Campaign Exceeds $2.5M Goal

As this issue go to press, the Trail Conference is proud to announce that the Connecting People With Nature campaign has raised more than $3.1 million in just over two years, allowing us to declare victory as of December 31, 2005.

A recent announcement by the Morris County Open Space Preservation Trust of a $500,000 grant, coupled with a matching grant of $500,000 from the New Jersey Green Acres program, put us over the top (helped our hiker reach the summit?). With these most recent grants, we will make our second New Jersey acquisition—a 74-acre assemblage in Washington Township that will accommodate the co-aligned Highlands Trail and Patriots’ Path. (Read about our first NJ land purchase at right.)

2005 was a big year for the Trail Conference. We made major progress on the ambitious plans we had laid out for our future when, in late 2004, we announced the Connecting People With Nature campaign. Our goal was to raise $2.5 million in order to:

1. Improve the connectivity of our region’s trail system;
2. Increase our recruitment and training of volunteers for trail crews by rebuilding the historic Bear Mountain trails;
3. Convert all of our hiking maps to digital format.

Even though the campaign is not quite finished (as of the deadline for this issue), the contributions to the campaign are being put to work and are producing impressive results.

- More than 2,000 acres have been protected, including portions of the Highlands Trail, the Long Path, and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail. These lands also provide for side trails connecting with local communities.
- We have redesigned the hiking trails on historic Bear Mountain, NY, including the original and most heavily used section of the Appalachian Trail. This multiyear project will commence next spring as a “Trail University” designed to recruit and train a new generation of volunteers prepared to build and maintain trails in the region’s burgeoning open space.
- Our staff cartographer is working with volunteers to convert all hiking maps to digital format, so they can be more accurately and easily updated. Four of our 10 map sets are now digital, and our goal is to complete the other five in the next two years.

The generosity and commitment of our members and partners makes it possible for the Trail Conference to achieve the vision of creating and safeguarding high quality hiking opportunities for future generations. For the inside story on this generosity, please see Ed Goodell’s column on page 3.

Going a Round in the School of Hard Knocks

If inspirational David and Goliath stories are your cup of tea, then a Trail Conference School of Hard Knocks session is the place to be. The first in what may become a series of training sessions for advocacy volunteers took place November 12th at the Suetten Public Library. Twenty-five attendees learned tactics and strategy from a panel of experienced issue advocates and others working on the front lines of open space and smart development issues.

JoAnn Dolan, former executive director of the Trail Conference and a leader in the effort to preserve Sterling Forest; Bill O’Hearn, executive director of the Highlands Coalition; and Steve Gross, a planner with Hudson Highlands Environmental Planning, offered advice and comments in response to case studies described by activists on three issues:

- The ongoing effort to prevent development of Sterling Forge Estates on the privately owned “hole in the donut” of the surrounding Sterling Forest State Park. Susan Sher and Mary Ytsaar, co-presidents of the Sterling Forest Partnership, briefly related the 30-year epic of the Sterling Forest success.
- The movement in Deerpark, Orange County, to prevent construction of a large residential development on the steep slopes of the Shawangunk Ridge. Susan O’Neill and Dorothy Kamalinski of Deerpark United Neighbors outlined the concerns of the community, the obstacles they face, and the resources they have gathered.
- An attempt by neighbors to downsize a proposal for a single large home in a neighborhood of modest residences. Robin O’Hearn, executive director of Skylands Clean, noted that the project was sounding alarms about vulnerabilities in the recently celebrated Highlands Preservation Act.

Much of the advice offered during the day was summed up on a tip sheet labeled “Notes for Fighters in the Trenches” handed out by Steve Gross. Don’t miss a step (i.e., know the processes of governmental and environmental approvals; be specific in your comments; know your science); What brought you to the table may not win the game (you may be concerned about water quality, but endangered timber rattlesnakes may save the day); Lawyers are expensive (invest your early dollars in the right consultants); Know your tool box (your hammer may be a governmental review; your bull dozer, environmental requirements); Consultants know who butters their bread (don’t accept consultants’ advice).

On November 3, 2005, the Trail Conference successfully concluded its first purchase of trail lands in New Jersey by closing on 94 acres adjacent to the north-west border of Weldon Brook Wildlife Management Area. Funds for the purchase price, $310,000, were provided by capital campaign gifts to the TC Land Acquisition & Stewardship Fund and a loan from a Trail Conference member. The Trail Conference hopes to transfer the property, known as Rolling Hills and located in Sparta Township in Sussex County, to New Jersey’s Green Acres program, a division of the Dept. of Environmental Protection.

This purchase closes a gap in the corridor for the Iron Belt Trail and reflects the Conference’s commitment to preserving long-distance trail corridors in our region. Board member Malcolm Spector is scouting this new trail, which is planned to have a northern terminus in Wawayanda State Park, heading generally south on lands that already are almost entirely public. It will connect Hamburge Mountain State Forest, Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area, Weldon Brook WMA, and Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, where it will join the Highlands Trail. The parcel purchased

continued on page 3

continued on page 10
Armchair adventures

At a loss for a topic for my column, a suggestion came my way to write about books for the armchair hiker—a perspective many adopt in January and February. As a reference librarian, I set my professional skills to work on a topic I loved and enthusiastically set about researching books related to hiking adventures.

Bill Bryson’s A Walk in the Woods, about his adventures on the Appalachian Trail, was my starring entry. From there, I quickly found others about the Appalachian Trail, including one by Trail Conference Life Member Larry Luxenberg, Walking the Appalachian Trail. I enjoyed both books, and although different in presentation, they tell of the people, the places, and the history of the AT. It was easy finding tales of hiking the AT, and more difficult finding other hiking adventures. Walk Across America was the first of several books that Peter Jenkins wrote, and just like the Bryson and Luxenberg books, the people met figure into his story line.

The all new, second edition of the Trail Conference Hudson Palisades map set is now available. The five-map set covers hiking trails in the New Jersey section of the Palisades Interstate Park. Vivid five-color graphics on the maps’ front sides clearly depict the full range of the area’s geographic features, including topographic contours; rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands; landmarks and viewpoints; and access points, including parking areas. A green overlay designates publicly-owned open space. Bike paths are also shown on the map.

Hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts will appreciate the durable quality of these maps, printed on the waterproof and tearproof Tyvek material that can endure years of active use.

The map backs provide brief histories of the parks and other features of interest, as well as useful information regarding landowners, park regulations, and public transportation. Telephone numbers and websites from which additional information can be obtained are also included.

The price of the five-map set is $8.95, non-members, $6.71, members. To order, see Hikers’ Marketplace on page 12, or purchase online at www.nynjtc.org.

Letters

Re “Can I Get There from Here?”

letter in Nov./Dec. 2005 Trail Walker

Yes, But Not That Way

I am one of those hikers who considers a trailhead accessible by public transport even if a bus or train drops you off two miles from it. I certainly don’t prefer a lengthy road walk before and after trail hiking, but am reasonably comfortable with it. That said, one of the examples of a road walk you gave in your editor’s note, from Skyline Diner along West Brook Road (to access Norvin Green State Forest), is the only one I will never attempt again. The reason: a combination of narrow or no shoulders and heavy dump truck traffic every time I’ve had to do the walk. The worst part is the shoulderless 200- or 300-yard bridge over the Wanaque Reservoir. I was lucky the six or seven times I crossed it during the past few years, but shouldered to think what might have happened if I had been caught on the bridge with dump trucks approaching from each side simultaneously. They take up almost an entire lane of West Brook Road with only inches to spare.

