



85th YEAR

TRAIL WALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE — MAINTAINING OVER 1,600 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

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Trail Conference Preserved Lands To be Purchased by New York State

Nearly 1,000 acres of trail lands in the Hudson Valley preserved by the Trail Conference with financial contributions from members are being acquired by New York State. Governor Pataki announced the purchase agreement September 1.

The protected lands safeguard extensive sections of two major long distance trails, the Long Path in the Catskills Region and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail in the Shawangunk Mountains. In each case, the Trail Conference, working with the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC), assembled hundreds of acres by identifying and negotiating purchases with numerous owners of smaller parcels.

"The Trail Conference and New York State share the goal of protecting a natural corridor that links the Catskills in the north to the Delaware Water Gap in the south," said Ed Goodell, Trail Conference executive director. "We are delighted that our members have provided the resources—through their gifts to the Land Acquisition & Stewardship Fund capital campaign—for the Trail Conference to be able to work with DEC and the Governor's office in taking major steps toward achieving that goal."

DEC Acting Commissioner Denise M. Sheehan said, "These linear corridors are critical connections between our State Forest lands, allowing the public to hike from

one to another while experiencing the rich diversity of habitat and geology that makes the Shawangunk Ridge unique."

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 1600 feet to 2600 feet.

The newly protected lands in the Shawangunks are clustered in the towns of Mount Hope, Deerpark, and Greenville in Orange County and protect over 6.5 miles

of existing and new trail. The Mount Hope assemblage offers 360-degree views from the ridgetop, and features one of only two historic firetowers 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 onto a pristine secondary ridge overlooking the town of Port Jervis.

The state will use money from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)—\$1.7 million—to acquire the property from the Trail Conference.

While the state's purchase of the land is good news for the environment, hikers, and the Trail Conference, Ed Goodell noted that the work of protecting trail lands is not finished. "More and more trail corridors are threatened and blocked by new developments. Changing private ownership patterns and increased development have threatened the integrity of many of our hiking trails. Sections of the Long Path, for example, have been forced to reroute onto roads. Protecting these lands through public ownership will ensure continued recreational opportunities and watershed protection for generations to come.

"We plan to use the money we receive from the state through this sale, and new



ED GOODELL

Jean Taylor and Jakob Franke, Long Path South Trail Chair, frame a Catskill view from a point on the Shawangunk Ridge. Thanks to land preservation successes by the Trail Conference, hikers may one day be able to walk a protected trail that runs the length of the Shawangunk Ridge into and through the Catskills.

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TC Member Named NJ Parks Volunteer of the Year for 2004

Once again, a Trail Conference member has been designated New Jersey Parks Volunteer of the Year. Brian Sniatkowski, the Trail Conference's trails supervisor for Ramapo Mountain State Forest in northern New Jersey, was named a Volunteer of the Year for 2004 by the State of New Jersey, Division of Parks and Forestry. The award was announced in a ceremony held at Fort Dix, NJ, earlier this year.

Brian supervises eight trails as well as the activities of 15 trail maintainers. Beyond this, however, Brian has unstintingly volunteered much more of his time to special activities in state parks and forests throughout northeastern New Jersey. His



Brian Sniatkowski, trails supervisor for the Ramapo Mountain State Forest, was New Jersey's Volunteer of the Year.

contributions during 2004 included:

- Participation in reblazing more than 20 miles of hiking and multi-use trails, including the Cannonball, Hewitt-Butler, and Hoeflerlin Memorial Trails. In addition, Brian contributed a full day toward renovating a heavily-worn section of the Cannonball Trail.
- Helping to build the new Hasenclever Iron Trail, including locating, flagging,

continued on page 6

Conference Adds Advocacy Director

Dennis Schvejda, a Trail Conference Life Member, has joined the Trail Conference staff as advocacy director, a new position, after 15 years as conservation director and volunteer for the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter. In 2000, Dennis received a Special Service Award from National Sierra for his advocacy work.

Dennis is a life-long hiker and long-time environmental advocate, perhaps best known for his action alerts, sending over one million messages to 11,000 members of New Jersey Sierra's Action Network members. He and his wife Tina, executive director of the Meadowlands Conservation Trust, have three children. For more about Dennis, please see his inaugural column on page 5.



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**NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY
 TRAIL CONFERENCE**

Mission Statement

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

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

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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is a federation of 99 hiking and outdoor groups, and 10,000 individuals.

Hunting Season: You Don't Have to Stay Inside

Among the pleasures of hiking in cooler weather are quieter opportunities to connect with nature (fewer people on the trails) and no bothersome bugs. Nevertheless, during hunting season, some hikers say "No way." Fortunately, in our area there are numerous opportunities to hike without dodging bullets or arrows, even during hunting season. For one thing, Sundays in the parks of New Jersey are safe: no hunting is allowed anywhere in the state on that day of the week. A number of major parks in New York are No Hunting areas (Harriman/Bear Mountain), or restrict hunting to certain portions within their boundaries (Minnewaska).

One destination that hikers often overlook is Westchester County in New York. No firearm hunting is permitted anywhere in the county at any time (there is, however, a bow season; see this year's hunting schedules on page 9). There are about 200 parks, many with 2-3 miles of trails, and several larger areas that offer multiple longer possibilities.

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation (WPRR) in Cross River is the county's

largest park. A sign at Michigan Road directs you to hiking, but hiking trails are available on both sides of the access road at all parking areas. Almost all the marked trails are loops. A map is available at the entrance. The many woods roads and stone walls attest to the land's former agricultural use—the county bought up 34 farms to form the park—and now the 4,700 acres are managed as a biodiversity reserve. For more information about WPRR, visit www.westchestergov.com/parks/Parks.htm and click on Ward Pound Ridge. There is a parking fee, lower for county residents with a county resident park pass. Unfortunately, there is no public transportation available.

The gentle rolling terrain at Rockefeller State Park Preserve is a contrast to the less developed and more rugged topography at Ward Pound Ridge. The grounds here were part of the Rockefeller estate in Tarrytown. An initial gift of land by the family to New York State in 1983 has been added to over the years by subsequent gifts and bequests, and the park now totals 1,385 acres. Carriage roads once used by the Rockefeller family provide access to a planned land-

scape and give a sense of a bygone era. The park is also accessible via the Old Croton Aqueduct, which can be reached from the Tarrytown station of the Metro-North Hudson Line. See <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=60>. A map is available; there is a charge for parking.

Other Westchester parks offering a possibility of a full day's activity include Blue Mountain Reservation, Teatown Lake Reservation, and Westmoreland Sanctuary. Blue Mountain Reservation is a favorite park for mountain bikers and is best enjoyed by hikers during the week, when there is less chance of encountering cyclists. Use the above Westchester County URL for more information. Teatown Lake Reservation is a not-for-profit preserve with 14 miles of trails. See www.teatown.org and click on trails. Westmoreland Sanctuary offers 9 miles of trails and is also a not-for-profit preserve (www.westmoreland-sanctuary.org/). Check with these and any other parks to find out whether they permit hunting in season. For lands owned by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation, call 845-256-3098.

If you do decide that you are going to risk hunting areas during hiking season, wear a blaze-orange vest and hang blaze-orange on your pack. We want you back to enjoy another season.

—Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors

Letters

Can I Get There from Here?

Regarding the How to Get There advice for Favorite Hike to Norvin Green State Forest (September/October *Trail Walker*), is there public transportation (bus) to Ringwood? Does the omission of any mention of public transit mean there is none, or was this alternative not considered?

—Lenox Stonehill
 Astoria, NY

Editor's Note: The answer to the question seems to be somewhat subjective. If a bus drops you off 2 miles from a trailhead, would you consider that to be accessible via public transport? Some say no. If you say yes, South Wyanokies Trail Supervisor Bob Jonas offers these directions: "The NJ Transit buses stop at the Skyline Diner on Ringwood Ave. From there, one has a road walk of about 1.5 miles, maybe 2, to Weis Ecology Center by way of West Brook Road over the viaduct and then up Snake Den Road East. At the other end of the forest, but the same road, the bus stops at Doty Road in Wanaque for another road walk towards Lake Iosco and the Posts Brook trailhead, again about 1.5 miles." For more hikes that everyone can consider accessible via public transit, please turn to "Car-Free Hiking" on page 10.

A Gentleman Maintainer

I noted the article on Al Poelzl in the September/October *Trail Walker*. The article mentions that Al used to maintain trails in the South Taconic region. I'm the trail supervisor for that region.

Al came to me one day and said that he was going to work in the Fahnstock area so he would not be available for the South Taconics anymore. As a rule, when that happens I find the person giving up the trail section has generally left things in a rather forlorn state. However, Al is a real gentleman. He put the section in first-rate order before giving it up, leaving me ample time to find a replacement.

Al is a real stand-up guy.

—B. Harrison Frankel
 Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

**A New Kiosk Graces
 LP North Terminus**

An attractive kiosk has been constructed and placed by the NYS Office of Parks,



Recreation and Historic Preservation at the northern terminus of the Long Path. One side describes the role of the Open Space Institute in acquiring lands for public use that are transferred to the state and are added to existing state parks. It also provides an overview of the entire history and route of the Long Path. On the reverse side is a graphic illustration of the geologic formations which make up the outstanding Helderberg Escarpment. The area is replete with examples of rock formations and ancient aquatic activity. The site of the kiosk is an abandoned quarry where fossils abound. Part of the construction costs came from the Selkirk Cogenerating Plant.

—Fred Schroeder
 Via email

Notes and Corrections:

Benefit Note

Paragon Sports in New York City no longer extends a discount to Trail Conference members.

Corrections

In the September/October 2005 *Trail Walker* (page 9) Peter Tilgner was identified as a new Life Member of the Trail Conference. In fact, Suzan Gordon and Peter Tilgner became Joint/Family members #7802.

Also in that issue, the Trail News item (page 4) entitled "A New Beginning for the Long Path" incorrectly states the section number of the Long Path in Fort Lee Historic Park. The section that starts at the Fort Lee Historic Park is Section 1.

