 908-322-7762. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature and Science Center; call for directions. 2-3 hour moderate hike; optional lunch at diner after hike.

MONDAY, JUNE 21

RVW. Westkill Mountain (3880') from Spruceton Road, Lexington, NY. Leader: call 845-338-8772 for details. Meet: 7:30 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. Strenuous, moderately paced hike: 7 miles, 6 hours. Rain date is following Monday.

OUT. Early Evening Roosevelt Island and East River Shore Walk, NY. Leader: Hal Kaplan, 914-376-3156; call after 6/19 to confirm. Meet: 6 pm at Grand Central terminal information booth (near track #27). 7-mile after-work walk on the city's shore paths; should be finished by 9:30 pm at 86th St. and Lexington Ave.

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

UCHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate hike with ups and downs in this beautiful park with a stream, lake, and other natural beauties. Steady rain cancels.

WTW. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194. Meet: 9:17 am at Sloatsburg Train Station parking lot; confirm with leader. An easy hike from Reeves Meadow Visitor Center at 9:30 on the Reeves Brook and Raccoon Brook Trails to Pine Meadow Lake.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

OUT. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge to Far Rockaway, NY. Leader: Helen Mangione-Yee, 212-348-5344; call 8-9 am morning of walk only. Meet: 11 am at token booth of Broad Channel station, A subway train. 7 moderate miles at steady pace with some ups and downs. Walk on trails in the refuge, then walk across Cross Bay Bridge and take boardwalk to 44th St. in Far Rockaway. Heavy rain cancels. Nonmembers \$3.

IHC. Highlands Trail and Appalachian Trail, NJ. Leader: Steven Rikon, 973-962-4149. Meet: 9 am at A&P, Warwick Tpk., Hewitt, NJ. Moderately strenuous 9 miles. Start at Mt. Peter, past Fitzgerald Falls (25'). Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

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

ADK-R. Wildcat Mountain and the Furnace Loop, NY. Leader: call 845-359-2465 for details. 8 miles.

PMNHA. Bear Rock Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville. Easy hike to one of New Jersey's largest glacial erratics.

UOC. Harriman State Park Hike & Swim, NY. Leader: Coralyn Gorlicki, 732-548-2315. Meet: 8 am at Johnson Park, River Rd., Piscataway, NJ; call for directions. Moderate hike ending with swimming at Lake Tiorati.

MONDAY, JUNE 28

RVW. Vernoy Kill Falls, Shawangunks. Leader: call 845-658-8606 for details. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. Easy hike: 3.6 miles, 3 hours. Rain date is following Monday.



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HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs

The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikers are welcome subject to club regulations and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Wear hiking boots or strong, low-heeled shoes. Bring food, water, rain gear, first aid kit, and 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 relative terms; call leader if in doubt.

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

Club Codes

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

ADK-MH	ADK-Mid-Hudson	RVW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
ADK-R	ADK - Ramapo	UCHC	Union County Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	UOC	University Outing Club
OUT	Outdoors Club	WEC	Weis Ecology Center
PMNHA	Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area	WTW	Woodland Trail Walkers

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference Office. The deadline for the July/August issue is May 15, 2004.

MAY

SATURDAY, MAY 1

UCHC. Washington Valley Park, Martinsville, NJ. Leader: Bob Keller, 908-580-1778. Meet: 10 am; call for location. This moderately difficult hike features a 21-acre reservoir, pine and hemlock forests, and an impressive waterfall. Rain cancels.

WEC. Mohonk Challenge, NY. Leader: call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for details and to register. Meet: 8 am. Very strenuous 9-10 miles at a fast pace, led by Don Weise. Scramble through Giant's Workshop, Cathedral, and labyrinthine boulder gardens. Visit Lake Mohonk and climb a ladder through tight crevice to Sky Top. Rain date 5/2. Cost \$8.

PMNHA. May Mountain Magic, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville. See the mountains come alive on this moderate hike.

SUNDAY, MAY 2

IHC. Breakneck Ridge, NY. Leaders: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9 am at Anthony Wayne parking area, Harriman State Park, NY. Strenuous hike with long, steep, rocky climb; enjoy views over the Hudson River and Sugarloaf Mountain, return via Wilkinson Trail. Rain cancels.

OUT. Belmont Lake State Park, Long Island. Leader: Paul Develet, 516-488-5232. Meet: Take 9:14 LIRR train from Penn Station to Babylon, arrive 10:23 (check latest schedule); meet leader at Babylon train station 10:23. 8 miles at moderate pace, with easy terrain. Pleasant springtime walk in woods along a stream to Belmont Lake. Nonmembers \$3.

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

UCHC. 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; \$4/person park fee.

WTW. AT Trail Maintenance, Bear Mountain, NY. Leader: Sarah Collins, 973-744-5126. Meet: Call leader before 4 pm, Sat., May 1. This is one of the most famous stretches 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, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville. Moderate 2-hour hike by moonlight; must pre-register; \$3 fee.

