Take the Train to the Ridge

New TC Parcel Completes Corridor Linking Port Jervis to Gunk Ridge Trail

A view from land on the Shawangunk Ridge that was purchased by the Trail Conference in February.

The latest Trail Conference land purchase sets the stage for building a new footpath that will link the Shawangunk Ridge Trail to the train-serviced City of Port Jervis.

On February 23, 2006, the Trail Conference closed on a key 267-acre parcel located on the western flank of the Shawangunk Ridge, immediately east of Port Jervis in the Orange County towns of Deerpark and Greenville.

The property is at the southern point of the Shawangunk Ridge, near the New York-New Jersey-Pennsylvania border. A trail through it, to be blazed later this year, will connect the southern section of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail to the Delaware River Heritage Trail in the City of Port Jervis. When this trail connection is made, hikers will be able to take a train into Port Jervis and hike to the Shawangunk Ridge Trail, turning north toward Otisville or south toward the Shawangunk Ridge Trail's junction with the Appalachian Trail at High Point State Park in New Jersey.

The property also connects to another 635 acres of Trail Conference owned lands in Deerpark and Greenville. All of these lands are to be transferred to the State of New York and added to Huckleberry Ridge State Forest, nearly tripling the forest's size to over 1,400 acres from its current 500+ acres. The state is expected pay property taxes to the towns.

Awosting Reserve Preserved: 2,500 Acres Added to Minnewaska State Park!

New York State purchased the 2,518-acre Awosting Reserve property as an addition to Minnewaska State Park Preserve on March 14, 2006. The Trust for Public Land and Open Space Institute acquired the land, which was immediately transferred to the State. The property occupies the southern slope of the Shawangunk Ridge leading up to both Minnewaska State Park Preserve and Mohonk Preserve. The $17 million purchase was funded through the state’s Environmental Protection Fund.

Save the Ridge, a Trail Conference member club, led a spirited advocacy effort for preservation of the property with vital support from fellow members of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition as well as thousands of individuals across the region.

Patty Lee Parmalee, Save the Ridge coordinator and Trail Conference member, was in attendance when State Parks Commissioners received the deed to the new property.

Meet Roland Breault, trails volunteer extraordinaire.

Please turn to page 6.
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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 support and advocacy.
• Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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Common Ground in Open Space
The weekend before my meeting with Tom, I attended a meeting of the New York State Trails Council, something I last did back in 1994. I wasn’t necessarily looking to widen my perspective; I was substituting for Gary Haugland, who is one of the three representatives of the hiking community on the council, which also comprises equestrians, hunters, snowmobilers, mountain bikers, and trail runners. But my views were widened by my participation at the meeting.

To be effective and make a difference, each of us must be willing to widen our views...[and] move outside of our comfort zones.

The first thing I noticed in February upon entering the room was how attitudes among once antagonistic trail user groups had changed. Where previously, there had been acrimony, this time I did not sense any acrimony at all. What impressed me was the air of cooperation in the room. Trails now united the different user groups rather than divided them. People offered suggestions, showed concern, reported problems, and shared successes.

From the Chair

Widening the View
New Contacts and Activities
Contribute to Effectiveness
Early in March, Tom Johnson, my counterpart at the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), paid the Trail Conference a visit. He wanted to meet with Ed Goodell and me to learn about the Trail Conference—how we operate, sources of income, capital campaign, staff, land protection activities, publications, etc. Our organizations have much in common and we shared much useful information.

Over the course of our time together, our discussion turned to volunteers. How, we wondered, do we entice volunteers to move beyond their engagement with dirt, i.e. trails, to a wider engagement with trail issues and our respective organizations? Although we reached no conclusions, we realized that an organization has to offer both a progression of volunteer opportunities as well as a variety of them. We need to recognize that some individuals must be willing to move slightly outside their comfort zone, and that others may prefer a role that dovetails with their previous experiences. Tom had traveled some distance in order to meet with us. He widened his perspective and in the process widened ours.

I heard things from people outside our region that are relevant to our own area. I learned, for instance, that Saratoga County is working on a county-wide multiple use trail. Wary of user conflicts, county administrators have previously avoided such a trail. Saratoga County’s plans are a piece of information critical to the Long Path if it is to ever stretch to the Adirondacks. This is an example of how anyone who participates at the state level may gain a broader view of trail issues.