Therefore, I wouldn’t recommend this route to the Wyankotes to anyone on foot, unless s/he is a known thrill seeker and feels lucky.

—Jonathan Goodnough, Hoboken, NJ

From the Chair

You might wish to point out that almost all of the day hikes run by New York-North Jersey Chapter of Appalachian Mountain Club meet public transportation. People who arrive via bus (usually) or train find a plethora of cars ready to take them to the trailhead of the day. The club has an office in New York City, (212) 986-1430, www.amc-ny.org.

—Richard Wolff

Montclair, NJ

Send Us Your Thoughts

The Trail Walker welcomes letters to the editor. Send them via email to rw@nynjtc.org or mail to:

Trail Walker Editor
NY/NJ Trail Conference
156 Ramapo Valley Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430

You read and re-read Holling’s books as a child, as did my daughters; I hope my granddaughter will as well. Timeless (although not politically correct), they tell tales that show the interconnectedness of humans, geography, and nature. Holling’s beautiful full-page illustrations complement the story, side notes, and sense of adventure. Children as young as four feel wonder and learn geography and natural history while being snuggled in an armchair.

Travellers learn that when something unexpected happens to take the turn of events in stride. Such is the case with my armchair traveling. In the end, the books that I am recommending are Holling’s books. Your local library is likely to have copies or can borrow them for you. I hope that you will include a young person in your next armchair adventure.

—Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors
The People Who Are Connecting You With Nature

The success of our Connecting People With Nature campaign began three years ago, when more than 40 Trail Conference volunteer leaders and staff gathered along the Hudson River to identify the key obstacles to improving hiking opportunities in the region. With the recognition that the window of opportunity to create and protect an interconnected system of trails was rapidly diminishing, three challenges rose to the top:

1. Permanently protecting hiking lands, especially links between existing public open space;
2. Increasing our volunteer capacity to build trails and maintain access to open space;
3. Adopting technologies that enhance our ability to fulfill our mission.

It was quickly apparent that our annual operating budget could not simultaneously address these emerging challenges and maintain our existing programs. Therefore, the Trail Conference board of directors decided to seize the moment and embark on a campaign to raise $2.5 million beyond our annual operating budget. Before announcing the campaign publicly at our Fall 2004 Annual Meeting, 70 major donors (including all board members) had pledged almost $1.5 million, which provided the momentum to successfully finish and exceed our original goal. Many, many thanks are due to the early visionaries whose leadership was essential to our success. Paramount among them, our campaign co-chairs, whose names will go unmentioned here at their request.

In the fall of 2005, two matching grants of $500,000 each to acquire lands in Washington Township, NJ, for the Highlands Trail allowed us to reach and greatly exceed our goal. Also crucial to our success were $200,000 in bequests, which the board wisely dedicated to the campaign; the bulk of the bequests came from longtime member and club delegate Jay Schwartz.

Even though the campaign officially ends December 31, 2005, anyone wishing to contribute can do so after that date simply by writing “campaign” in the memo field of their check.

The following is a list of people and organizations that have contributed to the Connecting People With Nature campaign as of December 1, 2005.

--Ed Goodell
Hasenclever Trail Remains Closed During Area Remediation

The Hasenclever Iron Trail, opened in the summer of 2004, remains closed while New Jersey authorities oversee the removal of toxic waste in the area. The trail, which extends just over five miles from Ringwood Manor to the footbridge over the Wanaque River on the Sterling Ridge Trail at the Long Pond Iron Furnaces, was closed soon after opening when an industrial waste dump was discovered nearby. The trail briefly reopened after an initial determination that the dump posed no threat, but was closed again in December of 2004 pending cleanup.

Cleanup was delayed, but resumed in the fall of 2005 after the Bergen Record published a series of articles on the history of the site, and the state assumed the supervisory role from the federal government. At a November meeting with Ringwood State Park authorities, Trail Conference representatives asked about the status of the trail and surrounding mine lands. The park officials speculated that the trail itself, as well as the surrounding area, would remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future. However, they expected that there would be some remediation of the trail before it reopened, including resurfacing and reforestation.

“We look forward to hearing the New Jersey state authorities announce that the trail and surrounding area is finally cleared and reopened to the public,” commented John Moran, chair of the North Jersey Trails Committee.

Route 218 Reopens

A landslide that resulted in the closure of Route 218, Cornwall NY, in October has been cleared and the road was reopened in December. (It is worth remembering, however, that this road is frequently closed in winter due to icy conditions.) As of the deadline for this issue, it was not yet known whether the slide had any impact on trails in Storm King State Park.

Bridge Out Near Denning Trailhead

Hikers heading from the Denning trailhead to Table, Lone, or Rocky Mountains in the Catskills will likely see a “Bridge Out” sign still posted. In October, torrential rains destroyed the footbridge over the Deer Shanty Brook that carries the Long Path in that spot.

John Robb Lean-to Burns

The John Robb Lean-to on the Spruceton Trail up Hunter Mountain burned to the ground in October. Details about the cause of the fire or the possibility of rebuilding the structure were not available.

Dunnfield Creek Trail Is Hikeable Again

Although work has not been completed on the partial relocation and repairs to the flood-damaged Dunnfield Creek Trail in Worthington State Forest, it is now passable. Additional steps need to be constructed and some blow-downs need to be removed, but the remaining obstacles will not deter hikers.

AT Now Passable Through NJ Flood Plain

As a result of the flood conditions in October, a section of the AT, between Rt. 94 and Canal Road in Vernon, NJ, had to be closed just as work to reconstruct it was about to begin. With the receding waters and help from the North Jersey Trails Crew, the existing bridge has been repaired adequately to allow hikers to pass over the Wawayanda Creek tributary.

Replacement of this bridge will be attempted again in the spring.

East Hudson Crew

Most of the work trips this summer and fall were spent building bridges and punchon in George’s Island Park (Westchester County). The trail system there is now fully usable, although part of it is closed during the winter months because of eagles.

Fall Crew Reports

West Hudson South Crew

West Hudson South trail crew had another successful season of trail building. For the spring and fall season we put in more than 1,600 hours of volunteer service on the Brooks Lake Trail and several other projects in Harriman State Park. I would like to thank the following people for their time and effort: Victor Aliferi, Carolyn Bloomfield, Roland Bealud, Gail Brown, Jim Brown, Brian Buchbinder, Norm Clausen, Chris Connolly, David Day, Tom Dunn, Gail Folds, Robert Folds, Don Frauenberger, Joyce Gallagher, Claudia Ganz, Dan Hauser, Kim Hauser, Mary Hilley, Bill Horowitz, Joan James, Alice Layne, Richard Lynch, Frank Madden, Bob Marshall, Richard Maskal, Gay Mayer, Lori Maynard, Doug McBride, Francis Mead, Pal Morra, Monica Resor, Kevin Riley, Trudy Schneider, Melissa Shumer, Manny Silberberg, Charles Silver-Frankel, Ted Sokol, Brana Thoer, Karen Voll, Hanson Won, and Steve Zabarsik.

