Green Acres Acquisition of the Norvin Green Connector Lands Approved Unanimously by West Milford Council

The land—420 acres situated between the Macopin and Otter-Hole Roads in West Milford—is the route of a vital link of the Highlands Trail between Norvin Green State Forest and the Newark Watershed, and Trail Conference members played an active role in protecting it from development.

The fate of this parcel had been in contention since 1996 when the township signed an agent agreement with Len Miller, a New York investment banker who owned property around the Algonquin Waters lake, in which he would pursue development of a golf course, hotel, and convention center on the site. In 2002, a new town council majority voted to remove Miller as the agent and to preserve this tract as open space with a sale to Green Acres. Proponents of the golf course development were outraged. They envisioned decreased yearly flow rates. There were also concerns about pesticide and herbicide intrusion into the headwaters and recharge area of the Post's Brook/Wanaque Reservoir and Ashepaw Brook tributaries of the Pequannock River.

In spite of opposition from the pro-development faction, a purchase contract was signed with the state for $5,500 dollars per acre, an amount that would be hotly contested by the preservation opponents who filed a lawsuit in Passaic County Superior Court to kill the sale.

A number of Trail Conference members continued on page 9

Kittatinny Trails Guide Ready This Autumn

Kittatinny Trails, a new comprehensive guide to trails along the Kittatinny Ridge of northern New Jersey, will be published by the NY-NJ Trail Conference in October. It is a large format book, with maps, photographs, innovative charts on choosing a hike, and an introduction on history, geology, plants, and animals. It will have 220 pages with an index, and will sell for $18.95.

Authored by Robert Boysen, our West Jersey Trails Committee Chair, the book describes all the blazed trails from the Delaware Water Gap to High Point State Park on the New York border. It also includes descriptions of hiking trails in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) in Pennsylvania south of the Route 1-80 bridge across the Delaware River.

Kittatinny Trails replaces Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, a small format NYNJTC book that covered only trails in the DWGNRA. That book has been out of print since 2000. The new publication responds to requests for a more comprehensive guide not only by hikers but federal personnel in the DWGNRA and state managers in Worthington State Forest, Stokes State Forest, and High Point State Park.

Author Bob Boysen hiked all the trails, wrote all the descriptions, drew the maps, took the photographs, researched the history and geology, and organized the field checking. The book and cover design is by Nora Porter.

Kittatinny Trails has been in preparation for two years since the Publication Committee accepted Boysen’s proposal. Publications Chair George Petty, who was project manager for the book, said, “Bob Boysen’s many talents and disciplined effort brought the book out on schedule.”

Estelle Anderson: Trail Blazer

Estelle Anderson walked one July morning along the still-new Will Monroe Loop in Norvin Green State Forest in Bergen County, NJ, a trail she had lobbied for, helped build, and now maintains (see Trail News last issue). She was pleased to see the trailway packed down and evident as it coursed through woods and over a rocky ridge.

Others have been hiking her trail. Which perhaps is no surprise, since Estelle is a walking commercial for both the trail and the forest of Norvin Green. “I love being up here,” she says to a new visitor to the forest. “I love bringing people up here. I love their surprise when we get to the top.”

The surprise from the top of Assiniboin Mountain is that there is hardly a sign of the suburban beehive below. Forested trees surround Wanaque Reservoir and appear to extend almost as far as the skyline of Manhattan. And then there are the indigo buntings; she carries binoculars and makes sure her fellow hikers get a close-up view of one of these rarely seen, tiny beauties.

continued on page 9

Don’t Leave Home Without It!

Membership in the Trail Conference entitles you to a 10 percent discount at participating retail stores and businesses, but only if you show your card to cashiers! Your Trail Conference Membership Card is your proof of membership and is essential to taking advantage of this major benefit. Without presentation of a membership card, no discount will be provided.

These businesses (see list on page 8) provide a wonderful service to the NY-NJ Trail Conference and its members and have helped us to expand our membership base, thereby strengthening our work on behalf of trails and trail lands preservation. Please be sure to show your appreciation to these stores by thanking them and always presenting your membership card when seeking a discount.

VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 5 ISSN 0749-1352 PERMIT #970-100

Don’t Leave Home Without It!
T R A I L W A L K E R
VOL. XXIII, NO. 5 SEPT/OCT 2004
GEORGETTE WEIR, EDITOR
LOUIS LEONARDIS, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE
Mission Statement
The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, founded in 1928, is a federation of member clubs and individuals dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests of the users and stewards of the hiking community. The Conference is a voluntary umbrella organization, and is committed to:
• Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails.
• Promoting hiking trails through support and advocacy.
• Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

Board of Directors
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Letters
Mystery Graffiti: Theme and Variations
Tom Duns’ query in the last issue of Trail Walker about mysterious graffiti along the Buck Trail (see Letters, page 2) brought quite a few responses, a few of which are printed here. Thanks to all who wrote for helping to clear up the “what” of the mystery. What remains is the “why.”

More than any other, the krinos was adopted as the symbol of the band Blue Oyster Cult (for no other reason than that it looked cool and was a bit mysterious; they are not pagans or satanists or anything else on that order). They are also a very tight band and are one of the hardest-working bands around.

The band’s guitarist, Donald Roser, is considered by many to be the finest living rock and roll guitarist. Donald is much better known by his stage name Buck Dharma. So, the graffiti on the Buck Trail would seem to be the work of a, shall we say, enthusiastic fan who decided to make the trail a tribute to Buck. (No it wasn’t me! I seem to be the work of a, shall we say, over-enthusiastic fan who decided to make the trail a tribute to Buck. (No it wasn’t me! I have a very nice collection of letters from Buck and Donald and I have never had any problems with the band."