To be effective and to make a difference, each of us must be willing to widen our views, even if only slightly. We must move outside of our comfort zones. If you are a trail maintainer, consider writing at least one letter per year about an issue. If you’ve never worked on a trail, think about joining one work outing a year. Check out some of the amazingly diverse volunteer opportunities that we offer—from moving one-ton rocks to selling advertising for Trail Walker to coordinating volunteer schedules. You will expand your comfort zone for action and contribute even more to the trails you love. A wider view is a better view.

— Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors

TRAIL WALKER
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May/June 2006
GEORGETTE WEB EDITOR
LEON LEONARD GRAPHIC DESIGNER

MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS in the NY Metro Area

County by county, Trail Conference household membership saturates the New York metropolitan region. On a nationwide basis, our 9,000+ members reside in 49 states.

Do you know people who would enjoy being Trail Conference members? Refer them to www.nynjtc.org to join, or give a gift of membership this season using the form on page 12.
The Sometimes Long Trail from Public Ownership to Public Access

Preserving the land is just the first step. It seems things out entire region, faced with rapid rural development, is galvanized by the need to protect remaining open space. This is well illustrated by the saga of the Awosting Reserve in the Shawangunk Ridge, where the exceptional preservation property by Save the Ridge, a Trail Conference member organization, laid the groundwork for its preservation by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, with help from the Trust for Public Land and the Open Space Institute (see page 1 for story).

But it is important to realize that once the blasting and bulldozers are held at bay, and the land has been transferred from the public domain, there is still work to do to ensure that the public enjoys appropriate access to it.

Even as we celebrate the addition of the more than 2,500-acre Awosting Reserve property to Minnewaska State Park Preserve, the Trail Conference is in its fifth year of working with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission on plans for a well-designed trail system in Sterling Forest State Park, another important preservation success story.

At Sterling Forest, the land was made safe from development in 1998. A master plan for its management was adopted in 2001 after extensive public input. The initial Sterling Forest draft master plan was based on the flawed premise that logging roads are the preferred network for hiking trails. Due to the public comments of so many hikers, the final master plan corrected this with supplementary language stating, for example, “wood roads are often not the preferred alternative for various types of trails because they often do not conform to the latest trail design standards.” The final Environmental Impact Statement specified a process in the future comprehensive trail plan, including alternative hiking trails, would be developed and assessed within a five-year period.

Unfortunately, the Trail Conference and Adirondack Mountain Club recently felt it necessary to formally protest the lack of progress on this plan over the intervening four and one-half years. Despite considerable efforts by volunteers to assist with field research and devise 15 specific trail proposals, the most recent plan released had not removed hiking trails from woods roads, but instead added mountain bike and equestrian use to eroded and flooded areas that cannot be repaired without massive intervention.

We are awaiting the state’s reply and, with your support, will stay engaged in this process until we have a trail system that provides the environmentally sound, high-quality hiking experience that this publicly funded property deserves.

The Sterling Forest experience shows that, like much else in modern times, creating park trail networks is a much more regulated activity than before. In New York State, this process is part of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) which applies when actions, including establishing new parks, are deemed to have a significant environmental impact. This is the process we went through with the Sterling Forest master plan and will also be required for the addition of Awosting to Minnewaska.

The process can seem overly burdensome, especially to enthusiastic volunteers and advocates who may have worked for years to see a particular property protected as public open space. This perception is often reinforced because, at a time when more land is being acquired, park agencies’ budgets are flat or decreasing and the resources available to coordinate the required public participation in park master plans are limited.

Advocacy for better recreational design and management requires a never-ending engagement in these public processes. For close to 90 years, the Trail Conference has been helping park agencies provide public access via environmentally sensitive and inexpensive foot trails.

It is very important for the public to remain involved in the planning and stewardship phases. We are always looking for volunteers who, with our support, are willing to become knowledgeable about and monitor certain issues on behalf of the hiking community. Without that involvement, the hard won gains in open space advocacy and acquisition phases may not translate into high quality recreation and natural heritage protection. Let me, or Dennis Schvejda (schvejda@nynjtc.org), know if you are interested in working with us on such issues.