—Chris Ezzo, Crew Chief

West Jersey Crew

It was a busy year for the West Jersey Crew. In the course of 18 work days, the crew built a 30-foot bridge over Dunnfield Creek in Worthington State Forest, began construction of the Warren Trail in Warren County by clearing three miles of new trail, built trail reroutes around a beaver dam, and most of them. We also thank Westchester County for supplying the materials for the bridges and Bob Del Torto, the county’s volunteer coordinator, for helping with the construction.

—Walt Daniels, Crew Leader

News from the Long Path

Trail Connecting Sam’s Point with Minnewaska Reopens

Some exciting news for everyone who loves a through trail: The Trail Conference has finally gotten permission to reopen the old blue trail connecting High Point in Sam’s Point Preserve with the Smiley Carriageway in Minnewaska State Park. Opening the blue trail effectively fills in the gap in the Long Path that was caused when land owner John Bradley closed the Mud Pond section several years ago. Hikers will now have a path to walk from Verkeerderkill Falls to High Point and the Smiley Carriageway, and then follow Smiley to Lake Awosting Carriageway and the Long Path near Lake Awosting.

Work has started, and a short relocation of the old blue trail, removing it from a sensitive area, was finished before the end of October. In November additional work was done and the trail is now flagged and passable. Malcolm Spector, Eric Meyer, Paty Lee Parmalee, and Jakob Franke worked many hours on the project this fall.

It will, however, take several more trips with lots of volunteers to get the approximately three-mile trail back in shape.

Although the tread way is clearly recognizable, blueberry has grown luxuriantly over the trail from both sides. We will finish the project and do the blazing next spring.

Elsewhere on the LP

On the New Jersey Palisades, the LP is in exceptionally good shape, thanks to a crew of summer interns from the NJ section of the Palisades Interstate Park (PIP) who widened the footpath quite a bit. It’s up to us now to keep it in good shape. Also, work was finished this summer on a couple of detours that really improved the hiking experience between Greenbrook Sanctuary and Rockefeller Lookout.

In Rockland County, LP committee members led several group hikes on the LP during the season. Frank Maddon and Jakob Franke led a group up High Tor as one of the Hudson Valley Rumble events, and a week later the two assisted the town of Clarkstown with a series of hikes, the longest of which was a circular from Rockland Lake over Hook Mountain.

Unfortunately, the new trail that was built two years ago through West Point property remains closed.

On the Shangwunk Ridge Trail, committee members are actively working on the creation of side trails and loop hikes. Newly acquired lands will allow hikers, in the future, to take the train to Port Jervis and then hike from there to the train station in Otnsite. Volunteers will be needed to build and maintain these new trails.

Up north there has been a reroute in section 27, which was approved at the last Trails Council meeting. The relocation will move about two miles of the Long Path off-road, and is in the town of Blenheim, Schoharie County, on land belonging to the New York Power Authority and two adjacent private landowners. A description of the reroute will be on the Trail Conference website.

A big thank-you to the following people for their hard work: Jack Baccaglini, Larry continued on page 6
In early December 2005, the volunteers and staff of the NY/NJ Trail Conference and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy wrapped up the detailed trail layout and rehabilitation plan for the proposed upgraded trail system on Bear Mountain. The next steps are to recruit first-stage volunteers and to build our trail stewardship capacities by training new individuals in the necessary skills. A series of workshops is set to start in April 2006. Watch the March/April 2006 issue of Trail Walker for specific dates.

In the meantime, the following specific leadership roles have been identified and need to be filled.

* Volunteer Enlistment Coordinator: Serves as registrar and coordinates outreach efforts
* Assistant Volunteer Coordinator: Maintains database, manages volunteer participation records
* Recruitment Volunteers: Make weekly phone calls and send out emails to prospective field volunteers
* Outreach Volunteers: Present project to the targeted groups

**Fundraising Coordinator**: Coordinates grant applications and other fundraising initiatives

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**The Trust for Public Land and the Open Awosting Reserve**

The Trust for Public Land and the Open Awosting Reserve have signed a contract to buy the 2,500-acre Awosting Reserve for $17 million. The land will be resold to the state for expansion of the adjacent Minnewaska State Park. In 2002, Awosting Reserve proposed a major housing development on the ridge. Developers wanted to build nearby luxury homes on the eastern slope of the Shawangunk Ridge. A major victory for the environmental community, the sale capped a three-year campaign to prevent the proposed development by the Trail Conference and its partner organizations.

**DEP Moves to Protect 1,200 Acres in Wyanokie Highlands**

Exciting News! The Trail Conference and the Highlands Coalition have been working with the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) to support its Wyanokies Highlands project. We are lobbying legislators and have written letters of support to the U.S. Dept. of Interior requesting funding under the federal Highlands Conservation Act.

With or without this funding, DEP is moving forward to protect over 1,200 acres in the Wyanokies, filling in the missing pieces of a greenway, protecting an area with perhaps the greatest concentration of hiking trails in the state, and reopening areas now closed to hikers.

**Stewart Land Deal Reached**

In the Nov./Dec. issue of Trail Walker, Sandra Kissam, president of the Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition (SPARC), reported on the status of efforts to preserve the Stewart Airport buffer lands (“Save Pastoral Oasis,” p. 6). The Trail Conference is a supporting member of SPARC. In November, SPARC and its partners, Orange County Federation of Sportsman Clubs and the Sierra Club, announced settlement of their lawsuit against the NYS Dept. of Transportation’s plans for development on nearly 2,000 acres. The terms of the deal call for development on just 400 acres, with 1,600 acres added to Stewart State Forest, bringing the total preserved acreage to nearly 7,000 acres. SPARC’s goal has been realized. Now it has to pave down its legal debt, which, Kissam wrote in Trail Walker, exceed $35,000. It is launching a fund drive to pay off the debt.

**NYS Seeks Comment on Draft Open Space Plan**

New York State’s Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has released its 2005 Draft Open Space Conservation Plan for public comment and review. The Open Space Conservation Plan serves as the blueprint for the state’s land conservation efforts, which during the past 10 years have conserved more than 924,000 acres of land with an investment of more than $586 million in land acquisition funding. The comment period on the draft closes at 4:45 pm, Jan. 18, 2006. For copies of the plan and additional information, visit the DEC webpage: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/opensp/.

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**ATV park proposal. You never get a second chance to make a first impression, and DEP has an uphill battle to get this ATV facility off the ground.**

The reverse of this conundrum would be towns that welcome an ATV facility, but the site in question is already preserved as public open space. One such municipality could be West Milford. New Jersey is once again seriously considering the old Jungle Habitat lands, now part of Norvin Green State Forest, as an ATV park. This idea has surfaced several times, only to wither under public outcry. This 800-acre property is a critical part of the Highlands Greenway that stretches from Bear Mountain through Harriman State Park, Sterling Forest, Long Pond Ironworks State Park, and Norvin Green State Forest. The noise from this facility and the scarring of the land will seriously impact hiking trails that traverse it; Hewitt-Butler and Burnt Meadow. If this proposal sees the light of day, the Trail Conference and its partner organizations will again sound the alarm and rally public opposition.