The symbol is associated with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, founded in 1928, as its symbol of the conference is the lyre, a modified ankh, an Egyptian symbol of life. It is not often that a long distance trail has a legislative mandate and a top official as Governor彭泽感兴趣唯一关注的问题。 该产品中可能包含以下内容： 用于治疗问题的产品

Hudson River Valley Greenway
In 1991, New York State passed the Greenway Act, a program designed to encourage communities in the Hudson River Valley to enhance life in the valley through economic development, natural and cultural resource protection, public access to the river, and heritage and environmental education. The portion of that program most of interest to hikers is the Hudson River Greenway Trail. Those familiar with the Hudson River Valley know that access to the river is more often blocked than allowed. Although you can see the river, touching it is another story. The concept of a trail along the river was tantalizing, as it would give access to a wonderful resource and at the same time connect the natural, cultural, and historic resources within the valley.

I have been involved with this state project, first as an employee of the Greenway in the early 1990s and later when the governor appointed me to the board of the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson Valley. It is probably not surprising that I think that the board’s Greenway Trails Committee. The Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail is described as being as diverse as the valley. It routes through woods, ascends hill tops, meanders through meadows, and follows the river, it also links communities, and even wanders down city streets.

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From the Executive Director
How We Work

As I write this, the middle of summer, it is the beginning of our Plan & Budget season, a time of year when we seek shelter from the sun to prepare budgets that express our organization’s hopes and dreams for the next fiscal cycle (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30). It occurs to me that there may be some readers out there who might not understand how the organized chaos called the Trail Conference works and might be interested to know. For those readers who want a scintillating tale, read elsewhere; for those who want to better understand and, most important, get involved, read on.

The bedrock premise of the Trail Conference is that we are first and foremost a volunteer organization. From 1920 to 1970, the Trail Conference was purely a federation of hiking clubs organized to assist public agencies build and maintain trails and to represent the interests of hikers. Club members made all decisions and club members did all the work. Around 1970, we began accepting individual members, electing a board of directors, and hiring staff. To this day, the board’s role is to provide coordination and support to a largely volunteer-run organization.

For the past 30 years, when we have elected a board of directors charged with running the affairs of the organization. Fifteen years ago, the board did just that, conducting spirited debates about such details as the color of blues and the format of minutes. As recently as five years ago, they were involved in deciding where the annual meeting would take place. While we now have a “work in progress” meeting monthly with high attendance, much of the day-to-day details are delegated to committees while the board concentrates itself with the strategic implications of policy decisions and the state of the organization.

Since the mid-1980s, when the Trail Council was formed to set trail policies and make decisions with oversight from the board, more of the work of the Conference has been delegated to committees. This delegated structure has reached its culmination today with nine volunteer committees organized around our basic mission components and functional units.

1. Trail Council: Approves all new trails, major reroutes, and trail policies; includes the chairs and supervisors of 13 trail committees and five trail crews.
2. Conservation & Advocacy: Promotes policies and actions in the interest of the hiking community through grass-roots and professional advocacy and protects hiking lands, particularly through acquisition and transfer to public agencies.
3. Publications: Oversees the creation of all Trail Conference publications, primarily books and maps.
4. Science: Conducts research and monitoring in support of good stewardship of trail lands and trails.
5. Outreach/Marketing: Promotes awareness and support of the organization’s mission and activities.
6. Membership: Seeks to increase membership and member services.
7. Volunteering: Seeks to increase the number of volunteers and the quality of the volunteer experience.
8. Fundraising: Provides the necessary financial support to advance the organization’s mission.
9. Administration: Concerns itself with operational policies, financial status, personnel, physical plant, and technology issues.

All of these committees consist of volunteers and would more accurately be called work groups with the emphasis on volunteers. Each committee is assigned a staff member who helps coordinate committee activities. Many committees also have a member from the board of directors. And, frankly, some committees have more vacancies, including leadership positions, than we would like.

Each committee tackles the issues and tasks within its functional area based on the expertise, time, and effort that are represented among the committee members. It is important to remember that volunteer committees are only able to accomplish what they are willing and able to accomplish. Volunteers are not employees, after all, and give their time because ultimately the experience is more positive than negative. Striving too hard is often a fast way to dampen enthusiasm of volunteers.

This is why we are always looking for people willing to volunteer on committees, especially in leadership positions. I truly enjoy hearing the simple ideas but, above all, I appreciate hearing from people who are ready to commit personal time and/or financial support to the efforts of volunteers getting a valuable job done. Many, many thanks are due to the countless people who have given the extra mile in this regard.

To the Executive Director
How We Work

NY-NJ Trail Conference Annual Meeting
Sunday October 31, 2004
Skylands Manor

Come to Skylands Manor in beautiful Ringwood State Park in the New Jersey Highlands on Sunday, October 31 for the Trail Conference’s Annual Meeting. The meeting is open to all Trail Conference members and their families.

The day will begin with hikes of various lengths, starting at 10:30 am, and garden/manor tours, starting at noon. A Delegates meeting will start at 1:15 pm. A reception to mark the kick-off of a capital campaign, Connecting People With Nature, will follow from 2 pm until 5 pm. Please complete the reservation form below and return it to the Trail Conference office by Friday, October 8. Directions will be sent to those who register. For more details, contact Lisa Cargill at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348 or email her at cargill@nynjtc.org.