Call for Candidates for TC Board, Delegates

The Trail Conference Nominating Committee seeks nominees for the board of directors and delegates-at-large. To submit a name(s) of a prospective nominee(s) for either position, please contact Chris Connolly, chair of the committee (c.connolly@verizon.net), or one of the committee members c/o the Trail Conference office: George Becker, Jack Driller, Mary Smart, or Denise Vitale. Elections will take place at the NY/NJ TC Annual Meeting in October.

Delegates’ Meeting
June 8, 2006 at Camp Glen Gray, NJ

Come join your fellow volunteers and friends at Camp Glen Gray in Mahwah, NJ, at the next Trail Conference Delegates’ Meeting.

The meeting is open to all Trail Conference members, club delegates, and officers. The social hour will begin at 6 pm and the meeting will be held from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Please RSVP to office@nynjtc.org or call 201-512-9348.

Correction:
The story in the March/April issue of Trail Walker incorrectly reported the source of funds for the purchase of the LaFarge property on the Shawangunk Ridge. That acquisition was made possible by a loan from the conservation finance program of the Open Space Institute (www.osiny.org). OSI is the leader in protecting the Shawangunk Ridge; most recently it was instrumental in preserving the Awosting Reserve (see story on page 5). The Trail Conference looks forward to continuing to work with OSI to create a protected corridor all the way to New Jersey.

Trail Conference Marks National Trails Day, June 3

The Trail Conference will celebrate National Trails Day by offering trail work opportunities that range from beginner level to experienced. Check our website, www.nynjtc.org/events, click on National Trails Day, for details and possible additional events. Also see Hikers’ Almanac, page 11, for events planned by our member organizations.

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The West Hudson Trails map shows as publicly-accessible land properties recently protected by the Open Space Institute and Scenic Hudson on Schunemunk and Storm King (some of which lands have already been acquired by the State of New York). Several new trails—including the recently rerouted Stillman Trail between Storm King and Black Rock Forest—are also shown.

South Taconic Map
Also now available is the new second edition of the South Taconic map. In addition to incorporating a number of changes to the preferred network, the new map includes a UTM grid. For the first time, the Appalachian Trail corridor lands are shown on the map, in addition to state-owned parkland.

To order Trail Conference maps, see the Hikers’ Marketplace on page 12, call 201-512-9348, ext. 11, or visit www.nynjtc.com.

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National Trails Day
June 3, 2006

June 3
Dunnfield Creek
Worthington State Forest, NJ (Joint with ATC)

Jenny Jump State Park, NJ

State Island Greenbelt Trail
Staten Island, NY

Teatown Lake Reservation
Westchester County, NY

Breakneck Ridge Trail
Hudson Highlands S.P., NY

Trail TBD
Schunemunk Mountain State Park, NY

Bear Mountain Trails
Bear Mtn./Harriman State Parks, NY

Long Path
John Boyd Thacher S.P., Albany, NY

June 4 & 5
Allay Pond Park Trails
Queens, NY

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**May, June and early July, 2006**

For the latest schedules and additional details, go to nyntjc.org and click on "Trail crew/Work trip." 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.

**NJ HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW**
Leader: Glenn Oleksik, 973-283-0306, glenno@nji.com
First Sunday of each month
Trips start at 10 am. Call, email, or check NY/NJ TC website calendar for directions and details of work trip.

**NORTH JERSEY WEEKEND CREW**
Leader: Sandy Pary, 732-468-9109
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.

**NORTH JERSEY WEEKDAY CREW**
Leader: John Moran, johnmoran@earthlink.net
This crew will cover the NJ Ramapo, Ringwood, S. P., Norvin Green S. F., and NJ Palisades area. Its purpose is to respond quickly to immediate needs, rather than to schedule definite events far in advance. If you're interested in being on call for this work, contact John Moran by email.

**WEST JERSEY TRAIL CREW**
Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
www.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.

**May 6 (Saturday)**
Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Park
We will resume our work on the new Warren Trail, building the highway crossing where we left off last season.

**May 13 (Saturday)**
Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Park
We will continue our work on the new Warren Trail.

**June 3 (Saturday)**
Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Park
National Trails Day!
Come one, come all! We will continue work on the new Warren Trail in this beautiful park.

**June 10 (Saturday)**
Appalachian Trail, Wawayanda State Park
We will begin work replacing and extending the bog bridges (punches) in three contiguous meadows.