The Trail Conference and most New Jersey environmental organizations report the creation of an ATV facility, where ATV riding is permitted. However, any ATV facilities should be created with full public disclosure, should be on lands purchased for ATV use (not existing parklands), should conform to strict environmental site standards, and should be created after or along with the adoption of legislation that treats ATVs as motor vehicles.

**Catskills: 400 Acres Saved on Overlook Mountain**

New York State is buying 403 acres on Overlook Mountain in Ulster County to help protect the prominent and popular Catskill summit. The land deal includes the 210-acre Woodstock Guild of Artists and Craftsmen parcel, the 92-acre Berg parcel, the 73-acre Karma Triyana Dharmachakra Inc. parcel, and the 28-acre Illes parcel.

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**Advocacy & Conservation**

**Contract Signed for Preservation of Awosting Reserve**

The Trust for Public Land and the Open Space Institute have signed a contract to buy the 2,500-acre Awosting Reserve for $17 million. The land will be reserved to the state for expansion of the adjacent Minnewaska State Park. In 2002, Awosting Reserve proposed a major housing development on the ridge. Developers wanted to build nearby luxury homes on the eastern slope of the Shawangunk Ridge. A major victory for the environmental community, the sale capped a three-year campaign to prevent the proposed development by the Trail Conference and its partner organizations.

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**Good News for Open Space at the Ballot Box!**

In November, New Jersey residents passed 70 percent of the 30 ballot measures to fund open space protection, approving $165,232,424 in additional funding (in most cases, to be raised over the next 20 years). New York passed three of four measures, for $5 million. New Jersey voters also approved Ballot Question Number 2, to clean up diesel emissions. Nationwide, 46 open space measures passed, totaling $563,805,750.

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*Lend Your Talents to Bear Mountain Trails Restoration Project*

Publicity Coordinator: Sustains an outreach program to news media, trade publications, and partners

Newsletter Editor: Manages a monthly newsletter for the project

Webmaster: Manages Trail Conference web pages for this project

**Tools and Materials Coordinator/Quartermaster:** Maintains an inventory of all tools and materials

**Temporary Informational Signage Coordinator:** Coordinates temporary directional and other informational signage to direct the hiking public in a safe and orderly way for the duration of the project.

**Visitor and Housing Coordinator/Hosts:** Secures adequate room and board for visiting participants in the project, volunteer, crews, and trainers; ensures visitors feel welcome.

Legal Adviser

Bookkeeper

* These positions need to be filled this winter!

To sign up for any of the above positions, contact Eddie Walsh, Project Manager, at (201) 512-9348, ext. 22 or email eddie@walsh@nymtjc.org.

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**From the Advocacy Director: Dennis Schvejda**

We’re Vigilant on ATV Issues

There is a critical point of contentiousness. The controversy surrounds the creation of ATV “parks,” something DEP can do without legislative approval. The only currently legal facility, Chatworth, is closing, and DEP is committed to opening several facilities throughout the state. The first may be in Monroe Township, Gloucester County. Several years ago, the site was one of several potential sites identified by a group of DEP, state and non-profit representatives. The 200-acre site was subsequently purchased by the state, and plans to create an ATV park have moved forward without any notification of local residents or officials.

Well, the cat is out of the bag and local residents are up in arms. A coalition of citizens, local officials, and civic organizations has formed to fight the ATV park proposal. You never get a second chance to make a first impression, and DEP has an uphill battle to get this ATV facility off the ground.

The reverse of this conundrum would be towns that welcome an ATV facility, but the site in question is already preserved as public open space. One such municipality could be West Milford. New Jersey is once again seriously considering the old Jungle Habitat lands, now part of Norvin Green State Forest, as an ATV park. This idea has surfaced several times, only to wither under public outcry. This 800-acre property is a critical part of the Highlands Greenway that stretches from Bear Mountain through Harriman State Park, Sterling Forest, Long Pond Ironworks State Park, and Norvin Green State Forest. The noise from this facility and the scarring of the land will seriously impact hiking trails that traverse it; Hewitt-Butler and Burnt Meadow. If this proposal sees the light of day, the Trail Conference and its partner organizations will again sound the alarm and rally public opposition.

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Each year, the Trail Conference recognizes and thanks with awards individuals who have given exemplary service to maintaining, building, or protecting trails in our region. This year’s honorees were announced at the Annual Meeting, held October 22, 2005, at Black Rock Forest.

Major William A. Welch Trail Partner Award
Adena Long, Staten Island Greenbelt Administrator, Park Manager, and Executive Director of the Staten Island Greenbelt Conservancy

Robert Ward, Metro Trails Chair, noted that Adena Long has been instrumental in helping Trail Conference maintainers on Staten Island, serving as a liaison with the city parks department, and helping to organize the annual National Trails Day event. “She has done a lot more for us than listed in her job specifications,” Ward said, and she has been a true partner to the Trail Conference on Staten Island.

William Hoesefloin Award
Jack Driller, Don Morgan, and Bob Ward

The Hoesefloin Award recognizes Trail Conference volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection. This year the award was given to three volunteers.

Jack Driller serves as supervisor of the southern portion of Harriman State Park for the Trail Conference and is a very active member of the West Hudson South Chain Saw Crew. Peter Heckler, West Hudson South Trails Chair notes, “Jack has served the hiking community long and well in a number of roles over the years in both the New-York/North Jersey Chapter of AMC and the Trail Conference.” Currently Jack serves as the TCT-Jersey Highlands chapter representative to the Trail Conference.

Don Morgan has served as supervisor for the northwestern portion of Harriman State Park for the past 15 years, but unfortunately is retiring at the end of 2005 because of ailing knees. Notes Heckler: “His quietly efficient manner of administering trails in that area, including recording and reporting, training and motivating the efforts of 25 maintainers for that long a period, is certainly due an expression of appreciation and recognition from the community that has been the beneficiary of Don’s time and talents.”

Robert Ward became Metro Trails Chair in 2001. Since then, working with NYC Parks Department, he has added trails in three urban parks to the Trail Conference network of maintained trails. More importantly, he has done it in a well thought out manner, always getting people lined up to assume the roles of supervisors. His steady efforts have succeeded in an urban environment not usually considered a hiking destination, notes Jane Daniels, Trail Conference board chair. “Bob’s efforts mean that urban dwellers can easily enjoy the outdoors without venturing far afield.”

Paul Leiken Extra Mile Award
Stevie Banyacki and Steve Zubark

As the first co-chairs for the West Hudson South Chain Saw Crew, Stevie Banyacki and Steve Zubark have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to keeping trails blow-down free. The past several years have presented a real test to that end, and the crew has dedicated approximately 2,000 hours in lugging the required equipment, clearing trails, and recording and reporting their labor. “Their dedication well deserves recognition for exemplary service to the hiking community,” says Pete Heckler.