NY-NJ Trail Conference Annual Meeting
Sunday October 31, 2004
Skylands Manor

Name(s): _______________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: __________________________________________________
Phone: Day (       ) ____________________Eve (       )_____________________
E-mail address: ___________________________________________________
____________________
October 8, 2004

I (we) will attend:
____________________
*1ST Hike: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Skylands Manor Tour: 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
*2nd Hike: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Garden Tour: 1 p.m.-2 p.m.
*3rd Hike: 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Annual Meeting: 1:15 p.m.-2 p.m.
Check all that are appropriate:
Kick-off reception for capital campaign: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

More Gunks Land Gets State Protection
Sale of an 860-acre assemblage of parcels along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail in the Town of Mamakating, Sullivan County, has been completed according to a June announcement by Gov. George Pataki. The Trail Conference led the effort to protect these lands by identifying landowners, conducting negotiations with them, acquiring several options, and purchasing one 151-acre parcel. (Sale of that parcel to the state was announced in the July/August issue of Trail Walker.) The purchase announced by the governor on June 30 includes four additional parcels; the Open Space Institute and the Trust for Public Lands were partners in this project. The parcels fill a gap in protected land between Warnerbrook Ridge State Forest and the Shawangunk Ridge State Forest. The land will be managed by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Ed Goodell congratulates Governor Pataki.

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ADVOCACY

Stewart Buffer Lands Still Under Seige
A court-ordered review by New York State of its planned construction of an access highway to Stewart Airport in Orange County is unsatisfactory, according to the Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition (SPARC), which led the legal battle against the plan with help from a $2,500 Trail Conference contribution. A SPARC spokesperson said in June that the revised plan moved the road only about “30 feet,” the group plans to continue its opposition. The buffer land, comprising some 7,000 acres west of Drury Lane, is habitat for wildlife and serves as a public hiking辟urative and a multi-recreational area for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and other passive uses. SPARC and its allies, which include Rep. Maurice Hinchey, urge that the state study an alternative route that will leave the buffer lands intact as undeveloped open space. A federal appeals court judge issued an injunction in December that prohibited the state from moving forward with its road-building plans pending its study of the project’s impact on recreation.

Fast Track to Controversy

A controversial bill that fast-tracks the permit process for developers in New Jersey was signed into law by Gov. James E. McGreevey in July, while the Highlands Act, which aims to protect and preserve open space, continued to await his signature.
For the latest schedules, go to nynytc.org and click on “Trail crews/Work trips.”

**WEST HUDSON NORTH CREW (NEW CREW)**

Leaders: Denise Vitale: 845-496-8198 (days or early evenings), WHTNTrail@aol.com
Dave Webber: 845-452-7238, webbed1@yahoo.com

**Sept. 11 (Saturday)** Dave Webber
Gertrude’s Nose Trail: Minnewaska S.P.
Erosion control. Meet 9:15, upper parking lot at Lake Minnewaska

**Sept. 19 (Sunday)** Dave Webber
Gertrude’s Nose Trail: Minnewaska S.P.
Erosion control. Meet 9:15, upper parking lot at Lake Minnewaska

**Oct. 2 and 3 (Saturday and Sunday)**
Denise Vitale: Trestle Trail-NW, Schunemunk S.P.
Beginners’ Highline Class Learn/Work project will be focused on building a rock staircase and erosion control. Meet 9:15, trailhead lot on Otterkill Road

**Oct. 9 (Saturday)** Denise Vitale
Trestle Trail-NW, Schunemunk S.P.
Erosion control. Meet 9:15, trailhead lot on Otterkill Road

**Oct. 16 (Saturday)** Denise Vitale
Compartmen Trail, Black Rock Forest
Stepping stones for several stream crossings; side-hilling Meet 9:15, trail TBD

**EAST HUDSON CREW**

**WEST HUDSON SOUTH CREW**

Leaders: Chris Ezzo: 516-431-1148, musicinmyblood59@yahoo.com
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563, brian@grandrenovation.com
Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324, cglanz@earthlink.net
Robert Marshall: 914-757-4792, rmarshall@webnet.com
Monica Resor: 732-957-9098, adamantra@trailbuild.com

**Sept. 18 (Saturday)** Monica Resor
Stittman Trail relocation on Butterhill Mountain, Storm King S.P.

**Sept. 23 (Thursday)** Bob Marshall TBD

**Sept. 25 (Saturday)** Bob Marshall
Stittman Trail relocation on Butterhill Mountain, Storm King S.P.

**Trips on the following dates are TBD.**

**Oct. 2 (Saturday)** Claudia Ganz
Oct. 7 (Thursday) Bob Marshall
Oct. 9 (Saturday) Brian Buchbinder
Oct. 10 (Sunday) Chris Ezzo
Oct. 16 (Saturday) Monica Resor
Oct. 17 (Sunday) Chris Ezzo
Oct. 21 (Thursday) Bob Marshall
Oct. 23 (Saturday) Claudia Ganz
Oct. 30 (Sunday) Chris Ezzo
Nov. 4 (Thursday) Bob Marshall

**HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW**

Contact the leader for details, no more than one week before the scheduled work date. All projects are TBD.

Bob Moss: 973-743-5203

**A Turn on the Trail: New West Hudson North Crew Forms**

Hiking is as much about the journey as the destination, and one of the greatest appeals to many hikers is tracking a true course through the unknown to explore the beauty of our forests, watercourses, and meadows. While I know I can trust the North reading on my compass, one never really knows what lies on the trail ahead. Washed out bridges, injuries caused by slipping on wet, downward-dropping rocks, and renegade ATV trails cutting the mapped trail system into incomprehensible intersections can turn a pleasant hike into a race with the fading daylight.

