New Train-Accessible Trail
In the Works in Dutchess

A new 1.5-mile segment of the Hudson River Greenway Trail is being built by Trail Conference crews in the Dutchess County Town of Wappingers. The project, which also involves rehabilitation and cleanup of another 2.5 miles of existing trails and the creation and installation of interpretive signage, will result in an extensive network of trails on adjacent properties between Wappingers Creek and the Hudson River. When completed later in 2005, a new trailhead will be easily accessible in New Hamburg to Metro-North riders. Other trailheads will be at Dutchess County's Bowdoin Park (along the Hudson) and in the village of Wappingers Falls.

Trail work, organized by Eddie Walsh, Jr., got underway in October, and more than 30 volunteers turned out over consecutive fall weekends to move rocks for steps and sidehill a treadway up a steep slope. An extensive effort was made to recruit new volunteers, including from area colleges (Vassar, Marist, and SUNY-New Paltz), the local community (with flyers and tables at libraries, natural food stores, and community events), and even from New York City. Walsh noted that a notice on an Internet event list sent to NYC subscribers yielded 30 interested volunteers, 12 of whom showed up on a cold and rainy Saturday ready to get down and dirty.

The project was commissioned by the Village of Wappingers Falls, which is one of three landowners of contiguous parcels along the Wappingers Creek. The others are the Audubon Society, which owns the creek-side Reese Nature Preserve, and Scenic Hudson, which owns land at the top of the ridge overlooking the creek. Existing trails in Bowdoin Park, a county park in the Town of Poughkeepsie that is across a road from the other parcels, will be linked to the expanded trail network.

The project was initiated by the Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee, whose members include representatives of the Village of Wappingers Falls, the towns of Wappingers and Poughkeepsie, and Dutchess County.

Work will resume in the spring and will include more sidehillng, rock-step projects, and building a small bridge. Contact Eddie Walsh at eddiewalsh@wildmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

Sharing the Dream
The Trail Conference Annual Meeting in October at Skylands Manor in Ringwood State Park in New Jersey, was an extra special affair this year. Participants not only enjoyed a beautiful fall day of hiking, but were treated to sophisticated poster presentations highlighting recent TC achievements and detailing its ambitions for the future, all part of the kick-off for the "Share the Dream" capital campaign. Attendees also had a chance to purchase, hot off the presses and autographed, the newest volume in the TC list of publications, Kittatinny Trail. Publications Committee chair George Petty (left) celebrated the occasion with author Robert Boyesen.

Congress Approves Highlands Conservation Act
Congress has approved the Highlands Conservation Act (previously referred to as the Highlands Stewardship Act), which would fund open space projects throughout the four-state, 3.5-million-acre Highlands region. The Senate passed the bill in October, the House approved the measure in November, and President Bush signed it into law November 30.

The Highlands Conservation Act authorizes $100 million over the next 10 years for land conservation projects in the Highlands. The Highlands region extends from Pennsylvania to northern New Jersey and through southern New York and Connecticut.

On Our Way to Catskill Mountains LITE?
The following is excerpted from testimony last year by Trail Conference member Susanna Margolis during a hearing on the environmental review of the large-scale golf resort proposed for Belleayre Mountain in the central Catskills. The remarks were previously excerpted in the newsletter of member club AMC, New York-North Jersey Chapter.

To establish my hiking credentials, let me first say that I have been a member of the AMC for more than 30 years and of the Sierra Club for about the same, that I have hiked extensively with both organizations...and that I was a regular volunteer hike leader for the New York-North Jersey Chapter of the AMC...I am a member of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, was a trail maintainer on the Wittenberg-Cornell-Slide Trail and on the Dry Brook Ridge Trail, and am currently the supervisor of the Dry Brook Ridge volunteer maintainers for the Trail Conference. I am the author of two books...One, entitled Walks in Europe from Top to Bottom, is about a 1500-mile hike from the North Sea to the Mediterranean, a hike which—obviously—I did, and the other book, Adventuring in the Pacific, addresses hiking opportunities on the islands of Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia. I have hiked the mountains of five continents, from the Grand Canyon to the Himalayas, from the Andes to the Atlas. I hope you’ll agree that this qualifies me to say something very briefly about why people hike.

We don’t do it to arrive someplace; there are far faster means of getting somewhere. We don’t even do it for the so-called reward of a view from the top. We hike because doing so offers a quality of contact with a place that is simply not possible any other way. I will give myself permission to quote from my book about that 1500-mile hike down Europe and assert that an awareness of place accumulates in the hiker. Sights, sounds, smells, climate, landscape, experience are all gathered in “through the muscles, through the pores, and, most of all, through the feet. One step at a time.”

Hiking therefore provides a unique acquaintance with the character of a place, and people hike in a place precisely because of its character. That makes hikers something akin to the canary in the mine when it comes to the well-being of a community’s character, and right now, where the proposed Belleayre resort at Catskill Park is concerned, hikers smell danger...there are a very great number of people who are drawn to this area to hike, and there always have been.

I cannot emphasize too strongly what a miracle this place is for people from cities or suburbs—especially for city-dwellers who don’t own cars. From the Port Author-
Your first reaction to the title of this column is likely to be, “hikers creative?” We like to be out walking in the woods. What’s creative about that? As it turns out, we may not be creative in the same way an artist or musician is, but we are creative. Two books that I have recently read deal with creativity in very different ways. Both had me rethinking my notions of creativity and made me realize that creativity, problem solving, and innovation are all related.

The first book, *The Medici Effect: Breakthrough Insights at the Intersection of Ideas, Concept and Culture* by Frans Johansson, deals with the intersection of ideas not usually associated with each other. Studying the foraging behavior of ants lends clues to problems like factory scheduling and telecommunication routing, for example. Or, relevant to our interests, land protection questions lead to library resources. The Land Use Center at the Mahopac Library is the result of my husband asking why a public library couldn’t build books and materials of interest to local planters, zoning boards, and interested citizens. My association with him provided the means to achieve that type of collection. Being open to free association allows one to think outside the box and thus find solutions to problems.

On the other hand, *The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life* by Twyla Tharp is more about the creative process and how to manage it. She offers stories and examples from dance, music, and art to show how to prepare to be creative, figure out how your creative DNA works, develop skills, or survive a rut. Her suggested exercises are broad and make you think. It made me think of the ways the Trail Conference is innovative and creative.

Trail design is creative; the land on which the trail will lie is like a canvas on which we paint, or, perhaps more appropriately since we are working in three dimensions, like a sculpture that we shape. And they reflect the individuality of the designer. Bob Marshall’s trails have a gentle grade as they switchback up a hill, not surprising because Bob loves to build sidewalks. On the other hand, Bob Reardon’s trails have steps, which is a construction technique at which he excels.

I have to be creative every time I write this column. As both authors point out, creativity does not just happen. The stage needs to be set. Organizations, such as the Rail Conference, that join people with like interests have a pool of people with a wide variety of work and education background as well as a range of skills and talents. It is a situation that allows for more opportunities for the intersection of ideas, for collaboration, and creativity. This diverse group of people is an inspiration to me and a pool from which I “fish” for ideas for a variety of situations.

