Next Great Leaders

Who among us can take on one project at time and see it through to the end? Most of us!

State-wide budget problems and limited resources are challenging recreational land managers and conservationists alike in New York and New Jersey. Consequently, the Trail Conference is being asked to do more than ever before. Is the Trail Conference prepared to accept these new challenges and will we still be able to provide the hiking community with the same services that we have offered for the last 85 years?

My first reaction is, yes, our volunteers can do anything they put their minds to. Last year we built a 63’ bridge over the Pополонек Creek. The mileage of trails we maintain has grown steadily over the past five years to more than 1,600 miles. We are the leading publisher of hiking guidebooks and maps in the region. We successfully advocated for the reopening of Storm King State Park. Just pick up a copy of the Trail Walker and you’ll be able to read about our successes. With the support of 1,200 recorded volunteers in 2004, the Trail Conference accomplished more than ever before. Individuals, couples, families, and our member clubs have all made contributions to our success.

In the past three years, I have met hundreds of these volunteers. None of them consider themselves extraordinary or special, but I beg to differ. Whether I’m out with a trail crew, on the phone with a member of the board of directors, emailing a publication volunteer, or even bumping into a maintainer while she is out on a work trip, I have noticed they all share a deep sense of pride and commitment when they contribute to the Trail Conference. Some can’t say no: one is currently a map project manager, map field checker, and GISer, office volunteer, trail maintainer, trail crew member, NJ Highlands advocate, member of the Sterling Forest Working Group, trail layout and designer, and delegate-at-large. And others won’t say quit, such as the volunteer who has maintained a trail for 26 years.

Trail Conference volunteers are passionate, extraordinary people. Right now, we need more people who are passionate and committed to trails to become our volunteer leaders. To state the obvious, without volunteer leaders, we would be hamstrung. Each of our maps and guidebooks needs a dedicated project manager to oversee its production. Our trail committees need supervisors to manage specific areas of trails. Volunteers are needed to coordinate our training efforts. The hiking community needs to organize its efforts to tell developers and elected officials how we feel about proposals that threaten our trails. Our advocacy committee needs leaders to spearhead the effort to address illegal ORV usage. We need volunteers to take on one project at time and see it through to the end.

With new project management tools to be developed, an increased number of workshops, specialized training for hi-tech work, and advanced trail building and design workshops, a wide range of support-ed, volunteer opportunities is available; it’s never been easier to get involved.

Order Updated North Jersey and Kittatinny Maps Today

The Trail Conference Publications Committee has just concluded its busiest map-making season ever. Four updated maps sets have been published to far this year: the brand-new digital edition of the Shawangunks, the updated digital Sterling Forest map (both announced in the May/June Trail Walker), and now updated analog versions of the North Jersey and Kittatinny maps.

Although the previous edition of the North Jersey map set was published only three years ago, many changes have taken place to the trails in the area, and the 2002 edition of Map #22 had become obsolete. The new edition includes the expanded network of trails in the area of Camp Glen Gray, which has been acquired by Bergen County. It also shows the new Hasenclever Iron Trail and Will Monroe Loop, as well as the new trail designations in the Wyainokes. The new edition of the Kittatinny Trails map set includes several new trails and relocations of existing trails. Thanks go to the many hard working and diligent volunteers who helped see these projects through to their successful completion by taking on the jobs of map manager, map back editor, layout artist, field coordinator, field checker, and cartographer. New volunteers are welcome for upcoming projects; support and guidance are provided. Please contact Josh Erdnuker at 201-512-9348, ext. 25 or josh@nynjtc.org for information.

Trail Conference Sends Crews into the Woods for 13 National Trails Day Events

Please turn to page 5 for photo gallery of the day.
A about 10 years ago I would listen in on the occasional phone call or e-mail I received while the president of the Trail Conference Neil Zimmerman and his tales of hiking adventures with friends. Thinking he was quite fortunate, I asked if he had any friends who did not hike. His reply that all his friends hiked surprised me. But then he went on to say that because he hiked so much, in time his non-hiking friends gradually drifted away. I had not really thought much about his remark until recently.

While our hiking the Appalachian Trail in southwest Virginia, I had opportunities to talk to a variety of hikers, primarily the thru-hikers as they headed north. In many cases, they were people who had decided to make a life change and were using the AT as an agent of change. During these conversations, many told me that their families and friends could not understand why they were spending time hiking. Some of them expressed the wish to know others who hiked.

Finding others who have similar interests is possible and not too hard. In fact, these walkers were already making friends with their fellow hikers. What they did not know was that meeting people who volunteer to make hiking possible and volunteering themselves are even better ways to make friends. And you don’t have to thru-hike the AT to find either. In this area, the Trail Conference and its member clubs offer ample opportunities for both.

Hiking changed my life, and the best of the changes are the friendships I have formed. I cannot truly say that all of my friends hike. But I can say that my closest friendships have formed as a result of volunteering for the Trail Conference.

So think about joining a trail crew or volunteering to help on a Trail Conference project, whether long or short term. There are ways to discover others with the same interests and join what I consider to be a wonderful community. The volunteer ads in the Trail Walker are a great place to start.

You’ll quickly learn that hikers don’t care what you do at a day job, just that you enjoy the outdoors on your feet!

– Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors

Support NY ATV Plan

The DEC must stand by its ATV plan (see story on page 3) and emphasize that $25 ATV fees must be used primarily for enforcement and education. There must be qualified hard trails only and no soft ATV trails in any public forest. Also any ATV trail must avoid the completion of a Unit Management Plan like any other trail. All public forests must be protected from ATV damage, not just Forest Preserve.

The ATV riders make it very difficult for anyone to support them. They will not even yield some smaller issues to win their most important one—TRAILS. The registration fee was argued down from $45 to only $25 and they won’t give up the winch or agree to smoother tire treads. Also notice the ATV tires are exempt from the environmental disposal tax everyone else pays. Speed takes priority over pollution, noise, and safety. The ATV riders demand everything.

While ATV rider clubs intend to pay only $25 registration per vehicle and then leave the mess for others to clean up, other outdoor recreation groups such as hiking and conservation clubs have spent more than a century trying to give back, via volunteer work and funding, more than they have ever taken from our New York State forests.