Next Generation Award
BSA Ringwood, NJ, Boy Scout Troop 96

This award is given to those under age 18 who are making significant contributions of time and energy to trail building or protection. Gene Giordano, NJ Appalachian Trail Management Committee Chair and Ringwood Supervisor for the North Jersey Trails Committee, notes that Troop 96 has an extensive record of trail building or protecting trails in northeastern New Jersey. Their major accomplishments include:

• a footbridge on a trail in Long Pond Ironworks State Park (2002)
• reblazing the 3-mile section of the Halifax Trail in Ringwood State Park (2002)
• reblazing the 6.2-mile Crossover Trail in Ringwood State Park and building a quarter-mile reroute (2003)
• the original blazing of the 6-mile long Hasenlever Iron Mine Trail in Long Pond Ironworks State Park and Ringwood State Park (2004)
• a footbridge on the Sugarbush Trail at Camp Glen Gray (2004)
• a footbridge on the Blue Trail, Ringwood State Park (2005 and a work in progress)

Troop 96 is an active hiking and backpacking troop with a strong Leave No Trace ethic. The troop routinely hikes the AT in groups no larger than 10 and has become known as “Bramble Hill.”

Become an active part of the Trail Conference family. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and do not see an opportunity that suits you, contact Operations Director Joshua Erdneke, either by email, volunteers@nynjtc.org, or by phone, (201) 512-9348 ext. 13, and he will find a way to get you involved.

Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

Can you spare 2 hours a week?
Join the fun and 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 order requests need your help. Contact Joshua Erdneke, either by email, volunteers@nynjtc.org, or by phone, (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.

Byram Highlands Character Hike

More than 500 individuals hiked a section of the Highlands Trail, behind leaders provided by the Trail Conference, and raised money for Byram’s schools, fire department, and emergency squad. The event was sponsored by the Hudson Farm, in conjunction with Byram Township, with the help of the NY/NJ Trail Conference. The Peter and Cynthia Kellogg Foundation, owner of Hudson Farm, pledged to give $1 per year of age of each participant to their choice of any of the three beneficiaries. The Trail Conference thanks its volunteers for leading the hikes, its members for attending the event, and the Hudson Farm owner for his generosity in hosting this unprecedented charity event.

FALL CREW REPORTS
continued from page 4

Bernstein, Susan Bernstein, Ian Blundell, Bob Boyese, Roland Brault, Gordon Campbell, Joan Campbell, Mike Chatzopoulos, Nick Egger, Dick Gerien, Susan Greener, Don Griffen, Joan James, Jeff Janos, Brandon Kalasky, Cris Kalasky, Richard Krohn, Bill Martin, Jason Martin, Gay Mayer, Mary Mayer, Sean Mayer, Keith McDermott, Leslie McGlynn, Marshall McKnight, Seth Minis, Craig Nunn, Sandy Part, Steve Reits, Chuck Rood, Steve Shyne, Bruce Thomson, Heather Vivian, Bob Warren and Joan Woolery; also to Shanna Gabel and Chris Wilson, summer interns from the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection. We also are deeply appreciative of Superintendents Tony Berner, Ernie Kibert of Worthington/ Jenny Jump State Forests, and his staff, who provided and transported the construction materials and tools for the Dun菲尔德 Creek Bridge, and provided brush-cutting equipment that was invaluable in clearing the new Warren Trail up and over what we learned later is locally known as “Bramble Hill.”

—Monica & David Day, Crew Leaders
**Why Worry about Exotic Invasives?**

By Kenneth Elgersma

Ecosystem impacts can also directly affect human welfare when humans rely on ecosystems for goods and services. Invasive pathogens have devastated the logging industry, most notably in our area where Chestnut Blight eliminated a valuable timber species. Invasive pathogens are also responsible for massive crop losses, such that which devastated potatoes in Ireland and led to human famine. More recently, concern is mounting about the invasive soybean rust that could devastate soybean crops, and consequently farmers, in the midwestern United States.

Fisheries, too, are prone to invasion; invasive carp can all but destroy pristine fisheries by destroying habitat for native game fish. Aquatic weeds such as Salvinia in the southeastern United States can result in degraded fisheries and clogged waterways, which are unsuitable for boats.

While the impacts of invasion can be positive and subtle, often they are negative and profound. Consequently, it is imperative that our society be attentive to the issue of biological invasions in order to maintain healthy ecosystems in our changing world.

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**Rethinking Smokey Bear: Managing Wildfire on the Shawangunk Ridge**

By Gabriel Chapin, Shawangunk Ridge Land Steward, The Nature Conservancy

The northern Shawangunk Ridge starts out near Rosendale, NY, as a series of convoluted valleys and cliff faces. Running nearly due southwest for approximately 17 miles, the ridge—steeply gaining elevation—culminates in a broad plateau above Ellenville, NY, before dropping off dramatically at the Sarr’s Point escarpment. Characterized by rugged cliffs, cascading streams, and stunning views, the northern Shawangunk Ridge is a complex and beautiful landscape.

The diversity of plants and animals native to the northern Shawangunks is no less astounding than the landscape itself. In addition to more than 30 rare plant and animal species, the ridge is home to the world’s best remaining example of a rare ridge-top dwarf pitch pine barrens and supports one of the largest chestnut oak forests in New York. The present day assemblage of plant and animal species found in the northern Shawangunks has developed from a complex interplay of natural processes including climate changes, variations in the local environment (e.g., soils, topography, etc.), and periodic disturbances from storm events, insect and disease outbreaks, and wildfires.

Natural forest fires have occurred in the Gunks for at least the past 9,000 years. Without fire, the unique forest types and biological diversity found on the ridge today would not exist. Based on extensive research, scientists believe these historical fires played an essential role in maintaining the health of both the pine barrens and chestnut oak forest, making these systems “fire dependent.” Some tree species, such as pitch pine and oak, depend on fires to help them regenerate. Without fire, other hardy species such as red maples and others have the ability to regenerate in the shade of taller trees—gradually invade pitch pine and oak forests, dramatically altering the unique habitats important for many of the rare plant and animal species found in the Gunks. Fire is also a key process in recycling nutrients bound up in the natural litter and debris on the forest floor.

For nearly 100 years, we have actively suppressed wildfires in forests across the United States leading, ironically, to larger and more damaging wildfires in recent years. In the absence of fire, fuel has accumulated on the forest floor—in the form of fallen leaves and highly flammable shrubs and small trees—setting the stage for unusually severe, high-intensity fires. Such fires can damage homes and property in addition to the harmful ecological impacts. In the northern Shawangunks, large fires of up to several thousand acres were common until the early 1960s. After more than 50 years of successful fire suppression—and much longer in some areas—key ecosystems in the Gunks are now threatened by fire, the very thing that has sustained them for thousands of years. Loss of these important forest types and the unique habitats that they provide, due to either the absence of fire or the occurrence of unnaturally severe fire, could have devastating impacts on the ecological integrity of the ridge.