Even when the path beneath my feet is challenging and the direction of the trail unclear, I still find a special gift in each trek. To give something in return, I’ve been part of the crews who build the stairs, benches, and waterbars, making the way safer for us and gentler on the land. Spending time with those who’ve devoted years to teaching the trails and who shift rocks with moves as natural as flowing water, I’ve continued on page 10

**WEST HUDSON SOUTH CREW**

Leaders: Chris Ezzo: 516-431-1148, musicinmyblood59@yahoo.com
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563, brian@grandrenovation.com
Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324, cglanz@earthlink.net
Robert Marshall: 914-757-4792, rmarshall@webnet.com
Monica Resor: 732-957-9098, adamantra@trailbuild.com

**Sept. 25 (Saturday)** Walt Daniels
Oct. 9 (Saturday) Walt Daniels
Oct. 30 (Saturday) Walt Daniels

**NORTH JERSEY CREW**

Leaders: Sandy Parr: 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 building bridges, and waterbars, making the way safer for us and gentler on the land. Spend-

**West JerseY Trail crew**

Leaders: David Day and Monica Resor: 732-937-9098, wnytc@trailbuild.com

Heavy morning rain cancels.

**Sept. 11 (Saturday)**
Terrace Pond South Trail, Wawayanda S.P. Stream crossings Meet 9 am, parking lot on Clinton Road ("P" on Trail Conference map P21)

**Sept. 25 (Saturday)**
Appalachian Trail, Worrington S.P. Building drainage structures and doing general trail repairs. Meet 9 am, Dunifield Creek parking lot

**Oct. 9 (Saturday)**
Terrace Pond Outlet, Wawayanda S.P. Start of major project to replace the trail crossing of the Terrace Pond outlet. Meet: 9 am, location TBD

**OCT. 10 (Sunday)**
Terrace Pond Outlet, Wawayanda S.P. Continue Terrace Pond outlet crossing. Meet: 9 am, location TBD

**Oct. 23 and Nov. 6 (Saturday)**
Jenny Jump S.P. Erosion control, trail repair. Meet: 9 am, location TBD

**AT ORANGE/ROCKLAND (west of Hudson)**
Appalachian Trail Clean-up Crew Leader
Rick Loggia: 845-496-2423

**Sept. 26 (Sunday)**
Clean and restore Fitzgerald Falls. Help needed one Sunday a month.
Black Bears
By Joseph B. Paulin

Black bear populations are widely distributed throughout the forested areas of 42 states in North America. During the 1800s to the mid 1900s, the clearing of land and industry has destroyed wildlife populations in the northeast to decline. In more recent years, however, legal protection, habitat recovery, and increased food availability has allowed populations to increase and expand so that in our own region the chance of an encounter with a black bear (Ursus americanus) continues to rise. Current estimates based on research conducted by New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife biologists place the state’s bear population at 2,000 to 3,000 bears, while Pennsylvania’s bear population is approximately 15,000 individuals.

Black bears (the color of individuals may range from black to chocolate brown to black-gray) are most active at dawn and dusk. Nearly 75 percent of their diet consists of plant material such as skunk cabbage, grasses, forbs, berries, acorns, and nuts, but they will also eat small mammals, insects, bird eggs, and even other bears. Bears near agricultural communities will often feast on crops, beehives, and occasionally freight. In more suburban areas, they can be found eating garbage, birdseed, pet food, and sometimes pets. When bears learn to rely on human derived food sources, they may end up in a situation where their natural habitat is destroyed, so people living in bear country should take care not to feed bears either intentionally or unintentionally.

Prime black bear habitat includes mixed hardwood forests, dense swamps, and forested wetlands. Breeding takes place between late May and August. Male bears have an average home range of 60 square miles, and can travel distances up to 100 miles during the spring when they are looking for mates; females stay closer to home, in an area that is about 10 square miles. Pregnant females den in early November and give birth the following January. A typical litter consists of three cubs, which are blind at birth, covered with thin hair, and weigh approximately eight ounces each. Although they can survive on their own after six to eight months, cubs usually remain with their mother until she breeds again six months later. At that time, female yearlings will often establish a home range within or adjacent to their mother’s range. Male yearlings must disperse. Bears can live for more than 20 years. Black bears are not true hibernators, which is defined as a state in which body temperature falls dramatically. When they do enter a state of torpor, usually in December, they will not eat, drink, urinate, or defecate. Bears are found in forest openings, brush piles, or depressions at the base of tree blow downs, but can also occur under raised houses and decks.

Black bears are not dangerous unless they feel threatened or cornered. The most common signs of a bear’s presence are woofing sounds, jaw grunts. If you encounter a black bear on the trail or at home, it is important to remember that they are large wild animals that should never be approached. Black bears have the potential to cause serious injury if they feel threatened, cornered, or are obstructed from food. They are fast on land (reaching speeds of 35 miles per hour), great tree climbers, and excellent swimmers. They have poor vision, but an acute sense of smell. Some things to keep in mind if you encounter a bear: make sure it is aware of your presence by clapping, talking, or making other noises; if a bear stands on its hind legs it is a sign of aggression, but may be trying to get a better look at or smell of you. Warning signs that you are too close to a black bear include wooling sounds, jaw snapping, and swatting the ground. In some instances a bear may “ bluff” charge, or begin running toward you and then stop. If you experience signs of aggression do not run or make eye contact, rather, stand up straight, make yourself look as big as possible, and then back away slowly while speaking in a calm, assertive voice.

Additional information about bears can be obtained from the following websites: the International Bear Association for Bear Research and Management (www.bearbiology.com), the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife (www.njfishandwildlife.com), or the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (www.dec.state.ny.us).
Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

Are you looking for new challenges and opportunities to get involved with Trail Conference activities? Please review the TC Volunteer Classifieds for exciting and interesting ways 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.

Guidebook Volunteers

The Publications Committee is currently working on several guidebook works. We are seeking individuals with experience in the following areas:
• Project management
• Marketing
• Indexing
• Field checking
• Proofreading

Please contact Joshua Erdsneker at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 for more details.