The way for ATV clubs to get trails is by compromise, credibility, legitimacy, and an honest desire to keep our forests natural. Most ATV clubs don’t get it.

– Bill Coffin

Chittenango, NY

NYNJTC, ADK, FEITC, and NCTA
As we go to press in June, we are working to transfer 923 acres of trail corridor that the Trail Conference has assembled on Shawangunk Ridge in Orange County and on Ginseng Ridge in Greene County to New York State’s Dept. of Environmental Conservation. The lands involved in this transfer protect sections of two of our major long distance trails, the Long Path in the Catskill Region and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail in the Shawangunk Mountains. The Long Path assemblage is located on the Ginseng Ridge in Greene County, just north of the Catskill Park and will protect about 3.5 miles of existing and proposed new trail. The trail in this section passes along a continuation of the Catskill Escarpment, through deciduous woods, at elevations ranging from about 1,600 feet to 2,600 feet. The newly protected lands in the Shawangunks are clustered in the towns of Mount Hope, Deerpark, and Green Ville in Orange County and protect over 6.5 miles of existing and new trail.

The Mount Hope assemblage offers 360-degree views from the ridgeline, and features one of only two historic fireowers on the Shawangunk Ridge. The Greenville and Deerpark assemblage adds over 600 acres to the Huckleberry State Forest and includes a new connector trail from the Shawangunk Ridge Trail down into Port Jervis.

Permanently protecting these ridge lands by putting them in NYDEC’s hands is good news for several reasons:

1. Hikers and nature lovers of all stripes can enjoy the views from these majestic ridges without ever worrying about them being closed to the public, developed, or clear-cut.
2. Wildlife can continue to use them as dispersal and migration routes.
3. Watershed headlands and aquifer recharging areas will forever produce cool, clean water.
4. The scenic vistas these forested ridge lands present will be forever preserved for residents and visitors to the region.
5. The proceeds from the sale will immediately be put to work buying more threatened trail corridors. In 2004, NYDEC purchased 905 acres that the Trail Conference helped assemble on the Shawangunk Ridge in Sullivan County. We are currently working closely with the Open Space Institute in assembling another 698 acres in this area in our drive to permanently protect trail corridors throughout the region.

This work could not happen without the support of Governor Pataki, NYDEC, and the people of New York. In particular, I want to take this occasion to thank all those who have contributed to our Land Acquisition & Stewardship Fund, which has made this trail protection possible. Happy hiking; you deserve it! –Ed Goodell

A view toward High Point in New Jersey from TC-protected Shawangunk Ridge lands.

Advocacy & Conservation

A Windfall for NJ State Parks?

New Jersey’s state parks would get a $75 million windfall under legislation acting Gov. Richard J. Codey introduced in May. The cash infusion to parks would represent the largest single investment in state parks in New Jersey history, according to a report by the Associated Press. The park money would go toward maintenance and repairs. Funds would come from loans that would be repaid with projected proceeds from the controversial state cigarette tax. The proposal was included in legislation that would fund a state center for stem cell research. (Associated Press)

NY Budget Includes $150 Million Environmental Protection Fund

The New York State Legislature approved a $150 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) in April. The original budget approved by the legislature in March did not include an EPF. The Trail Conference-Adirondack Mountain Club Partnership worked closely with legislative leaders and the governor’s office and successfully advocated that the EPF be approved as soon as possible.

The 2005-2006 EPF includes approximately $70 million for open space projects broken down as follows: $40 million for land acquisition projects; $16 million for farmland preservation and $14 million for local park grants. The EPF also includes $6.5 million for state land stewardship, which provides critical funding for backcountry trail maintenance and also funds the Summit Steward program. (Neil Woodworth, Maria Iannacito: TC-ADK Partnership)

NY Announces Draft ATV Policy for Public Lands

In March, the NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released its long awaited, draft ATV use policy for public lands for public comment. The policy addresses guidelines for ATV use on Forest Preserve lands, conservation easement lands and state forests. The policy would prohibit ATV riding on Forest Preserve trails, a stand strongly endorsed by the Trail Conference (TC)-Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Partnership.

The policy would not ban ATVs in state forests, although the designation of ATV trails would be subject to the unit management planning process and the SEQRA environmental review process. The TC-ADK Partnership has urged DEC not to designate ATV trails in state forests where a major non-motorized trail currently exists. For example, ATV riding should not be permitted in state forests containing portions of the Long Path. The proposed policy gives DEC regulatory power over ATVs used in its jurisdiction. TC-ADK recommended that DEC require ATVs to be equipped with: turf tires rather than tractor-type tires, appropriate muffler equipment to reduce noise, and four-stroke engines with catalytic converters to reduce air pollution emissions. DEC should also prohibit the use of winches on ATVs. ATV riders will often use winches to haul their ATV out of a mud hole when it gets stuck. The winch is fastened to a tree to help pull the ATV out of the rut. This causes significant environmental damage.

TC-ADK is also working with Assemblyman Morelle on his ATV Trail Development and Maintenance Fund legislation, which would provide funds for ATV trail development and maintenance on private or municipally owned lands. No funds would be used for ATV trail development on state-owned lands. The partnership is also working closely with Assembly staff on strengthening enforcement measures and increasing penalties for ATV trespass violations. The Trail Conference and ADK hope that a comprehensive ATV bill will be passed by the legislature and approved by the governor this year.

House Bill Would “Zero Out” Land Conservation

In May, the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time voted to cut all but eliminate the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and to reduce by more than half funds for the Forest Legacy Program. For the past 40 years LWCF been the nation’s primary source of money to conserve land. Each year the fund is authorized to receive $900 million in royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling. The Forest Legacy program provides money to states to help conserve privately owned forestlands threatened by development. The Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee was expected to take up this legislation sometime in early June.

Wilderness Society

NJ Green Acres Buying 6,000 Acres in South of State

The NJ DEP Green Acres program, with assistance from the Natural Land Trust and Nature Conservancy, is buying 6,000 acres of forest and wetlands from U.S. Silica, a sand-mining company with operations in Atlantic, Gloucester, and Camden Counties. Much of the land is adjacent to other conservation properties, including the Pease Wildlife Management Area and the Edward G. Beran Wildlife Management Area in Bear Swamp. The Bear Swamp parcel includes “one of the last remaining old growth forests in the state of New Jersey,” according to Peter Williamson, Natural Land Trust’s vice president for conservation. (Wilderness Society)
Wild Mountain Parking

A spiffy new parking area (see photo below) has been constructed by New York State Dept. of Transportation at the trailhead for Wildcat Mountain, near the junction of Routes 17 and 17A.