—John Cruikshank, Spring Valley, New York

### Letters

**We See What We Love**

The September/October Science & Ecology article, “The Moran Effect,” provided a warm reminder, in the person of John Moran, of the remarkable individuals who are NY-NJ Trail Conference volunteers. The piece also reminded me of Annie Dilward’s chapter “Seeing,” in her book *Pilgrims at Tinker Creek*. Dilward postis that the lover and the knowledgeable see what others cannot—and, as with the subject of your article, our observations are related to our expectations. She even extends her “seeing” discussion directly to Ed McGowan’s subject, herpetology.

By the way, in those same Ramapo Mountains examined by Moran and McGowan, Boy Scouts of the 1930s, ’40s, and ’50s at times found rattlesnakes so common that they are the namesake of many “Rattlesnake Scout Patrols” still in existence today throughout northern New Jersey.

—Maureen E. Edelstein

Montclair, New Jersey

Ms. Edelson contributed the article “Mission Possible,” which appears on page 7 of this issue.

**Hiking Boots Custom made to your feet!**

- **1-piece upper**
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Gary L. Badew Boomeaker
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**From the Chair**

John Myers exhibited creativity while starting up our land acquisition program. He pieces together small units to make larger ones that eventually the state or another not-for-profit organization will buy, and we are thus able to recycle the money to purchase other properties.

Ed Goodell, our executive director, realized that just repairing the trails, particularly the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain, was not enough. He worked to devise a project that will recruit and train volunteers and provide instruction to our sister organizations and local municipalities. They will gain valuable skills and we in turn will get much needed help. Partners are plentiful on this project, beginning with the National Park Service and the Appalachian Trail Conference, both of which have a vested interest in it. It is the integration of capacity building, trail design, instruction, interpretation of historical and natural resources, signage, and public awareness that gives this project an innovative and creative edge.

I have to be creative every time I write this column. As both authors point out, creativity does not just happen. The stage needs to be set. Organizations, such as the Trail Conference, that join people with like interests have a pool of people with a wide variety of work and education background as well as a range of skills and talents. It is a situation that allows for more opportunities for the intersection of ideas, for collaboration, and creativity. This diverse group of people is an inspiration to me and a pool from which I “fish” for ideas for a variety of situations.

—Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors
Building a Better Trail Conference
From the Executive Director

The Trail Conference was created when New York City-based hiking clubs decided to work together to create a system of marked hiking trails at the invitation of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. Then as now, it was a complete voluntary association based on the shared desire to protect and enhance the opportunities for quality hiking experiences.

For the first 30 years, governance was provided solely by voting delegates of member clubs meeting in general assembly. More recently (~1970) the bylaws were changed allowing individual members, represented by delegates-at-large, and creating a board of directors, elected by the delegates to more efficiently manage the month-to-month affairs. While this enabled the Trail Conference to grow and to be more effective in stewardship and representing the interest of hikers, it has added a degree of separation between the work of the Trail Conference and the member clubs.

“The next couple of decades are a critical time for shaping the opportunities for outdoor recreation in this region.”

It is just as important today as it was in 1920 that we actively work to overcome this communication gap. We are much more effective working together than independently. The members of the Trail Conference in 2004, representing well over 100,000 individuals and covering areas from Montauk, Long Island, to the Finger Lakes, New York. The work of the Trail Conference continues to enable clubs and their members to become more involved in taking care of the recreational resources we all need and enjoy. If only 1% of club members were volunteer (beyond those who already do) it would more than double the number of Trail Conference volunteers.

Late last summer, we held an informal focus group with delegates and officers from some of our member clubs. Our goal was to explore ways to more closely integrate club needs and capabilities with the work of the Trail Conference. The frank discussions highlighted club concerns about a range of issues from insurance to off-road vehicle damage. Overall, clubs expressed a desire to be more informed and “in-the-loop” about the Trail Conference’s wide ranging activities and initiatives.

One conclusion is that the current format of three, annual delegate meetings does not provide enough contact between member clubs to effectively communicate and build a working relationship. Therefore, starting with the February 2005 delegates meeting, we are taking some steps to improve these communications. The Trail Conference and provide a forum where people can come together and work on issues of mutual interests. (See February delegates meeting notice on this page.)

To do this effectively, the meeting will be a full day on a Saturday (February 26), ending with a short business meeting of voting delegates. The rest of the day will be devoted to a group brainstorming process (known, ironically, as Open Space) that was developed when someone noticed that the best ideas and discussions at a conference often occur during the coffee breaks.

Unlike a normal conference with a set program, the attending delegates’ perspectives and opinions will determine the topics for breakout groups and direction of the day’s discussion. Delegates will be asked to identify key issues they would like to discuss. A program of breakout sessions will be determined by putting these issues to a vote. Each breakout session will have a host and a neutral facilitator. At the end of the day, the breakout groups will share their discussions with all participants and make the case for their point of view. Where there is sufficient interest, task forces can be created to continue the work of the breakout groups. These task forces can recruit other club members, report progress at future delegates meetings, and seek direct assistance from the Trail Conference.

We are exploring ways to have more club members working together on issues that clubs care about. The next couple of decades are a critical time for shaping these opportunities for outdoor recreation in this region. Creating that synergy is what the Trail Conference is all about.

If you are a member of a hiking club, feel free to bring this opportunity to the attention of your club leadership. (Club contact information is at http://www.nynjtc.org/clubs.html.)

~ Ed Goodell
goodell@nynjtc.org

Delegates Meeting Set for February 26

All Trail Conference members are invited to attend the next Delegates’ Meeting on Saturday, February 26, at the Fresh Air Fund’s Camp Mariah on the Sharpe Reservation, 436 Van Wyck Lake Rd., Fishkill, NY 12524 845-896-5910. The meeting is expected to run from 4:00-5:30 pm. It will be preceded by a full-day brainstorming session starting at 10 am, which is open to all voting delegates. (See “From the Executive Director” above for details.) Feel free to contact your club delegate or the Trail Conference office with general and specific issues for consideration during the day.

Camp Mariah can be reached from I-84 via Exit 13 or via the Beacon train station. There are trails for snowshoeing on the property, and overnight accommodations available for reservation in advance. Contact the office (201-512-9348) to RSVP, get directions, arrange for pick-up at the train station, and/or find out about carpool options.

In a move urged by the NY-NJ Trail Conference and other members of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, the Mamakating Planning Board in November approved a plan to name the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) lead agency on the environmental review of a large resort proposed for the top of the ridge in the town. Developers of the project, dubbed Shawanga Lodge, propose a 250-room resort hotel, conference center, and sports complex, six-stories high, on 307 ridge-top acres in the Town of Mamakating. The DEC is owner/manager of adjacent forest lands.

DEC to Review Shawanga Lodge

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Open Space Funding Gets Broad Support

In addition to the monumental Highlands Preservation Act approved in New Jersey in July, the Highlands Conservation Act approved by the United States Congress in the fall (see page 1), a number of open space funding proposals in the New York-New Jersey region have been passed recently. (Information is from data compiled by the Trust for Public Lands Landvote Database.)