In an effort to combat this complex threat, the Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership—a science-based, public/private consortium of 10 organizations and agencies dedicated to the long-term protection of the Shawangunks—is currently developing a ridgewise fire management program. This program involves two key components: planning for wildfire suppression to minimize the threat of severe wildfire; and prescribed burning, to reintroduce fire as a key ecological process and reduce forest fuel loads. Prescribed burns are intentionally ignited under predetermined weather conditions, so they do not burn as intensely or as widely. In November of 2005, the Partnership successfully conducted two prescribed burns at the Mohonk Preserve and plans to expand this program to other parts of the ridge. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, federal agencies have spent over $6 billion on fire suppression in the last five years, but for all of our efforts fires continue to grow larger and cause more damage. Fire is an essential process for maintaining the health of our forests, however encroaching human development, elevated fuel loads, and declining ecological systems make it impossible to allow fire to function in its natural role. Since we can not (and should not) try to eliminate forest fires, it is time to take a hard look at how we can manage them in the future to provide a safer, healthier, and more sustainable environment.

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**Help Survey Invasive Plants**

The Trail Conference, in partnership with Rutgers University, will be participating in a three-year study funded by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, to study the spread of invasive plants. Teams of citizen scientists will 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 Ehrnsperger, volunteers@nynjtc.org or call the office (201) 512-9348, ext. 13 to sign up.
New Staff

Elizabeth (Liz) Bleiweiss joined the Trail Conference staff in October as accounting/operations manager. Liz lives in Waldwick, NJ, with her husband Lou and two teenage children, Rick and Elizabeth. She is a May 2005 graduate of Ramapo College with a degree in environmental studies.

This along with her many years of work experience in banking and office management makes a perfect combination for her position at the Trail Conference.

Liz spends most of her vacations camping and hiking with her husband. She also enjoys watching wildlife and recently registered her backyard as a wildlife habitat. Liz also enjoys watching wildlife and recently camping and hiking with her husband. She

Delegates Meeting Thursday, February 9

Barbara McMartin, Prolific Guidebook Author, 1951-2006

Barbara McMartin, a longtime Trail Conference member, died at her home in the southern Adirondacks this past September. She had battled breast cancer for 20 years.

I first met Barbara in the 1980s when she was writing (with co-author Peter Kich) her first downstate guidebook, Fifty Hikes in the Hudson Valley. Then living along the Croton Gorge in Westchester, she sought my advice and asked whether I knew anyone who would enjoy exploring new hikes with her. I introduced her to the late Paul Leikin, a Trail Conference stalwart, and they soon became fast friends. Later, when she moved permanently to her beloved Adirondacks, she turned over her rights to this book to Stella Green and me. Paul and I visited her new lakeside home many times.

Barbara published her first guidebook in 1972, the same year she earned her Ph.D. in mathematics from CUNY. Two dozen more books followed, including the 11 volume Discover series, which covers all regions of the six-million-acre Adirondack Forest Preserve.

Among her numerous volunteer roles, she was vice president of the Adirondack Mountain Club and editor of their magazine, Adirondac. In 1992 she chaired the New York State Adirondack Park Centennial.

Barbara and I served together for years on the board of the At Your Own Risk Hiking Club. She was one of the Trail Conference initiatives: the Hudson Valley section.

Barbara set and observed many high benchmarks. She was a key figure in the establishment of the Hudson Valley section.

Barbara McMartin, Past President, NYNJ TC

Lenwood Vandermark, Co-Founder, At Your Own Risk Hiking Club

Lenwood Vandermark, a retired City of Newburgh firefighter, former member of the US Marine Corps, co-founder of At Your Own Risk Hiking Club, and avid outdoorsman, died on October 5, 2005, at age 90.

Len was an inspiration to all who knew him. He especially enjoyed getting young people involved in hiking and cross country skiing. He loved camping, canoeing, backpacking, and swimming. He participated in a number of cross country ski races and marathons. He was a strong race walker and received awards at local, state, and national levels. Less than a month before he died, Len participated in a number of events during the senior games in Orange County, where he won seven awards.

Those who hiked with Len will remember his famous line “just another 50 yards” when it seemed like a hike was getting a little too long. His life serves as a role model and shows that regardless of age, one can enjoy the pleasures of the outdoors.

—Bambi Barth

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Morris Oks Preservation of 791 Acres

Morris County will spend $13.9 million to preserve 791 acres of property, including many parcels adjacent to parks, trails, and other public lands, plus two old, but not quite historic, homes. The county’s preservation trust has issued 152 grants preserving 19,217 acres, an area about the size of Chester Township, since 1994.

$1.6 Million for Trail Projects in NJ

New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection announced the award of more than $1.6 million in federal funds to improve, maintain, and develop trails statewide. Projects include: Wawayanda State Park trail maintenance; Sparta Glen Brook Trail restoration; Hasbrouck Iron Trail signage; Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area trail maintenance and restoration.

Bergen Buys Parcel in Ramapo

Bergen County has purchased a rugged, 32.5-acre plot of land that straddles Mahwah and Oakland to preserve as a park. The $700,000 purchase of the parcel—known as the Phillips property—will increase the amount of parkland the county owns in the Ramapo Mountains. The land is next to Camp Glen Gray, the 750 wooded acres the county bought in 2002 for $5.1 million. It is also near Camp Todd, a 73-acre parcel that the county, state, and non-profit groups bought for $8 million in 2005.

Wayne Adds Open Space to High Mountain Preserve

Wayne has acquired nearly 24 acres of wooded property from St. Joseph’s Wayne Hospital for $4.4 million. Instead of Village Grande at High Mountain, consisting of 16 three-story buildings, a clubhouse, and a pool, the property will remain in its natural state. In 1993 the Trail Conference helped create High Mountain Preserve. We continue our efforts today to add surrounding parcels to this oasis in a sea of sprawl.
How Do I Know If I Have Frostbite?
The signs and symptoms of frostbite vary, depending on the severity of the injury. Early signs often include a loss of sensation in the affected area—usually fingers, toes, ears, or nose, or even part of all a hand or foot. Despite the loss of sensation, frostbite is painful. The skin may blanche in color, or become grayish and swollen. On a finer and hard texture. Severe cases are marked by the loss of function in the affected toes or fingers, or even in an entire arm or leg.

Determining the severity of frostbite can be difficult, since some of the effects of the injury may occur days, weeks, or even months after the initial exposure. Blistering of the skin usually occurs within days of the injury. The blisters may be clear, indicating a superficial skin injury, or they may be red in color, indicating that the thermal injury extends into the deeper tissues. Reddish blisters indicate a more severe prognosis.

Treatment and Prevention
Frostbite can be prevented by wearing appropriately insulated clothing, gloves, socks, and boots. Maintaining adequate nutrition and hydration is important, as are avoiding smoking and alcohol consumption and by purchasing a t-shirt designed by local artist Rafael Figueroa.

Hospital treatment is required for severe frostbite. In the hospital, the patient is first evaluated for hypothermia—a drop in the patient’s overall body temperature. Next, re-warming of the affected hand, foot, or even the entire patient will be started. This may include warm water baths, specialized blankets, and/or warm intravenous fluids and medication.

Local blisters will be treated, and medication for the pain, which accompanies re-warming the tissues, will be prescribed. Over subsequent weeks or even months, as healthy tissues heal, damaged tissues may require surgical removal or amputation. The effects of frostbite may be minimal, or they may be devastating.

In sum, prevention of frostbite is the best medicine.

Howard E. Friedman, DPM, is a podiatric and board certified foot surgeon in Suffern, NY, treating hikers and non-hikers. 