Workshop and Training Coordinator

Volunteers are the heart and soul of this organization. Without them, our trails fall into disrepair, our maps become outdated, our website stops loading, etc. To support our mission, the Trail Conference offers a variety of training programs. Capital from Trail Maintenance 101 to teaching computer skills, training is an essential part of our volunteer program. We are looking for a person to help coordinate these training sessions as well as to work with Trail Conference staff and volunteers to maximize the impact of our workshops and training sessions. For information, please contact Josh Erdsneker, josh@nynjtc.org, at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348.

Membership Committee

The strength of the Trail Conference comes from its members. As we face new challenges protecting the hiking trails and trail lands we love, we need to be stronger than ever. If you are a motivated go-getter, then this is the committee for you. With over 2 million hikers in our region, the potential to grow our membership is boundless. Interested persons should be creative, able to work in a team/group environment, and be dedicated to the Trail Conference. The Membership Committee will focus on new member acquisition, membership retention, and reviewing and enhancing benefits of membership in the Trail Conference. Contact Joshua Erdsneker at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 for more details.

NJ Chain Saw Crew Leaders

The West Jersey region of the NY-NJ Trail Conference is trying to establish a new chain saw crew to routinely take care of trail blowdowns. A volunteer leader is needed for this effort. Please let us know if you are interested. The West Jersey region includes all of the Kittatinny range from the Delaware Water Gap to High Point, plus Wayne-Wyandotte State Park, the Newark Watershed, Jockey Hollow, and a few smaller parks. More than 15 miles currently require blowdown removals that cannot be handled by the trail maintainer. Details on how such a crew will operate will be left to the leader, but will likely include similar to existing trail crews—i.e., establishing a schedule, identifying potential crew members, and communication of schedules and results. Contact Bob Boyens, West Jersey Trails Chairman NY-NJ TC, at boyens@eclipse.net or call 908-459-4107.

Other positions available:
• Book Review Coordinator
• Assistant web masters
• Presentation Designers

GIS Specialist Joins Staff

The Trail Conference welcomes Eric Yadavolkar to the position of GIS Specialist. Eric graduated in 2004 from Rutgers University with a B.S. in environmental planning and a certificate in environmental geomatics. Over the past several years he has specialized in the implementation and use of geographic information systems. In essence, a geographic information system (GIS) is a set of computer-based tools for mapping, analyzing, and displaying spatial data. GIS technology integrates common database operations with the unique visualization and geographic analysis benefits offered by maps.

Eric will develop and manage a custom GIS in support of a broad range of organizational activities including land conservation, trail development and management, environmental monitoring and research, cartographic publications, and geo-marketing. Among his first projects are the Shawangunk map set and creating parcel maps in priority trail corridors for acquisition.

Thank-you, Trail Crews

In our January/February issue, we listed and acknowledged the contributions of 639 trail maintainers and their supervisors who had helped keep our trails clear and healthy the previous year. This hearty thank-you goes to all the men and women who have contributed countless hours of work, gallons of sweat, and pints of blood to building and maintaining trails. Thank you to our chain saw crews. Without dedicated, trail crew members, leaders, chiefs, and chain sawyers, the bridges, staircases, and tables we work with Trail Conference staff and volunteers to maximize the impact of our workshops and training sessions. For information, please contact Josh Erdsneker, josh@nynjtc.org, at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our trails over the past year. If we have not listed you, we apologize for the oversight; please let us know.

Teatown Collaboration Adds 15th Trail Mile

On July 21, Teatown Lake Reservation officially opened the 15th mile in our trail network. The new trail traverses the 50-acre property newly protected by Westchester County and managed by Teatown Lake Reservation. Volunteers from the NY-NJ Trail Conference helped to flag the new trail and children and adults from various organizations as well as Teatown’s trail crew worked to construct it.

The result of everyone’s hard work is a new mile of hiking trails that link Teatown Lake to the Croton Reservoir, verdant woodlands that protect the world, beautiful rock outcroppings and woodlands that provide needed habitat to our local wildlife, and a beautiful route for people to walk through and enjoy for years to come.

The trail is accessed from Teatown’s Back-40 Trail, which starts at Teatown’s main parking lot on Spring Valley Road. Future plans include a new trailhead parking lot on Route 134, which will provide direct access to the trail. For more information or directions, contact Teatown Lake Reservation at www.teatown.org or 762-2912, ext. 10.

—Annie Bishop

Volunteer Coordinator

Teatown Lake Reservation is a member organization of the Trail Conference.
JAKOB FRANKE

Long Path News Shorts
On Saturday, July 10, four people (Rob Sklar, Lynne and John Delsky, Jakob Franke) showed up for a work trip in the back country of Minnewaska State Park. The trip had been posted on the Trail Conference website and had been nominated as an OPRHP/PIC/P (Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation/ Palisades Interstate Park Commission) “Take Pride in America Event” by the park’s staff. The purpose of the trip was to fix bog bridges on the Long Path near Mud Pond. The project involved replacing a dozen planks on existing bridges and building two new sections. Thanks to great cooperation from the rangers (Sam and Jorge) we finished the job in one day. They had hauled all the lumber to the worksite and provided us with a lift to and from Little Awosting. We even had time to sample the blueberries on our way back. A very satisfying day it was.

On Saturday, July 17, Thomas Fella from Nyack, NY, received his Eagle award for restoring a portion of the LP in Nyack, clearing up an old dumpsite, and working on a new route for the LP over West Hook Mountain. Congratulations and thanks to Thomas.

—Jakob Franke
Chair, Long Path South Committee

Shawangunk Ridge Trail Moved to Newly Protected Land
On a sunny spring day on the Shawangunk Ridge Trail in the town of Goshen in Orange County, New York, a crew of Trail Conference volunteers stripped through a jungle of dense underbrush (mostly huckleberry) and trees to put the finishing touches on a newly relocated section of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail.