In November, New Jersey voters okayed $4 million to buy and preserve property near Sugarloaf Mountain to preserve a valued special interest in Orange County was the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) lead agency on the environmental review of a large resort proposed for the top of the ridge in the town. Developers of the project, dubbed Shawanga Lodge, propose a 250-room resort hotel, conference center, and sports complex, six-stories high, on 307 ridge-top acres in the Town of Mamakating. The DEC is owner/manager of adjacent forest lands.

In addition, in Orange County, NY, Executive Edward Diana and the legislature designated $2 million in capital budget to be spent over the next five years in protecting and acquiring open space. Of special interest in Orange County was the community of Chester, where citizens approved a proposal to borrow $4.4 million to buy and preserve property near Sugarloaf Mountain to preserve a valued watershed, and protect the local tourist and artisan businesses. In the neighboring town of Goshen, approval was given for borrowing $5 million to buy development rights on farmland and other open space. PDR programs (purchase of development rights) are being explored as a way to preserve land. In a PDR scenario a town buys development rights on open land that remains in private ownership. The private owner receives payment in exchange for a written (and recorded) enforceable promise not to develop the land in the future. This restriction passes on to all subsequent owners. PDR programs allow towns to attain their open space goals—watershed, farmland, and recreation protection—at a cost less than purchase, thereby extending taxpayer funds. New Jersey’s towns and counties and the state’s Green Acres program run similar programs.

NYS Legislative Agenda for 2005

The Trail Conference/Adirondack Mountain Club Partnership is already at work on trail-related budget issues in the 2005-2006 New York State budget. The partnership is strongly advocating for increased funds for acquisition and stewardship and is requesting that New York significantly increase the land acquisition fine item, which has been stagnant at approximately $30 million. Examples of open space projects that are in need of funding include: Shawangunk Ridge parcels, Sterling Forest, and Long Path North parcels in Greene County just north of the Catskill Forest Preserve to ensure that the Catskill-Cherryville Tract connects the Catskills to the Helderbergs.

In addition, the partnership is also strongly advocating that Governor Pataki increase stewardship funding in his executive budget proposal. Stewardship funding is essential for the preparation and maintenance of state land, including hiking trails, for public use.

The partnership will also continue to push for the passage of the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which would give towns the option to introduce a public referendum proposing an increase in the real estate transfer tax. The revenue from the transfer tax increase would be deposited into a Community Preservation Fund for local open space projects.

Passage of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail development and maintenance fund that would provide for ATV trail development on any kind of state land, state park land or the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves, is also a priority this year.

Richard Benning, Neil Woodworth, and Maria Lounsbury contributed to this column.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail Needs Ridgerunners

The Appalachian Trail Conference offers more than 20 seasonal PAID Ridgerunner and Caretaker positions, including several positions based in New York state. To join us in supporting the volunteer stewardship of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Ridgerunners and Caretakers play important roles, taking on the responsibility of maintaining the trails and ensuring the best behavior on the part of hikers, to facilitate a positive trail experience, and to elicit the support of AT neighbors.

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Positions are located in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maine. Seasons vary, stretching from March through October.

Go to the website www.appalachiantrail.org for the 2005 seasonal job application. For more information on the Ridgerunner program, contact Ian Nelson at 717-258-5771 or inelson@atconf.org.

Application deadline is January 15, 2005.
Red Apple Parking Ends; New Access to Nurian Trail Set
Until further notice, there will be no all-day parking for hikers at the Red Apple Rest parking lot in Southfields, along Route 17. The lot is still available as a meeting place and for short-term customer parking and continues to be an active bus stop. This parking area has been converted into a commuter parking lot for permit holders. There is no other public parking in the immediate area. In the past, the lot permitted easy access to the Nurian Trail in Harriman State Park.

The nearest parking for hikers is at Elk Pen, approximately 3/4 mile to the north. See NY/NJ Trail Conference Map #4, Northern Harriman-Bear Mtn. Trails.

For those utilizing the Elk Pen parking area to access the Nurian Trail, the Trail Conference has established an alternate route to it; the Stahahe Brook Trail (red stripe on white). It follows the Old Arden Road south for about 0.3 mile from where the Arden-Surebridge Trail (red triangle on white) leaves the road, then turns east after passing over a bridge. It follows a woods road along the brook to reach the Nurian Trail (white) near the northern end of Lake Stahahe.

Wildcat Mountain Lot

Stays Open for Winter
The proposed paving of the Wildcat Mtn. trailhead parking lot (Route 17a) has been postponed by the Dept. of Transportation until approximately May 2005. Consequently, there will be no parking prohibition there over this winter. While drainage construction will be performed at the southern end of this lot, it will not prohibit trailhead parking at the northern end.

Minnewaska Updates
Hikers may have encountered some restrictions at Minnewaska State Park this fall owing to the impact of severe late summer storms that damaged trails throughout the park. The storms washed out the footbridge that carries the High Peters Kill T rail over the Peters Kill, and caused that trail to be temporarily closed. The trail is now reopened thanks to the West Hudson North trail crew, which restored and repaired the bridge in October.

Also, park managers recently announced that the bridge over the Peters Kill at the main entrance to the park is in need of repair. Until repairs are completed, one lane will remain open only to pedestrians and cars; no trucks or service vehicles will be permitted to cross the bridge.

A reminder: The Hamilton Point Carriageway has been officially closed since the November 2002 ice and wind storm.

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Bridge Being Replaced

Over Pine Meadow Brook
The bridge just below the Cascade of Slid across the Pine Meadow Brook in Harriman State Park is being replaced. The old bridge, which serves the Kakiat and the Stony Brook Trail, has been removed. The timetable for this project is uncertain, so check the Trail Conference website for details.

AT Detour at Wallkill River Wildlife Refuge

A section of the Appalachian Trail in the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge will be temporarily rerouted during the Liberty Marsh Restoration Project. The work, near West Point, was scheduled to begin in late November/early December 2004 and expected to last two months, depending upon weather. This work will involve rehabilitation of the dike that comprises the south and east sections of the refuge's Liberty Loop Trail, which is co-aligned with the AT. To preserve public safety, the refuge will post signs to detour hikers to the north and east sections of Liberty Loop Trail away from construction areas for the duration of the project.

Hascenlever Iron Trail Stays Open

The last issue of Trail Walker reported that a section of the recently opened Hascenlever Trail in Ringwood State Park in New Jersey had to be closed owing to the discovery of an industrial dump site near the site. The Dept. of Environmental Protection quickly determined, however, that the trail could remain open. They noted that a temporary closure may be required in the future in order to excavate the site that that hikers discovered there pose no imminent danger.

Tiorati Changes

To eliminate a swampy area and a short road walk through Tiorati Circle at Arden Valley and Tiorati Brook Roads, a portion of the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail (RD, red dot on white) has been rerouted. This section has been reestablished on a combination of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and old woods roads that circumvent the Tiorati Plateau Group Campground.

Also, a 0.9-mile blue-blazed trail, utilizing an old woods road, now provides safe off-road access between the Tiorati Circle parking lot and the AT & RD trails at Arden Valley Road.

Dunnfield Creek Bridge and Trail Closed

The devastation wrought on the Dunnfield Creek Trail by Hurricane Ivan (reported in the last issue) now officially includes the bridge crossing nearest the parking lot. That bridge was the only one still existing after the storm, though it was damaged. The bridge has since been closed. The Dunnfield Creek Trail is now now closed.