From the Executive Director

Enroll Now in Our Bear Mountain “TRAIL UNIVERSITY”



In the spring of 2003, with ridgelines increasingly under pressure for development, the Trail Conference committed the organization to a program of land acquisition and the *Connecting People With Nature* fundraising campaign to fund the effort. It was a risk we felt worth taking, as did many who voluntarily contributed to the campaign.

Our plan was to assemble trail corridors between existing parks and to

convey corridors into public ownership and management. We identified 3,000 acres in New York and New Jersey as our top protection priorities.

With Governor Pataki's recent announcement that New York State's Dept. of Environmental Conservation would purchase almost 1,000 acres from the Trail Conference (see article, page 1) we have concrete confirmation that our efforts are succeeding. (You can still contribute to the *Connecting People With Nature* campaign through the end of 2005; we are within \$400,000 of reaching our \$2.5M goal.)

Once open space is protected, the next step is to provide public access. Foot-trails are the least expensive, most environmentally benign way of doing this. We receive more requests for assistance to build and maintain foot-trails than ever before.

Even as we continue our trail lands acquisition work and strengthen our advocacy effectiveness (see articles on pages 1 and 5) we remain focused on trail building and maintenance. A key part of our plan to address the increased demands for trail work is to use the multi-year rebuilding of trails at Bear Mountain State Park to create a “Trail University.” Our goal is to increase the number of people who are trained and volunteering with trail crews throughout the region.

The rebuilding of the Appalachian Trail and related trails on Bear Mountain will involve a broad range of work—new construction through very steep terrain, handicapped-accessible trails, and the clo-

sure and restoration of existing, badly eroded trails to a natural state. There will be opportunities to offer workshops in a range of techniques, including rock cutting and shaping, crib-wall construction, rock pinning, high lines, design, and layout. (See story on page 5.)

If you, or anyone you know, might consider trail work a passable way to spend the day in the company of others, there is no better time to give it a try. Bear Mountain Trail University will have something for everyone, whether beginner or expert. In addition to our own fantastic trail crew leaders, we hope to invite the best trail builders from the east coast as workshop leaders.

Spring through fall, there will be opportunities on a weekly basis to get involved. So, start now by putting trail work vacations at Bear Mountain, NY, into your plans for 2006.

—Ed Goodell

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

Update: Sterling Forge Estates Again Threatens Park

The plan to build 107 luxury homes at the heart of Sterling Forest State Park has once again elicited passionate objections. More than 150 people attended the August 22 public hearing held by the Tuxedo town board to consider the plan. It was the second public hearing on the project. Twenty-six people spoke, among them Congressman Maurice Hinchey of New York and John Flynn of New Jersey's Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP). Congressman Hinchey, in concluding his remarks said, “I ask you to oppose the applicant's proposal based on the clear long-term importance of protecting the integrity of Sterling Forest and in recognition of the significant investment to date that has been made to accomplish this goal.” Flynn, representing Bradley Campbell, the Commissioner of DEP, detailed New Jersey's water quality, environmental, and quality of life concerns prompted by the project and concluded, “For all these reasons, the State of New Jersey strongly opposes the proposed Sterling Forge Estates development.” Both speakers received a standing ovation. A third hearing was held on September 26, and again 150 people attended, with 25 providing testimony. As we go to press, the hearings continue.

Update: Ramapo/Lorterdam

In September over 50 NY-NJ Trail Conference members attended the Ramapo Planning Board hearing on the 292-unit Lorterdam development proposed to be built on the edge of Sterling Forest, Ringwood, and Harriman State Parks. They came from as far as Somerville, NJ, New York City, and Connecticut. It was by far the largest number attending any of the Lorterdam hearings. As we go to press, the Ramapo Planning Board has yet to grant final approval.

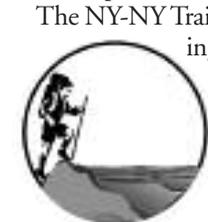
Vote YES! Putnam County Community Open Space Fund

On November 8, New York's Putnam County residents will be voting on a referendum to create a \$20 million open space fund. The NY-NJ Trail Conference wholeheartedly supports this effort. Purchasing additional open space in Putnam County will help protect and buffer existing trails, particularly the Highlands Trail, and help expand hiking opportunities. We are asking our members to vote YES!



NJ Voters to Decide on Cleaner Air

On November 8, Garden State voters will decide Ballot Question #2: whether to provide funding for an innovative program to reduce exposure to deadly diesel emissions from school buses, garbage trucks, transit buses, and publicly owned on-road and non-road diesel-powered vehicles and equipment. Without raising any new taxes from residents or businesses and at no cost to municipalities, the proposed diesel program would be paid for with a portion of revenue from the existing Corporate Business Tax Fund. A yes vote on this ballot question would allow this Corporate Business Tax revenue to be used to implement the diesel program. To learn more, visit www.StopTheSoot.org.



The NY-NY Trail Conference is a founding sponsor of Hikers for Clean Air, and we urge our New Jersey members to Vote YES on Ballot Question #2.

Environmental Impact Statements to Go Online in NY

A new law strongly lobbied for by the Trail Conference/ADK Partnership and adopted in New York State requires environmental impact statements (EISs) to be made available on the Internet. The legislation, signed into law by Gov. Pataki August 30, will take effect in March 2006 and will greatly improve the ability of citizens to become better informed about planned development projects. Thousands of EISs, which typically run hundreds of pages, are prepared each year in New York. Although the law currently requires that these documents be made available to the public, as a practical matter public access is very limited, because individuals must either purchase a copy of the EIS at great cost, or review the document at a public library or other depository. However, to ensure that this requirement will not place undue burdens on local governments, posting would not be required where it would be impracticable (for example, where a government does not have a website). The posting required by this legislation will greatly enhance public participation at a very limited cost to the project sponsor.

Belleayre Resorts Plan Hits Roadblock

A New York State administrative law judge ruled in September that 12 sensitive environmental issues have not been adequately examined in the development application by Belleayre Resorts at Catskill Park. Additional hearings will be required that, according to a report in the *New York Times*, “will delay the project indefinitely.” The resort area would comprise 1,960 acres of private land near the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center. Its size and location threaten to impact the Slide Mountain Wilderness, Big Indian Wilderness, and the proposed Hunter-Westkill Wilderness areas.

Check out the new online Trail Conference calendar!

This easy-to-use calendar includes trail crew schedules, meeting dates, *Trail Walker* deadlines, and much more! Go to www.nynjtc.org and click on the Calendar link.



Last Chance to Enroll in The School of Hard Knocks

Advocacy Training

Saturday, November 12, 2005.

This training will feature analysis and debate of real-life advocacy battles being fought real-time, right now. For newbies and grizzled veterans alike, learn how to advocate effectively for the wild places you love! Learn, network, get inspired, and get support.

Location: Suffern Free Library
210 Lafayette Avenue
Suffern, NY 10901

Time: 10 am–3 pm

No Charge

Space is limited.

Preregistration required.

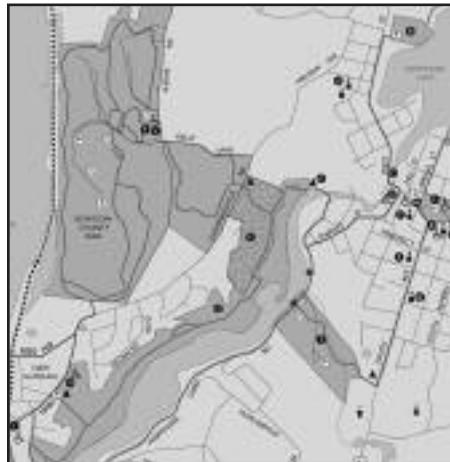
Application and additional info may be found at: <http://nynjtc.org/workshops/advocacy/hardknocks.html> or contact the Trail Conference for an application: 201-512-9348.

This event is not sponsored or endorsed by the Suffern Free Library and is free and open to the general public.

TRAIL NEWS

New Wappingers Greenway Trail Opened Oct. 15

A new 4+ mile trail along the Wappingers Creek in Dutchess County was set to open for hiking on October 15 (after the deadline for this issue). The trail is a cooperative effort involving the NY-NJ Trail Conference and the Wappinger Falls Greenway Committee. The project was managed by Eddie Walsh, Trail Projects Coordinator for



the Conference, and involved volunteers from the Trail Conference and local community. The trail is accessible from the Metro North Railroad station in New Hamburg or from the Village of Wappingers Falls Market Street Industrial Park. Directions: From I-84: take the exit east of the bridge over the Hudson River for Rt. 9D, and head north. Follow it for 5.2 miles, until Route 28 intersects in Hughsonville. Turn left onto Rt. 28. Go for less than one mile to Creek Road/County Route 91. Make a sharp right onto Creek Road, keeping the Wappingers Creek on your left. Follow Creek Road/County Route 91 for a mile, then turn left into the Market Street Industrial Park, just after a soccer field on your right. Enter the Industrial Park, cross the creek, then park at the far end of the lot, past the free-standing smokestack.

Bridge Building Affects LP Crossing in Mt. Ivy

The New York State Dept. of Transportation is replacing a bridge under which the Long Path passes in Mt. Ivy, NY, where the Palisades Interstate Parkway crosses Route 202. The project will last till the spring of 2007. Hikers should take extra care in passing the worksite and be aware that there might be a temporary loss of blazes.

Rockefeller Bequests Adds Acres to Preserve

At Rockefeller State Park Preserve in Sleepy Hollow, a gift of 288.5 acres was recently completed under terms of the will of the late Laurence S. Rockefeller and includes the eastern edge of the family estate. The property includes the steep slopes facing the Saw Mill River Parkway, the top of Buttermilk Hill and "Raven Rock." The land has dramatic topography and narrow carriage trails that give it a more rugged feeling than other portions of the preserve. Coupled with the 2003 gift of an adjacent parcel, this important gift completes the eastern boundary and increases the preserve to 1,385 acres.

Trail Crew Schedules

For the latest schedules and additional details, 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, so bring your friends.

WEST HUDSON NORTH CREW

Leader

Denise Vitale (Crew Chief): 845-738-2126
WHNTrails@aol.com
Dave Webber: 845-452-7238
webberd1@yahoo.com

Join us as we tend to the trails in Minnewaska, Schunemunk and Storm King State Parks and Black Rock Forest. All skill levels and newcomers are welcome. Since we are still a relatively new crew, we provide training each work trip. We also provide the tools. Please bring gloves, plenty of water and lunch. If you would like to volunteer with us, please contact the crew chief.