This section of the trail in Greenville has long been a road walk, but not anymore. Recent Trail Conference acquisitions negotiated by the TC’s land acquisitions team have allowed the trail to be rerouted from Old Mountain Road and Greenville Turnpike onto permanently protected lands. The lands were purchased with the assistance of the Trail Conference’s donor supported Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund.

On the morning in question the crew volunteers comprised Jakob and Gely Franke, John Rotetto, Jim Ryo Kryan, and Eric Meyer. A short distance away, on the other side of Route 184 along Route 6, Gary Haugland worked on constructing a side-trail on another Conference acquisition.

The SRT, which runs the entire length of the ridge from New York’s High Point State Park to Sam’s Point Preserve in upstate New York, is blazed with Long Path Aqua, since it is actually a long distance spur of the Appalachian Trail. In addition, the properties are posted at the roadways with Long Path markers and/or public notices to inform the public where they can hike and enjoy this now-publicly accessible land.

For information on how to hike this section of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail, please visit our website at http://www.nynjtc.org/trails/echo/index.html or call the Trail Conference office at 201-512-9348.

—Richard Bussing
Land Protection Specialist

Hunting Seasons

NEW YORK: Southern Zone (Including Catskills)

Deer Season
Regular: Nov. 22-Dec. 14
Archery: Oct. 15-Nov. 21; Dec. 15-19
Archery (Westchester Co. only): Nov. 1–Dec. 31
Muzzleloader: Dec. 15-21

Black Bear, Catskills
Regular: Nov. 27 - Dec. 14
Muzzleloading: Dec. 15- Dec. 19
Archery: Oct. 15-Nov. 21; Dec. 15- Dec. 19

Special regulations apply on Long Island. For details, go to http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/ dfwms/wma/abhunt.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.

Bear Mountain AT Rehab Studied
The first official segment of the Appalachian Trail, Benton MacKaye's dream for plebian rural escapees, was opened on Bear Mountain in 1923. Although it wasn’t the earliest trail in what is now known as the Harriman-Bear Mountain State Parks, it was and is the premier hiking trail in the region. Bear Mountain State Park itself receives more visitors in a year than many of our best known western national parks. Current use levels of the AT on Bear Mountain reflect both its historical importance and its accessibility. While this popularity is welcome, the AT on the inn side of the mountain has suffered greatly from the undisciplined usage by the huge number of visitors to Bear Mountain who attempt, and usually succeed, in “going to the top.”

Over the years, several relocations have been effected, and much crew work expended on refurbishing eroded stretches marred by multiple herd paths. Nevertheless, the trail, especially on the lower section going north from the summit is a scarred, barren, and gullied mess. In addition, on the upper section, as well as on the south bound side from the same continued on page 9

National Trails Day Events
National Trails Day Hike
Celebrates Highlands
Weather didn’t keep some 15 people from participating in the Highlands Treasures Hike arranged for National Trails Day (June 5) by Trail Conference volunteers and partners from Skylands CLEAN and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. The hike was one in a series of hikes that highlight areas in the Highlands Geographic Province that are threatened by sprawl or unsound development.

This year’s area of special concern was the proposed development on Saddle Mountain in West Milford and Ringwood, NJ. This magnificent mountain, which includes the famous “Pine Paddlers” and was formerly censused by a trail system in use for at least the last 100 years, was closed to public use by the new owners in 1995. A planned 425-acre tract would include luxury homes, an 18-hole golf course and clubhouse, and a loop road that connects to Dale Road. This landscape of steep slopes ranges in elevation from 600 to 1200 feet and includes a New Jersey State Museum-registered aboriginal habitation site and a number of C-1 class streams that flow into the Wanaque Reservoir.

A presentation was given by Robin O’Hearn of Skylands CLEAN, Wilma Frey of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and Bob Jonas of the NJ-NY Trail Conference at the NJ-Wildwood’s Winnekie Nature Center in Ringwood, courtesy of Kafà Ridon, Sanctuary Director. This was followed by a 6-mile hike up to the recently opened Will Monroe Trail on Ausinwauken Mountain, led by Estelle Anderson of the Trail Conference.

Others Take Place in NYC
The Metro Area Trails Committee of the Trail Conference joined with the New York City Dept. of Parks and Recreation to co-sponsor National Trails Day events at High Rock Park in the Staten Island Greenbelt and Alley Pond Park in Queens. Metro Area Trails Committee Chair Bob Ward reported that volunteers under the direction of Bettye and Stephen Soifer, Staten Island Area Supervisors, worked on and rehabilitated the White Trail from Adasmenius Circle to Hylan Blvd. The trail is now restored and open for public use.

In Alley Pond, Joe Goldoff, Judith King, Al Slankina, and Bob Ward laid wood chips on the Green Trail, making it more comfortable for walkers and cutting down erosion.

National Trails Day In Norrin Green
led by TC volunteers Bob Jonas and Estelle Anderson spotlighted development concerns adjacent to the park.

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
New Jersey has very complicated hunting seasons that vary depending on location and kind of weapon permit. There is, however, no hunting permitted on Sundays. It is recommended that hikers verify the hunting dates for the location in which they are interested. Call 609-282-2865, Monday through Friday, or 908-637-4125 (the Pequest Trout Hatchery) open seven days a week. Visit www.njfishandwildlife.com. The following dates for deer season apply in many zones.

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

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

Trail Walker September/October 2004 7
These Stores & Businesses Offer Discounts to Our Members

Present your Trail Conference membership card at any of these fine places and receive special discounts on your purchases. (Restrictions are varied, so ask each store for details.)