Schunemunk Parking Area Closed

Hikers are cautioned that a trailhead parking area on Seven Springs Road for the Jessup/Highlands Trails on Schunemunk Mountain is now off-limits. The road has been closed to auto traffic as the result of a severe problem with illegal dumping at the end of the road. It is not known whether the closure will be permanent.

Trail Crew Schedules

For the latest schedules, go to nynjtc.org and click on “Trail crews/Work trips.” TBD = To Be Determined

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

HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW

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

Leader: Bob Moss: 973-743-5203
July 10 (Sunday)
July 24 (Sunday)
Aug. 14 (Sunday)
Aug. 28 (Saturday)

NORTH JERSEY CREW

Leader: 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 bridge building in northern New Jersey.

WEST JERSEY CREW

Leaders
David Day and Monica Resor:
westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com

DBerend1@yahoo.com
Meet: 9 am; place, TBD
August 28 (Saturday)
Compartment Trail, Black Rock Forest
Project: Stepping stones across several seasonal stream flows.
Leader: Denise Vitale

September 13 (Saturday)
Compartment Trail, Black Rock Forest
Project: Stepping stones across several seasonal stream flows.
Leader: Denise Vitale

WEST HUDSON SOUTH CREW

Leaders
Chris Ezzo (Crew Chief): 516-431-1148, musicbynumbers59@yahoo.com
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563, brian@grandrenovation.com
Claudia Ganz: 212-632-1324, dganz@earthlink.net
Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792, mrmshall@webs.com

Gone hikin’

August 13 (Saturday)
Compartment Trail, Black Rock Forest
Project: Stepping stones across several seasonal stream flows.
Leader: Denise Vitale

August 28 (Sunday)
Compartment Trail, Black Rock Forest
Project: Stepping stones across several seasonal stream flows.
Leader: Denise Vitale

EAST HUDSON CREW

Leaders
Walt Daniels, 914-245-1250
Chris Reiling, 914-428-9878
John Magerin, 914-243-4714
MaryEllen Massey, 914-967-3774

There are several small projects where a few people (preferably mid-week) can do the work. We make a special effort to arrange pickups at the nearest Hudson Line train station.

Weekdays

TBD
Leader: Walt Daniels
July 30 (Saturday)
Leader: Walt Daniels
August 13 (Saturday)
Leader: Walt Daniels

Bear Mountain Trail Project Update

NY-NJ Trail Conference trail designers have been busy laying out the realigned West Side trail system on Bear Mountain. The AT realignment on the east face of the mountain is proposed to be built to a “novice” standard, with a 4- to 5-foot wide, and most tread grades less than 10 percent; where grades are more than 10 percent, native stone steps of consistent rises and runs will be installed. The realignment climbs through an exciting and interesting boulder field to the north of the ski jump, passes by a new view of Iona Island and the Hudson River, a waterfall, and the old Bear Cub Trail before traversing above a ravine and rejoining the AT at the Pine Flats below the Perkins Drive turnaround.

On the south side of the mountain the realigned AT is proposed to follow the abandoned Scenic Drive for a short distance before ascending along scenic ledges at a much more gradual grade toward the west side of the mountain, joining up with the Major Welch Trail and traversing the true summit before reaching Perkins Drive and the Memorial Tower.

Also in the plans for the Bear Mountain Project are an accessible summit loop trail which includes great views of West Point and the northern Hudson Highlands over the Hudson River, a novice connector trail between the Suffer-Bear Mountain Trail (SBM) and the AT at the Pine Flats on the southeast side of the mountain, rehabilitation work on the SBM and Major Welch Trails, and comprehensive interpretive signage. In addition to trail crew members, there are several other volunteer opportunities opening by way of this project. For more information and to help out, refer to the Volunteer Classifieds on page 6 or contact Eddie Walsh, Bear Mountain Project Manager, at eddiwalsh@nynjtc.org.

Wappening Greenway Trail Work Continues

The NY-NJ Trail Conference East Hudson Trail Crew has been hard at work on the Wappening Creek Greenway Trail development. With the help of many dedicated volunteers and several community youth groups, this majestic trail is being built foot by foot and stone slab by stone slab. Ongoing components of the project for this summer include: a 65-step stone staircase, a 17-foot bridge, and a few hundred feet of intensive sidhill construction. A grand opening for this trail system in Dutchess County is scheduled for late September 2005. If interested in helping or for info on hiking, contact Eddie Walsh, Trail Projects Coordinator, eddiwalsh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9448 x28.

The Wappening Creek is the backdrop for a new section of Hudson River Greenway Trail.

Restores Bridge at Dunnfield Creek

After Hurricane Ivan destroyed a major bridge on one of the most popular family-use trails in Worthington State Forest, the West Jersey Crew set out to replace it this April. Over a span of eight weekend days (with a second-Sunday assist from the North Jersey Crew), new and higher stone abutments were built, two 56-foot telephone poles were dug in by draft horses and placed in positions, materials were prepared and transported, deck and railings were fabricated, and stone retaining walls to support the approaches were built. Thanks to everybody who joined in, and to the Worthington staff who made it all possible!

The new bridge over Dunnfield Creek. See an illustrated chronological of the project at http://www.trailstobuild.com/gallery/dunnfield_creek.htm

Gertrude’s Nose Trail

At Minnewaska State Park

Over the past few months, the Gertrude’s Nose Trail has undergone a critically-needed adjustment to bypass a severely eroded section. The new segment of trail, which still encompasses the stunning views of the Nose to the east and Hamilton Point to the west, isn’t very long, but much of it was constructed on a steep talus slope requiring stairs built “rock-on-rock” with the help of a highline setup. This kind of work is challenging even for those with significant experience.

Completing rock work on the Gertrude’s Nose Trail in Minnewaska S.P.

