The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has announced an ambitious $2.5 million capital campaign, "Connecting People with Nature." The campaign aims to raise funds to meet two major challenges: protecting and improving the connectivity of our region’s trail system, and increasing the Conference’s capacity to recruit and train trail crew members who can maintain and build new trails.

Specific projects have been identified: land acquisition and stewardship along existing and potential trail corridors in New York and New Jersey; major trail rehabilitation on Bear Mountain, including the historically important first section of the Appalachian Trail; and developing vitally important Geographic Information System resources.

At the time of the announcement at its Annual Meeting on October 31, the Conference was in the happy position of being more than halfway toward its goal. Development Director Jim Davis reported that by the end of September, $1,498,400 had been received through 69 gifts. Further, the Conference already could point to a number of important achievements in its target areas made possible by this early fundraising success. These include acquisition of trail corridor lands on the Catskill, preliminary planning for Bear Mountain trail work, and the hiring of a staff GIS specialist.

The campaign theme “Connecting People with Nature” is a reference to the Conference’s mission of “connecting people with nature” by:

- Protecting public open space through grass-roots advocacy and land acquisition;
- Providing access to nature by developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails; and
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

"This is an exciting time for the Trail Conference,” says Jane Daniels, chair of the TC board of directors. “We want to ensure that people in this rapidly developing region always have access to good trails and open space. We know how important these are to our quality of life. The Trail Conference has long been a dynamic and important organization in helping people connect with nature, and we hope this campaign will fuel that commitment as we undertake major projects over the next decade.”

ELEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN

Land Acquisition and Stewardship

By far the biggest goal of the campaign—$2 million—is to capitalize a Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund. This revolving fund supports the Trail Conference work of protecting corridors that link public open space and making them accessible to the public by building and maintaining a network of hiking trails. Protecting threatened corridors requires assembling many small parcels, a labor-intensive and expensive job that falls outside the mission of most government agencies and nonprofit land trusts.

The Trail Conference, however, has the mission of protecting trails and long experience of working with multiple owners of small holdings to develop trails. Funds contributed to the campaign have already protected portions of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and the Long Path in the Catskills. Other corridor lands in need of protection have been identified in New Jersey and elsewhere in New York. As trail corridors are fully assembled, the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund will evolve into an endowment that will sustain the Conference’s stewardship mission.

Trails on Bear Mountain

Volunteers from the NY/NJ Trail Conference built the first section of the Appalachian Trail in 1923. Eighty-one years, countless maintenance trips, and millions of visitors later, the AT and the two other major trails on Bear Mountain (Major Welch and Suffern-Bear Mountain) need significant renovation.

With an estimated 500,000 people reaching the summit of Bear Mountain each year, and more than 100,000 hiking on the AT there (it is the most heavily traveled section of the trail), the treadways on Bear Mountain have become significant conservation news.

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Our volunteers-driven Trail Conference is well prepared to take on this perhaps intimidating project. That our volunteer goals for the project are realistic is borne out by the history of many of our current volunteers.

Bob Marshall, now a volunteer trail consultant, remembers that he began his trail career helping to relocate the Appalachian Trail in Putnam County. He quickly became hooked. “Laying out and building trails that others could enjoy gave me a sense of creative satisfaction,” Bob says. Well designed switchbacks and side hills are a trademark of the trails Bob has designed. Another of our current crew leaders, Chris Ezzo, joined Bob’s West Hudson Trail Crew and moved into the post of crew chief when Bob stepped down. “Crew became like family,” Chris says, “and their dedication really inspires me.”

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FROM THE CHAIR

Laying out and building trails that others could enjoy gave me a sense of creative satisfaction...

New York - New Jersey Trail Conference

Mission Statement

The New York - New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer-driven public service organization committed to:

• Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails.
• Providing trail leaders through support and advocacy
• Educating the public on the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

Board of Directors

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Pete Holdner
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Richard Bonning Land Preservation Specialist
Lisa Carrig Development Associate
Nayad Barahona Product Manager
Ramson McMillen Administrative Assistant

Part-time Staff

Amy Linde Coordinator, Shenandoah
John Myers Land Acquisition Director
Gary Wilkes Infrastructure Staff
Neil Woodworth Coalition, Trail Conference/دين Partnership

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer-driven public service organization. It is a federation of 85 hiking and outdoor groups, and 200,000 individuals.

George Walker
President

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http://www.nynjtc.org

Letters

Cheryl, past and present, from left to right: Bob Marshall, Chris Ezzo, Monica Resor & David Day, Sandy Parr, Denise Vitale

Thank you for your letter. We are pleased to hear from you and will consider your feedback for future issues.

From the Chair

Laying out and building trails that others could enjoy gave me a sense of creative satisfaction...

Our newest crew chief, Denise Vitale, joined Bob’s West Hudson Trail Crew and moved into the post of crew chief when Bob stepped down. “Crew became like family,” Chris says, “and their satisfaction.

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FROM THE CHAIR

Laying out and building trails that others could enjoy gave me a sense of creative satisfaction...
From the Executive Director

From Marking Trails to Acquiring Trail Lands

What is the difference between building a long-distance trail and acquiring a greenway? The difference is a matter of scale... Let me explain.

Trail Conference volunteers and member clubs have been doing both since 1920 when the Palisades Interstate Park manager, Major Welch, asked hiking clubs to join in a system of hiking trails in the newly created Harriman-Bear Mountain Park. Major Welch knew then what many current land managers are discovering—hiking trails are the least expensive and most environmentally benign way to provide access to public lands.

Three years later, inspired by Benton MacKaye’s vision for an Appalachian Trail, we began our first long-distance trail project: constructing the first section of the Appalachian Trail, from Bear Mountain to Taconic, NY. By 1936, the AT was completed all the way across both New York and New Jersey.