Hikers seeking access to the Appalachian and other trails from the parking area should use recently installed stepping stones just upstream from the damaged bridge.

Crew Notes

A Year with the West Jersey Crew

By Monica Resor and David Day
Once again, in 2004, the West Jersey Crew got to work in most of the parks in the region: High Point State Park, Worthington State Forest, Wallkill Valley State Park, Stokes State Forest—and a new one for us, Jenny Jump State Park.

The spring season began with a return to Worthington to work on some long-needed repairs of the Blue Dot Trail. In the course of our two trips to the site, we defined and constructed a relocation to remove the trail from what had become a waist-deep eroded ditch. By the end of the second trip, we had placed 16 stone steps, two waterbars, and 35 feet of retaining wall. The storms washed out the valley through which the AT passes, ran so high that I-80 had to be closed because the water was flowing onto the road surface instead of under the bridge! By the time it was over, five of the seven bridges over Dunnfield Creek were destroyed, and the one carrying the AT was damaged so badly it has been condemned.

Since we were already scheduled to work on the AT in Worthington for our next trip, we shifted into clearing and repair mode after a call from the park superintendent. With two chainaw teams, we cleared our way up the AT to Sunfish Pond and then back down the Dunnfield Creek Trail (or what was left of it). Meanwhile another team pulled together a rudimentary bridge from a couple of downed trees and salvaged deck boards at the major stream crossing, and then continued upstream making two more basic step-stone crossings out of the demolished bridge footings.

As an aside: I was very happy to note that the three dozen waterbars and drainage continued on page 6

Bob Sickley repairs a waterbar on the AT to Sunfish Pond.

For our final trip of the season, we had a “spring cleaning” trip on the Appalachian Trail in Worthington S.F. This section of the AT gets an amazing amount of use and needs constant attention. Our project was to clean, repair and generally refurbish all the drainage structures we could between I-80 and Sunfish Pond. So, armed with mattocks, shovels, and the odd clipper or two, the crew leap-frogged its way up—digging and cleaning as we went. By the end of the day we had fixed up, rebuilt, or built 34 waterbars and 10 check dams. It’s a good thing we did, but more on that later!

Our first trip of the fall season was to complete the work on the Terrace Pond South Trail in Wawayanda. With the placement of the last eight step stones at the original site, a small stream crossing, and another six step stones near that, we declared that area of the trail to be done.

Then came Hurricane Ivan. The rain gauge at Yard’s Creek (just north of Sunfish Pond on the Kittatinny Ridge) recorded 11.5 inches of rain in about 2.5 hours that morning. Dunnfield Creek, which drains the valley through which the AT passes, ran so high that I-80 had to be closed because the water was flowing onto the road surface instead of under the bridge! By the time it was over, five of the seven bridges over Dunnfield Creek were destroyed, and the one carrying the AT was damaged so badly it has been condemned.

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Wanted: that old external frame backpack

We’ve been without a pack for over a year now, and the best that we can come up with is a “perfect” rock.

Donate Your Old External Frame Pack

Wanted: that old external frame backpack (particularly grip hoist equipment and accessories) to and from work sites. Please contact David Day & Monica Resor at westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com.
Winter Woods

By Edwin McGown, Science Director, PhD

We will

By Edwin McGowan, Science Director, PhD

Sudden Oak Death: The Latest Threat to Our Forests

Winter is also a time when various animal aggregations—deer form small herds and “yard up” in northern areas while many birds form seasonal flocks—facilitating counts. Lastly, visibility is greatly increased once our deciduous forests shed their leafy cover each year. This makes viewing what remains much easier. I am also always amazed at how much shorter a well-known section of trail becomes once the leaves are down.

Annual Bird and Wildlife Census

Join the bald eagle survey this winter. Winter is actually a good time to record and map certain invasive plants, namely ones that remain conspicuous and recognizable, such as common reed or phragmites. This plant is perhaps most visible in winter, when reed colonies stand out like dried corn stalks against a backdrop of deeper browns. This project will focus on the inland marshes of Harriman and Phragmites will be mapped in parks.

Phragmites will be mapped in parks.

TC Monitoring Projects

This winter, TC environmental monitors will be taking advantage of what the season offers—snow for tracking, flocking behavior in birds, and increased visibility, respectively, for the following citizen science projects:

1. NJ Bobcat Track Survey:

   With a little luck, we will have ample snow to search for bobcat tracks intersecting our hiking trails in northern New Jersey. This denizen of forests, swamps, and brushlands occurs at low densities and is rarely seen; it is on the state’s list of endangered species. Using our trails as survey transects, volunteers will attempt to document bobcat tracks, snow permitting. This effort will complement a concurrent New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection bobcat census employing scent posts and camera traps in the same general areas.

2. Bald Eagle Root Survey:

   We will again be surveying bald eagles as they form roosts at evening roost sites along the lower Hudson River. Building on last year’s count of over 130 eagles on one early February day, we will hold counts on three dates in January and February.

3. Baseline Mapping of Invasive Plants:

   Winter is actually a good time to record and map certain invasive plants, namely ones that remain conspicuous and recognizable, such as common reed or phragmites. This plant is perhaps most visible in winter, when reed colonies stand out like dried corn stalks against a backdrop of deeper brown. This project will focus on the inland marshes of Harriman and Sterling Forest State Parks, where phragmites has made some inroads but is not yet a ubiquitious wetland species. Our near-term goal is to map its current distribution, but with an eye toward future management. Each of these projects is open to members and will require member participation to be successful. To learn more about them and how to become an environmental monitor, visit the science page at our website (nyjnc.org) or call me at 201-512-9348.

The spread into Oregon caused a new problem, as many States are concerned about the potential for the nursery trade to introduce the fungus. The fungus can be spread in the soil and by water, and has now spread up the west coast.

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**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 benefit with the Conference's efforts. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. Become an active part of your family and get more involved. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and don't see an opportunity that suits you, contact Volunteer Projects Director Joshua Erdsnek, either by email vol@nynjtc.org or call the office 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

**Metro Trail Crew**

Our Metro Trails Committee is looking for trail crew volunteers to help do reclamation work on Staten Island’s principal trail. The Staten Island Greenbelt trail needs work beyond simple maintenance to improve its condition and return it to the pleasant and surprisingly wild experience it offers. People interested in doing some erosion control and rock work should contact Trail Director Larry Wheelock (wheelock@nynjtc.org; phone, 201-512-9348), or Bob Ward, (Robert.ward31@yahoo.com; phone, 718-471-7036). We hope that this call will result in a core of volunteer trail crew members who would be willing to work throughout the city on trails that the Metro Trails Committee has been bringing under its wing.

**A National Treasure Needs You**

The nation’s greatest historic footpath needs a motivated volunteer to coordinate and manage the men and women who maintain the Appalachian Trail from the NY-NJ border to Route 17. The Orange/Rockland Appalachian Trail Overseer position needs immediate filling. Qualified candidates need to be well organized, detail oriented, good communicators, and have a passion for the AT. Be a part of the team that maintains one of the most diverse and intriguing sections of the Appalachian Trail. If you are interested in this position, please contact Larry Wheelock at 201-512-9348 or wheelock@nynjtc.org.