The project, completed mostly by new crew members, is a testament to the spirit of teamwork that is pervasive throughout the Trail Conference. The crew, guided by Denise Vitale, spent the 2004 fall season learning the trail-building craft under the tutelage of Eddie Walsh, Larry Wheelock, and seasoned volunteers from the West Hudson South crew. By continuing an age-old tradition of masters teaching apprentices, we now have a new base of volunteers and stewards for our natural treasures in the West Hudson trail system.

To celebrate National Trails Day, the new section of the Gertrude’s Nose Trail opened on June 5th, after which the focus shifted to restoring the old trail to a more natural state. For more information, contact Denise Vitale, West Hudson North Crew Chief, WHNTrails@aol.com or 845-738-2126.

Long Path North Maintenance, August 20

The Long Path North Hiking Club is looking for volunteers for a work maintenance day Saturday August 20. The work will be on section 24 in Greene County. Some equipment will be available, but bring a bow saw or loppers if you have them. Also, bring a lunch. Contact Clarence Putman at 607-538-9569 or cmndirk@dlincom.net.
The annual spring trails workshops were a great success with 97 students participating in four different workshops held late in April and on May 1st.

Trail Maintenance 101 conducted by Ellen Cronan led the way with 32 students, who spent a couple of hours in the morning taking classroom instruction, followed by maintenance practice on Newark Watershed trails.

Trail Construction and Restoration had 28 students taught by Monica Resor and David Day, who likewise followed classroom instruction with trail work on nearby trails.

The next weekend started off with a Trail Layout and Design course attended by 18 students and was taught by Claudia Mausner, Edwin McGowan, Malcolm Spector, and Larry Wheelock. On the final day, 19 students were instructed in the use of Geographic Information Systems and Global Positioning Systems for Trail Management and Design. Instruction was conducted by Eric Yadlovski and John Jurasek.

Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation provided an excellent facility for us to complete all of these courses at their Environmental Education Center near Echo Lake in West Milford, NJ. Special thanks go to Ellen Cronan for coordinating these workshops with the watershed management. And another thank-you goes to Bob Boysen and Bob Boyle for helping with the refreshments.

Nearly 100 Take Trail Work Lessons At Annual Spring Workshops

Trail Construction and Restoration.

GPS committee chair John Jurasek, left, gives instruction at the May workshop on GPS for Trail Management and Design.

The NY-NJ Trail Conference fielded 13 separate events to mark this year’s National Trails Day. Thanks go to our volunteer coordinator, Judy Murphy, who organized the schedule, publicized the events, tracked sign-ups, and followed up with event reports, and got out on the trail herself that day to work (at the Pequannock Watershed project) and take photos.

Thanks, too, to the volunteers who led the work trips and hikes:

In New York
Staten Island: Greenbelt Trail at High Rock Park – Stephen and Betty Soffer
Queens: Alley Pond Park – Marty Grossman and Dana Gumb
Forest Park – Josephine Scalia
Manhattan: High Bridge Park – Nicole Smith
Westchester: George’s Island Park – Walt Daniels
Rockland County: Harriman Bear Mountain Park – Manny Silberberg & Chris Ezzo
Ulster County: Minnewaska State Park – Denise Vitale and David Webber
Balsam Mountain – Cin Schram and Susan White
Dutchess County: Wappingers Greenway Trail – Eddie Walsh
Albany County: Thompsons Lake State Park – Fred Schrader

In New Jersey
Passaic County: Pequannock Watershed – Ellen Cronan
Bergen County: Palisades Park – Jakob Friske
Ramapo Reservation & Camp Glen Gray Hike – Bob Fuller
Warren County: Jenny Jump State Forest – Monica Resor and David Day

Be a Star: Join TC Speakers Bureau

The Trail Conference is establishing a list of speakers to present information to hiking clubs, youth groups, senior citizen groups, and other groups interested in getting involved in outdoor activities.

The presentations will last about an hour and cover topics of interest to the requesting group (AT thru-hike presentations, how to prepare for a hike, how to prepare for different seasons and weather conditions, what is GPS and to use it, how to maintain a hiking trail, etc.) The Trail Conference will help the speaker to organize and set up visual aids (posters, maps, Powerpoint slides, etc.) for the talk.

If you are interested in presenting any of these topics or have one that may be of interest, please contact Josh at 201-512-9348 ext. 25 or josh@nynjtc.org.
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 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 the Volunteer Projects Director, Joshua Erdnekger, either by email josh@nynjtc.org or call the office 201-512-3948 ext. 25, and he will find a way to get you involved.

TRAILS

East Hudson Trails Chair
Solve problems beyond the scope of supervisors. Prioritize requests for trail crew work. Approve major trail relocation proposals and submit to the Trails Council. As key contact person, keep in regular communication with park managers, superintendents, and private landowners. Ensure the maintenance reporting system and procedures are carried out in accordance with the trails policy. Present new trails, trail systems, and other trail proposals to Trails Council for consideration.

 Catskill Assistant Trails Chair
Ensure the maintenance reporting system and procedures are carried out in accordance with the trails policy. Present new trails, trail systems, and other trail proposals to Trails Council for consideration.

Trail Supervisors
• Appalachian Trail, NY
• Appalachian Trail, NJ
• High & Garret Mtns, NJ
• Newark Watershed, NJ
Coordinate the trail maintainers in a specific section of trails. S/he is responsible for the collection of semiannual trail maintenance reports from maintainers and providing summary to Trails Chair, appoint supervisors, and train new maintainers. S/he reviews current map backs and updates content as needed, perform necessary research, contact and interact with layout engineers, software, web-based applications, and advanced micro-computing environments.

Bear Mountain Trail Crew Leaders
Participate in the creation and assist with the implementation of a comprehensive long-term recruitment plan for the Bear Mountain Trails Restoration project.

Bear Mountain Recruitment Coordinator
Coordinate statewide efforts to minimize the impact of illegal ORV activity on hiking trail lands. Work with lawmakers to develop legislation, land managers for enforcement, and other organizations for support.

Issue Specialists
Serve as a resource on issues such as land use law, cell towers, illegal usage, etc. State and county coordinators will share information between local volunteers and specialists in different regions.

OFFICE & TECHNOLOGY

Assistant Web Master
Create and manage content for the Trail Conference website.

Technology Liaison
Assist with maintenance and procurement of hi-tech tools such as GPS devices, scanners, software, web-based applications, and advanced micro-computing environments.