In those days, finding a backwoods route on which to construct a trail was not a problem. Rural populations were e x t e n s i v e and lands were reforested. All one had to do was mark a route along high ground with as few river and road crossings as possible. Permissions were readily obtained from private landowners to cross these “wretched” lands. “In the good old days,” we did not have to create the greenway, just plot the most scenic route through a sea of green. Building and blissing were the hard parts.

That, however, has changed over the years, most markedly so in the last decade. The experience of building our two most recent long-distance trails—the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and the Highlands Trail—dramatizes the point. In the case of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail begun in 1991, a brand new, end-to-end trail was completed in five years, mostly by obtaining revocable permissions from landowners. The Highlands Trail, begun in 1999, is still in progress, gaps land and small interrupt the trail and roadwalks connect parks and conservation areas.

The difference is that sprawl development in the Hudson Valley and New Jersey Highlands has shown the potential of ridge lands to be a valuable and profitable proposition. In this century, we cannot complete a long-distance trail without first creating a greenway by filling in the gaps between existing parks. Revocable permissions are the only tools available to permanently protect long-distance trail corridors. However, it must be done now, before the connecting tracts are still available and affordable. We are at a decisive moment—an open space endpoint where our collective actions over the next decade will determine the pattern and connectivity of regional hiking opportunities for decades, if not centuries, to come.

As hikers, with our focus on access to nature, scenic views, and open space connectivity, we have a unique role and mandate. It is not a role we sought, nor did we plan to map long maintain trails in 1920, but it is a role we are uniquely able to fill.

It is for this reason that we have brought forward current and future trail corridors, that I am urging every hiker to make as generous a gift as possible to our Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund. Your contribution will be put immediately to work protecting trail lands. I encourage you to make this gift to all those who have come before us and all those who will follow.

--- Ed Goodell
goodell@aptnj.org

ADVOCACY

Statewide Wireless Network Threatens Wild Lands in NY

The New York State Office for Technology (OFT) is currently working on a plan for a statewide wireless network (SWN). The rationale behind the project is to implement a reliable two-way radio system for use by all police officers, rangers and other emergency workers. The Trail Conference (ATK) Partnership understands the need for such a system, but has serious concerns about the impact of the SWN on the wild and scenic lands of New York. The partnership submitted detailed testimony and written comments to OFT voicing the opinion that the communication of public safety and land preservation efforts on such lands is incompatible with their wild character and is a likely violation of the Forever Wild clause of the New York State constitution. The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGES) for the plan was scheduled to be released this fall.

NJ Legislature Takes Aim at Green Acres

On September 13, the New Jersey Assembly Agriculture Committee approved A-2923, legislation that “limits certain State and nonprofit open space acquisitions in municipalities.” This bill is a major threat to Trail Conference efforts to protect hiking trail corridors in New Jersey. The bill comes hot on the heels of the East Trail Track legislation (see Sept./Oct. ’98), approved by the legislature in August. This bill would cripple greenacres and non-profit land preservation efforts. It is based on the false premise that preserved lands aren’t an economic liability, and the best use of the property is land development as tax revenue. A land业主 directed toward Assembly representatives may prevent the bill from moving forward. For additional information and updates, visit http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/greenacres.

Roadless Rule Repeal Threatens AT

Nearly 50 segments of the 2,100-mile-long Appalachian Trail (AT) are endangered by the Bush administration’s controversial proposal to repeal the federal roadless rule in order to exploit national forests for clear-cut logging and other commercial uses, according to a detailed mapping analysis undertaken by the nonprofit Campaign to Protect America’s Lands (CPAL). The total of 47 AT trail segments in or near 401,405 acres of at-risk national forest areas include some of the best known and most scenic sections of the trail, including Springbrook Mountain in Georgia, White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire, and views from some of the highest peaks along the trail, including the Talatala National Forest in North Carolina and the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee. The USDA Forest Service has until November to extend the rule to prevent changes. Additional information is available from the Appalachian Trail—40-miler Shawangunk Ridge Trail. The NVN/NP is a maintaining club of the ATC.

Shawangunk Ridge Qualifies for Federal Forest Legacy Funding

At a meeting of New York’s Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Legacy advisory committee, the Shawangunk Ridge was approved for addition to the state’s land acquisition areas that qualify for federal Forest Legacy Funding. The USDA and the Forest Service have become the major sources of federal funding for land acquisition matching grants from Washington. These funds may be used to match other local funding grants to preserve the Shawangunk Ridge—a dramatic rocky escarpment that extends from Rosendale, New York, to High Point, New Jersey. The Ridge features rare and exemplary ecological communities, including over 25 known rare plant and animal species, and is prized in terms of watershed value, scenic resources, and recreational value. Although most of the Ridge lies within New York—remains in private hands. The Trail Conference looks forward to using these funds to preserve and save the ridge.

NYS Budget Puts Intact Environmental Protection Fund in Jeopardy

In early 2005, the New York State Legislature adopted a state budget for 2004-2005. The Trail Conference/Adirondack Mountain Club Partnership is happy to report that the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is fully funded at $185 million—a record high. The governor’s budget proposal appropriated $92.9 million for land acquisition. The Trail Conference-Adirondack Moun- tain (ADK) partnership strongly advocated that additional funds were necessary, and in the end, the legislature increased the land acquisition line item from $92.9 million to $32.9 million. The list of projects eligible for this funding includes ones connected with Fahnstock State Park, Schuamemunk Mountain, Sterling Forest, Shawangunk Ridge, Catskill Mountains and Delaware River region, Beavercreek/Willowemoc, and the Long Path.

The partnership is also proud to report that $5.75 million has been allocated for stewardship. Stewardship funding is critical for the protection and maintenance of state land for public use. Hiking trail maintenance work is funded from this pot of money.

Contribution to this column include Neil Woodard, a member of the TOADK partnership, and Richard Benning, TC land protection specialist.

Click, Shop, and Donate

Do you shop online? As the holiday-season nears, and you begin shopping for those you love, why not let your purchases benefit the Trail Conference, at no extra cost to you? How does it work? By enrolling the Trail Conference’s Commercial Zone and then connecting to select online retailers through a special link on the Trail Conference’s web page, up to 15 percent of everything you buy benefits the New York- New Jersey Trail Conference!