See www.catskillhikes.com
The Boy Scouts are left-to-right: Max Schniller, James Hitchings, Nick Valente, and in back, Adam Orocovitch. Leaders: Jeff Kalajian, right, and Stephen Minett, left.

Next morning, we proceeded from the Roosa Gap, emptied the plastic water jugs we had stashed (who knew the stream would be full?), and continued on the Long Path back to the ridge. An hour or two brought us to another saddle, where the ridge is closest to Cox Road on the east, and another couple of woods roads. Camping would have been great here, but there was no water nearby, so we continued to the stream below Rt. 52 and Bear Hill.

The Long Path/Shawangunk Ridge Trail (LP/SRT) here makes a steep descent off the ridge and intersects yet another old woods road following the stream. To camp, we left the LP/SRT and followed the woods road 100 yards or so to set up our second camp in another perfect camping spot. (The slight noise from traffic on Rt. 52 didn’t interfere with the quality of our evening.)

Sunday morning we were up early, and on the trail by 8:30 am. The hike with packs up Bear Hill was an adventure, but not insurmountable. By 10:45 we were standing on the summit of Bear Hill with an astonishing view that included the Hudson Valley in the southeast, High Point in the southwest, and the Catskills to the north. I try hard to end the backpacks with something special, but this may have been our best.

A short, flat walk brought us back to our cars parked at the library. A quick side trip took us to Sam’s Point Preserve for a look.

This trip would have been too easy at other times of the year when dark falls later. A day hike along this ridge would be perfect. Rt. 52 has parking that eliminates the need to climb Bear Hill. Midway, there is parking at Roosa Gap.

**Length:** 11.5 miles, Wurtsboro to Cragmoor

**Rating:** Moderate

**Noteworthy Features:** Spectacular views. Pristine trails and camping.

**Resources:** USGS Map Quads: Wurtsboro; Long Path Guide (NY/NJ TC); Trail Conference Map 104 Shawangunk Trails

**How To Get There:** To Wurtsboro: NY Rt. 17 to exit 114, left onto Rt. 17, go 0.7 mile and turn right onto a gravel road to old Wurtsboro rail station (now VFW post). To Cragmoor: Rt. 209 north to Ellenville and then east on Rt. 52. Turnoff to Cragmoor is at the top of the saddle on the ridge.

**Watch Out For:** Lots of recent bear sign. We were meticulous about the way we hung our bear bags. Also, no overnight parking at Sam’s Point Preserve or the Bear Hill Preserve. Trail markers alternate between aqua LP markers (on private land) and blue DEC markers (on public land).

**Camping:** Thanks to recent state land acquisitions, all the land along this route (except Bear Hill Preserve) is state land subject to normal DEC camping rules. Campfires are allowed. (Practice Leave No Trace techniques: No stone fire ring. Dig and remove topsoil in a 2’ circle. In the morning, cover the cold ashes with the topsoil and scatter leaves and debris over the area so no evidence remains.)

The gentle Ramapo and Hudson Highland hills in our region provide much enjoyment for a quick daylong jaunt any season of the year. I’ve experienced some real winter conditions atop the Schunemunk Ridge in January and February, with deep snow and biting wind. I’ve even used my crampons once or twice running up Storm King Mountain. Generally, though, you can hop out of the car with some light-weight hiking shoes and a small knapsack and be adequately prepared for hiking in our local hills.

For a real winter challenge, the Catskill or Adirondack mountains will offer up a weekend full of cold weather fun. Winter hiking and climbing anywhere, however, are not to be taken lightly, and you may need to up your skill set before undertaking a serious winter day hike or backpack. Luckily, there is a friendly, accepting group of winter hiking addicts out there to help you expand your winter fun.

Sponsored by the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), Winter Mountaineering School (WMS) and its all-volunteer staff have been helping three-season hikers become four-season hikers for more than 50 years. I was lucky enough to discover this program about six years ago, and I’ve been back every year since. It has turned me into a real winter hiking addict.

If you’re not afraid of getting hooked I highly recommend taking the plunge. You may find yourself running out to climb the Schunemunk Ridge in a blizzard; but don’t worry, I’ll see you up top.

Mark Eis is a Trail Conference member and an ADK Winter Mountaineering School instructor who lives in Orange County. For more information on the ADK Winter Mountaineering School visit www.winterschool.org or call the ADK at (518) 523-3441.
January

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

INC. New Year’s in Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Dave Snyder, dssnyder@mac.com. Meet 9 am at commuter parking lot, 105 Sloatsburg, NY; turn right at 7erker light; turn left on 17, north, Sloatsburg, and go 1 1/2 miles to turn left at Mountain, 3 miles, for non-skiers; turn left on 114 miles, for beginners. Start of the year on the right foot as we explore unique paths in our favorite park. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

RRV. Bellevue-Catskill (3373’) & Blue Mountain (3600’) Mountains, Catskills. For leaders and info, call 845-338-8772. Meet 8 am. Steady snow is expected. Friday, January 6, and Saturday, January 7, are the dates for snowmobiles and snowshoes and changes required to paint routes to occur.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3


WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4


SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

GAHC. Saddle River Park, Paramus, NJ. Leader: Helga Nagy, 201-796-5575. Meet 10:30 am at Gutierrez Creek Park parking lot for calls. Easy and moderate hikes.


IHC. Kanawauke Exploration, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Jim Conlon, 914-979-0249. Meet 10 am at Lake Kanawauke parking lot. 9:10 from Sloatsburg turn right on Green Lakes Dr., left on 10. Moderate; snow/stormy conditions on mostly moderate terrain. May have to hit unlabeled snow. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

UCHC. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, NJ. Leader: Jim McIlroy, 973-368-2109. Meet 9:30 am at Salt Fork Parking lot, Jefferson. Meet: 8 am. Moderate; 7 miles on various trails depending on conditions.


UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Ed Lott, 973-200-1759. Meet 10 am at Lake Grizzly parking lot. Moderate; 3 miles on rocky trails, suitable for beginners. Falling rain/snow conditions; bring crampons in case of ice.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

UCHC. Ramapo Mountain (3472’), Catskills. For leader and info, call 973-477-8056. Meet 8 am. Moderate; 4 miles, 4 hours. Inclement weather day—following Monday. Snowshoes and crampons required.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

UCHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-256-2799. Meet 10 am at Tourne Park; Hike to Birchwood Lake, for experienced. Meet: 10 am. Follow unmarked trail in the woods near the pond.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

UCHC. Ramapo Mtn. State Forest, Oakland, NJ. Leader: Mike Seig, 973-796-7754. Meet 10 am. Directions: About 5 miles around Ramapo Lake and the surrounding Ramapo Mtns.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

UCHC. Silvermine, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Katy Vanover, 973-520-3072. Meet 10 am at Silvermine parking area; call for directions. Moderately strenuous hiking试验 old hiking trails and woods roads; up to 5 hours, for experienced hikers.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

ADK. A Winter's Trail. Leader: 201-916-4945 for further information and meeting place. Moderate 5-7 miles.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

UCHC. Kanawauke Circle, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Jim Conlon, 914-979-0249. Meet 10 am at Kanawauke parking lot; 8 miles; Follow the yellow trail; up to 5 hours.