PUBLICATIONS

Project Managers
The focus of this position is to produce a map or book on time and at budget. Responsibilities include setting a budget and a deadline for the project, monthly reporting, appointing and managing field coordinators, proofreaders, map back editor, cartographer, and writing preliminary press release and Trail Walker article.

Map Back Editor
This position oversees the production of the map backs. Responsibilities include reviewing current map backs and updating content as needed, perform necessary research, contact and interact with layout artist, and report progress to the project manager.

ADVOCACY

Advocacy Coordinators
• State • County • Town
The Advocacy Committee is developing a hierarchy of volunteers to coordinate our advocacy efforts at the state, county, and local town level. This body of peers will work with local volunteers to manage a particular area and issue.

State ORV Coordinator
Coordinate statewide efforts to minimize the impact of illegal ORV activity on hiking trail lands. Work with lawmakers to develop legislation, land managers for enforcement, and other organizations for support.

OUTREACH

Outreach Events Coordinator
Coordinate our presence at various festivals, events, and gatherings throughout the bi-state region. Help organize events happening throughout the year. The Trail Conference needs energetic, creative, and organized individuals.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Training Coordinator
The Trail Conference offers a variety of training programs. From Trail Maintenance 101 to teaching computer skills, training is an essential part of our volunteer program. Interested persons should have excellent coordination skills, be able to plan in 12-month intervals, have good communication skills, and be willing to work with Trail Conference staff and volunteers to maximize the impact of our workshops and training sessions.

Volunteer Profile

Walter Ilchuk’s 25-Year Commitment to the Kakiat Trail

By Maureen Edelson

In the 1960s, Queens teenager Walter Ilchuk took up a buddy’s invitation to ride the bus from Port Authority to the Bear Mountain Inn for a little hiking in the surrounding park. Thus began a life-long love for the outdoors and commitment to Harriman State Park.

For years, Walter returned to Harriman to hike and to provide a convenient wilderness experience for his Boy Scout troop (#261, Farmingdale). In the late 1970s, he joined the Trail Conference. In 1980, he responded to an ad for a maintainer on Harriman’s Kakiat Trail and took on the whole eight miles. He would travel from his Long Island home, an 85-mile trip, to log branches and clear a path to a height of 8 feet, since he himself is 6’6” tall. Walter subsequently divided the trail with another maintainer and now takes care of the western portion of the Kakiat from Tuxedo Park to the Hillburn-Torne-Sebago (HTS) Trail, about 4.5 miles.

“Being out on the trail, maintaining it, builds confidence,” he says. “I can do it, I enjoy doing it, and I get complimented on it.”

Walter is hoping to get his 30-year-old nephew interested in trail maintenance and took him out on the trail last November. While sawing and lopping, Walter Ilchuk is also planting the seeds of future trail maintenance and recreation, extending his legacy in the park. “We’ll see,” he says simply.

Workers. He’s an Appalachian Trail Conference member, and is still involved with Boy Scouts in Nassau County’s Theodore Roosevelt Council. He’s traversed 500 miles of the Appalachian Trail, is planning another section hike on the AT, takes about three paddling trips a year, rides a road bike, is a beach walker and a Polar Bear (at Jones Beach on January 1 each year). His favorite spots to lunch while maintaining the Kakiat are the top of the hill off Seven Lakes Drive, and an outcropping on the trail near Dater Mountain.

“Being out on the trail, maintaining it, builds confidence,” he says. “I can do it, I enjoy doing it, and I get complimented on it.”

Walter is hoping to get his 30-year-old nephew interested in trail maintenance and took him out on the trail last November. While sawing and lopping, Walter Ilchuk is also planting the seeds of future trail maintenance and recreation, extending his legacy in the park. “We’ll see,” he says simply.

Youth, Service, and the Outdoors

Join an effort to bring the Boy Scouts of America co-ed teen program, Venturing, to the area’s youth. If you believe in mentoring future trail maintainers and outdoorspeople, and would like to serve on the organizing committee to spearhead a ‘hike-n-serve’ Venture Crew through the Trail Conference, contact Maureen Edelson of the Northern New Jersey Council of the BSA, medelson@bsaemail.org.
Hikers’ Watch List: A sampling of New York Rare Plants of the Shawangunks and Hudson Highlands

Documenting rare plants in the wild is a lot like looking for rare antiques. You have to know where to look, what you’re looking for, and how to spot a fake. A bit of good luck also helps.

The plants pictured here are just a few of the state listed species featured on the New York Natural Heritage website (acris.nynhp.org), where you will find information on their life history, identification, habitat, and New York range. This website contains a number of “Conservation Guides” for New York’s rarest plants and animals, as well as some of the significant natural communities. These guides are meant to help planners learn what protection activities may be needed to protect a rare species, educate the general public on New York’s extraordinary biodiversity, and assist individuals in identifying the many plants, animals, and natural communities encountered during hikes.

To date, nearly 100 Conservation Guides are ready for viewing, and more are planned for the coming months. A few plant species with Conservation Guides that may be encountered in the Shawangunk Mountains and/or Hudson Highlands are highlighted here. Hikers are encouraged to keep an eye out for these and other species featured on this site and to report any sightings to the Heritage program. With your help, we can make sure that these plants remain part of our natural heritage for generations to come.

By Jonathon Schramm

Species: Appalachian sandwort (Minuartia glabra)
Rarity: Threatened/imperiled in New York due to restricted distribution in Shawangunks.
Location: Shawangunk Mountains, Minnewaska State Park, Sam’s Point Preserve
Habitat: Open ledge tops, exposed by drainage by the structure of the seeds, which aid in dispersal. This plant makes seeds that are very light and thus easily transported by wind or surface water (making it common along the flood zones of streams). It also has long awns (hook-like structures) that enhance short distance transport in the fur of mammals (or clothing of hikers!).

In short, Microstegium possesses an entire suite of attributes that lend themselves well to the rapid spread of a species, and it remains to be seen just where the expansion of this species in North America will end. For the time being, it is controllable by simply hand pulling in areas where the population can be monitored for four to five years running. The other simple steps that we all can take in our travels around the woodlands are to wear seed-shedding gaiters, avoid trampling directly through patches of Microstegium, especially during the period from September through mid-October when the seeds are abundant, and wash the mud off your boots after each hike.