When you are ready to shop, visit our web page at http://www.nynpc.org/commerce/index.html. From this page, you will see a link to a web page titled greatgood.org. From this link, you can choose from more than 100 brand name retailers. You will have access to a variety of merchants such as LL Bean, Lands End, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Ann, Jones, The Gap, as well as home electronics and computer stores, home and bath stores, pet supply retailers, gourmet food shops, and dozens more.

Please pass this link along to everyone you know, especially with the holiday season just around the corner. Click, shop, and donate!
The section of the former Stillman Trail that connects this trail relocation to the parking lot on the east side of 9W’s crest remains part of the park’s trail system. This orphaned section of trail currently retains the familiar yellow and blue blazes. It will be getting a new color and name before long. Parking along 9W allows access to the northern trails of the Park via this section of trail.

---Graig Badie
Trail Supervisor
Storm King State Park

Ivan KOs Dunnfield Creek Trail,
Old Mine Road, Camping at Stormountain State Forest
The Dunnfield Creek Trail and upper glen in Worthington State Forest were devastated by heavy rains from the remnants of Hurricane Ivan. Trail crew members inspecting the trail deemed it impassable and, as of the deadline for this issue, plans for dealing with the altered landscape were in initial stages. Above where the trail diverges from the AT, only the bridge nearest the Dunnfield parking remains and it is largely missing its supports on one end. Nothing remains of any of the other bridges on the Dunnfield Creek Trail. In addition, a section of the valley wall and trail—above where the Blue Dot goes off before the next stream crossing beyond there—is just gone. Old Mine Road is closed indefinitely due to flood damage and trails in the park can be accessed only via the Dunnfield parking area off of route 180. The park is closed for camping.

For the latest schedules, go to nynjtc.org.

For all trips bring water, 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.

For the latest schedules, go to nynjtc.org.

The Hudson River Bridge Authority’s projects ranging from trail repair to massive bridge and puncheon workshop. A Passing Question

What are you doing?…

“Thank you for doing this,” which is certainly gratifying.

Bob Marshall
November 2004

Flurry of Bridge Building In Harriman/Bear Mountain

Footbridge on 1777-79 Trail in Harriman S.P.

Over the past year, Harriman/Bear Mountain State Park has truly been fortunate to have benefited from an extraordinary amount of bridge building.

• Relocating the Nuttian Trail Bridge over the Ramapo River in Southfields by park staff.

• Two bridges built as Eagle Scout projects at the Nuttian Trail crossing of Shakes Creek.

• Two fiberglass bridges built by the West Hudson Trail Crew, one (65’) carrying the 1777W 1779, and the Timp Tunnels trail over Popolopen Creek, and the other (15’) on the new Twin Forts Trail, between Forts Clinton and Montgomery.

• The Hudson River Bridge Authority’s professionally built suspension bridge, spanning the mouth of Popolopen Creek between Forts Clinton and Montgomery.

continued on page 6

Crew Notes

A Passing Question

By David Day

Since most of the work the trail crews do in this region is on – or closely adjacent to – existing trails, it is not uncommon for hikers to pass by where one of our projects is underway. Some just pick their way silent- ly past us and say nothing. Many carefully walk around the work site with a brief “Hello” and move on. Some even say “Thank you for doing this,” which is certainly gratifying.

But then there are the people who ask “What are you doing?”

I usually start out by identifying the crew as volunteers from the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and that we are “working on the trail.” While the details may be obvious to us, they may not be to them. So I go on to explain that the lepopiled ditch I’m sticking rocks into is a “waterbar,” and that its purpose is to help redirect water off the trail, thus avoiding erosion of the roadway. Or, that we are re-routing that particular piece of the trail with a staircase or switchbacks to avoid a difficult or dangerous scramble. Or, that we are placing step-stones so that when the floods come, they won’t need knee-boots to hike there.

Generally, that is about the end of the interaction; the passer-by offers a “well thanks for all the work” and moves on. Some have stayed and visited longer, discussing what may need to be done on this trail or that. A couple of times, however, continued on page 6

Trail Crew Schedules

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WED HUS TON SOUTH CREW

Leaders
Chris Ezno: 516-631-3348.
musicbytes1959@yahoo.com
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563.
brian@grandnovation.com
Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324.
clganz@earthlink.net
rmarshall@webnet.net
Monica Resor: 732-937-9098.
adaman@trailsbuild.com

Trips on the following dates are TBD.
Nov. 6 (Thursday) Bob Marshall
Nov. 6 (Saturday) Chris Ezno
Nov. 7 (Sunday) Bob Marshall
Nov. 13 (Saturday) Brian Buchbinder
Nov. 18 (Thursday) Bob Marshall

EAST HUDSON CREW

Leaders
Wall Daniels: 914-245-1250
Jack Sump: 914-232-4871

Weekdays: Wall Daniels
Call to indicate your availability and learn project details.

Nov. 13-14 (Saturday, Sunday) Tentative Leader: Wall Daniels
Massive bridge and punchwork workshop at Georges Island.
Meet: 9 am at Cortlandt train station.

NORTH JERSEY CREW

Leader
Sandy Purr: 732-469-5109

Second Sunday of each month.
Trips start at 9:30 am; call for location and details during the week before the scheduled trip day. Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in northern New Jersey.

HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW

Contact the leader for details on how to volunteer for more than one week before the scheduled work date. All projects are TBD.

Leader
Bob Moss: 973-743-5203

Nov. 14 (Sunday)

WEST JERSEY TRAIL CREW LEADERS

westjerseycrew@trailsbuild.com

Heavy morning rain cancels.

Note: Due to the heavy damage to several trails in western New Jersey, our schedule is very likely to be altered as more assessments come in. There may also be additional trips scheduled. Please contact the leaders or check the schedules on the websites (www.nynjtc.org or www.trailstobuild.com).