RETAIL STORES
10% discounts on in-store purchases at:
- Base Camp Adventure Outfitters
  44 South Side Avenue
  Backing Ridge, NJ
  908 204-9999
- Blue Ridge Mountain Sports
  25 Main St., Madison, NJ
  973 377-3301
- Campmor
  801 & 2nd North, Paramus, NJ
  201 454-5000
- Catskill Biking Shack
  259 Sullivan St., Wurtsboro, NY
  845 429-3253
- The Nickel
  Princeton Shopping Mall
  N. Harrison St., Princeton, NJ
  609 921-6078
- The Outdoor Store
  52 Church St., Montclair, NJ
  973 746-9500
- Paragon Sports
  867 Broadway (at 18th St.), New York, NY
  212 255-8030, 800 961-3030
- Ramsey Outdoor Stores
  55 B. 17 South, Ramsey, NJ
  201 327-8141
- Ray's Sport Shop
  559 Bt. 22 West, North Plainfield, NJ
  908 561-4400

LODGING, TRAVEL & PUBLICATIONS
At the historic Bear Mountain Inn, in Bear Mountain State Park (NY), members get a 10% discount on dining and lodging. Alcohol; beverages; gratuities are not included. Call 845 786-2751.

In the northern Catskills, the Catskill Mountain Lodge in Palenville, NY extends discounts to Trail Conference members on non-holiday weekends. For details and reservations, call 800 961-3030.

English Lakeland Ramblers offers Trail Conference members a 50% discount on their walking tours in England & Scotland. Call 212 950-1020 to plan your trip.


Say that you are a Trail Conference member and get a 20% discount on maps of National Parks from Trails Illustrated. Call Map Link, 805 965-4402

Ramble the Hudson Valley
Sept. 18–29
The two weekends that comprise this year’s Fifth Annual Hudson Valley Ramble include several outings led by Trail Conference volunteers Jane and Walt Daniels and Jakob Franke. Information about additional hikes and other outings is available at www.hudsonvalleyramble.org or call 800-453-6665 and ask for a free guide.

Pailsides Long Path - Shore Trail Trek Saturday, Sept. 18
Hike New York’s Long Path along the crest of the Pailsides featuring stunning views of the bluffs; the Hudson River and Westchester County. Led by Long Path South Chair Jakob Franke of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, the trek includes a bushwhack down to Shunk Hollow, an historic 18th century black settlement, a rock scramble over the Giant Stairs along the Hudson River and a visit to Peanut Leap Falls and the remnants of Lawrence Garey. Bring lunch/water; wear long pants; trail gains and losses (1,000 feet altogether), very difficult. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 19.

Directions: From Pailsides Pkwy., take Exit 4, go south on Rt. 9W to Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory; meet at entrance. Public: From George Washington Bus Terminal at 178th St. Red and Tan bus 9A at 10:40 am; or 9W bus at 9:15 am from Port Authority Terminal to starting point at Lamont-Doherty.

Camp Smith Trail, Hudson Highlands State Park Sunday, Sept. 26
Running parallel to the Hudson River, the trail’s spectacular views make this strenuous hike, with its many elevation gains and losses (1,000 feet altogether), worth the work. The view from Anthony’s Nose is as famous as its name. At each viewpoint, you’ll learn about the history of the Hudson Highlanders from leaders Walt and Jane Daniels of the NY/NJ Trail Conference. Bring lunch, water, windbreaker in daypack. 3.7 miles, difficult.

Directions: From east side of Bear Mt. Bridge, park on river side of Rt. 9D just north of bridge.

CONTRIBUTIONS

GIFTS
AKD McLean Charter, Wayne W. and Martha P. McLean
—to Trail Conference volunteer Jane and Walt Daniels of the Hudson Valley Ramble
—In honor of Dr. George Becker, Jr.
—In memory of Catherine Durda
—In memory of Kenneth Zadeck

LIFE MEMBERS
Herb A. Chong

SPECIAL GIFTS
In honor of the marriage of Liz Water and Kenneth Zadeck
—Frances E. Allen; John and Karen Hagerman*
—Greg and Sarah Pulte; Bertha Whitman
In honor of Dr. George Becker, Jr.’s 75th birthday
—Michael and Lynne W. Stattegger
In honor of John and Harriette Guerci
—Michael S. Natsim

For Land Acquisition C: stewardship
—Mitchell Bacharach*

In Shangri-La Ridge Guideline
—Ralph and Charlotte Wasser*

In the Neil Zimmerman Fund
—To National Trails Day at Alley Pond Park

Eastern Mountain Sports*

MEMORIAL GIFTS
In memory of Jay Schwartz
—Michael Brochstein, Mosaic Outdoor Mountain Club of Greater N.Y., Inc.
In memory of Trail Leaders
—Estate of Walter Segreti*, Island Sussex Foundation, a New York State Memorial Trust

In memory of Catherine Dunia
—Betty Inwood

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Eastern Mountain Sports*
GREEN ACRES ACQUISITION continued from page 1

regularly attended West Milford Town Council meetings in support of preserving the trail and surrounding land. Bob Moss, the Highlands Trail Supervisor for the Trail Conference, joined the fray as an interested party and saved the day by earning a judiciary mandate delayed until Miller and the state would be represented.

This tract of land is known variously as “Algonquin Waters,” “The Redevelopment Zone,” “The Golf Course,” and “The Norvin Green Cove.” Bob Jonas, in collaboration with Bob Moss and Estelle Anderson, has already around the trail.”

Everyone is so different. And you’re friends with everyone, young people, working people. Estelle says. “I like people, and the main- ence of the three endangered/threatened species. And you’re friends already around the trail.”

She is uncomfortable with the thought of being in the Trail Walker Imladrig, but agrees to a profile hoping that it will encourage other women to volunteer in the field. In the few years she has been active as a maintainer, Estelle says she has learned that she is capable of doing more challenging outdoor labor than she at first thought. “I was out with Bob [Jonas], and he said we were going to do it. And we did!”