**June 11 (Sunday)**
Appalachian Trail, Wawayanda State Park
We will continue work replacing and extending the bog bridges (punches) in three contiguous meadows.

**June 17 (Saturday)**
Appalachian Trail, Wawayanda State Park
We will continue work replacing and extending the bog bridges (punches) in three contiguous meadows.

**June 18 (Sunday)**
Appalachian Trail, Wawayanda State Park
We will continue work replacing and extending the bog bridges (punches) in three contiguous meadows.

**June 24 (Saturday)**
Appalachian Trail, Wawayanda State Park
We will continue work replacing and extending the bog bridges (punches) in three contiguous meadows.

**June 25 (Sunday)**
Appalachian Trail, Wawayanda State Park
We will continue work replacing and extending the bog bridges (punches) in three contiguous meadows.

**EAST HUDSON CREW**
Leaders:
Walt Daniels, 914-245-1250
Michael Bongar, 914-788-0616
MaryAnn Messey, 914-967-8774
Jessie Gray, 914-831-5786
Patrick McDoon, 831-223-2164

We make a special effort to arrange pickups at the nearest Hudson Line train station. Call Walt Daniels if you are interested in being on-call for mid-week work trips.

**May 6 (Saturday)**
Kitchawan Preserve
Trail relocation.

Leader: Michael Bongar
Rock work to address erosion issues near the trailhead. Meet: 9 am, Croton Train Station.

**May 20 (Saturday)**
Wilkinson, Sugarloaf Mtn., or Washburn
Leader: Walt Daniels
Waterbars. Meet: 9 am, Cold Spring Train Station.

**June 3 (Saturday)**
National Trails Day Event
Breakneck Ridge Trail (above first bump)
Leader: Walt Daniels
Erosion control.
Meet: 9 am, Cold Spring Train Station.

**June 24 (Saturday)**
Sugarloaf Hill
Leader: Walt Daniels
Switchbacks and waterbars.
Meet: 9 am, Garrison Train Station.

**July 1 (Saturday)**
TBD
Leader: Patrick McGloin

**July 15 (Saturday)**
TBD

**WEST HUDSON NORTH CREW**
Spring 2006 Schedule:
Leaders:
Denise Vitale (Crew Chief), 845-738-2126
WYNTrails@earthlink.net
Dave Webber, 845-452-7238
webber13@yahoo.com

All skill levels and newcomers are welcome. Since we are still a relatively new crew, we provide training each work trip. If you would like to volunteer with us, please contact Denise Vitale.

**May 13 and 14 (Saturday and Sunday)**
Mine Hill Trail, Black Rock Forest
Leader: Denise Vitale
Rock work to address erosion issues near the trailhead. Meet: 9:30 am, TBD

**June 3 (Saturday)**
National Trails Day
Schunemunk Mountain State Park, Trail TBD
Leader: Denise Vitale
Meet: 9:30 am, TBD
Either the Sweet Clover crossing of Baby Brook (East of Barton Swamp Trail almost at height of land) or it can be done with stepping stones or the 100-foot west section of trail next to Otterkill Rd.

**June 11 (Sunday)**
Gertrude’s Nose Trail, Minnewaska State Park
Leader: Dave Webber
Rock work to address erosion control
Meet: 9 am (park gate opens at 9 am), lower parking lot (Awoesting Lot) at Lake Minnewaska

**June 17 (Sunday)**
Gertrude’s Nose Trail, Minnewaska State Park
Leader: Dave Webber
Rock work to address erosion control
Meet: 9 am (park gate opens at 9 am), lower parking lot (Awoesting Lot) at Lake Minnewaska

**WEST HUDSON SOUTH CREW**
Leaders:
Chris Ezzo (Crew Chief), 516-431-1148, musicbynumbers59@yahoo.com
Brian Buchbinder, 718-218-7563, brian@granddads.com
Claudia Ganz, 212-633-1324, cganz@earthlink.net
Robert Marshall, 914-737-4792, marshallweb@verizon.net