Nov. 6 (Saturday)
Jenny Jump S. F. Erosion control, Tread repair. Meet: 9 am, location TBD

Nov. 20 (Saturday)
We will spend the day clearing blow-downs and trimming back some of the remaining damage from the huge storms a couple years back. If you are a certified sawyer in New Jersey, please consider joining us for the day.

Nov. 14 (Sunday)

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Leader
Bob Marshall
Bob Moss: 973-743-5203

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At first glance, the old deer bones, picked clean by scavengers and strewn about the forest floor, looked like any others. As a matter of routine, I paused from my hike to look them over and to see if I could locate the skull, a key to the animal that had been. Sure enough, the nearly intact skull was just a few feet away—no sinister pedicles—a do1 bone, but from a remarkably old doe. This particular animal appeared to be at least 11 years old at the time of its death, based on the extensive tooth wear. Tooth wear is rather constant and predictable in deer, and this deer had precious little tooth enamel left.

No doubt this doe had survived so long because she resided in central Harriman Park, an area lacking both hunters and significant road traffic. Our two most competent deer predators—the gray wolf and eastern cougar—had been eliminated from the area, along with white-tailed deer, centuries earlier. Deer had returned by the 1930s. A return of these predators, however, does not appear likely, for both political and biological reasons.

Over the course of her lifetime—compared to a centenarian in human years—she may have given birth to two dozen fawns and eaten literally tons of twigs and foliage. Each spring, her discard
deed fat provided nesting material for songbirds and birds alike; her copious drop
ddings offered a meal to microscopic decomposers and later nutrients to hungry plant roots. As an elder doe, she would have been a leader among the other deer, always at the front when traveling and ever vigilant for signs of danger. Her choice of paths in the surrounding hills may even have been the direct result of our trails, as our trail planners often co-opt deer trails as hiking routes.

Her death offered yet more: life-saving food for an emaciated coyote in the lean winter woods; scraps for crows, ravens, woodpeckers, and an adventurous gray fox. Perhaps a wintertime bald eagle took her death, the bleached bones were clean by scavengers and strewn about the

part in the feast. Finally, invertebrates, microorganisms, and fungi stripped the bones of any remaining soft tissue. By the time I arrived on the scene months after her death, the bleached bones were supplying calcium to knowing rodents and a source of interest to me, a passing hiker. Unfortunately, the positive ecosystem functions of this graceful native mammal are being overshadowed by the negative consequences of its exploitation. No longer controlled by predators or hunters in most areas, deer numbers often

of alien invasive species, disliked by the hungry deer. So, like the growing national deficit, out-of-control deer herds are creating deferred costs, in this case costs of
trees, for future generations. The solution to this problem is not an easy one. First, one must adopt the philo-

sophical position that deer impacts are a problem and not just some new natural equilibrium. If we embrace the stance that our natural heritage—that being the full complement of local flora, fauna, and nat-

ural communities—is worth conserving, then deer cannot be ignored. Whether by
traditional means such as hunting and selective culling, or new innovative methods such as immuno-contraceptives, the deer problem must be addressed.

According to legend, Native Americans understood the role of the wolf in keeping deer strong. Absent the wolf, conservationists must find new ways to maintain healthy forests and healthy deer.

Note: Please keep an eye out for our new TC Volunteers’ website page, www.nynjtc.org, due out this fall. The page will feature current and upcoming science opportunities for members. Get involved

$17,780 Award to TC for AT Work

A grant for $17,780 to the Trail Conference will pay for the materials to replace approx-

imately 800 feet of pneumatic and build an addition to an existing footbridge on the Appalachian Trail in Vernon, NJ. The grant was announced by the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) and is funded by the National Recreational Trails Program, part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, which provides money to states for developing trails and trail facilities. These funds, which are the only federal ones that are completely detach-
ted to trail projects, are generated by federal gas taxes.

Work will begin shortly on the pneumatic work to replace the trailer on the AT, which has been deteriorating for some years, and a bridge across a tributary of the Wawayanda Creek, which can no longer handle the current level of frequent flooding. Work will continue over the next two years.

Thanks go to DEP’s Office of Natural Lands Management and the State Trails Council, under whose advisement these funds are distributed, and to the manage-

ment staff of the Trail Conference for their encouragement and help in acquiring these funds and assisting with the project.

Deer fence in Highlands showing contrast between vegetation in browned (right) and unbrown (left). forest.

The carcass was intact except for a portion of the butt, which I understand is consid-

ered a delicacy by coyotes and other scavengers. No vultures circled the area. What is going on here? We’ve all seen an occasional dead deer in the woods, but here’s what happened.

(on a single short trail segment) Right ON the trail! In good weather after a relatively mild month? And one still alive, apparently not having crawled off to die? And no sign of trauma?

Now, the dilemma. What should we have done, and what would you do, when we encountered the dying deer?

A March is a tough time for deer. By late winter they have used up most of their fat stores but have little new forage available to them. Starvation is not uncommon, especially after a long winter with consis-
tent snow cover and low temperatures, like last year’s. Harriman, being badly over-

browsed, offers very little in the way of winter forage beyond acorns, which were spotty last year and would have been hard to reach under the snow.

Finding several starving deer together in one area is also not uncommon. Back in 2000, I did winter survey work in Harriman and found dead deer clusters in several locations off trail. Could it be certain that they starved and didn’t die by some other

means? No. Still, it was a rough winter and the lives I saw during the survey looked to be in very bad shape—as the deer looked

this past winter. If one is really interested in determining the condition of dead deer, a long bone can be cut cross-wise to examine the bone marrow. Fat in the marrow will appear white—a sign of a deer in good condition. A starved deer’s marrow will look like red gelatin—indicating this last reserve of body fat has been consumed.