**New Jersey Mid-West Crew**

Are you tired of watching day-time TV? Looking for a change of pace? Why not get out and join a mid-week trail crew? As we adopt more trails, our trail crews have more trail work than ever. Our New Jersey trail committees are organizing a mid-week trail crew to tackle a variety of exciting projects throughout the state. We are looking for motivated trail leaders and crew members ready to tackle challenging and exciting trail projects. If you are interested in this position, please contact Larry Wheelock at 201-512-9348 or wheelock@nynjtc.org.

**Trail Volunteer Patch Coordinator**

Every year, the Trail Conference recognizes the men and women who have generously donated their time to keeping the trails we hike maintained. You can help recognize these volunteers by coordinating our patch program this year. Interested persons should be familiar with Microsoft Excel and willing to assist with data entry.

**ATC 2007 Biennial Meeting**

In 2007, the TC will be hosting the Appalachian Trail Conference’s biennial meeting. This week-long conference offers an educational program, from hikes and educational workshops to commercial venues, plan exhibit space, and coordinate exhibits during the meeting.

**Hike Coordinator:** Plan hikes, secure leaders, communicate leadership standards for the hiking programs, and provide overall coordination for the hiking events.

**Other Opportunities:**
- Membership Committee members
- Office volunteers
- Book reviewers
- Publications committee members
- Volunteer profilers
- Librarian

**CREW NOTES**

continued from page 3

structures we had refurbished in the spring had worked—in spades; there was gratifyingly little new erosion on the whole length of the AT up to Sunfish Pond. And the new work we had done on the Blue Dot had held up fine. Last year’s 1,000-pound stepping stones up next to the headwater of Dunnfield Creek, however, were gone without a trace.

The following pair of trips was a back-to-back Saturday and Sunday affair at the Terrace Pond outlet stream crossing in Wallkill S.P. What had been about 60 feet wide when we scouted it last spring was now over 90 feet wide from all the rain. Using the highline, we mined a dozen step-ledges from all the rain. For our final trip of the year, the crew embarked on a major blowdown clearing project in Stokes S.F. Despite a steady drizzle, we fielded three sawyers and, joined by six scouts and two leaders from Troop 63 of Greenwich Township, NJ, we cleared several dozen blowdowns on seven different trails in the park.

**Thanks to all who volunteered with the West Jersey Crew in 2004:**
- Alan Abramowitz, Jack Baccaglini, Larry Bernstein, Susan Bernstein, Ian Blundell, Bob Boyle, Bob Boysen, Roland Braithwait, Harry Byrne, Geraldine Byrne, Gordon Campbell, Joan Campbell, Marc Cohen, Bill Darling, Arturo Diaz, Paul Dutton, Josh Erdneker, Bill Fisher, Dick Gerien, Mike Gerien, Don Griffen, Joan James, Tom Kincheloe, Peter Kohlberger, Jerry Looswy, Gay Mayer, Marshall McKnight, Sarah McKnight, Bob Messerschmidt, Mitch Morrison, Sara Morrison, Bob Sickley, Larry Wheelock, and BSA Troop 63.

**Who’s Counting**

**New Trails Adopted**

Six miles of new trails in Forest Park in Queens have been adopted by the Trail Conference at the recommendation of the Metro Area Trails Committee. A ranger in the park is to coordinate a group of volunteers organized as the Forest Park Trust, which will be responsible for maintenance. The total number of trails maintained by Trail Conference members is more than 1,600.

**New Clubs Join TC**

The Forest Park Trust mentioned above was one of several groups welcomed to TC membership this fall. The other new organizational members are:
- Catskill Mountain Club: based at the Catskill Center, the club will adopt trails in the Catskills.
- Bellvale School, NY: maintains a section of the Appalachian Trail.
- Long Island Greenbelt Trust: a partner organization that maintains private trails in Sag Harbor, NY.
- Boy Scout Troop 273 (Middletown, NY): plans to adopt a trail.
- Boy Scout Troop 2 (Middleburgh, NY): plans to adopt a lean-to.
- Camp Deer Run (Pine Bush, NY): maintains trails on their own property which are open to the public.

The number of organizational members of the Trail Conference now totals 91, representing more than 100,000 hikers.

**New Web Features**

Two new features have been added to the Trail Conference website (www.nynjtc.org): an easier online donation mechanism and search tool.

Most people should find the new “Donate Now” button, located at the top of the left-hand menu column on the home page, easy to use and navigate. A single click on this button will bring you to a secure page where you can make your gift to the Trail Conference.

Scroll to the bottom of that same home-page column to find simple one-question polls. As with most online polls, the best that can be said about the results is that they may be indicative. They are certainly not statistically significant because the participants are self-selected and nothing is known about their demographics.

View and vote in our polls (including in older polls until we close them). You can also suggest new polls (hiking related only). We plan to change the polls fairly often, so come back to the web frequently.
“It’s impossible!” some people said of my idea. “Teenagers don’t get up early on Sunday mornings, don’t hike in 4-degree weather, and don’t stick with anything for six months.” But have you ever noticed…

“IT HAPPENS WHEN BRIGHT STARS ARE ALIGNED?”

“…lately, I’ve been variously amazed, advertised, and avoided by my own choice of spices to a personal recipe.

Don’t we want the dish to turn out really well? So it’s only fair to teach them that, when they have an apartment in Fort Washington, they can walk across the George Washington Bridge up the Long Path to the state line, or live in the exurbs and work trail maintenance on Storm King Mountain.

The ultimate “magic” was the most successful Philmont trek possible. Scenama, strength, map-reading, orienteering, a solid team, and a sense of fun and challenge—all these were firmly in place and resulted in an awesome experience for each young man. When the Scouts returned, I asked them how their local training had gone. They virtually ran the Long Path, the Eagle Rock Reservation in 4-degree weather and several inches of snow. Anyone who missed religious services for this hike certainly had a sense of awe after one mile of sharp elevation to the summit, just after sunrise, facing east. A misty pink and steel Gotham was beyond us and the First Watchung Mountains were beside us.

As a mentor, you get your shot to influence the young. The Scouts’ parents had years ago put their kids’ ingredients in the simmering family pot, and community members like Todd, Doug, Scoutmaster Merle Gehman, and I get a lucky chance to stir once or twice. Soon, each of these young men would be on his own, his own choice of spices to a personal recipe.

Don’t we want the dish to turn out really well?

So it’s only fair to teach them that, when they have an apartment in Fort Washington, they can walk across the George Washington Bridge up the Long Path to the state line, or live in the exurbs and work trail maintenance on Storm King Mountain.

The boys ascend to the Long Path.

A rigorous training schedule brought Scouts and leaders to the summit of Schunemunk.

magict happens when bright stars are aligned?

My sons’ Boy Scout Troop 13 (Upper Montclair, NJ) scheduled a high-adventure trip to the 157,000-acre Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico for late June 2004. Anticipating Philmont’s daily hikes of up to 15 miles at average elevations of 10,000 feet, and with Troop 13’s emphasis on youth leadership, the most important factors in preparing for the trip were physical training and team-building.