November 12 (Saturday)

Millbrook Mountain Trail: Minnewaska State Park

Project: Rock steps, sidehill benching, and crib wall to address an eroded section of trail
Meeting Time: 9 am (The park gate opens at 9 am)
Meeting Place: TBD

Leader: Dave Webber

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: 212-633-1324,
clganz@earthlink.net
Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792,
rmarshall@webtv.net

November 10, (Thursday)

Timp-Torne Trail,
Harriman-Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Bob Marshall

November 12 (Saturday)

TBD

Leader: Brian Buchbinder

November 19 (Saturday)

TBD

Leader: Chris Ezzo

WEST JERSEY TRAIL CREW

Leaders

David and Monica Day
732-937-9098, Cell: 908-307-5049
Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com

All trips begin at 9 am. There is usually a walk to the work site, so please be there on time. Call or email leaders for meeting place details and other questions. Heavy rain in the morning will cancel; if in doubt, call leaders between 6:00 and 6:30 that morning.

November 13 (Sunday)

Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Park

We will be clearing the trail for an additional section of the new Warren Trail.

November 20 (Sunday)

Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Park

See above.

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

November 13 (Sunday)

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.

BEAR MOUNTAIN PROJECT

Leader

Eddie Walsh, Trail Projects Coordinator,
eddiwalsh@nynjtc.org, 201-512-9348, ext. 22

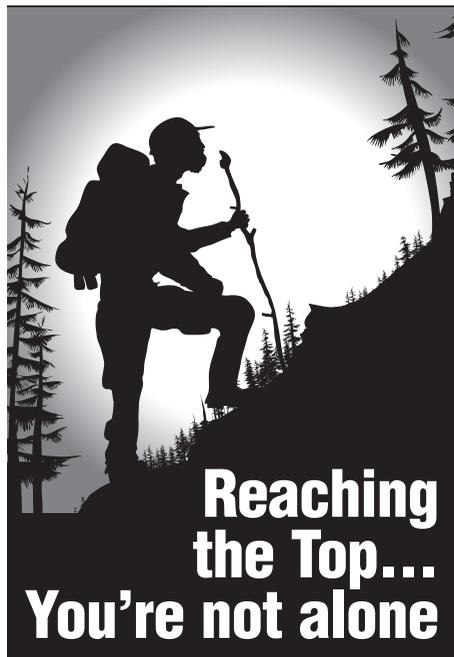
Trailbuilding workshops; space is limited, so register early. See separate story on next page.

November 19 (Saturday)

Rock Splitting and Shaping
Pinning into Bedrock

November 20 (Sunday)

Rigging for Trail Work



It's 9:07 am on Saturday morning, you've found the trailhead and are set for a great day in the woods. By 10:45 am you have meandered through the mountain laurel and low-lying wetlands and changed trails once or twice. It's time for some water and a snack. At 11:31 am, you've been grinding uphill for 20 minutes, sweat is beading from your brow, your heart is racing, and it's getting a little tougher to catch your breath.

Noon, and the summit is still nowhere in sight. You've begun to question your ability to reach the top. The clock reads 12:40 pm; you've made it! You've used all your energy, courage, and endurance to

conquer the mountain that taunted you for more than three hours. The satisfaction of achieving your goal settles over your whole body. You enjoy the rewards of a great view and a sense of accomplishment.

Although you made it up the mountain without help from another hiker, you did have company. Along your hike, Trail Conference volunteers were with you every step of the way. Men and women who have volunteered their time and energy to keep the trails you hiked passable, well marked, and litter free—were with you from the trailhead to the summit. They did such a good job, you didn't even notice the trail while you were hiking—you were too focused on your hike, and that's the way it should be.

Now it's time for you to give another hiker the same courtesy—the ability to take a hike without worrying about the trail. There are trails in Black Rock Forest, Catskill Forest Preserve, Western New Jersey, and East Hudson Highlands that thousands of hikers use and which need maintainers. Be an unseen hiking partner, adopt your very own section of trail and keep your fellow hikers on track. Most trails require only two or three maintenance visits a year, but think of the thousands of hikers and the countless hiking trips you'll be aiding. To get started, call the TC office at 201-512-9348, ext. 13, and ask for Josh.

Throughout the NY-NJ area, hikers walk with unseen companions: trail maintainers. Opportunities are now open for main-tainers in Black Rock Forest, Catskill Forest Preserve, Western New Jersey, and East Hudson Highlands. Be an unseen hiking partner: adopt your very own section of trail and keep your fellow hikers on track. Call the Trail Conference office at 201-512-9348 and ask for Josh, or email volunteers@nynjtc.org.

Bear Mountain Trails Project Is Approved and Work Begins

The realignment, new construction, and reconstruction plans for the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain have been approved by the Trails Council and Trail Conference project partners, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The plans call for:

- The relocation of the Appalachian Trail off of Perkins Drive on the south side of the mountain so that it ascends the mountain via breaks through and along dramatic ledges with great views to the south and west.
- The relocation of most of the current AT on the east face of Bear Mountain.
- The construction of a handicapped accessible loop trail, coaligned with the AT and Major Welch Trail along the summit's dome, which will provide views to the north in addition to the southern views near the Perkins Tower.
- The addition of a novice-friendly link trail, which will provide for a shorter loop option on the mountain starting from the Inn and Hessian Lake.
- The rehabilitation of the existing portions of the Major Welch and Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail
- The ecological restoration of the closed trails and unofficial paths on the mountain
- A trailside interpretive area which highlights the hiking community's history as well as past and on-going trail-building and maintenance efforts.



Enroll in Rigging for Trail Work, Nov. 20.

The project will offer many exciting opportunities for trail building and reconstruction skill development from the most basic work (like corridor clearing and side-hill construction) to the most technical (such as rock shaping and pinning stone cribbing walls over steep rock ledges). Through a series of trail skill workshops held on site and subsequent work trips, the NY-NJ Trail Conference will be completing one of the largest trail construction projects the region has seen since the initial construction of the AT over 70 years ago.



In addition to our traditional West Hudson South crew days, there will be many opportunities for corporations, clubs, high schools, colleges, scouts, and other groups to create a piece of the new trail system on Bear Mountain. In addition, the ATC's Mid Atlantic Trail Crew and volunteers from the Student Conservation Association's High School Program will be participating. All volunteers will be appreciated and welcomed.

While a very full trail work schedule is being compiled for next spring, several workshops will be held on sections of the project this November (see below). In addition to the on-the-ground trail crews, help is also needed to organize volunteers, make recruitment phone calls, and participate in the interpretive component design process.

November Workshop Schedule

November 19 (Saturday) Rock Splitting and Shaping AND Pinning into Bedrock at Bear Mountain

These workshops will take place entirely in the field in a single day. Topics covered include use of the mechanized hammer drill, relevant safety, splitting boulders to usable desired dimensions using feather and wedges, and "finer" shaping using hand tracers, stone sets, chisels, and hammers. There will be plenty of opportunity to practice splitting and shaping.

In the pinning workshop, techniques will be taught which enable trails to be built and anchored over exposed bedrock surfaces using unobtrusive steel pins. Topics covered include: use of the mechanized hammer rock drill, drilling holes into rock with hand star drills, pin selection, different methods of sealing and affixing pin in place, and building off the set pins.

November 20 (Sunday) Rigging for Trail Work

Topics covered include: safety issues; equipment selection, care, and applications; calculating for safety and efficiency; mechanical advantage for pulling; and overhead zip and high-lines. There will plenty of opportunity for hands-on practice in the afternoon.

All workshops will be at Bear Mountain; space is limited, so register early. For more information about the project or to participate, contact Eddie Walsh, Trail Projects Coordinator, eddiewalsh@nynjtc.org, 201-512-9348, ext. 22.



From the Advocacy Director

We Must Work Fast and Smart

While I'm the newest staff member, I'm no stranger to the Trail Conference. I joined in the early 1980s and became a Life Member in 1994. My interests since childhood have always focused on the outdoors. The *Walk Book* was my "wish book" in high school, detailing the natural history and trails of the metropolitan region. My advocacy began in 1981, when as a young adult I found my favorite places, Scout camps, and trails being replaced by housing developments. I'm sure all too many of you have experienced hiking and finding the trail obliterated, replaced with a bulldozed, muddy field of stumps. I became very active with the Sierra Club, holding various volunteer positions for 15 years, and as paid staff for the past three years.

I'm very excited by the possibilities and potential for Trail Conference advocacy. We have a solid core of dedicated volunteers and a membership that knows the trails and public lands like no other. With development pressures expanding across northern New Jersey and southern New York, we have to work fast and smart. We don't have a developer's financial resources; but we do have you and our other Trail Conference members.

If I can emphasize just one point, it is the power of the individual. All too often I hear just the opposite: "I'm only one person. What can I do?" Don't believe it. If you've been a Trail Conference volunteer or a regular reader of the *Trail Walker*, you know that an individual, and better yet a group, can and does make a difference.

I look at the Trail Conference as sort of a "sleeping giant." We have almost 100 member clubs with a combined membership of 150,000 individuals. With the challenges we face, we must activate, engage, and coordinate our conservation efforts as never before. We can do it.

Through an arrangement with the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter (see below), I'm able to utilize the latest computer software to provide messages and alerts to our members. We've gained a level of speed and flexibility far surpassing

our old tools. Our advocacy efforts will be that much more productive.

The computer is useful, perhaps essential, but we can't let it be a crutch. Sending and receiving information, emailing letters to elected officials with a click of the mouse, should never, ever replace good old-fashioned activism. Unfortunately, for too many organizations it has. I often tell folks that half the battle is showing up. When the call went out to attend the September Lorterdan hearing in Ramapo, NY, over 50 members did so. Some came from as far away as New York City and Somerville, NJ. It was by far our best Lorterdan showing. There's a vast difference in a public hearing when instead of just one Trail Conference representative present to testify, we pack the house. Let that be our goal, let us earn that reputation.