As far as intervening in this natural process: Although the impulse to end the deer’s misery is quite understandable (I have faced a similar dilemma before), this is how nature works, and must be in our absence. Park rules also prohibit direct

interaction with wildlife, including collecting, killing, or possessing park wildlife.
By Josh Erdsneker

I love the challenge of hiking the rugged Devil’s Path in the Catskill region; the amazing views you earn atop Breakneck Ridge in the Hudson Highlands, and hundreds of other trails. I have joined the crews, but I don’t believe they were exposed to the reality that trails don’t just happen. Erdsneker, josh@nynjtc.org, at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348.

Hiking the Appalachian Trail. We are looking for a project manager whose responsibilities would include: project coordination, event arrangements, writing, and keeping our teams on schedule. The project manager will begin ASAP and work to December. On average, the project manager will work one day per week spread over the week as necessary. If you are interested in this opportunity or want to learn more about it, please contact Larry Wheelock at wheelock@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

You can also pick a work trip; any other willing workers, regardless of their experience or lack thereof. The work will entail digging narrow ditches and placing either rocks or logs in a position to catch or direct the flow of water off the trail. We make a point of having fun while we work to stem trail erosion. If interested, please contact Bob Jonas, 908-252-7059, ymoke@aol.com.

Meet great people and be giving back to the community that has provided so much, open and accessible. Help keep someone’s favorite hiking trail open. Volunteer to adopt a section of trail in the Catskills or Black Rock Forest, join the trail crew in the East Region trails, or participate in a trail project. For information, please contact Josh Erdsneker, josh@nynjtc.org, at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348.

Are you looking for new challenges and opportunities to get involved with Trail Conference activities? Please review the TC Volunteer Classification for exciting and interesting ways for members to become involved with the Conference’s efforts. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. Become an active part of our family and get more involved. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and do not see an opportunity that suits you, contact Volunteer Projects Director Joshua Erdsneker, either by email josh@nynjtc.org or call the office 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

Catskill Assistant Trail Chairs With more than 100 maintainers and 200 miles of hiking trails, our Catskills Trail Committee is one of the largest trail committees in the Trail Conference. To improve our communications with our volunteers and land managers, we are seeking two assistant chairs to help coordinate the efforts of our volunteers. Help preserve and protect the Catskill wilderness by getting involved now. For information, please contact Josh Erdsneker, josh@nynjtc.org, at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348.

I’d like to say that some of these people have joined the crews, but I don’t believe they have. One or two may have become involved; a couple are on a prospecting list for future participants. All of them, however – whether they stayed and worked, or just said “hello” and moved on – have been exposed to the reality that trails don’t just happen.

This level of consciousness-raising is becoming more important all the time. As more and more wild land is being lost to development, showing that there are people caring for the trails and the trails’ environs, will help to re-enforce the value of these places as they are. Maybe they will think more about the value they get from these places. By the time you read this, the West Jersey crew’s fall trail work season will only have a couple trips left, but it is never too late to check it out. (At least one crew – the West Hudson Crew – goes out year-round, so there is almost always something going on.) There are many more miles of trails development in New Jersey, so the spring season is already being planned. Come on out and join the fun!”

Dared to lead the West Jersey Crew with Monica Rios and work with the West Hudson Crew on a regular basis.

By the time you read this, the West Jersey crew’s fall trail work season will only have a couple trips left, but it is never too late to check it out. (At least one crew – the West Jersey Crew – goes out year-round, so there is almost always something going on.) There are many more miles of trails development in New Jersey, so the spring season is already being planned. Come on out and join the fun!"
The T rail Conference is concerned about the safety and welfare of the individuals who volunteer on the trails. Volunteers are responsible for maintaining their own health and liability insurance. In the event that a volunteer’s personal policy coverage is inadequate or insufficient, the NY-NJ T rail Conference, in certain circumstances, may provide additional liability and accident coverage for the benefit of volunteers who may be injured or sued in the course of performing their assigned tasks on behalf of the NY-NJ T rail Conference.

The T rail Conference provides liability insurance coverage to volunteers who are performing their assigned tasks on behalf of the T rail Conference. Volunteers who volunteer on the trails. Volunteers protected by this coverage include individ- ual members of the T rail Conference and individuals belonging to member clubs.

Certain public agencies on whose lands T rail Conference volunteers operate provide insurance coverage to volunteers who may be injured in the course of performing their assigned tasks on behalf of the T rail Conference on these lands. The extent of insurance coverage provided varies, depending on the particular provisions of the public agency involved. In general, workers’ compensation benefits are provide- d. In most cases, volunteers are reimbursed for the cost of necessary medical care. In some instances, they are also reimbursed for lost wages incurred as a result of injury or illness and dismemberment arising from an accident is not compensated. Volunteers who operate in more than one park may be subject to varying insurance coverage policies, depending upon the particular location where the accident or injury takes place.

In order to receive the benefits of insur- ance coverage provided by a public agency, volunteers must comply with the terms specified by that agency. Volunteers who wish to maintain a trail or serve as a member of a trail crew on land managed by a public entity are required to comply with these terms.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and Public Interests Parks Commission.

Volunteers who perform assigned tasks on behalf of the T rail Conference on lands administered by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) who volunteer on the trails. Volunteers who have their own health insurance, the T rail Conference's policy will cover any accident or injury. The T rail Conference’s volunteer acci- dent insurance provides accidental death and dismemberment benefits, as well as excess medical expense coverage. For volun- teers who do not have their own health insurance, the T rail Conference’s policy provides medical expense benefits on a pri- mary basis, up to a pre-determined limit.

Questions?

Any questions regarding the extent of insurance coverage provided should be referred to Joshua Edelstein, the Volunteer Projects Director at the T rail Conference office. Trails supervisors and trail crew lead- ers, while very knowledgeable on matters of trail maintenance and construction, may not be knowledgeable on matters relating to insurance coverage.