Species: Appalachian sandwort
(Apisenium montanum)
Rarity: Threatened/imperiled in New York due to restricted distribution in Shawangunks.
Location: Shawangunk Mountains, Minnewaska State Park, Sam’s Point Preserve
Habitat: A small fern of conglomerate cliffs and outcrops of the Shawangunk Ridge, typically in cracks and fissures of vertical rock faces.
Identification: Location on vertical rock face is key. A small, bluish-green fern. The evergreen leaves are divided into six or more pairs of leaflets, which are divided again into smaller segments with small lobes. The leaf stalk is brown at the base and green above.

Species: Virginia snakeroot
(Aristolochia serpentaria)
Rarity: Threatened/imperiled in New York; five large populations known.
Location: Hudson Highlands and mid-Hudson Valley
Habitat: Well-drained wooded slopes, rocky slopes of oak woods, open woods, mixed oak woods, rarely in clearings. Often occurs on wooded slopes within washouts where leaves have been piled by draining water.
Identification: Lance to arrow shaped leaves 6-12 cm. long, arranged alternately on stem. Inch-long, purple, 5-shaped flower tubes that flare out at the tip are usually hidden under the leaf litter.

Where Have All the Woodland Flowers Gone?

Another peaceful September sunrise in the New Jersey Highlands. The morning’s walk starts quietly enough: birds are singing, the sun is just growing upwards. And finally, the plants are able to maximize their capture of sunlight, while still maintaining a non-native biodiversity, and assist individuals in identifying the many plants, animals, and natural communities encountered during hikes.

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1919, and in the 86 years since has spread rapidly, and is now found from Texas through Massachusetts. The grass has several unique features that likely contribute to its competitive success in deciduous forests throughout the eastern seaboard. First, the plant is an annual in forest situations where all other native grasses are perennial. While this means that the species is entirely dependent on seeds for its continued presence in the landscape, it also forces the species to invest a large percentage of its energy in reproduction, thus leading to generally copious amounts of seed and a strong ability to disperse rapidly through a forest. This dispersal is aided by the structure of the seeds, which are very light and thus easily transported by wind or surface water (making it common along the flood zones of streams). It also has long awns (hook-like structures) that enhance short distance transport in the fur of mammals (or clothing of hikers!).

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Rarity: Threatened/imperiled in New York due to restricted distribution in Shawangunks.
Location: Shawangunk Mountains, Minnewaska State Park, Sam’s Point Preserve
Habitat: Open ledge tops, exposed by drainage. This species, a lumpy, waist-high grass. The expansive cover provided by the grass makes it difficult, if not impossible, to discern the presence of any of your favorite woodland herbs, such as zig-zag goldenrod, turtledew, and white wood aster. As you walk on the grass and the grass continues to be near-ly all you see in the understory, you start to hope that this has all been a dream.

Unfortunately, scenarios like the one above are becoming increasingly common throughout forests in New York and New Jersey. Many forests, both old and young, are becoming increasingly dominated in their herbaceous layers by the non-native grass Microstegium vimineum. This species, native to eastern and southeastern Asia, has many common name aliases, among them Japanese stil-, or wire-grass, Nepalese browntop, Mary’s grass or basketgrass. The plant was first noticed in Knoxville, TN, in

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Board Candidates Nominated


The election will take place at the Trail Conference Annual Meeting in the Fall, date to be set.

THE NEXT GREAT LEADERS
continued from page 1

We’ve all heard the mantra, “One person can make a difference.” We need you to be that person. Take a look at the Volunteer Classifieds on page 6 and find the opportunity that you are passionate about. Volunteer efforts by many individuals, each taking on one role at a time, is the Trail Conference formula for continuing success.

IN MEMORIAM

James Edward Daley

James Edward Daley, 64, of Clinton Corners and a lifelong Dutchess County, NY, resident, died April 17, 2005, at home after a long illness. He was an engineering manager and advisor for IBM, East Fishkill prior to retiring in 1995. Jim had many interests, but especially enjoyed hiking, fishing, reading, and painting. He was a member of the Adirondack Forty Sixers (#581) and a life member of the Catskill Brotherhood of Technical Rescue and co-founders of its Technical Rescue Team.

The Champs boast two zippered slash pockets in the front, a hide-away pocket in the rear and, our personal favorite, a huge zip map pocket with storm flap, there is plenty of room for odds and ends. Belt loops and braces (the rest of us call them suspenders) allow for flexibility in the fit and pants that stay put no matter what you do in them. Reinforced knees and crampon patches round out a very strong design.

Like all top shelf gear, the Champ Pants come with a hefty price tag, $199 in the Mammut catalog. While they are available in men’s and women’s cuts, the sizing is in European measurements, so be certain to check Mammut’s sizing chart if you are going to order them online.

If you’re as serious about your gear as we are, these pants are the only choice. They have proven themselves under the harshest conditions, from caching in brambles on searches, to climbing in the Catskills in, as we like to say, “Rain, Snow or 20-Below.”

Rating: 5 boots out of 5

Bryan Enberg and Rich Roller are captains with New Jersey Search and Rescue and co-founders of its Technical Rescue Team.

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Mammut Champion Pants

Reviewed by Bryan Enberg and Rich Roller.

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Member Runs 347 miles to Benefit Trail Conference

Over the course of 24 days in May, which included five rest days, Charity Runner David O'Neill became the first recorded person to run the entire 347-mile length of the Long Path. In the process, Dave raised money for the NY-NJ Trail Conference thanks to pledged gifts from his supporters.

The feat was a first not only for the Long Path, but for the organization Dave founded, Charity Runners, a not-for-profit group that promotes recreational running and charitable giving as a part of a healthy lifestyle. Charity Runners, Inc. organized sponsored endurance events to benefit qualified charities in the New York-New Jersey region.

Dave began his unusual trek at the southern end of the Long Path in Fort Lee, NJ, and ended in John Boyd Thacher Park, just outside Albany, NY. He chronicled his run on a daily diary posted on the web. Day after day, he covered marathon, or half-marathon distances. The most miles in a single day was 50 on day 6, when he headed north from Schunemunk Mountain; the fewest miles was on day 11 when he ran 9 miles over Peekamoose and Table Mountains in the Catskills.