We need to engage and establish a dialogue with public officials. We won't be electioneering, but we will be lobbying for specific legislation and regulations. That means meetings with constituents, our members. We need to raise the visibility of our issues and of the Trail Conference. That means a constant supply of letters to the editor and working the press. We need to exert greater influence in some of our environmental coalitions.

Just as we organize the maintenance of our trails by area committees, we hope to do so for advocacy. Advocacy is in a way very much like trail work. It takes plenty of work to plan and create a trail, and then it requires a sustained effort to maintain it. While some of our trail maintainers may become involved in advocacy, we hope to expand volunteer opportunities and attract additional volunteers. There's room for all levels of commitment.

We have the challenge and the responsibility to protect and enhance our shared park and trail system inheritance. I look forward to working with you to accomplish these goals.

Reach Dennis at schvejda@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 25.

Trail Conference Members Gain Use Of Powerful E-Advocacy Tools

An exciting new collaboration has been created between the Trail Conference and Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter, a TC member club. As a result, Action Network Software owned by the SC-NJ will be used by the Trail Conference advocacy director to issue targeted advocacy alerts to both organizations. The alerts will be sent only to those with "subscriptions" to the service and only on those issues designated by the subscriber.

Trail Conference Advocacy Director Dennis Schvejda, who inaugurated the network while a staff member at SC-NJ, is the only person with access to the system. Subscribers' personal info will not be sold, traded, or shared, is completely confidential, and will not be used for any other purpose.

This service is available to anyone who cares about conservation and wants to make a difference. Trail Conference members with email addresses on file have been added to the system. If you're not an Action Network member, sign up and encourage your friends to join! Visit <http://actionnetwork.org/SierraClubNJ/join.html>. (You can go to the same address to "opt out" of the network.) Pay attention to the subscriptions at the bottom of the page. The Sierra Club has a broader environmental scope, and if you DON'T wish to receive these messages, please uncheck the box.

Save Pastoral Oasis

By Sandra Kissam

In rapidly developing Orange County there is an opportunity to save a gorgeous parcel of land, second in size only to Sterling Forest. These lands are uniquely accessible to public use, located near the Thruway and Interstate 84, and are already owned by the state of New York. Known as the Stewart Airport Buffer Lands, these 7,000 acres are a pastoral treasure, and saving them as open space has been the mission of the grassroots organization SPARC (Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition) since 1987. The Trail Conference is a supporting member of SPARC.

For the hiker or walker these lands provide an idyllic setting filled with wildlife, a pastoral oasis in a region that once was famous for its farms and agriculture. They are a lowland mix of old fields, lands under cultivation, gentle hills, woodlands, extensive wetlands, ponds, streams, and old orchards. They are, according to Jeff Hunter, a former area activist who is now director of the southeast region of the American Hiking Society, "a wonderful contrast to the mountain and ridge tops that have been saved, or the extensive woodlands of Sterling Forest." This type of lowland habitat is fast disappearing to development, in Orange County and elsewhere, and now is the time to preserve it.

Faced with the threat of airport-related industrial development, SPARC and co-plaintiffs Sierra Club and O.C. Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs went to federal court in 2000. Gary Haugland, then Trail

Conference president, spoke eloquently at the press conference that announced the suit. The lawsuit has proven instrumental in saving the lands thus far, and in keeping at bay an I-84 highway project designed to promote development on some 1,200 acres of open space. The NY-NJ Trail Conference contributed funds to support this critical legal action, which continues today, as well as to pay for wetland studies by ecologist and wetlands expert Spider Barbour. His reports and studies confirm the richness of the lands, including the existence of the protected purple milkweed (first identified on the lands by SPARC member John Yrizarry).

SPARC's conservation efforts have been very costly but well worth the prize that is the Buffer Lands. Since 2000, the costs of legal efforts to stop development have amounted to more than \$125,000. These bills are being paid with money raised by non-stop fundraising events and the contributions of co-plaintiffs and hundreds of individuals and organizations, including the Trail Conference.

Currently, the unpaid legal and consultant bills exceed \$35,000. It is important for all those citizens and citizen groups that value and use open space to come forward now and help support what is hoped will be a last push for preservation of 7,000 acres. For further information or to make a donation, visit our website at www.sparc.info, send an email to sparc@frontiernet.net, or call 845-564-3018.

Sandra Kissam is president of the Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition.



Troop 89 Joins TC Author on a Hike from *Kittatinny Trails*

Members of Boy Scout Troop 89 of Wyckoff, NJ, recently invited author Robert Boysen to join them on a hike featured in his book *Kittatinny Trails*, published by the Trail Conference. Mr. Boysen generously shared information on both the history and geology of the region. Troop members experienced the thrill of having an excellent author and leader in their midst as well as a superb tracker when the trail disappeared under blowdown.



JOE READ

Guidebook author Robert Boysen, at back right, led Boy Scout Troop 89 on a hike from his book *Kittatinny Trails*. Suse Bell, bottom right, a member of the TC publications committee, holds a copy of Bob's book.

IN MEMORIAM ALAN KAYE

Alan Kaye, a member of the Trail Conference since 1973 and one of the founders of the Outdoor Club, a long-time member club of the Trail Conference, died suddenly on September 15. His death leaves a void that will not easily be filled.

During the past years he has handled most of the administrative tasks of the club as well as leading many trips to nature areas in the city. He had a vast knowledge of plants, trees, and animals, and he enthusiastically shared his love of botany and nature with everyone on his walks. If he found a tree or plant that he could not identify, he would be sure to research it, and on the next trip you can be sure he'd tell you about it.

Alan volunteered for many years as a docent at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. He especially enjoyed working and teaching children about plants and bugs.

Alan gave so much to everyone he had contact with. He will always be remembered for his vast knowledge of the outdoors, for his leadership, for his sharing, for his ability to get along with people.

We grieve with Mattie, his wife, with his children and his grandchildren. May our memories of Alan help us overcome the sadness occasioned by his death. Donations in memory of Alan can be made to the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens.

—Judith Mahler



BO ERIKSSON

What makes the TC Unique?

The NY-NJ Trail Conference distinguishes itself from other "environmental" and "outdoor recreational" organizations in many ways. The most amazing distinction is that we are a volunteer driven organization. The activities of the Conference are directed by committees, populated by volunteers who set the direction and goals for the organization. One example of this is our *Trails Council*, which provides a forum for trail managers to discuss trail issues, make decisions about changes and additions to the trail system, and set standards for and oversee the maintainer training.

This unique infrastructure of volunteer powered committees has enabled us to be successful for more than 80 years. However our committees need new members and leaders, individuals who care enough about their hiking trails to get active and lead by getting involved.

Take a look at our committees and their responsibilities; if you see something of interest, please contact us, 201-512-9348 ext.13, so we can get you started.

Our Outreach and Science Committees in particular need leaders to guide us as we continue to serve the hiking community. Our other committees need individuals who will help us achieve our goals.

Membership: Focuses on ways to attract new members, retain existing members, and develop methods to enhance the benefits of membership in the Trail Conference.

Publications: Publishes quality material concerning hiking in the New York-New Jersey region so that the hikers' safety and enjoyment are maximized.

Conservation and Advocacy: Advocates for trails, protection of trail lands, and acquisition of trail lands and oversees land protection efforts

Outreach: Promotes the Trail Conference's mission through outreach to members (*Trail Walker*), hikers and the general public (National Trails Day, speaking and tabling events, marketing and public relations).

Science: Fosters environmental stewardship within the hiking community and provides support and technical assistance for sustainable management of trail lands.

Administration: Oversees the financial operation of the organization, including recommendations to the board about investments for endowed funds. Also manages our facilities and technology.

Development: Manages the fundraising activities of the Trail Conference such as grants, appeals, and partnerships.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR...

continued from page 1

GPSing, blazing, and clearing blow-downs from the trail.

- Assisting in the establishment and upgrade of interconnecting trails between state lands and adjacent county, municipal, and Scout woodlands.
- Working a group of volunteers to upgrade the North Jersey maps.

As a result of his personal dedication as well as his fine example to other volunteers, Brian, who contributed more than 120 volunteer hours during 2004, has helped to make the vast and beautiful backcountry of our state parks and forests much more accessible and enjoyable to the people of New Jersey.

—John Moran

John Moran is a member of the Trail Conference Board of Directors and chair of the Northeast Jersey Trails Committee.

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 Operations Director, Joshua Erdsneker, either by email volunteers@nynjtc.org or call the office 201-512-9348, ext. 13, and he will find a way to get you involved.

Can you spare 2 hours a week?

Come to our Mahwah office and assist with the packing of map and book orders, shipping membership cards, and processing membership renewals. Keep the Trail Conference's Orders and Fulfillment Department on track by lending us a hand. With a boom in memberships and book and map orders, we need your help. Contact Joshua Erdsneker, either by email, volunteers@nynjtc.org, or call the office 201-512-9348, ext. 13.

Adopt a Trail

The heart and soul of the Trail Conference is trail maintenance. We are looking for individuals, couples, and families who are willing to adopt a section of trail. Maintainers usually visit their section of trail twice a year, keeping it passable by cutting back brush, well marked, free of trash, and submitting bi-annual reports of their work. We have opportunities in Fahnestock State Park, Hudson Highlands State Park, Westchester County, Black Rock Forest, the Long Path, Shawangunk Ridge Trail, the Catskill Forest Preserve, and parts of western New Jersey. To find our more, contact Joshua Erdsneker, volunteers@nynjtc.org, or call the office 201-512-9348, ext. 13.

Appalachian Trail Natural Heritage Coordinator

Every summer and fall, Trail Conference volunteers head out to selected sites along the AT to monitor rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants. We are looking for a volunteer to help coordinate the efforts of these volunteers and act as a liaison between the TC, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and National Park Service. Interested persons should contact Larry Wheelock at Wheelock@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext 16.

NEW... Metro Trails Crew

NYC Residents: Are you looking for a place to do trail work, but don't want to spend 90 minutes on a train? Join our newly formed Metro Trails Committee Trail Crew. We have many exciting projects in Queens and Staten Island. Contact the Trail Crew Chief, Joe Gindoff, at joeghiker@aol.com or 718-672-3855 to find out more.