Hunting Seasons

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

NEW YORK: Southern Zone (including Catskills)

Deer Season

Regular: Nov. 22-Dec. 14

Archery: Oct. 15-Nov. 21; Dec. 15-19

Wildfowler: Dec. 15-21

Messalonskee: Dec. 15-19

Archery: Oct. 15-Nov. 21; Dec. 15- Dec. 19

Special regulations apply on Long Island. For more details, go to:

http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/ dlinfo/wma/ahunt.htm

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park.

However, it is allowed in parts of Minnewaska, Sterling Forest and Storm King State Parks. Call 845-786-2701 for more details about hunting in these parks.

Black Rock Forest closes to all hikers from Nov. 22-Dec. 14, inclusive. For details, call 845-534-4517.

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

NEW JERSEY

No hunting anywhere on Sundays.

New Jersey has very complicated hunt- ing seasons that vary depending on location and kind of weapon permit. There is, however, no hunting permitted on Sundays. It is recommended that hik- ers verify the hunting dates for the location in which they are interested. Call 609-292-2865, Monday through Friday, or 908-637-4125 (the Poquek Trout Hatchery, open seven days a week or visit www.njnhandwildlife.com. The following dates for deer season apply in many zones.

Deer Season

Firearms (statewide): Dec. 6-11; Dec. 15-19 is a permit shotgun day. There are additional muzzleloader and permitless shotgun days in many zones.

Archery: Sept. 11-Nov.27 and Jan. 1-31 in most zones, excluding Sundays.

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@njnyc.org.

Hike the Path of Asset Protection with a Charitable Gift Annuity to the Trail Conference.

For information, contact Jim Davis at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.
tile Walker is a bi-monthly published by the New-York-New Jersey Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, New Jersey 07430. The editor and managing editor is Georgette Weir, at the same address. The annual subscription price is $15; contact person is Maureen Walsh, telephone number is 201-512-9348. The tax status of the organization has not changed during the preceding 12 months.

As of the filing date of October 1, 2004, the average number of copies of each issue published nearest to the filing date was 9,500. The paper has a total paid single issue published nearest to the filing date was 9,380; the actual distribution of the average, and 7,468 (actual, most recent issue). The average free distribution for the 12 months preceding the filing date was 1,980 (average) and 1,980 (actual, most recent issue). The average free distribution for the 12 months preceding the filing date was 1,980 (average) and 1,980 (actual, most recent issue).

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TC VOLUNTEER AWARDS

continued from page 1

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Mountain project to attract new volunteers

The project offers a great opportunity not

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trail building projects. The project will be

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Appalachian T rail and other trails on Bear

Greenway that can be applied to virtually every

combining maps and data. It is a technolo-

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hike through. As avid outdoor enthusiasts,

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Goodell, "means having enough high

"Connecting people to nature," says

The cost of computer hardware and

protection, protecting view sheds, planning

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elsewhere in our trail system.

applying their knowledge and skills

individuals: Suzanne Goodson and Peter Tlignor. This wonderful team has been
tired in giving their time and effort for both the Ramapo Chapter of ADK and the

TC VOLUNTEER AWARDS

continued from page 1

tal to the preservation of Stony Kill Falls in

Shawangunks and remained active as chair of the TC conservation and advocacy committees.

The William Hoefflin Award recognizes TC volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail

management, and/or for trail land protection. There are three award honors this year: the Medal of Honor, the Rolland Braeutigam Award for his ser-

vice to West Hudson trails. He has been an active member of both the West Hudson Trail Crew and the West Hudson Chain-

saw Crew for several years and has worked countless hours on dozens of trail work trips. He was a major contributor in build-

ing the Popolopen Gorge Bridge and the Twin Forts Trail, and he has always been willing to make an extra effort to insure that a job is well done. In addition he is a

member of the Hilburn-Toe-Sepah Trail in Bear Mountain-Huntstat Mountain Parks and has made many improvements to his sec-

section.

Gary Haugland, retiring board member after 12 years of service, has demonstrated over many years that trails are his passion. Gary’s breadth of service includes being

president of the Trail Conference Board of Directors from 1999-2003 and serving as Long Path South chair. He is currently chair of the Town Council.

Pete Hecker, retiring from the board of directors after nine years, has also worked long and hard in the field. His long-term service to the Trail Conference includes serving as chair of West Hudson Trails South. In that capacity he has worked tire-

ly with the volunteers to keep Park on trail issues. Winner of American Hiking Society’s Volunteer of the Year Award in

2001, Pete has spent his career in establishing trails in Sterling Forest State Park.

The Ken Lloyd Award honors individu-

als who have given exemplary service to their club. This year the award goes to two individuals: Susan Goodson and Peter Tlignor. This wonderful team has been
tired in giving their time and effort for both the Ramapo Chapter of ADK and the

hiking community at large. Over the past and present Suzan has served zealously as the chapter’s programs and special events chair and as secretary, while Peter has served as president and is currently hike schedule chair. In addition, they serve admirable as co-supervisors for Sterling Forest State Park for the Trail Conference. The Major Welch Trail Partner Award is given to government or private TC partners who have provided long and/or significant help to the hiking community. This year, the award goes to Congresswoman Sue Kelly in recognition of her persistent political intervention that resulted in action by the Corps of U.S. Army Engineers and $5-7 million in federal funding to clear Storm King State Park of explosives. It is largely owing to her efforts that the project to remove these hazards is currently nearing completion and the area is being made safe for hiking once again.

The Extra Mile Award recognizes those volunteers who have demonstrated excep-
tional commitment to projects such as a book, map, or advocacy. This year, the

award recognizes four individuals.

Ed Goldstein and Terry Murphy have both collected GPS data for the Trail Conference maps and in doing so have individually logged many hours and miles. As TC life member Herb Chong points out, without their efforts we would not have collected the data we needed.

John Mack is recognized for his outstanding efforts to help get the Highlands Water Protection Act approved. Jane Danials, chair of the board of directors, commented that the hours John spent organizing the effort, copying letters, and forwarding them to Trenton made a difference.