**May 6 (Saturday)**
Brooks Lake Trail, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Claudia Ganz

**May 11 (Thursday)**
Menomine Trail, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Robert Marshall

**May 13 (Saturday)**
Brooks Lake Trail, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Brian Buchbinder

**May 23 (Saturday)**
Brooks Lake Trail, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Chris Ezzo

**May 25 (Thursday)**
Menomine Trail, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Robert Marshall

**June 3 (Saturday)**
Bear Mountain Trails, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Brian Buchbinder

**June 4 (Sunday)**
Bear Mountain Trails, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Chris Ezzo

**June 8 (Thursday)**
Pine Meadow Trail, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Robert Marshall

**June 10 (Saturday)**
Bear Mountain Trails, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Brian Buchbinder

**June 17 (Saturday)**
Bear Mountain Trails, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Claudia Ganz

**June 22 (Thursday)**
Pine Meadow Trail, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Robert Marshall

**June 24 (Saturday)**
Bear Mountain Trails, Harriman/Bear Mtn. State Park
Leader: Chris Ezzo

**MAINTAINER NOTES**

It’s Spring Again! and the Trails Need Repair!

This past winter’s high winds and unusually warm temperatures with thawed soils resulted in many fallen trees. Be sure to get out and check your trail as soon as possible and to report any blow-downs that you cannot handle to your supervisor. We have some very active and dynamic chainsaw crews ready and willing to help.

Attention Maintainers! New Reporting Schedule

The deadlines for trail maintainers to report each season’s work trip have been changed to better match work seasons. The new deadlines are June 30 for spring: December 31 for fall.

**TRAIL NEWS**

Parking and Trailhead Changes at Tuxedo Railroad Station

Hiker parking is no longer permitted—even on weekends—at the parking lot adjacent to the Tuxedo railroad station. Instead, hikers should park in the newer parking lot on the north side of East Village Drive, just north of the railroad station. Parking in this lot is free on weekends and holidays; on weekdays, there is a $2 fee.

In addition, the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail has been relocated between the Tuxedo railroad station and the Thruway overpass. It still begins at the station, but instead of proceeding south along the tracks, the trail now heads north along the pedestrian walkway to East Village Drive. It turns right onto East Village Drive and follows it over the Ramapo River to the Thruway overpass, where it joins the former trail route and crosses under the Thruway. The R-D Trail no longer crosses the Ramapo River south of the station on the pedestrian bridge, which may be closed by the town.

New Trailhead Parking For Pine Meadow Lake

A new trailhead parking area, which will provide access to Pine Meadow Lake from the east side of Harriman State Park, will be opened on Saturday, June 3. It is located at the Town of Ramapo Equestrian Center, on the west side of Route 202, one mile south of Ladeshorn Road (Old Route 202). The Pine Meadow Trail will be extended to end at this parking area by following a section of the Saffner-Bear Mountain Trail and old wooded roads, thus permitting hikers to reach Pine Meadow Lake without using the overcrowded parking area at the Reeves Meadow Visitors Center.
Say ‘Thanks’ to Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition

After 18 years of intense effort, the Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition (SPARC) has achieved its goal of preserving 7,000 acres of open space around Stewart International Airport in New York’s Orange County. But SPARC’s victory, for the public benefit of generations to come, is not without its price. The group now seeks to raise $45,000 to pay the legal debt it accumulated in its effort.

The Trail Conference, a SPARC member, is encouraging its members and friends to make a donation and help retire this legal debt—any amount welcome! To acknowledge donations of $35 and above, you will be sent a special certificate, suitable for framing.

AWOSTING RESERVE continued from page 1

sioner Bernadette Castro announced the purchase at a press conference at the Reserve. “Save the Ridge is thrilled that exactly what we proposed in our mission statement was the final result, and that the lower slopes are protected as well as the cliffs,” Parmalee said later. “We said we would like to see Awosting Reserve purchased at a fair price and added to Minnewaska State Park Preserve. We believe this is the best solution for the local and recreational human population, and crucial for maintaining a rare, non-fragmented habitat for nature.”

The preservation of the Awosting Reserve is a milestone in efforts to protect the Shawangunks and Shawangunk Ridge. The Trail Conference and partner organizations of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition will continue efforts to create a continuous, protected corridor along the entire 50-mile length of the magnificent Shawangunk Ridge.

For more information, visit www.shawangunkridge.org.