Have you ever wanted to participate in a scientific study?

The Trail Conference, in partnership with Rutgers University, will be participating in a three-year study funded by the US Dept. of Agriculture that will examine the spread of invasive plants. Teams of citizen scientists will be used to collect data on invasive plants over an assigned two-mile section of hiking trail. Interviews and volunteer selection will commence this winter, and training sessions will be starting in the spring of 2006. If you would like to participate in this groundbreaking study, please contact Joshua Erdsneker, volunteers@nynjtc.org, or call the office 201-512-9348, ext.13 to sign up.

OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOU!

Leave No Trace 2

Principle #1: Plan Ahead & Prepare

Topic: Group Size

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and inspiring responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships. Leave No Trace builds awareness, appreciation, and respect for our wildlands.

My previous article (September/October 2005 *Trail Walker*) was an overview of this principle. In this article I want to elaborate on one element of this principle: hiking group size.

Is there an ideal group size in the backcountry? Some may answer that two's a crowd while others enjoy social outings with busload-size groups and still others will pine for something in between. How can we limit group impact on trails and sensitive sites as well as on other backcountry visitors?

Leave No Trace principles generally make the case for small groups. In particular, the center urges hike leaders to consider the durability of the terrain, the sensibilities of other backcountry users, and the regulations of the area to which you are headed when determining and managing group size. The New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, for example, limits day-hiking group size to 15 in some Forest Preserve areas and has proposed limiting camping groups to 12 in Catskill Wilderness areas and 20 in Catskill Wild Forest areas. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy suggests an upper limit of 25 for day hikes on the AT.

LNT urges hikers and hike leaders to carefully examine the impacts of group size when making trip plans. Here are a few "Leave no Trace" suggestions to consider:

- Split large groups into smaller groups. This will reduce the visual impact.
- When hiking with a group, avoid loud conversations and noises allowing nature's sounds to prevail.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even in wet or muddy conditions. This prevents widening of the trail.
- Wear neutral colored clothes to minimize the visual impact of the group by blending more into the natural background.
- When taking breaks away from the trail and other visitors, split up the group and rest on durable surfaces like rock or dry grass.
- If the group needs to hike off trail, "fan out" to disperse use and prevent a "herd path" from being formed.

—Ramon McMillan

For more information about Leave No Trace, go to www.LNT.org or call Ramon at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348, ext.10.



SCIENCE Nights Are Alive with the Sounds of Migration

By Blake Mathys

The leaves may be off the trees by November/December, but there's still time to hit our region's trails for signs of the fall bird migration. From September through November, many birds travel southward to wintering areas, the necessary balance to their northward transit to breeding grounds in spring. Their migration is our chance to spot old friends and new acquaintances as they pass through our area.

One way to experience bird migration is to go out at night and listen. Find someplace quiet, where you can focus your auditory attention on the sky. It should be a calm night; light to moderate winds from the north will help. If you listen closely, you'll be able to hear the nocturnal flight calls of the migrating birds as they fly overhead. They use these flight calls to

communicate with each other while migrating. If it is a good night for migration, you will be amazed at how many of these little avian voices you hear. It is possible to identify many species based solely on these flight calls, although it requires a lot of time and experience. However, even



The tiny American Redstart is among the long-distance migrants that pass through our area.

without such specialized skill, you can still enjoy this amazing event. This nighttime symphony will last from soon after sunset almost to sunrise.

Large numbers of birds migrating at night doesn't necessarily mean that there will be a lot of birds to be seen the next morning. If conditions are good for migration, the birds keep moving and only come down as morning approaches. At such times they are spread out across the landscape. Sometimes weather conditions change during the night, forcing the migrating birds to land immediately. This often happens when a line of storms intercepts the migrating birds. This is when fall migration is most noticeable on the ground; beneath the junction of migrating birds and rain you may find all the migrants who have temporarily stopped their travels. They will



Songbirds such as this thrush sound flight calls as they migrate at night.

be intently foraging, gathering strength for the next leg of their journey.

If you encounter such an event, take a few minutes to stop and watch. You'll see feeding flocks moving through the trees.

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TC PRESERVED LANDS TO...
continued from page 1

money contributed by our members, to preserve even more of our trail lands," Goodell said. "With the strong pressures being brought to develop these critical lands, the only time we have to permanently protect these invaluable resources for public enjoyment is now."



ED GOODELL

The view from a TC-protected parcel in Deerpark, looking northwest to the main Shawangunk Ridge.

It is not too late to join this important preservation effort. Contributions to the Trail Conference *Connecting People With Nature* campaign are still welcome. Send your check made out to NY-NJ Trail Conference to 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430 (note *Connecting People With Nature* in the memo section) or call Ed Goodell at 201-512-9348, ext. 12.



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GEAR CHECK

An occasional series that will review gear appropriate for hiking.



Mountainsmith Modular Hauler System
Reviewed by Josh Erdsneker

My desk is organized. My clothes are folded neatly and separated by color and style: long sleeves together, short sleeves on the other end, you get the picture. You can only imagine what my gear closet looks like. I store my paddling gear in one bin, climbing equipment in another, camping gear in yet another.

When it's time to go for an adventure, I have to find the right bin, dig out my

gear, find a bag and repack everything. I go through the same time-consuming routine every weekend. I knew there had to be a better way to store and carry my gear. At last, I was introduced to the Mountainsmith Modular Hauler System; it was a match made in heaven.

This versatile system offers four styles of cubes, including a cooler cube, that come in four brilliant colors and meet my all storage and packing needs. The 15" x 15" x 7.5" cubes are top-loading, easy-to-pack, and have a clear pack list pocket for convenient labeling and inventorying; they are made from a durable and weatherproof Mini Ripstop material. Whether I'm grabbing the lime colored basic cube that is filled with my climbing gear, or the yellow cube, which has my overnight camping gear, packing and cleaning up from an adventure has never been easier.

The folks at Mountainsmith also designed three Modular Hauler Bags, which allow you to carry two, three, or four cubes to the car, cabin, crags, boat launch, or wherever they need to go. Its ease of use, durability, versatility, and reasonable cost makes this a great system for storing and transporting clothes, food, and gear for any adventure.



Rating: 5 boots out of 5

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

Trail Walker is a bi-monthly paper published by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, New Jersey 07430. The editor and managing editor is Georgette Weir, at the same address. The annual subscription price is \$15; contact person is Josh Erdsneker; telephone number is 201-512-9348. The tax status of the organization has not changed during the preceding 12 months.

As of the filing date of October 1, 2005, the average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months was

12,000; the actual number of copies of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 10,000. The paper has a total paid and/or requested circulation of 8,500 (average) and 8,638 (actual, most recent issue). The average free distribution for the 12 months preceding the filing date was 1,350 (average) and 1,354 (actual, most recent issue). The total average distribution was 9,900; the actual distribution of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 10,000.

This information is reported on U. S. Postal Service Form 3526 and here as required by 39 USC 3685.



Capital Campaign Over \$2 Million

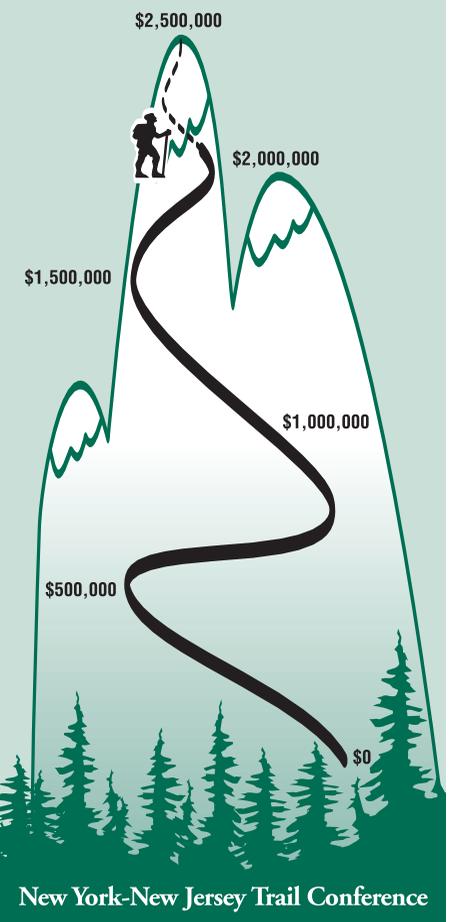
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In memory of her husband
Elizabeth Rainoff, Rauch Rainoff Foundation*

**Members of the Raymond H. Torrey Society*

Share the Dream



Hunting Seasons

Hunting Schedules

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

NEW YORK:

Southern Zone (including Catskills)

Deer Season

Regular: Nov. 19–Dec. 11
Archery: Oct. 15–Nov. 18; Dec. 15–19
Archery (Westchester Co. only):
Oct. 15–Dec. 31
Muzzleloader: Dec. 12–20

Black Bear, Catskills

Regular: Nov. 21–Dec. 12
Muzzleloading: Dec. 12–Dec. 20
Archery: Oct. 15–Nov. 18,
Dec. 12–Dec. 20

Special regulations apply on Long Island. For details, go to:
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wma/lihunt.htm>

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park. However, it is allowed in parts of Minnewaska, Sterling Forest, and Storm King State Parks. Call 845-786-2701 for more details about hunting in these parks.

Black Rock Forest is off limits for hiking beginning Nov. 19, reopening Dec. 14. For details, call 845-534-4517.

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

NEW JERSEY

There is no hunting in New Jersey on Sundays. Otherwise, the state's hunting dates are complicated and vary by geographic zones. Note: zone boundaries have been changed since last year. The following dates for deer hunting apply to some but not all zones that fall within the region covered by Trail Conference members, and are printed as a guide: fall bow: October 1-28, 2005; permit bow: October 29–November 26, 2005; six-day firearm: December 5-10, 2005; permit shotgun (1-day): December 14, 2005; winter bow: January 2-31, 2006.

It is recommended that hikers verify the hunting dates for the location in which they are interested. Call 609-292-2965, Monday through Friday, or 908-637-4125 (the Pequest Trout Hatchery, open seven days a week) or visit www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/.