Don Puchner is honored for his efforts in creating insurance policies that are both usable and affordable by hiking organiza-
tions. In the words of TC life member Irene Stabo, “He has labored long in an arena that most mortals shun for its complexity and crushing tedium, to the benefit of all of us and our hard-won little budgets.”

S$2.5 M FOR TRAILS

continued from page 1

cantly degraded. Reconstructing the Appalachian Trail and other trails on Bear Mountain is the perfect opportunity to undertake a high profile, multiyear trail project that can serve as a focus for the Conference’s recruiting and training programs.

The Trail Conference aims to raise at least $2.5 million as part of the “;”

• Design and building of permanent, sustainable routes for the AT and other Bear Mountain trails consistent with Appalachian National Scenic Trail standards and that will accommodate heavy trail use;

• Recruitment and training of new trail volunteers; and

• Demonstration and interpretation of trail building, the AT experience, including leave-no-trace philosophy, and the significance of partnership efforts to conserve and protect public access to open space.

Bear Mountain offers challenges and opportunities above and beyond typical trail building projects. The project will be highly visible to the public, and the scale of the work will rival other major building projects we have tackled in recent years. The project offers a great opportunity not only to build trails, but also to build our teams of volunteer trail workers.

The Conference expects the Bear Mountain project to attract new volunteers who will learn the techniques and skills of trail building and trail maintenance. These new people, added to an already sizable corps of volunteers, will allow the Trail Conference to take care of an ever-growing system of hiking trails. These expectations are based on recent experience with proj-

ects such as the building of the Howell Trail in Storm King State Park, the education of the Popolopen Bridge in Bear Mountain State Park, and the building of the Pohucken boardwalk and suspension bridge on the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey. In each instance, Trail Conference volunteers successfully completed technically challenging projects demanding much skill and hard labor. The crews worked and

learned together, and have since been applying their knowledge and skills elsewhere in our trail system.

Incased trail access for people with disabilities and improved links among key natural, historic, and cultural features are additional goals for the Bear Mountain project, which is now in the design stage with a target of beginning work in 2005.

Geographic Information System (GIS) technology will greatly enhance GIS technology will greatly enhance the quality and effectiveness of Trail Conference work.

The cost of computer hardware and software and the employment of an experienced GIS operator for a period of three to five years will be a minimum of $250,000.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

"Connecting people to nature," says Conference Executive Director Ed Goodsell, “means having enough high quality, natural areas to connect with and hike through. As avid outdoor enthusiasts, Trail Conference members have long been on the forefront of conservation efforts in the region. The vision that prompts this capital campaign is in that tradition.”

Your financial support is essential. All Trail Conference members will be invited to participate in this ambitious campaign. Together we can preserve and expand responsible public access to a regional network of hiking trails and open spaces for now and the future.

For information on how to give, contact Development Director Jim Davis at jfdavis@nynjtc.org or by calling the office at 201-312-1940.

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

$2,500,000
$2,000,000
$1,500,000
$1,000,000
$500,000
$0

Make Your Gift to the Campaign
The Trail Conference accepts gifts in many forms, but the most common forms are:

• Cash or check
• Appreciated securities
• Planned Gifts including charitable donations, trusts, and bequests
• Real estate
• Life insurance

We encourage donors to make pledges with payment periods of 3 to 5 years. Contact: James F. Davis, Development Director jfdavis@nynjtc.org

$2,000,000
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$2,500,000
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CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

COMMITTEE

Mary Smart, Co-chair
John Granda, Co-chair
Lara Cooper, chair
Chris Connolly, Jane Daniels
James Davis
Edward Goodell
Herbert Hochberg
Peter Kennard
Robert Newton

$2,500,000
$2,000,000
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**FAVORITE HIKE**

**Schunemunk Mountain State Park**

By Georgette Weir

Location: Salisbury Mills, Orange County
Length: 8+ miles
Rating: Strenuous

**Features:** At nearly 1700 feet, Schunemunk, one of New York’s newest state parks, is the highest point in Orange County. An 8-mile long open ridge offers expansive views of the Hudson Highlands, Shawangunks, Catskills, Hudson River, and everything in between. Underfoot on the ridgetop is an unusual pink conglomerate, pebbly with quartz stones up to 6 inches in diameter.

**Terraen:** steep slopes, rocky footpaths

**How to get there:** From Route 9W, take Quarry Ave. exit; turn left at end of exit; then right at Rt. 32 light, then left immediately after bridge (there is a sign for Storm King Art Center) onto Orrs Mills Road. In about 2 miles, look for turn left onto Otterkill Road; after crossing Moodna Creek, turn left onto Taylor Road. Look for the ridgetop parking area on left in about one mile.

**Watch out for:** Deer ticks, rattlesnakes, copperheads, trains, unmarked trails, getting lost. Is it worth it? Yes, see Features, above.

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**BOOKNOTES**

**Green Enchantments: A Catskill Outdoor Guide and Collected Essays**
Catskill Press, an imprint of Ruder Finn Press, 2004

By Michael Boyajian
Reviewed by Georgette Weir

Author Michael Boyajian is a New York City-based attorney who, with his wife, has a second home in the Catskills, and he clearly loves and has extensively explored the region. His approach to his subject is meandering and personal; the book seems part vacation journal, part regional advertisement. Boyajian describes hikes, cultural attractions, favorite campsites, a horseback ride, the nirvana of pancakes at Sweet Sue’s in Phoenicia (a heavenly experience familiar to many Catskill hikers to which Boyajian dedicates two full pages). His recommended destinations include some not commonly found on visitor itineraries and some of his hikes are of the non-peak-bagging variety, for those looking to enjoy Catskill’s woods-walking without the rigor of a strenuous climb. Blandstone Forest just outside of Kingston, is one such place cited by the author.

Haiku (or haiku-like) lines appear on nearly every page; random Catskill-related facts are presented in boxes; and photos by the author are printed as full-page, four-color images, unfortunately often lacking clarity and vibrancy. Photo subjects are not identified.