The Devil’s Path lived up to its reputation for being the toughest stretch of the challenge. Even with an aching Achilles tendon, on day 16 Dan completed the 14-mile, 1,072-foot Planauc trail, Sugarloaf and Indian Head in six hours. “I never once felt in danger,” Dave recorded in his diary. “Maybe it was the unique ambience of the mountain forest. I recall hearing only four sounds: the chirping of birds (three distinct calls), wind blowing through the notch, loose bark flapping against the trees, and the sound of my footsteps on loose rock.”

On the last days of his run, Dave ran consecutive near-marathons: 23, 21, 24, and 25 miles respectively.

“The final four days required a very big push,” he wrote in an email. “But the terrain was very friendly compared to the Catskill Mountains. I met many people in the final days and I have a new understanding of the Long Path—it never really ends.”

To read more about Dave’s run on the Long Path and to learn more about Charity Runners, go to www.charityrunners.org.

DONORS TO THE ANNUAL FUND
March 25, 2005–May 20, 2005

GIFTS

SPECIAL GIFTS
To the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition Barbara Kill AREA Association, Committee Residents for Informed Hunting, Open Space, and Reducing Residents Association, Inc., Ulster County Citizens Against Casino Gaming c/o Arthur Matlack
In memory of Harry B. & Sally Inwood to the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS
Barbara Becker, Marc D. Cohen, Barbara Ezzo, David S. Freeman, Kenneth S. Griffin, Steven R. & Linda K., Michael J. Harte, Paul Welner Jr., Steven Weinman

MATCHING GIFTS
HP Employee Charitable Giving Program, United Way

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TRAILWALKER July/August 2005 9

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Rt. 17 S. Ramsey 201-327-8141
Rt. 46 Ledgewood 973-584-7799

Eureka!

Silva Silvero
Hike Description: Many people consider this stretch of the Long Path to be the most scenic and dramatic along its entire length. The highlight is Verkeerder Kill Falls, the highest waterfall in the Shawangunks. The views from the top of the falls (there is no trail to the base) are dramatic and, for some, disorienting. My favorite times for doing this in-and-out hike are spring and fall, when the water in the Verkeerder Kill is likely to be running high. In summer, the water of the stream can cool your feet after a long hike, but do not get too close to the edge—it is straight down nearly 200 feet.

The best views, however, are from the other side, so make your way carefully over the rocks and find a safe spot to rest, snack, and enjoy the view. To return, retracce your steps back to the parking lot.

The Long Path in this section is rocky and at times can be quite wet. Be sure to wear good boots.

Benefits of Membership

RETAIL STORES

10% discounts on in-store purchases when you show your Trail Conference membership card at:

- Base Camp Adventure Outfitters, Basking Ridge, NJ 908-204-9919
- Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, Madison, NJ 973-377-3301
- Campmor, Paramus, NJ 201-445-5000
- Catskill Hiking Shack, Wurmsboro, NY 845-888-4453
- Dover Sports Center, Dover, NJ 973-366-3333
- EMS*, Paramus, NJ 201-670-6262

*The Paramus store offers discounts at selected times only.

Have a Favorite Hike?

If you would like to submit a hike to the Favorite Hike feature, write it up following the format above. The Hike Description section should be no more than 400 words. Send it in an email to tw@nynjtc.org or by mail directly to the TW editor: Georgette Weir, 102 Sutton Park Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Be sure to include your name, city and state of residence.

Corrections

Due to a production error, a “Watch out for” paragraph from the March/April Favorite Hike strayed into the May/June Favorite Hike. There is no Stillwell Woods Loop in the East Hudson Highlands.

Award Winning “The Cabin Builders”

The Cabin Builders by Craig Medalia is a heartwarming and funny story about how a New Yorker drops his high paid management consulting career and builds a cabin in the southern Adirondack Park. A must read for nature lovers and anyone wanting to build a nature getaway.

“Everyone should read Craig Medalia’s book. It’s a must for everyone who loves or wants to create a place in the wilderness.”

Reviewed by David Baker

Birds over Bear Mountain

Palisades Interstate Park Commission Press, 2004

By Gene Brown

Reviewed by David Baker

Birders are a passionate lot; in the forest at dawn, enduring the rigors of a cold winter’s day in search of hawks and owls, traveling miles to get a glimpse of an elusive bird for their list. But as consumed with their passion for birds as they may be, most birders will tell you that there is more to it than simply sighting the birds. Much of the enjoyment of birding comes from the “peripherals”: observing and experiencing the weather, the flora and fauna, and the clues to the history of a particular place.

In Gene Brown’s book, Birds over Bear Mountain, the reader is treated to stimulating insights of many of these other elements of birding within the setting of Harriman State Park. Brown uses his prose to take the reader along on his hikes and in so descriptive he creates visual and auditory experiences. While learning about the seasonal changes in avian populations, we are also introduced to the uniqueness of the Highlands as a transitional setting that encompasses habitats, or “Life Zones,” normally thought of as more northern or more southern in nature. Beyond the biology, we are enlightened about the history of the park’s development and stories behind the names of many of the more well-known features. Readers will quickly recognize the names of many of the notable visitors and contributors to this rich history, John Burroughs and Roger Tory Peterson are two examples.

While this is a primarily a book about birding and birders, all readers of natural history will find it informative and inspirational. I found myself eager to return to many of the sites described within its pages. Those of you who have never visited the park, or have seen only a small part of it, will find the experience all the more rewarding having read Mr. Brown’s work.

David Baker is a retired teacher of environmental science, presently the director at large for environmental science for the Science Teachers Association of New York State, and a member of the Morna Birding Club.

Hike Description:


Time: 4 hours plus lingering time

Rating: FAVORITE

How to get there: From Ellenville, take NY 52 south about 5 miles; turn left at sign for Cragsmoor. In front of post office, turn right, then immediately right again onto Sam’s Point Road. Follow to preserve parking area.

Watch out for: Precipitous cliff edges; timber rattlesnakes; sun (shade is scarce)

Fee: $7 parking fee

Verkeerder Kill Falls

With a vertical drop of 180 feet, Verkeerderkill Falls is the longest waterfall in the Shawangunks.

After about ¾ of a mile, you will pass through a small birch grove, then into deciduous woods, before descending gradually to the stream, which you may hear well beforehand. If the water is high, crossing may be difficult. Take care, and don’t get too close to the edge—it is straight down nearly 200 feet.