THURSDAY, MAY 6

UCHC. Storm King Mountain, NY. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. 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 Peborde, 718-352-0381. Meet: 10 am at ticket windows of George Washington Bridge bus terminal (175th St. stop on A train) for 10:10 bus to Rockland Lake. 8 miles at steady, continuous pace. Walk around Rockland Lake, along the Hudson River to Nyack Beach, then past lovely mansions of upper Nyack and Nyack's main street attractions. Rain cancels. Nonmembers \$3.

SATURDAY, MAY 8

UCHC. Cooper Mill to Kay Environmental Center, Chester, NJ. Leader: John Gilris, 973-386-1168. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate 4+ miles, suitable for beginners. Hike along Black River; mostly flat trail. Rain cancels.

OUT. Hastings to Van Cortlandt Park, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 9 am at Grand Central Station information booth, upper level. 14 easy to moderate miles. Through parks, woods with variety of scenery with open and wooded areas; drop out point in middle of hike. Ends at 242 St. stop on #1 subway train. Nonmembers \$3.

WEC. Spring Wildflower Walks, NJ. Leader: call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for details and to register. Meet: 10 am. Learn where and when to look for precious and ephemeral spring wildflowers with naturalist George Petty. Rain date, Sunday, May 9. Cost \$8.

SUNDAY, MAY 9

WEC. Mother's Day Hike, NJ. Leader: call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for details and to register. Meet: 10 am. Take Mom to lunch...at the top of a mountain! Moderate pace, 3-mile loop up to Wyanokie High Point with naturalist. Families with kids elementary aged and above welcome. Cost \$8 (moms free).

IHC. Reeves Meadow Roundabout, NY. Leader: Joel McKenzie, 973-694-3056. Meet: 9 am at Reeves Meadow Visitor Center, Harriman State Park. 10+ strenuous miles to Pine Meadow Lake or Ramapo Torne or both. Rain cancels.

OUT. Brooklyn Bridge to Prospect Park, NY. Leader: Jim Peborde, 718-352-0381. Meet: 10 am by courthouse on Chambers St. (between Broadway and Center St., lower Manhattan). 4-6 miles at steady pace. Walk over the Brooklyn Bridge to Fulton Ferry, Brooklyn Heights, then on to Prospect Park. Rain cancels. Nonmembers \$3.

UCHC. Bamboo Brook/Willowood Arboretum, Morris Co., NJ. Leader: Lynn Gale, 973-763-7230. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Easy 3-4 miles, suitable for beginners. Walk through estates with interesting gardens, with woods and fields in-between. Steady rain cancels.

MONDAY, MAY 10

RVW. Bearpen (3600') and Vly Mountains (3529'), NY. Leader: call 845-246-8546 for details. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. 8-mile bushwhack (off-trail) in the Catskills; expect hike to last 6 hours. Rain date is following Monday.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

WEC. Babies in Backpacks, NJ. Leader: call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for details and to register. Meet: 9:30 am. Short excursions for mommies, daddies, and their littlest ones. Cost \$8.

THURSDAY, MAY 13

UCHC. Diamond Mountain, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Dave Hogenaur, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at Reeves Meadow parking; call for directions. Moderately strenuous hike with some very steep ascents; moderate pace. Steady rain cancels.

FRIDAY, MAY 14

OUT. George Washington Bridge to Edgewater, NJ. Leader: Jim Peborde, 718-352-0381. Meet: 10 am by ticket windows of GWB bus terminal (175th St. stop on A train). 4-6 miles at steady pace. Walk over the George Washington Bridge to Fort Lee's historic park, down quaint streets of Edgewater, and along the Hudson River. Rain cancels. Nonmembers \$3.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

UOC. Trail Maintenance, Somerset, NJ. Leader: Mario Guiducci, 732-985-7709. Meet: call leader. 2-4 miles; help clear multiflora rosa from the trail.

OUT. Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail and Croton Aqueduct, Westchester County, NY. Leader: Mayer Wiesen, 516-671-2095. Meet: 8:45 am at Grand Central Terminal information booth, upper level. 12 moderate miles with 2 hills. Discover a little-used trail, lunch at Teatown Reservation; view Croton Dam and return on level Croton Aqueduct to Ossining, NY. Nonmembers \$3.

WEC. Spring Wildflower Walks, NJ. Leader: call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for details and to register. Meet: 10 am. Learn where and when to look for precious and ephemeral spring wildflowers with naturalist George Petty. Rain date, Sunday, May 16. Cost \$8.

PMNHA. Power Hike, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville. Burn some calories on this moderately strenuous hike.

WTW. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 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 Stockbridge Shelter. Return trip to Menomine Trail to Nawahunta Fire Road. Moderate, 6-7 miles. Optional dinner afterwards.

Continued on page 11

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