Advocacy & Conservation

An Opening for ATV Bill in NJ
Advocacy Directory Dennis Schvejda reports progress on the legislative ATV front in New Jersey. State Dept. of Environmental Protection Commissioner Lisa Jackson, along with Deputy Commissioners Jay Watson and Adam Zellner, have indicated their intentions to advance comprehensive ATV legislation. A host of issues demand attention from DEP and comprehensive ATV legislation could easily be set aside for “another day.” To make it easy for members to express their opinion to Governor Corzine, the Trail Conference has launched an online campaign, “Speak Out for ATV Legislation—Protect Our Parks & Trails!” Visit http://actionnetwork.org/campaigns/njav to take action, and tell a friend!

Highlands Funding Proposal Falls Short
President Bush’s proposed budget includes just $2 million to fund land preservation in the Highlands region that includes portions of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. Rep. Sue Kelly of New York is leading an effort in the House to increase the funding. The Trail Conference worked with Rep. Kelly’s staff to obtain 29 signatures on a Dear Colleague letter supporting full funding, $10 million, as authorized by the Highlands Conservation Act.

NJ Parks Funding Legislation Introduced
Two bills in the New Jersey Legislature call for a $75 million bond issue for this November’s ballot. A similar state park bill last year was attached to a stem cell research bond issue that was shelved after it couldn’t get support in the Assembly. With the state’s budget woes, expectations are low that these bills will be considered this year.

The Trail Conference is working with a coalition of conservation groups to renew Green Acres funding for land preservation and raise park capital improvement and maintenance funds.

Valhalla Glen Given to Morris County
A 32-acre hemlock glen once used by Montclair State University for outdoor science classes has been donated to Morris County and will become part of Pyramids Mountain Park. Park Commission Executive Director David Helmer said the tract is ideally situated for recreation access, timber production, and watershed protection. Federal funding for state and local parks as well as national parks and wildlife refuges. The Trail Conference worked to secure the signatures of 10 New Jersey and 11 New York Representatives.

Big Win for Clean Air
A federal appeals court has struck down a recent EPA attempt to ease acid rain and air pollution control requirements for older coal burning power plants, oil refineries, and industrial plants. At issue in the court case was the Bush administration’s reinterpretation of the 25-year-old New Source Review rule to permit major modifications and equipment replacements to extend the operating lives of coal burning power plants and other stationary air pollution sources without requiring the simultaneous installation of pollution control technologies. Fifteen states, including New York and New Jersey, sued to challenge this novel interpretation. The Adirondack Mountain Club, the Trail Conference’s partner voice in Albany, was granted full party intervenor status.

Advocacy by Committee

We take the first steps toward building a trails advocacy network

I’ve finally taken the step of holding the first meeting of the Trail Conference Advocacy Committee. Given the geographic scope of the acquisition committee’s work, the issues, and the many levels of government involved (national/state/county/local), the challenge of committee management is overwhelming.

For this reason, I did not announce the kickoff to thousands of folks via our email alert system—I have no doubt dozens would have attended. But I’ve been that route before, and have learned that it’s better to start small.

Instead, I am starting with a specific region and number of individuals. It is my intention to have specific and deliverable goals, and to “grow” the advocacy organization. The initial focus of the committee will be on northern New Jersey, in particular on addressing the ATV problem in that region. Already we have a to-do list: aid a trail relocation, work with local officials and police to pass ATV ordinances, and protect specific parcels.

Ultimately, the Advocacy Committee will provide the hiking community at large with the opportunity to identify threats to trail lands, garner public support for the modification and creation of rules and legislation, and lobby public officials. In addition, specific parcels of land deemed critical will be identified and prioritized for acquisition by public agencies, land trusts, or the Trail Conference.

Ideally, our Advocacy Committee will become a set of sub-committees based on regions, mirroring the Trail Committees. If there’s enough interest, sub-committees could also be responsible for specific issues. Volunteer interest will help determine what other regional trail advocacy sub-committees do. You have a burning desire to advocate for your favorite trail area or do you have a specific issue in mind? If so, send me an email describing your advocacy interest and availability.

Our large number of volunteers in the field have an intimate knowledge of the trails and parks and can provide a level of expertise not found in the advocacy efforts of “armchair” conservationists. Building an Advocacy Committee will take time and present many organizational challenges, but its success will be well worth the effort.