The best views, however, are from the other side, so make your way carefully over the rocks and find a safe spot to rest, snack, and enjoy the view.

To return, retrace your steps back to the parking lot.

The Long Path in this section is rocky and at times can be quite wet. Be sure to wear good boots.

TC member Hal Chorny lives in Gardiner, NY.

Enjoy the view.

By Hal Chorny

Reviewed by David Baker
The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikes are welcome to club regulations and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Wear hiking boots or strong walking shoes. Bring food, water, rain gear, first aid kit, and a whistle. Leaders have been pre-screened as responsible hikers, but they cannot completely ensure the hike is or is not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are relative terms; call leader if doubt.

More than 90 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliated groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers’ Almanac. For a descriptive list of clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

**August**

**Friday, August 5**


**Thursday, August 4**

**UCHC.** South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ: Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-3-40156; call: 973-328-7395. Meet: 10 am at Ramapo Mountain main parking lot; call for directions. About 5 miles.

**Thursday, August 4**

**RVW.** Ashukan High Point, NJ: Leader: Mike Hunsicker; 70 miles, 5.5 miles. Meet at 6 am. Inclement weather date—following Monday. For information call 640-246-5481.

**Wednesday, August 3**


**Saturday, August 6**


**Friday, August 5**


**Thursday, August 4**

**UCHC.** South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ: Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-328-7395. Meet: 10 am at Ramapo Mountain main parking lot; call for directions. About 5 miles.
Join the volunteers who bring you the great outdoors!

1,600 miles of trails and counting; your membership helps expand our horizons.

Included with membership, Trail Walker 10% discount on purchases at most outdoor stores, and 25% discount on all Trail Conference maps and books.

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

Membership Level

Individual

Sponsor $50

Benefactor $100

Senior/Student $18

Life $500

Joint/Family

Individual $11

Benefactor $20

Senior/Student $24

Life $575

To make check or money order payable to the NY/NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430.

Tax-deductible.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

Note Cards: TC Collection $12.00 $9.00 + $2.00 $23.90 $22.43 + $4.00 $19.90 $14.93 + $4.00 $19.90 $14.93 + $4.00

Polo Shirt (Forest Green) $25.00 $20.50 + $4.50 $25.00 $20.50 + $4.50 $25.00 $20.50 + $4.50

Harriman Map Bandanna $6.00 $5.21 + $8.00 $5.21 + $8.00 $5.21 + $8.00

Conference Logo Patch $2.75 $2.75 + $0.00 $2.75 $2.75 + $0.00 $2.75 $2.75 + $0.00

Conference Logo Decal 12.95 $10.46 + $2.00 $12.95 $10.46 + $2.00 $12.95 $10.46 + $2.00

NY & NJ Walk Books $38.60 $30.96 + $7.70 $38.60 $30.96 + $7.70 $38.60 $30.96 + $7.70

NYNJTC.org gets your special 10% discount on purchases of any membership level. Use code: YP0515TODAY. Please order by circling price and adding up retail, member, and P/H totals. Use card #_________________________ Exp. Date: _______________.

New Jersey residents add 6% tax.*

TOTAL ENCLOSED $______

NY-NJ TC member? YES NO JOINING NOW

NY-NJ Trail Conference

Dear Trail Walker,

IHC. Pyramid Mtn. Natural Historic Area, Kintzlon, NJ. Leader: Ellen Jeydel, 908-232-2413. Meet: call leader for details. 5 miles along old mining trail through pine and hemlock forest, with marshes, impressive rock outcrops, and fields of Sierra Trail and some unmarked trails.

Thursday, August 25

IHC. Pyramid Mtn. Natural Historic Area, Kintzlon, NJ. Leader: Ellen Jeydel, 908-232-2413. Meet: call leader for details. 5 miles along old mining trail through pine and hemlock forest, with marshes, impressive rock outcrops, and fields of Sierra Trail and some unmarked trails.

Saturday, August 27

IHC. Pyramid Mtn. Natural Historic Area, Kintzlon, NJ. Leader: Ellen Jeydel, 908-232-2413. Meet: call leader for details. 5 miles along old mining trail through pine and hemlock forest, with marshes, impressive rock outcrops, and fields of Sierra Trail and some unmarked trails.

Sunday, August 28

MGTC. Watchung Reservation, NJ. Leader: Mike Deas, 908-236-6467. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Museum call for directions. Moderate 4 miles in rocky second growth area to see Turtledock Rock, some rough spots.

Tuesday, August 23

MGTC. Watchung Reservation, NJ. Leader: Mike Deas, 908-236-6467. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Museum call for directions. Moderate 4 miles in rocky second growth area to see Turtledock Rock, some rough spots.

Monday, August 15

RWM. Wendell Mountain (3800 ft.), NY. For more information call 250-327-1981. Meet at 8 am. Moderately strenuous hike: 7 miles, 6 hours. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

Tuesday, August 16


Tuesday, August 16

MGTC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Mar Deas, 908-236-6467. Meet: 10 am at visitor center call for directions. Moderate running hike of 4-5 miles, some level walking and some hills. Steady rain cancel.

Sunday, August 21


IHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown National Historical Park, NJ. Leader: Judy Lerner, 973-687-0527. Meet: 9 am at visitor center. Moderate but break 6-7 miles along the boundary of Jockey Hollow visit Audubon Sanctuary, Cross Estate gardens, and Wick House. 4 pm end.


Monday, August 29

MGTC.  Beach Lake State Park and Rockland Lake, NY. Leader: Glenn Werner, 914-422-1861. Meet: Tarrytown, NY RR station call for leader details. 4 miles along the banks of the Hudson and Rockland Lake; optional climb to Hook Mt. 6.5 park entrance.

Wednesday, August 31

MGTC. Watchung Reservation, MILLBURN, NJ. Leader: Brian Horlick, 732-622-0606 call before 9:30 am. Meet: 9 am at Lewis Morris Park, call for directions. Moderate pace, up to 5 hours, for experienced hikers. 7 miles on the Schiff Trail and Patriots’ Path.

Wednesday, August 31


Wednesday, August 31

RWM. Taconic Hills. Strenuous bushwhack. Meet at 6 am. Inclement weather date—following Monday. For more information call 845-338-8772.