So what magic had to be wrought? Simply, my job was to prepare the guys for a successful trip. The stars aligned in my universe were our Scouts: 10 strong, smart, and thoroughly hilarious teenagers; Assistant Scoutmasters and men-of-steel Todd Edelson and Doug McGilvray, who would also accompany the fellows to Philmont; the fascinating terrain of the New York-New Jersey metro region; and the exceptional resources of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

I had grown up summers in the shadow of Orange County’s Schunemunk Mountain with a well-thumbed copy of the *New York Walk Book* on the cabin bookshelf. Lately, I’d been hiking with the Appalachian Mountain Club and recognized the Trail Conference’s fine work throughout the region. The quality of the Conference’s publications and its excellent trail maintenance combined with the region’s resources meant that I could confidently “entertain” the guys for 26 weeks.

Our plan was to start hiking on the first Sunday in January and continue each weekend, excepting holidays, through June. Hikes and packs would become more challenging as the months went by.

Snow came early last winter, and by the time our first outing arrived, we were climbing through Essex County’s Eagle Rock Reservation in 4-degree weather and several inches of snow. Anyone who missed religious services for this hike certainly had a sense of awe after one mile of sharp elevation to the summit, just after sunrise, facing east. A misty pink and steel Gotham was beyond us and the First Watchung Mountains were beside us.

As a mentor, you get your shot to influence the young. The Scouts’ parents had years ago put their kids’ ingredients in the simmering family pot, and community members like Todd, Doug, Scoutmaster Merle Gehman, and I get a lucky chance to stir once or twice. Soon, each of these young men would be on his own, adding his own choice of spices to a personal recipe.

Don’t we want the dish to turn out really well?

So it’s only fair to teach them that, when they have an apartment in Fort Washington, they can walk across the George Washington Bridge up the Long Path to the state line, or live in the exurbs and work trail maintenance on Storm King Mountain.

New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members:

Jan A. Summers
Marilyn Adair

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

Alpine Adventure Trails

25th year in the Swiss Alps

Optional length day hiking.

Two guided tours tour allow you to choose a moderate or more strenuous hike each day.

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MISSION: Possible and Awesome

By Maureen Edelson

A rigorous training schedule brought Scouts and leaders to the summit of Schunemunk.

GEAR CHECK

An occasional series that will review gear appropriate for hiking.

Cambelbak Rim Runner Hydration System

Reviewed by Josh Endienke

Hikers beware; we no longer have to stuff our packs with water bottles or clip them to our packs after the mesh pockets have ripped. The Cambelbak Rim Runner makes hiking as easy as fill, pack, and walk! With a 100-ounce reservoir, it holds plenty of water for those long day hikes and hot summer days spent in the woods. The bladders are easy to fill and clean, with a large mouth opening and ergonomic screw-top.

In the fall, there is plenty of room for an extra fleece and your lunch in the 1,526 cubic inches of space. The dual-side mesh pockets and an outside compartment for your smaller items allows you to organize your gear for quick access.

Despite the adult theorizing, the frigid weather, and a 7:30 a.m. departure following a teenager’s Saturday night, the Philmont guys, as they came to be known, showed up the second week for a hike and continued every week through their departure in late June. They hiked Essex, Passaic, and Bergen counties and were out on the GW Bridge. They explored the newly blazed trails around Camp Glen Gray, where their troop has been camping since 1917, and have a deeper appreciation of what the Ramapos offer. They virtually ran the Long Path from Fort Lee to Alpine, and, under the fine leadership of John Kolp of the Adirondack Mountain Club, ascended the 1,664’ summit of Schunemunk Mountain, rewarded by swimming and barbecuing at that old cabin I mentioned. With every step, NY-NJ Trail Conference maps were in our hands. Of course, food is critical when you’re dealing with teenage guys. Calories evaporate, and most weeks the return trip to my home was well in place and resulted in an awesome experience for each young man. When the Scouts returned, I asked them how their local training had prepared them for the trek. With the conflict of veteran love in teenagers, they replied, “Mrs. Edelson, we hiked our guide into the ground.”

The boys ascend to the Long Path.

The ultimate “magic” was the most successful Philmont trek possible. Scenama, strength, map-reading, orienteering, a solid team, and a sense of fun and wonder—all these were firmly in place and resulted in an awesome experience for each young man. When the Scouts returned, I asked them how their local training had prepared them for the trek. With the conflict of veteran love in teenagers, they replied, “Mrs. Edelson, we hiked our guide into the ground.”

During an eight-mile hike up to the Ramapo Tore, the pack fit me well, and with an adjustable sternum strap and waist belt to hold it steady, I forgot I was even wearing it at times. I especially enjoyed not having to stop moving when I needed a drink.

For those hikers reluctant to toss aside your Nalgenes, give the new generation of hydration bladders a chance. With my water more accessible, I was even wearing it at times. I especially enjoyed not having to stop moving when I needed a drink.

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So, What is GIS?
By Eric Yadlovski

Perhaps the most frequently asked question is, “What is GIS?”

A geographic information system is an attempt to accurately model reality. It is an information system that links geographic data (spatial data, non-spatial data, database information (attribute data) and enables users to visualize patterns, relationships, and trends. In the most simplistic form, a GIS functions as a tool for computer-based mapping, allowing maps to be produced quickly and efficiently. Although computer-based mapping is an essential and important component of GIS, the real power is the ability to use spatial and statistical methods to perform analysis on geographic and attribute data.

A geographic information system comprises three major components: software, hardware, and data. Software provides the functions and tools users need to store, analyze, and display geographical information. The hardware consists of computers on which the GIS operates, printers, scanners, etc. There are two distinct types of data: spatial data and attribute data. Spatial data is the location and shape of geographic features. An attribute is information about a geographic feature, usually stored in a database. For example, a road is considered spatial data; attributes of the road might include the name, length, and speed limit.

Much of what the Trail Conference (TC) does requires spatial information. A geographic information system greatly improves the TC’s ability to serve its members and achieve its goals. The TC currently maintains GIS parcel data, which contains information such as ownership, address, acreage, and section-block-lot. This data can be retrieved and visually represented at any time. This allows the TC to identify key parcels and evaluate which parcels require immediate acquisition.

As the Trail Conference continues with digital map production, the need for maintaining accurate GIS data for each of the map sets increases. All the data necessary to produce a publication map is stored in our GIS. This data includes but is not limited to boundaries of public open spaces, roads, woods roads, marked trails, unmaintained trails, viewpoints, parking, shelters, lakes, streams, and contour lines. This data allows maps to be produced more accurately and on a more frequent basis.

Eric Yadlovski is the Trail Conference staff GIS specialist. For more information on geographic information systems please visit the following websites: www.esri.com, www.gis.com.

CATSKILL MOUNTAINS LITE? continued from page 1

and noise of midtown Manhattan, it is three hours to this mountain community—a haven of natural resources that we have the unique opportunity to protect and preserve for the state government. Undermine the existing character of this community; as the proposed resort would, and the nearest “replacement,” so-called, for the hikers who come here now is eight hours away, or 12 hours, or a plane ride—no longer possible for a day trip or even a weekend.

But the fact is there is no replacement for hiking in the Catskills. There are no other spas to compare to the Catskills. This is unique because the character of the place is unique, and to anyone who has hiked here, that character is absolutely distinct and absolutely recognizable. Nor is it just the mountains and trails that define the character of this mountain community. There are the villages where hikers and backpackers stock up on supplies, ply the shops, patronize the restaurants and hostels. All of this defines the very specific community character that brings people here to hike.