New East Hudson Maps Available

The seventh edition of the East Hudson Trails map set (three maps) will be available this fall. Many small corrections have been made to the sixth edition (mislabelled fifth), which was the first digital version of the map set, and the contour lines have been refined to 20 feet. New trails have been added in Garrison School Forest in Garrison and in the area of Beacon Mountain, as well as on the waterfront in Beacon.

Hikers familiar with the area may notice more public land on the maps, as several new parcels have been added to Hudson Highlands and Clarence Fahnestock State Parks. The multi-colored shading of the public areas on the previous edition has been replaced with two shades of green, distinguishing full access areas from those with limited access (permit required). Multi-use trails are now shown in purple, and gray and black parking symbols distinguish between roadside parking and parking lots.

As with the previous edition, the maps provide UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) grid lines, particularly useful for those with GPS units. (The UTM

grid, in which the lines are 1,000 meters apart, allows simple estimation of location and distances. For further information about UTM and GPS, visit www.nynjtc.org, go to Trails, and scroll down to Map Readings.) The maps were created entirely in-house, with the aid of new GIS technology, by Trail Conference cartographer Eric Yadlofski.

To order your new East Hudson maps, see Hikers' Marketplace on page 12, or call 201-512-9348, ext. 10 or 23, or visit www.nynjtc.com.



SOUNDS OF MIGRATION

continued from page 7

These flocks will contain a variety of warblers, vireos, thrushes, orioles, tanagers, and other songbirds. In a few minutes, the feeding flock will move on to another area and the forest will seem strangely quiet. People interested in birds often speak of

birds "dripping from the trees." These are times when you can't look any direction without seeing a bird. Consider yourself very fortunate if you get to experience such an event. The lesson here is, an approaching storm can be a good excuse to go out on the trail!

A large number of migrating birds are songbirds, many only four or five inches long. They hurtle through the night sky, intent on some destination a thousand or more miles to the south. Migration is a dangerous time for these birds, and many don't survive the journey. Birds die from exhaustion and starvation. They are taken by hawks and falcons, which are also migrating at this time of year. A lot of migration occurs over water; if the birds are

unable to make it to dry land, they are silently swallowed by the ocean.

Migration is a difficult time for those birds that must undertake it, but fortunately, enough survive the gauntlet to keep their species alive. We should never forget the struggle and trials that these birds experience while trying to make this necessary journey. When you experience the wonders of migration, consider yourself blessed and wish the birds luck. They need it.

Blake Mathys is a graduate student in the Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Cook College, Rutgers University.





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FAVORITE HIKE



By Daniel Chazin

Car-Free Hiking



DANIEL CHAZIN

West Point and Constitution Island from Bull Hill, on the Washburn Trail, accessible by train, in the East Hudson Highlands.

With the rising price of gas, some hikers may think twice before driving a significant distance to their favorite trail. The good news is that many trails in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area are accessible by public transportation.

The rugged **East Hudson Highlands** area is readily reached by Metro-North's Hudson Line, with hourly service from Grand Central Terminal. Trails in the southern Highlands can be reached from the Garrison station or from the Manitou station, which has limited service on weekends. Many trailheads in the northern Highlands are a short walk from the Cold Spring station, and on weekends, two trains in each direction stop at the Breakneck Ridge station, near the trailheads of the Breakneck Ridge and Wilkinson Memorial Trails. All these trails are shown on the Trail Conference's East Hudson Trails map set.

The popular **Harriman-Bear Mountain State Parks**, which feature a network of over 225 miles of marked trails, can be accessed from the Suffern, Sloatsburg, Tuxedo, and Harriman stations on Metro-North's Port Jervis Line. Hikers starting at Sloatsburg or Tuxedo can fashion a number of loop hikes, and it is also possible to hike from the Harriman station to Tuxedo, or from Tuxedo to Suffern. Each of these one-way hikes is 11 to 14 miles long. Trains on the Port Jervis Line leave from the Hoboken Terminal and connect at Secaucus Junction with NJ Transit trains from Penn Station. The Harriman trailheads may also be

reached by Short Line buses, which leave from the Port Authority Bus Terminal on 42nd Street in New York City. The trails in this area appear on the Trail Conference's Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails map set.

The **Appalachian Trail (AT) in New York** may be accessed in several locations by public transportation. The best known access point is the Appalachian Trail railroad station in Dutchess County just north of Pawling on Metro-North's Harlem Line. This station has limited service (two trains in each direction, on weekends only), but the trail can also be accessed from the Harlem Valley-Wingdale station, about two miles to the north, where trains from Grand Central arrive every two hours. Another good point to access the AT is the Garrison station on Metro-North's Hudson Line, which has hourly service. Across the Hudson River in Rockland County, Short Line buses stop at Arden Valley Road, where the AT crosses Route 17. Finally, NJ Transit bus #197 from the Port Authority Bus Terminal stops at Mt. Peter, where the AT crosses Route 17A, near Warwick, NY. For more information on the AT, see the *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in New York and New Jersey*, which is accompanied by a set of six detailed maps.

Another interesting hike option is the **Old Croton Aqueduct**, which extends for 26 miles from Yonkers north to the New Croton Dam. The 20-mile stretch from the Greystone station in Yonkers to Ossining closely parallels Metro-North's Hudson Line, with service at least hourly from Grand Central Terminal. One can take the train to Greystone, Tarrytown, or Ossining, hike for several hours on a relatively level trailway, then take a train back from another station. The Old Croton Aqueduct is described on pages 112-15 of the *New York Walk Book*, a more detailed description of hikes on the aqueduct may be found in the *Day Walker*, pp. 104-19.

For those who wish to hike in New Jersey, there is a network of trails in Essex County's **South Mountain Reservation** that can be accessed from the Millburn station on NJ Transit's Morris & Essex Line. Midtown direct trains to Millburn leave hourly from Penn Station, and the trailhead is just across the street from the station. It is possible to make a loop of up to 12 miles through this beautiful area. Another great New Jersey hike accessible by public transportation is the magnificent **Bearfort Ridge**, with its unusual puddingstone rock and pitch pines. This unique area can be reached by NJ Transit bus #197 from the Port Authority Bus Terminal, with the trailhead of the Bearfort Ridge Trail only 0.3 mile west of the bus stop at Warwick Turnpike and Union Valley Road. For more information, see the *New Jersey Walk Book*, pp. 196-203 (South Mountain Reservation) and pp. 147-53 (Bearfort Ridge).

Finally, hikers may wish to spend the day in the "forgotten borough" – **Staten Island**. Although technically a part of New York City, Staten Island's Greenbelt has a network of over 20 miles of trails, all maintained by Trail Conference volunteers. Every trailhead is adjacent to a bus stop,

and you can start your day with a panoramic ride through New York Harbor on the Staten Island Ferry. Detailed descriptions of the trails in Staten Island may be found in Chapter 5 of the *New York Walk Book* (pp. 60-70).

For other hikes reachable by public transportation, consult the *Day Walker*, which features 32 hikes in the New

York metropolitan area, nearly all of which are accessible by bus or train. Another good source is the Hike of the Week on the Trail Conference's website, www.nynjtc.org/hotw.html, which has a geographic index that makes it easy to find an appropriate hike in the area you're interested in.

Resources

Within a 50-mile radius of Columbus Circle in New York City lie scores of wild forest and mountain trails. Public transportation can get you out of the city and into the woods in 30 to 90 minutes. The *New York Walk Book*, *New Jersey Walk Book*, and *Day Walker* are invaluable sources of information on trails and transportation in our region. For service, call the listed numbers or visit the referenced web sites. Be sure to inquire for return times and locations. *Scheduled train and bus times DO change and also vary seasonally - ALWAYS CHECK IN ADVANCE!*

NY-NJ Trail Conference offers web links to schedules and information; visit www.nynjtc.org/trails/no-car.html

Metro North Railroad: www.mta.info
From New York City 212-532-4900
From all other areas 800-638-7646

NJ Transit trains and buses:
www.njtransit.com; 800-772-2222

PATH (Port Authority Trans-Hudson Line): www.panynj.gov/path;
800-234-7284

Short Line Buses:

www.shortlinebus.com; 800-631-8405

Long Island Rail Road

www.mta.info

From New York City, 718-217-LIRR

From Nassau County, 516-822-LIRR

From Suffolk County, 631-231-LIRR

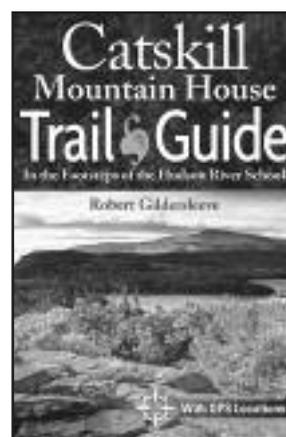
Staten Island Ferry

www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/masstran/ferries/statfery.html; 718-390-5253

New York City Transit,

www.mta.nyc.ny.us/nyc

BOOKNOTES



Catskill Mountain House Trail Guide: In the Footsteps of the Hudson River School (with GPS Locations)

By Robert A. Gildersleeve
Black Dome Press, 2005
Reviewed by John Kolp

For well over a century after the founding of the Catskill Mountain House in 1824, vacationers came by stage, steamboat, and train to the Catskills. The Romantic landscapes painted by the artists of the Hudson River School had made the Catskills America's premier scenic destination. Atop the escarpment, these tourists escaped the heat of summer, admired the views, and strolled paths to such wonders as Artists' Rock, Fairy Spring, Fawn's Leap, Lover's Retreat, Elfin Pass, and Pudding-Stone Hall. This last, a deep gash in a bed of conglomerate scoured out by some mountain stream in eons past, could, by 1996, no longer be found—or so the prominent geologist Robert Titus reported in an article that year in *Kaaterskill Life*.

Researching a rich trove of old engravings, postcards, stereo-opticon views, and vintage trail guides (two are reprinted as appendices), Robert Gildersleeve has retraced the 19th-century footpaths and plotted all the famous landmarks. He discovered that the Kaaterskill Clove overlooks, Sunset Rock and Inspiration Point, had gradually been mislabeled, so much so that by 1950, trail guides confused them completely. And he succeeded in locating Pudding-Stone Hall just off the Escarpment Trail on South Mountain along an overgrown path. Hike # 3 in this guide tells us exactly how to get there, a mere 0.16 mile from the Mountain House site at the precise GPS coordinate $N 42^{\circ} 11.623' W 74^{\circ} 2.212' ELEV 2,407 feet$.