“I like working with maintainers,” Estelle says. “I like people, and the maintainers include all kinds of people—retired people, young people, working people. Everyone is so different. And you’re friends already around the trail.”

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“Like making a trail,” she says. “I like mowing the ribbons, checking the views, making the paths good for people to walk on. It’s fun because you see something fin- ished. It’s sort of like cleaning your house. When you’re done, it looks nice.”

$225 Million Recommended For NJ Green Acres

The Garden State Preservation Trust in July approved the latest round of funding rec- ommendations for DEP Green Acres Program open space acquisitions and park development projects. The funding pack- age, which then moved to the legislature for approval, recommends the dedication of almost $225 million to land acquisition projects and outdoor recreation develop- ment through the state land acquisition program and grants and loans to local gov- ernment and nonprofit organizations. In this funding package, the Green Acres Pro- gram recommends the allocation of $55,495,500 for acquisition projects in the Highlands. This figure includes $23,770,500 for local projects, $6,725,000 for nonprofit projects, and $25,000,000 for state projects in the Highlands.

BEAR MOUNTAIN continued from page 4

mit, the trail is conditioned with segments of the old and new Perkins Drive, presenting serious safety as well as aesthetic concerns.

Estelle’s enthusiasm and dedication to re-opening a trail to the views on Ausinovisak, and her enthusiasm and skill in getting maintainers to work and reinvigorated, impressed South Wyanokie Trail Supervisor Bob Jonas. He launched his own lobbying effort; he wanted her to encourage other women to volunteer in the field. In the few years she has been active as a maintainer, Estelle says she has learned that she is capable of doing more challenging outdoor labor than she at first thought. “I was out with Bob [Jonas], and he said we were going to do it. And we did!”

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The Reluctant Hiker

To please a friend, the author forgoes landscapes at the Met to walk up a mountain trail. I'm not sure what motivates my friend to affectionately sandwich me, lures me up a mountain trail. This isn't laziness—I like walking, forgo the subway every chance I get, and despite the pointy-toed spiky-sandals of Manhattan, I always sport comfortable, if clunky, walking shoes. I just don't get walking without a purpose. Case in point: the other day I walked 18 blocks to Beacon. I arrived by Metro-North and started thinking: If it was altitude I was after, I could have broken a twenty rather than a sweat to feel my ears pop on the way up. Frederick Law Olmsted, I'd read on the train that morning, wrote while preparing his plans for Central Park, “The enjoyment of scenery employs the mind more than the Bronx, to the Hudson Valley—catch up; we stare in silence, and move on. Then we catch up on her career, my career, and then to wait for me at a viewpoint. I live in Manhattan, a city known for, among other things, its flatness (a brief stint in San Francisco ended for perhaps this reason). I was raised in the suburbs, where a hike was something you took when you got a bad parking spot at the mall. I'm not surprised you do try to invent a reverse ski lift (down is much more treacherous than up), I realized my thoughts were flowing unencumbered in a way they rarely do back home. I recalled times I have solved problems, interpreted dreams, reached epiphanies, all at the tops of mountains, huddled by the metronomic crunch of leaves below my feet and the sound of my own breath. I might need to take this up a notch—up, up the Palisades (the cliffs, not the mall), the Shawangunk Ridge (the mountains, not the hotels). My friend and I love to talk, but she also has a talent for being quiet. Once we've caught up on her career, my career, and what's going on in the world of mountains and trail building, we'll sit in silence and move on.

UCHC. Four Birds Trail, Hibernia, NJ. Leader: Ray Krant, for information. Moderately strenuous 7.5 miles.

WTW. High Mountain, Wayne, NJ. Leader: Robert McKenzie, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. 4-5 miles at a brisk pace; hiking boots mandatory. Rain cancels.

UCHC. Union County Hiking Club, NJ. Meet: 1 pm. 1.5-hour kid-friendly hike, in its fall dressing. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference. More than 85 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers' Almanac. Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference Office.

For a list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.
Hikers’ Marketplace at Your Orde: Please order by citing price

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<th>Books</th>
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<td>Day Walker (2002)</td>
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<td>hikingLong Island (2002)</td>
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<td>New York Walk Book (2001) &amp; see combo</td>
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<td>Book Two: The Central Catskills (2000)</td>
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<td>Scenic &amp; Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) &amp; see combo</td>
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<td>Nature Walks in New Jersey (1998)</td>
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<td>50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley (2002)</td>
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<td>Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills &amp; Hudson River Valley (2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catskill Trail: A Rambler’s Guide to the High Peaks</td>
<td>$12.95</td>
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| Combo-Packs | |
| Catskill (5-map set & ADK book) | $27.80 | $21.60 | +$6.20 |
| Harriman (2-map set & book) & see combo | $22.40 | $17.55 | +$4.85 |
| NY & NJ Walk Books & see combo | $25.95 | $21.75 | +$4.20 |
| Shawangunks Combo (4-map set & book) | $17.95 | $13.95 | +$4.00 |

**The Personal Touch**

| Note Cards | TC Collection | $12.00 | $9.60 | +$2.40 |
| Hiking Cap | $16.00 | $12.00 | +$4.00 |
| Long-sleeve Denim Shirt | Circle: S M L XL | $29.95 | $22.90 | +$7.05 |
| Polo Shirt (Forest Green) | Circle: S M L XL | $19.95 | $15.95 | +$4.00 |
| NY-NJ Trail Conference T-Shirt Circle: S L XL | $13.95 | $10.95 | +$3.00 |
| Harriman Map Bandanna | $6.95 | $5.55 | +$1.40 |
| Conference Logo Patch | $2.50 | $2.00 | +$0.50 |
| Conference Logo Decal | $.85 | $.85 | |

**Subtotal**

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

For non-clothing items, New Jersey residents add 7% tax.

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

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Joint/Family</th>
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