February

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

ADK-R. Winter Hike or Snowshoe Trek. Leader: 908-366-4074 for further information and meeting place. Moderate to easy.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9


TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

UCHC, Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Carol Ohrkine, 973-338-7254. Meet 9 am at the park; High and over to the lake; will snow conditions permit. Up to 5 hours, for experienced hikers.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

UCHC. Bound Brook Reservation, Morris, NJ. Leader: Leshal Sharkey and Haffa Cohen; 720-699-9770. Meet 10 am at Richland Rd. parking near the pond. Moderate; about 5 miles.

UCHC. Reeds Meadow, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: George Pulman, 973-779-2073. Meet 10 am at Reeds Meadow Visitors center. Up to 4 hours; for experienced hikers.

UCHC. Rutgers University, NJ. Leader: Carol Fox, 732-564-7244. Meet 10 am at Johnson Rock, Park Rd.; Picnic area; Easy 3 miles around the Voorhees Mall and Old Queens portion of Rutgers; lunch included.

ECH. Women’s Hike, NJ. Leader: Sandra Karlich; Meet 8 am at All Audubon’s Wecung Ec. Center; 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ; call 973-865-2610 for further information. Moderate paced 3 miles; by 11 am. Join the group for early morning hike to favorite scenic spots. Possible compatible to trailhead. Heavy snow/stormy driving conditions cancel. Cost: $5.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, W. Orange, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-474-4519. Meet 10 am at Tuckerton Rock parking area on Walker Rd. Moderate 4 miles in nicely wooded area, some rough spots. See the glacial erratic, Turtle Rock. Heavy snow/stormy driving conditions cancel. College student discount price $5.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountain Lakes, NJ. Leader: Mark Doss, 933-664-3641. Meet 10 am at Traditor Natural and Science Centre Gates Ave. on New Providence Rd., Mountain Lakes. Moderate; 4 miles; medium of level, easy walking and some walking on rough terrain. Steady rain; heavy snow/canoe events, but it shows a deep wide cross-country ski.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

ADK-R. Long Path and History, Tea. Leader: call 469-634-4841 for further information and meeting place. Moderate; snow/stormy conditions 8 miles.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Elaine King, 973-985-2323. Meet 10 am at Locust Grove parking lot. Moderate; 4-5 miles with some hills.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

ADK-R. Winter Hike or Snowshoe Trek. Leader: 908-366-4074 for further information and meeting place. Moderate to easy.

ECH. Patriots’ Path to Suffolk Reservation, NJ. Leader: Jennifer and Guy Percival, 973-984-1005. Meet 9 am at Kings Rd. Market, Rt. 24; Mendham, NJ; Moderate; with one steep hill; Shuttle required.


Continued on back

Trailwalker January/February 2006 11
Wednesday, February 15

UUCH. South Mountain Reservation, NJ: Leader: Dave Hogue; 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at Route 23, about 5 miles south of the park entrance. Meet just before the trailhead. Moderate 5 miles. Hike along the margin to Turtle Rock.

Thursday, February 22


Friday, February 17


Saturday, February 18


Sunday, February 19


Tuesday, February 21

UUCH. Pyramid Mountain, Boonton, NJ: Leader: Dave Hogue; 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate 5 miles. Hike along the margin to Turtle Rock.

Thursday, February 23

UUCH. Stokes State Park, NJ: Leader: Carol Winton, 732-268-7365. Meet: 10 am at Tulip Springs parking lot. Moderately strenuous 9 miles. Reservoir, stream cascades, and view of NYC on a clear day. If there is enough snow, we'll snowshoe.

Monday, February 20

UUCH. Ramapo Valley Reservation, Darlington, NJ: Leader: Carol Winton; 732-928-7365. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Up to 5 hours for experienced hikers.

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NEW! Hudson Palisades Trails (available Jan. 2006) | $8.95 | $6.71 | +.95 | $15.70

Books

NEW! Hiking Long Island (2005) | $19.95 | $14.96 | +$2.50 | $27.41
Circuit Hikes in Northern New Jersey (2003) | $11.95 | $8.96 | +$2.50 | $23.41
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CATSKILLS’ GUIDES

Catkills: A Ranger’s Guide to the High Peaks
- Book One: The Northern Catskills (2000) | $14.95 | $11.21 | +$2.00 | $29.15
- Book Two: The Central Catskills (2000) | $14.95 | $11.21 | +$2.00 | $29.15
- Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) (hardcover) & see combo | $10.95 | $8.21 | +$2.00 | $21.16
- Shawangunks Trail Companion (2003) | $18.95 | $14.21 | +$2.50 | $35.65
- Nature Walks in New Jersey (2003) | $14.95 | $11.21 | +$2.50 | $38.65
- 50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley (2002) | $16.95 | $12.71 | +$2.50 | $32.15
- 50 Hikes in New Jersey (1997, rev. 1999) | $15.95 | $11.96 | +$2.50 | $30.45
- Best Hikes w/ Children in New Jersey (2005) | $15.95 | $11.96 | +$2.50 | $30.45
- Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills & Hudson River Valley (2002) | $14.95 | $11.21 | +$2.50 | $30.65
ADK Catkills Trail Guide (2005) | $19.95 | $14.96 | +$2.50 | $37.41
ADK Catkills Day Hikes for All Seasons (2002) | $12.95 | $9.71 | +$2.50 | $25.15
- Hudson to Delaware: The Great Valley (2004) | $75.00 | $56.25 | +$4.00 | $125.95

COMBO PACKS

Catkills (5-map set & ADK book) | $30.25 | $22.69 | +$2.00 | $35.94
Harriman (2-map set & book) | $23.40 | $17.55 | +$2.00 | $43.15
NY & NJ Walk Books | $38.60 | $30.96 | +$3.50 | $72.95
Shawangunk (3-map set & Scenes & Walks book) | $18.90 | $14.18 | +$2.00 | $45.16
Kittatinny (4-map set & book) | $27.80 | $20.85 | +$2.00 | $30.65

PPT VERSION

The Personal Touch

Note Cards: TC Collection | $12.00 | $9.00 | +$2.00 | $23.00
Long-sleeve Denim Shirt | Circle: S | M | L | XL | $29.90 | $22.43 | +$4.00 | $40.33
Polo Shirt (Forest Green) | Circle: S | M | L | XL | $19.90 | $14.93 | +$4.00 | $35.26
Harriman Map Bandanna | $6.95 | $5.21 | +$1.10 | $13.25
Conference Logo Patch | $2.50 | $2.00 | $0.50 | $4.50
Long Path Logo Patch | $2.75 | $2.00 | $0.50 | $5.00
Conference Logo Decal | $8.50 | $6.50 | $0.50 | $15.50

Subtotal

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

New Jersey residents add 6% tax

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________________

Method of Payment: [ ] Check or money order enclosed [ ] Visa [ ] Mastercard [ ] Amex
[ ] Card # ____________________ Exp. Date: __/___
[ ] Signature: ____________________

Make check or money order payable to NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. For a full descriptive catalog, please write or call 201-512-9348.

*Tax must be paid on books, maps, misc., but not on clothing or shipping, by customers with NJ ship-to (not billing) addresses.

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