Gildersleeve includes an introductory chapter that surveys the natural and human history of this special area of the Catskills. His highly detailed descriptions incorporate cultural references, for example pinpointing the vantage point of Thomas Cole's painting *Lake with Dead Trees*.

He covers 10 hikes in the "Mountain House Park" vicinity, now the Dept. of Environmental Conservation's North Lake campground (see Map 40 of the Conference's Catskill Trails map set). The hikes are short, none longer than 6 miles, with only some overlap with modern blazed trails. He thoroughly documents his routes with GPS coordinates at nearly every turn. But his descriptions are so clear that you don't need a GPS at all.

Will this GPS-ing become the standard for trail guides? I'd rather rely on map, compass, and, especially, the experience of other hikers, but in this case there is justification because the author is retracing lost and unmarked paths



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HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs



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

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

Club Codes

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

ADK-MH	ADK Mid-Hudson	UHC	Union County Hiking Club
ADK-R	ADK Ramapo	WEC	Weis Ecology Center
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	WTW	Woodland Trail Walkers
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	WWW	Weis Wyanokie Wanderers
NYHC	New York Hiking Club		
NYR	New York Ramblers		
PMNHA	Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area		
RVW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club		

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference Office. The deadline for the January/February 2006 issue is November 15, 2005.

November

Tuesday, November 1

UHC. Stokes State Forest, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at visitor center; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to 5 hours. Hike to the fire tower on Appalachian Trail.

Thursday, November 3

UHC. Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10 am at Weis Ecology Center; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to 5 hours. Moderately strenuous.

Friday, November 4

PMNHA. Fit Friday for Seniors, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. You don't have to be a senior to join us on this easy morning in the outdoors.

Saturday, November 5

UHC. Watchung Trail Maintenance, NJ. Leader: Call Trailside Nature and Science Center to register; 908-789-3670, ext. 221. Meet: 9:30 am; work until noon.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 am at visitor center; call for directions. Moderate 4 miles in historic state park. Steady rain cancels.

ADK-MH. Mount Taurus, NY. Leaders: Jean-Claude Fouere and Georgette Weir, 462-0142 (before 9 pm). Meet: Early start; contact leaders for meeting time and place. Moderate hike to look for signs of previous land use and appreciate the power of nature to reclaim the land. 6 miles with strenuous 1,400 feet of elevation, up and down. Group size limited to 10.

ADK-MH. Bonticou Crag, High Falls, NY. Leader: Trish Cina, 845-339-7170 or trishmany37@aol.com (preferred). Meet: Contact leader to register before Oct. 30. Easy to moderate hike, suitable for children. Short detour to cave, a pond, up an amazing boulder slide, views of Shawangunks and Catskills. Entrance fee to Mohonk Preserve.

WTW. Tourne Park, NJ. Leaders: Hermann and Marlene Memmer, 973-267-0539; call to confirm. Meet: 10 am at Tourne Park picnic area. A moderate hike of 5 to 6 miles.

Sunday, November 6

IHC. Reeves Meadow Ramble, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Marguerite LaCorte, 973-625-4379. Meet: 9 am at Reeves Meadow visitor center, Seven Lakes Dr., Harriman State Park. Moderately strenuous 8 miles along Reeves Brook to Pine Meadow Lake.

WEC. Buck Mountain, NJ. Leader: Charlie Toole. Meet: 9:30 am; call Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 to register. Moderate paced 4-5 mile hike to special places in the Highlands region, including views from Pine Paddies, Buck and Assinewikam mountains. \$5 members, \$8 non-members.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Lee Fanger, 973-376-3160. Meet: 10 am in Locust Grove parking lot; call for directions. Public transportation available. Moderate but brisk 5 miles of about 2 hours. Rain cancels.

WTW. Pocono Environmental Education Center, PA. Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 973-252-8122 or LSL376@cs.com; call to confirm. Meet: 9:45 am at PEEC, PA. A moderate hike of 7-8 miles.

Monday, November 7

RVW. Terrace Mountain (Catskills), NY. Leader: Call 845-246-4082 for information. Meet: 8 am. Moderately strenuous 7 miles. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

Tuesday, November 8

UHC. Hook Mountain, NY. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to 5 hours. 6 miles with quite a bit of climbing. Views are worth it!

Friday, November 11

NYHC. Upper Montclair to Verona, NJ. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 10 am at commuter's statue, Port Authority Bus Terminal. Moderate 8 miles through wooded Miles Reservation, then along rail-trail ending in scenic Verona Park.

Saturday, November 12

IHC. Black Rock Forest, NY. Leader: Peter Heckler, 201-261-4644; no calls morning of hike; must register by email: p_heckler@msn.com. Meet: 9:30 am at Schunemunk, Taylor Rd. parking, Mountainville, NY. Moderate 6-7 miles on Mine Hill Trail; shuttle required. Rain cancels.

ADK-MH. West Kill (Catskills), NY. Leader: Dawn Hamilton, 845-926-6208 or dawnlh333@yahoo.com. Meet: Contact leader for meeting place and time before November 12. Strenuous hike to climb sixth highest of the 35 highest Catskill peaks; beautiful views.

ADK-MH. Sterling Ridge Fire Tower, NY. Leader: Bob Ellsworth, 845-876-4534 or egbert@us.ibm.com. Meet: Contact leader (leave message) to register before November 9. Will meet 8 am in Wappingers Falls. Moderately strenuous 7 miles along Sterling Ridge Trail, enjoying views of Sterling Lake and cedar, pitch pine, and balsam firs.

NYHC. Old Croton Aqueduct, NY. Leader: Sal Varbero, 718-420-9569, call 8 pm to 10 pm only. Meet: 11 am at 242nd St. and Broadway, outside entrance to Van Cortlandt Park (#1 train to last stop). Easy 6 miles, all flat. To Tibbits Brook Park on old railway right-of-ways.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, NJ. Leader: Joan Lepselter, 908-273-4188. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature Center; call for directions. Brisk 4-5 miles with some rocky trails. Steady rain cancels.

WTW. High Mountain Clean-up, NJ. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194; call to confirm. Meet: 10 am at Parking Lot 6, Row G, William Paterson Univ. campus. A moderate hike to clean up the top of the mountain and one or more trails.

Sunday, November 13

WWW. Stonetown Circular, NJ. Leader: Don Weise. Meet: 9:30 am; call Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 to register. Strenuous 10 miles on lightly used trails; rugged conditions. Windbeam, Bear Board, and Horse Pond mountains as well as Signal and Tory rocks. \$5 members, \$8 non-members.

WEC. Social Hike for Ages 18-30, NJ. Leader: environmental educator Tony DiLemme. Meet: 11 am; call Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 to register. Moderately paced, 5-hour hike. Spend some time outside, unwind, and make some new friends. Location TBA.

ADK-R. Scenic Schunemunk Mountain, NY. Leader: Call 201-816-9465 for details. Moderately strenuous 7 miles.

PMNHA. Know Your Nuts Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Learn the difference between acorns, hickory nuts, and beechnuts, and what animals depend on them on this easy hike.

UHC. Pyramid Mtn., Montville, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 2 pm; call for directions. About 2 hours; one steep section to start. Tripod Rock, Bear Rock. Note time.

Tuesday, November 15

UHC. Ramapo Mountain State Park, NJ. Leader: Eric Singer, 73-744-7147. Meet: 10 am at upper lot, Skyline Dr.; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 5 miles.

Wednesday, November 16

RVW. Full Moon Hike on Overlook Mountain, NY. Leader: Call 845-246-7158 for information. Meet: 5:15 pm. Slow pace, 5 miles. Inclement weather date is Nov. 17.

PMNHA. Full Moon Hike, NJ. Leader: Must call 973-334-3130 to register. Meet: 6 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Easy 2-hour hike by moonlight to listen to nature's night shift. \$3 fee.

Thursday, November 17

UHC. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Dave and Naomi Sutter, dsuttr@aol.com. Meet: 10 am at Kanawake parking lot; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to 5 hours. Moderately strenuous hike to Ledyard's Loft and other mysteries; some bushwhacking.

Saturday, November 19

WEC. Weis Women's Hike, NJ. Leader: sanctuary director Karla Risdon. Meet: 8 am; call Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 to register. Moderately paced 2-3 miles in favorite scenic places in Ringwood State Park. \$5 members, \$8 non-members.

ADK-R. Stockbridge Mountain, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Call 845-359-2465 for details. Moderate 6 miles.

IHC. Watchung Reservation, NJ. Leader: Eck Khoon Goh, 908-790-0939. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature Center, Coles Ave., Mountainside, NJ. Brisk 4-5 miles with some rocky trails.

PMNHA. Watershed Walk, NJ. Leader: Must call 973-334-3130 to register. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Learn about watersheds, including the one we live in; easy hike for adults and children ages 6 and older. \$3 fee.

WTW. Randolph Trails, NJ. Leaders: Hermann and Marlene Memmer, 973-267-0539; call to confirm. Meet: 10 am at Brundage Park pond parking lot on Carrell Road. An easy hike of about 5 miles.

Sunday, November 20

GAHC. Reeves Meadow, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Brian Kassenbrock, 718-748-0624; call to register. Meet: 9 am. Three levels of hikes.

NYR. Easthampton to Montauk, Long Island, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: Penn Station LIRR information booth at 7:30 am for 7:48 train; wait to buy your ticket until see leader and check train times ahead of time. Follow beach eastward for entire day to Montauk.

IHC. Highlands Trail, Voorhees State Park, NJ. Leader: Charlie and Anita Kientzler, 973-835-1060. Meet: 9 am at McDonald's, Morris Hills Shopping Center, Rts. 202/46, Parsippany, NJ. Moderate 6 miles from Califon, over high trestle in Lockwood Gorge; shuttle required.