And the particular part of the community where the developers propose to situate their resort is at the very heart of it, right smack dab in the middle of the “high peaks” region, just exactly at the focal point to which hikers are drawn. Clearly, the size, scale, purpose, and manner of the resort will have a most consequential impact on the existing community character.

I went up the mountain from Rider Hollow—in late April or early May, as best I recall. There were still patches of snow, and the trees were not leafed out. On a prior trip up that trail, I had spotted a red fox. This time, the only wildlife I saw was a young couple and their baby, who was riding high in a backpack on her father’s shoulders. There’s a rock outcrop at the summit, which is flat, where the trail pitches up to a level place, and we stood there together looking east past Balsam to the Slide-Panther wilderness; at that point, we were also staring north/northeast right onto the ridge where this resort would be built. Please do not tell me that the resort will not be visible from state-owned trails. It will.

The view is not all it would ruin, and others have testified... to the many adverse impacts on our natural resources. Yes, it will kill the night sky, so that backpackers like me will never again really be sleeping under the stars here, but even more fundamentally than these negatives, the proposed resort is a direct threat to the quintessential character of this community, to the very reason we’ve talked about. It would so profoundly alter the character of these mountains as to destroy that character once and for all. The loss will be irretrievable. Once you have blasted a mountain apart, you cannot piece it together again. Once you have undermined the character of a community, sapping the very thing it is based on, there’s nothing on which to re-build. That is true whether you can see the resort or not.

No one has said it better than a man from New Jersey named Richard Wolff, a veteran hiker and skier who has been leading trips here for AMC since 1976—probably more than a hundred trips, by his estimate. He leads three every summer, including this summer, and four or more trips in fall and winter. On seeing the plan for the resort, Dick said, and I quote: “That’s not a resort; it’s a city. If they build it, I simply won’t come here any more.”

I wonder, Your Honor, how many times we need to learn the lesson of what environmental degradation can do to a place. There are examples of mountain towns from New Hampshire to Colorado to California, where the once unique sense of place has been diminished at best, destroyed at worst. This is not just a cookie-cutter ‘destination resort’... I wonder if such a loss is worth yet another upmarket retail mall selling scented candles and high-priced casual wear. I think it is not. Golf courses abound in this part of the world; together, Delaware, Greene, and Ulster counties boast more than 40. Must a mountain be broken and a sense of place destroyed to build yet another?

That is precisely what the proposed resort, quite simply and quite fundamentally, will do: it will destroy the sense of place of the Catskills. It will wreck the existing unique character of this community, that now derives organically from the protected natural resources here. Instead, it will give us an imposed, artificial, easy-to-relicate gloss on our mountains—Mountains Lite, mountains-as-theme-park, mountains-as-destination resorts... I wonder if such a loss is worth yet another upmarket retail mall selling scented candles and high-priced casual wear. I think it is not. Golf courses abound in this part of the world; together, Delaware, Greene, and Ulster counties boast more than 40. Must a mountain be broken and a sense of place destroyed to build yet another?

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Jay Schwartz Lives On
In Bequest to Trail Conference

Jay Schwartz was a “super hiker.” He loved the outdoors and shared this passion with all who knew him for the last 50 years. Jay spent his summers hiking and skiing with groups like Miramar Ski Club, Mosaic Outdoor Club, the New York Ramblers, and of course, as a life member with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

It seems as if the memory of his own hiking days continues to live on through this generosity. Frank Bamberger says, Jay Schwarz lives on through his generous gift.

It’s quite fitting that Jay’s own travels would inspire others to share their stories. Jay Schwarz was a former chairman of the slide program at AMC, where he organized slide shows at social gatherings, showing off his slides from all of his travels.

Jay passed away in March 2004, leaving behind family and friends who have their own stories about how Jay touched their lives. Now, the NY-NJ Trail Conference too has its own story to share. Jay Schwartz designated the Trail Conference as a beneficiary of his estate, leaving the Trail Conference 1/3 of his assets. As his friend Frank Bamberger says, Jay’s memory and spirit continue to live on through this generous gift.

By Lisa Cargill

SPECIAL GIFTS
To the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition
ADK Ramapo Chapter, Stephen Bachop, Peter Bierstedt, Perny Davis, Raymond L. Greenberg
To the Science Fund
Deborah & Eric Kurtman
To the Marketing Fund
Anonymous*
In honor of John and Marianne Gunzler
Mark S. Rosenthal & Shoshannah Pollack
*Members of the Raymond H. Torrey Society

ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS
GIFTS

MEMORIAL GIFTS
In memory of Donald Henderson
Carol Roth

MATCHING GIFTS

CONTACT: Lisa Cargill, Development Associate
cargill@nytjc.org

ANNUAL MEETING/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF EVENT THANK YOU

The Trail Conference Board of Directors and staff would like to thank the following individuals for the time they spent preparing for and volunteering at the Annual Meeting/Capital Campaign Kickoff event on October 31, 2004, at Skylands Manor. Without their hard work and dedication, the day would not have been possible.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES
John Gunzler, Co-Chair
Mary Smart, Co-Chair
Dr. George Becker, Jr.
Chris Connolly
Jane Daniels
Herb Hochberg
Peter Kennard
Bob Newton
Anne Osborn
Malcolm Spector

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MARKETING COMMITTEE
Dottie Noe, Chair
Barbara Ackerman
Deborah Amundson
Valerie Chiang
Marilyn Kurland

HIKE LEADERS
Daniel Chazin, Clifford Gerenz,
Gene Girodano, Al Leigh, Richard Zinn

SKYLANDS MANOR VOLUNTEERS
Rose Marie Boyson, Ann Grob,
Rita Hecker, Lou O’Neill, Jane Leigh,
Marilyn Sinkind, Doug Sohn

VOLUNTEERS who assisted with displays and presentations
Publications: George Petty, Rush Rosenthal, Bob Boyson, Daniel Chazin
Bear Mountain and Trails: Gary Haugland, David Day, John Magerlein, Bob Jonas, Gene Girodano, Peter Jensen
Science: Bob Jonas, Estelle Anderson
Graphic Design
Michael Billy, Michael McGraw, The McGraw Group
Donations
Fred DeBergh, Ramsey Outdoor, Cliff Bar, Power Bar, Leisure Time Water

SPECIAL THANKS to TC staff member and GIS specialist Eric Yablonski, who made all of our maps and presentations a reality!

Make Your Gift to the Campaign

The Trail Conference accepts gifts in many forms, but the most common forms are:

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

We encourage donors to make pledges with payment periods of 3 to 5 years.

Contact: Lisa Cargill, Development Associate
cargill@nytjc.org

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

For information, contact Lisa Cargill at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

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Marilyn Sinkind, Doug Sohn

VOLUNTEERS who assisted with displays and presentations
Publications: George Petty, Rush Rosenthal, Bob Boyson, Daniel Chazin
Bear Mountain and Trails: Gary Haugland, David Day, John Magerlein, Bob Jonas, Gene Girodano, Peter Jensen
Science: Bob Jonas, Estelle Anderson
Graphic Design
Michael Billy, Michael McGraw, The McGraw Group
Donations
Fred DeBergh, Ramsey Outdoor, Cliff Bar, Power Bar, Leisure Time Water

SPECIAL THANKS to TC staff member and GIS specialist Eric Yablonski, who made all of our maps and presentations a reality!