Boyajian’s writing style is informal, a bit labored, occasionally repetitious, and inconsistently informative (sometimes he gives specific road directions to destinations, sometimes not, for example). You will need to get trail maps and detailed road maps to follow up on many of his hiking suggestions. Back pages include useful lists of festivals, relevant organizations (no mention of NY-NJ TC, however), public and private campgrounds, outdoor activities in the various regions, and pages three of outdoor guide services. This book is probably most useful to folks looking to get to know the variety the Catskills has to offer rather than to those seeking a singularly or ruggedly outdoors adventure.

**A Guide to Green New Jersey: Nature Walks in the Garden State**
Lucy D. Rosenfeld and Marina Harrison Rutgers University Press, 2003
Reviewed by Alice L. Taft

Two elements made this book stand out for me: It is nicely written, and it made me want to get out and try the walks. The authors of this attractively produced guidebook have written six previous guidebooks together, and their writing and editing experience is evident.

The authors divide the state into 40 regions (more in central and northern New Jersey than in the south), and provide several hikes for each region. While their focus is not on rigorous hiking (although some strenuous hikes are noted), the authors have chosen a good variety of trails and terrain in quiet areas that provide an escape from civilization for “hikers, bikers, beachcombers, gardeners, power walkers, and strollers of all kind.” Outings are described in federal/state parks, gardens and arboretums, towns, forests, nature centers and preserves, rail-trails, vineyards, orchards, and corn mazes.

Step-by-step trail descriptions are not given, but more than enough information is here to to whet your hiking appetite and get you started, including descriptions of the vegetation, wildlife, and views you can expect to find along the way, interesting historical details, good precautionary tips, and seasonal guidance. They also give an indication of solitude versus popularity of a given area, as well as relative difficulty and whether an outing is good for children. The descriptions include directions for getting to each area by car (those reliant on public transport must find their own info), hours for public parks, and telephone numbers for up-to-date information about fees, hours, trail maps, and so forth. All that seems to be missing is a better indication of hiking mileage.

Helpful ancillary material includes black-and-white photographs, a good introduction with sensible hiking tips, a useful index, and the authors’ guide for choosing an outing according to tastes and interests. Recommended for both beginning hikers and veterans of all levels who want to do more exploring in New Jersey.

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**Lipomakich’s Backpackin’ Lightweight Trail-tested Vegetarian Recipes for Backcountry Trips**
by Christine and Tim Connors

Globe Pequot Press, 2004
Reviewed by Josh Erdsneker

Cold oatmeal, Ramen noodles, hot cocoa from a packet, and if I’m lucky, a few Snickers bars; that’s what I usually pack when I’m on a backpacking trip. I never complained. I thought it was a rite of passage that backpackers suffer and eat like college kids. However, armed with the straight forward recipes from Lipomakich’s Backpackin’ Lightweight Trail-tested Vegetarian Recipes for Backcountry Trips, by Christine and Tim Connors, you can now call me Emeril of the Woods!

This cookbook convinced me there was a better way to eat in a one-pot environment in the backcountry. The book is laid out in an easy-to-follow format, with the At Home work and On The Trail directions separated to help the skilled or unskilled chef with their preparations.

My cold oatmeal has been replaced by two tasty oatmeal recipes, for the most part, are easy to prepare at home and easy to complete after a long day of hiking.

One word of caution for those hungry trail-going chefs: to successfully follow many of these recipes you will need to plan ahead and spend a few hours in your kitchen before heading out. Also, owning a dehydrator will make more of the recipes a reality.

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**FLURRY OF BRIDGE BUILDING**
continued from page 4

• Park staff’s rebuilding of the third bridge over Pine Meadow Brook, which carries the 7 Hills, Kakiat, and Pine Meadow Trails.

• A bridge built on the Hillburn-Torne-Sebago (HTS) Trail between the Ramapo Torne and the Russian Bear by West Hudson Trail Crew member and HTS trail maintainer Roland Beaudet.

• Last, but by no means least, another Eagle Scout bridge project is proposed by Scoutmaster and AMC-NY/NJ Trails Chair, Tom Fain, for the southern end of the 1777 Trail, near its Rt. 9W trailhead.

So, every time you pass over one of the noted structures, stop and think of the time, effort, and money that has been dedicated toward that purpose. Then consider volunteering some of your time to this cause, as a way to payback for all you derive from the combined efforts of so many others.

Call Volunteer Projects Director Josh Erdsneker at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348 or email us at vproj@trailconference.org or trail crew member. We will train you.

—Peter Hecker
The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All those welcome to participate in all activities listed below. For more information on any of the activities below, contact the member club or phone the phone number listed.

**November 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY, 1</td>
<td>TWA Lake Wanaque, NY. Meet: 9:30 am at Wanaque Reservoir.</td>
<td>Wanaque Reservoir</td>
<td>G. Jones</td>
<td>4 miles</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY, 7</td>
<td>Hudson Highlands, NY. Meet: 7:30 am at Route 9W parking area, Newburgh.</td>
<td>Route 9W parking area</td>
<td>J. Wagner</td>
<td>9 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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**December 2004**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY, 2</td>
<td>Harriman State Park, Arden.     Meet: Arden, NY.</td>
<td>Harriman State Park</td>
<td>R. Crossley</td>
<td>4 miles</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY, 5</td>
<td>Ramapo Mountain State Forest, NJ. Meet: 7 am at Lake Mohawk</td>
<td>Lake Mohawk</td>
<td>T. McKenzie</td>
<td>10 miles</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY, 7</td>
<td>Catskills River, NY. Meet: 9 am at Catskills River</td>
<td>Catskills River</td>
<td>B. Closson</td>
<td>5 miles</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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**January 2005**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY, 3</td>
<td>Catskills River, NY. Meet: 9 am at Catskills River</td>
<td>Catskills River</td>
<td>B. Closson</td>
<td>5 miles</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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**March 2005**

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