NYHC. Piermont to Nyack, NY. Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-9457, call 7 am to 8 am. Meet: 10:15 am at George Washington Bridge bus terminal, upper level near ticket booths, to take 10:40 bus (take A train to 175th St.). Easy 5 miles.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: MaryDell Morrison, 908-684-5175. Meet: 10 am at visitor center; call for directions. Scenic 4-5 miles.

Monday, November 21

RVW. Minnewaska State Park, NY. Leader: Call 845-246-4590 for information. Meet: 8:30 am. Moderately strenuous 6 miles. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

Tuesday, November 22

PMNHA. Silas Condict Hike, NJ. Leader: Must call 973-334-3130 to register. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Like to exercise? Like ducks? This is the perfect moderate morning hike for you.

Saturday, November 26

RVW. Belleayre Mountain, NY. Leader: Call 845-246-6459 for information. Meet: 9 am. Moderate 5 miles. Inclement weather date is following Saturday.

UHC. Pyramid Mtn., Montville, NJ. Leader: Don Meserlian, 973-228-2258. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate 5 miles along the reservoir and past a beaver dam; Tripod Rock. Rain cancels.

WTW. Ringwood-Skylands, NJ. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194; call to confirm. Meet: 10 am at front parking lot of Ringwood Manor. A moderate hike of 7 miles.

Sunday, November 27

IHC. Pyramid Mtn. Natural Area, Kinnelon, NJ. Leader: Ilse Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am; call for directions. Moderate ups and downs.

PMNHA. Turkey Mountain Trot, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Moderate hike to work off all those Thanksgiving leftovers.

NYHC. Blydenburgh County Park, Long Island, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994, call before 10 pm. Meet: 8:45 am at Penn Station near LIRR ticket windows. Moderate 8 miles, nearly all flat, along scenic trails around a large lake.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Mary Doyle, 908-580-1778. Meet: 10 am at visitor center; call for directions. Moderate 4 miles on Mt. Kemble trail. Rain cancels.

Monday, November 28

RVW. Windham High Peak (Catskills), NY. Leader: Call 845-246-8546 for information. Meet: 8 am. Moderately strenuous 7 miles. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

Tuesday, November 29

UHC. Stokes State Forest, NJ. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to 5 hours. Scenic hike to the Appalachian Trail, great views, wagon roads, and all downhill after lunch.

December

Thursday, December 1

UHC. Schunemunk Mountain, NY. Leaders: Carolyn and Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10 am at Taylor Rd. parking lot; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to 5 hours. Moderately strenuous hike up to the Megaliths and along the ridge.

Saturday, December 3

ADK-R. Strolling the Schuber, NJ. Leader: Call 201-846-9465 for details. Moderate 7 miles.

IHC. Ramapo Mountain State Forest, Oakland, NJ. Leader: Carol O'Keefe, 973-328-7395. Meet: 9 am; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 8 miles; Cannonball trail to the castle and lake.

ADK-MH. Minnewaska Ramble (Hunting-Free Zone), NY. Leader: Georgette Weir and Jean-Claude Fouere, 462-0142 (before 9 pm). Meet: Contact leaders for meeting place and time. Early start. Moderate 6-8 miles, probably including Blueberry Run and Scenic Trail. As we hike, we'll talk about what's involved in designing/maintaining hiking trails (but no trail work today). Group size limited to 10.

NYHC. Smithtown to Ronkonkoma, Long Island, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994, call before 10 pm. Meet: 8:45 am at Penn Station, near LIRR ticket windows. Moderate 10 miles with some ups and downs. Suffolk County Greenbelt, a combination of wooded and open areas.

NYHC. Greenwich Point Park, Old Greenwich, CT. Leader: Sal Varbero, 718-420-9569, call 8 pm to 10 pm. Meet: 10 am at Grand Central Terminal to take 10:10 train to Old Greenwich. Easy 5 miles. Walk along Connecticut shores enjoying beautiful views of Long Island Sound.

WTW. Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown, NJ. Leaders: Hermann and Marlene Memmer, 973-267-0539; call to confirm. Meet: 10 am at Madison Hotel, Convent Station, NJ. An easy hike of about 5 miles.

Sunday, December 4

WEC. Social Hike for Ages 18-30, NJ. Leader: environmental educator Tony DiLemme. Meet: 11 am; call Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 to register. Moderately paced, 5-hour hike. Spend some time outside, unwind, and make some new friends. Location TBA.

GAHC. Downtown Discovery, NYC. Leader: Elfi Woschit, 212-722-7338; call for directions. Meet: 10 at 195 Broadway at Fulton St. Easy hike.

NYHC. Staten Island Town and Woods Hike, NY. Leader: Steve and Bettye Soffer, 718-720-1593, call 7 pm-9 pm. Meet: Take Staten Island Ferry, then bus; call leaders for directions. Moderate 4-5 miles. Hike to top of Todt Hill, then to High Rock Park.

UHC. Loantaka Brook Reservation, Morris Twp., NJ. Leader: Terry Kulmane, 908-665-2672. Meet: 10 am at Kitchell Rd. parking lot; call for directions. Moderate 2-hour walk to duck pond.

WTW. VanCampen Glen, Delaware Water Gap, NJ. Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 973-252-8122 or LSL376@cs.com; call to confirm. Meet: 9:45 am at Millbrook Village, NJ.

Tuesday, December 6

UHC. Sterling Forest, NY. Leader: Jim and Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 am at visitor center; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to 5 hours. 6 miles in Sterling Lake area; Augusta Mine.

Thursday, December 8

UHC. Pyramid Mtn., NJ. Leader: Jim and Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 am at Visitor Center; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to 5 hours. Moderately strenuous 9 miles around Butler Reservoir.

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Saturday, December 10

UCHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate 2-hour hike past a stream, lake, and other natural beauties. Steady rain cancels.

Sunday, December 11

WEC. Sterling Ridge End to End, NJ-NY. Leader: Charlie Toole. Meet: 9:30 am; call Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 to register. Moderately paced 4-5 mile hike to special places in the Highlands region, including views of Monksville Reservoir, Long Pond, and Blue Lake. \$5 members, \$8 non-members.

ADK-R. Reeves Ramble, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Call 914-337-6612 for details. Moderate 6 miles.

IHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Steady but moderate pace for 4-6 miles.

PMNHA. Tectonic Trek, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Moderately strenuous 5-mile hike to learn about puddingstone, quartz, obsidian.

WTW. Bear Mountain, NY. Leaders: Glenn and Sarah Collins, 973-744-5126; call to confirm by 4 pm Saturday, Dec. 10 and for meeting time and place. A moderate hike of 6-7 miles.

Tuesday, December 13

UCHC. Jenny Jump State Forest, NJ. Leader: Bill Barton, 908-647-6658. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to 5 hours.

Thursday, December 15

UCHC. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 am at Anthony Wayne parking lot; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to 5 hours. Moderately strenuous.

Saturday, December 17

ADK-R. Undercliff/Breakneck/Sugarloaf, NY. Leader: Call 201-357-4642 for details. Moderately strenuous 7 miles in the east Hudson Highlands.

IHC. Blue Disc and White Bar Trails, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Eileen Berch, 973-728-1419. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate with a few nice views, 4-7 miles.

PMNHA. Holiday Stress Relief Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Moderate hike. Hide from holiday shopping, visiting relatives, and just go hiking.

ADK-MH. Stissing Mountain and Thompson Pond, Pine Plains, NY. Leader: Bob Ellsworth, 845-876-4534 or eggbert@us.ibm.com. Meet: Call and leave a message before December 14. 8 am in Wappingers Falls. Leisurely 4-mile hike up Stissing Mountain to the restored fire tower, then walk around bog pond, home to many birds.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Joan Lepseter, 908-273-4188. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking; call for directions. Brisk 4-5 miles with one steep climb; suitable for strong beginners. Steady rain cancels.

WTW. Loantaka Park, NJ. Leaders: Hermann and Marlene Memmer, 973-267-0539; call to confirm. Meet: 10 am at Madison Hotel, Convent Station, NJ. An easy hike of about 8 miles.

Sunday, December 18

WWW. Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: Don Weise. Meet: 9:30 am; call Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 to register. Strenuous 7-9 miles hike; rugged conditions. Boy Scout Lake to Weis Ecology Center via Wyanokie and Will Monroe Trails. \$5 members, \$8 non-members.

NYHC. Lost Brook Preserve, NJ. Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-9457, call 7 am-8 am. Meet: 10:15 am at George Washington Bridge bus terminal, upper level near ticket booths. Easy 6 miles in a lovely nature preserve close to the city.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am at Trailside parking lot; call for directions. Moderate morning hike of 4-5 miles. Steady rain cancels.

Tuesday, December 20

UCHC. Tourne, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Carol O'Keefe, 973-328-7395. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to five hours. Up the Tourne and to the lake.

Wednesday, December 21

PMNHA. Winter Solstice Hike, NJ. Leader: Must call 973-334-3130 to register. Meet: 3 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Moderate hike to learn about the shortest day of the year. \$3 fee.

Thursday, December 22

UCHC. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Dave and Naomi Sutter, dsuttr@aol.com. Meet: 10 am at Lake Sebago boat launch; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to five hours. Moderately strenuous hike; Little Doe Trail and more.

Saturday, December 24

UCHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am at visitor center; call for directions. Easy to moderate 4 miles. Steady rain, ice or snow cancels.

Sunday, December 25

IHC. Christmas at Lake Skannatati, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Larry Spinner, 845-356-5219. Meet: 9:15 am at commuter parking lot, Sloatsburg, NY; call for directions. Moderately strenuous. Conditions may require snowshoes or crampons; leader reserves right to turn away those without proper gear/clothing. If inclement weather, call after 7 am morning of hike to confirm.

Tuesday, December 27

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10 am at Trailside parking lot; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to five hours. Moderate pace.

Thursday, December 29

PMNHA. Winter Family Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Easy, family-friendly hike.

UCHC. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Jim Conlon, 914-591-6079. Meet: 10 am at Johnstown Rd. parking; call for directions. For experienced hikers; up to five hours. Moderately strenuous.

Saturday, December 31

PMNHA. Jumpstart Your Resolutions Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Moderate hike; why wait until after the ball drops to start your exercise resolution?

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