Make Your Gift to the Campaign

The Trail Conference accepts gifts in many forms, but the most common forms are:

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

We encourage donors to make pledges with payment periods of 3 to 5 years.

Contact: Lisa Cargill, Development Associate
cargill@nytjc.org

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

For information, contact Lisa Cargill at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.
FAVORITE HIKE

Mineral Spring Falls to Jupiter's Boulder

Location: Mountainville, Orange County
Length: 2.8-mile round-trip from road to Jupiter's Boulder
Rating: Moderate

Features: A cascading waterfall, classic woods stream, hemlock groves, viewpoints, and the trail network of Black Rock Forest make this an appealing hike in any season.

Terrain: one steep slope, rocky footpaths

How to get there: Heading north on Route 32, look for Angola Road on right in Mountainville. Watch for Mineral Spring Road on right (about 2 miles) and take it. Then look for Old Mineral Spring Road on left (about 3 miles) and take it. (This short road has two end points on Mineral Spring Road less than one mile apart.) There is a parking area at the southern end of Old Mineral Spring Road (OMSR). Walk back north on OMSR and look for dirt road with gate and white Scenic Trail and teal Highlands Trail blazes heading right, into the woods.

Watch out for: Portions of the trail are often wet, and several small streams will be crossed, so be prepared.

Hike Description: The trail almost immediately enters Black Rock Forest and you will soon approach a kiosk that offers information. Just beyond (.3 mile from the road) is Mineral Spring Falls, a hemlock-shaded cascade whose character changes stunningly with the seasons, light, and water level. The falls offers the most drama in winter. Its shifting layers of ice and snow constantly change the scene; reflected light is sometimes gray, sometimes blinding in its brightness.

This can be a short but satisfying outing even if you turn around here. But if you are willing to climb the ravine's steep slope to reach the terrain above, you will enjoy a beautiful streamside walk through hemlocks before entering a typical Highlands deciduous forest. Caution: the stream needs to be crossed and there is no bridge. This can be tricky in high water, especially in winter. Use care.

You can continue on the trail to a viewpoint at Jupiter's Boulder (1.4 miles). If you continue on, you will arrive at a trail junction; the yellow-blazed Ryerson Trail breaks off to the right. If you want to continue your hike from here, it is a good idea to have a map of the area (NY-NJ Trail Conference map 7, West Hudson Trails), as Black Rock Forest's trails and woods roads are many and interconnecting.

The Great Valley on Your Coffee Table
A new coffee-table book by nationally recognized landscape photographer Nick Zungoli not only celebrates much of the region encompassed by the NY-NJ Trail Conference, but also includes contributions by several noted TC members.

The images are organized into four chapters: “The Hudson and Palisades,” “The NJ-NY Highlands,” “The Great Valley,” and “The Delaware and Kittatinny-Shawangunk Ridge.”

The Dolans write: “The genius of Nick's work in this book is that he shows the connectedness of great landscapes from the Hudson to the Delaware. He is not interested in isolated parks and preserves, but instead sees through his camera’s lens the interrelationship of the Highlands, the Kittatinny Mountains, the Shawangunks, and the Great Valley. Nick Zungoli's work captures the universal and primordial appeal of nature and of light itself.” For more information, see Hikers’ Marketplace on page 12, visit www.nynjtc.org/store, or call the Trail Conference, 201-512-9348.

SUDDEN OAK DEATH continued from page 5

The genius of Nick's work in this book is that he shows the connectedness of great landscapes from the Hudson to the Delaware. He is not interested in isolated parks and preserves, but instead sees through his camera’s lens the interrelationship of the Highlands, the Kittatinny Mountains, the Shawangunks, and the Great Valley. Nick Zungoli's work captures the universal and primordial appeal of nature and of light itself.” For more information, see Hikers’ Marketplace on page 12, visit www.nynjtc.org/store, or call the Trail Conference, 201-512-9348.

Where there’s a Will, there’s a Trail

When we build them, you hike them. We’ve been building and protecting trails for at least four generations of hikers since 1929. That’s 1,600 miles in New York and New Jersey to date. Help us keep building for the next generation by naming the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in your will. A bequest makes a wonderful gift, and it last beyond one lifetime.

For confidential information and legal language, contact the Trail Conference at 201-512-9348, or by email: info@nynjtc.org.
A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs

The deadlines are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikes are welcome to subject hikes and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Most hiking boots are strong, low-heeled shoes. Bring food, water, rain gear, first aid kit, and a flashlight in a backpack. Leaders have the right and responsibility to refuse anyone when they believe that person cannot complete the hike or is not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are relative terms; call leader in doubt.

More than 65 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of their all-day groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers' Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to the NY-NJ Trail Conference Office.

The deadline for the March/April issue is January 15, 2005.

**January**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1**

**ADK-K**

New York in Harriman, NY. Leader: Dave Sutter, douc/boutd. Meet: 9:30 am at Elk Pen parking lot, Arden Valley Road. Climb the New York resolution now—come out and enjoy the winter. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes. Moderately strenuous.

**PMHNA**


**HC**

New York in Harriman, NY. Leader: Carol O'Neil, 973-739-3025. Meet: 9:30 am at Sawyer Savings Bank, 213 Mill St., Saugus. Moderate 5 miles; depending on conditions, snowshoes and cross-country skis required.

**PMHNA**

New York in Harriman, NY. Leader: Dave Sutter, dsuttr@aol.com. Meet: 9:30 am at Lake Skannatati parking, Seven Lakes Dr. Harriman State Park. Moderately strenuous; 7 miles to family visited sites. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

**UCHC**

New York in Harriman, NY. Leader: Dave Sutter, dsuttr@aol.com. Meet: 9:30 am at Sawyer Savings Bank, 213 Mill St., Saugus. Moderate 5 miles; depending on conditions, snowshoes and cross-country skis required.

**February**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

**UCHC**

Lewis Morris Park, NJ. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-526-4852. Meet: 10 am at Sugarloaf parking area; call for directions. Easy to moderate—5 to 6 miles.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

**RNV**

Thatcher Park and Thompson's Lake, NY. Leader: call 201-823-6990 or 6:45 am. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank, 213 Mill St., Saugus. Moderate 5 miles; depending on conditions, snowshoes and cross-country skis required.
Join the volunteers who bring you the great outdoors!

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

Included with membership: Trail Walker, 10% discount on purchases at most outdoor stores, and 20-25% discount on all Trail Conference maps and books.

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

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<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Joint/Family</th>
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NY/NJ TC member?  YES  NO  JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price

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<tr>
<th>Official Conference Maps</th>
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<td>NEW!! Killtannity Trails (2004)</td>
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<td>Health Hints for Hikers (1994)</td>
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<td>Doodletown: Hiking Through History in a Vanishing Hamlet on the Hudson (1996)</td>
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*Tax must be paid by NJ residents on books, maps, etc., but not on clothing. Thank you!