Local Reps Endorse Forest Legacy, Land and Water Funds
Of all the Congressional budget letters supporting conservation efforts, perhaps the most important is the Bass/Allen letter supporting $80 million for the Forest Legacy program and $320 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). A record 122 members signed a bipartisan letter endorsing the importance of Forest Legacy and LWCF. Forest Legacy provides funding to states to buy land for development rights to land from federal agencies, assist with recreation access, timber production, and watershed protection. LWCF provides funding for our state and local parks as well as national parks and wildlife refuges.

The Trail Conference worked to secure the signatures of 10 New Jersey and 11 New York Representatives.

continued on page 7

Advocacy Directory Dennis Schvejda

Dennis Schvejda
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 USDA, to survey 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. Training sessions will be starting in the spring of 2006. If you would like to participate in this groundbreaking study, please contact Joshua Erdneker at volunteers@nyntjc.org, or by phone, 201-512-9348 ext. 13 to sign up.

Accounting Advisor

The Trail Conference maintains a complex set of financial records and occasionally needs some nonprofit accounting advice. If you are a CPA and would be willing to volunteer your services, please contact Elizabeth Blewitz at elizabeth@nyntjc.org or 201-512-9348 ext. 23.

Layout Designer/Graphic Artist

The TC has several brochures that need to be redesigned. If you are an experienced designer and would like to take on one of these projects, please contact Josh at josh@nyntjc.org or call the office 201-512-9348 ext. 13.

Publications Committee

The Trail Conference Publications Committee is looking for additional volunteers to assist in all aspects of our activities. We need project managers, editors, cartographers, designers, field-checkers, and people to market and promote our publications. If you have any of these skills, or would like to learn, and would like to assist us in producing and/or marketing our maps and books, please contact Daniel Chazin, Publications Committee Chair, DChazin@aol.com.

Trail Walker Advertising Coordinator

The Trail Walker is looking for a creative volunteer to help increase the advertising in our newsletter. If you are interested in managing the communication between 7W staff and our current advertisers, soliciting new advertisers, and maintaining the commitment to excellence that the Trail Walker has demonstrated, please contact Liz Blewitz at the TC office, 201-512-9348 ext. 23 or lblewitz@nyntjc.org for more information.

Other Opportunities

- Summer ‘05 Delegates Meeting Coordinator
- Minute Takers
- Network/Server administration
- Desktop computer support (hardware and software)

Can Your Business Lend TC a Hand?

We all wish we could do a little more to help the TC.

What do we need?

- Our office in Mahwah is looking to upgrade our computer monitors to flat panel LED screens.
- We have a large number of printing jobs, including brochures, flyers, envelopes, and letterhead which a printing and reproduction service might be able to help with.
- Many companies have PR departments that can help the TC get important information and issues to the press.
- Many companies are willing to adopt a section of hiking trail. Main-Group, for instance, is a perfect match for you. Interested volunteers should be comfortable working with deadlines and be outgoing and familiar with desktop publishing. Previous advertising and public relations experience is not necessary, but helpful. Please contact Liz Blewitz at the TC office, 201-512-9348 ext. 23 or lblewitz@nyntjc.org for more information.

Volunteer Policy * Handbook *

The Trail Conference has a Volunteer Policy Handbook. This handbook has been designed to detail the policies that have been put in place to protect our volunteers. The handbook covers harassment policies, liability and accident insurance, eligibility requirements, and much more. Any volunteer who would like to have his/her own copy of the policies can obtain a copy online at www.nyntjc.org/volunteers/policies.htm or by calling the office at 201-512-9348. If you have any questions about these policies, please feel free to contact Josh Erdneker, Operations Director at the Trail Conference office or via email at josh@nyntjc.org.
Mayapple: An early harbinger of spring

By Linda Rohleder

The fruit of this common woodland plant is a favorite of the declining Eastern box turtle. Early spring hikes are a wonderful time to see the season arrive in small steps. Spring wildflowers take advantage of the lack of tree leaves to get full sunlight, so they emerge and flower before the tree canopies are fully developed. One of the first plants to come up in the spring is the mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum). Mayapple is a common woodland understory plant that may also be found in wet meadows and along woods edges. It has been found from sea level up to altitudes of more than 4,500 feet in the southern Appalachians, and ranges from southern Canada to Florida and west to Nebraska and Texas. Mayapple is one of the easiest native woodland plants to learn to recognize because it looks like a collection of little green umbrellas.

Mayapple sends up its leaf stalks in April. They unfurl just like an opening umbrella to produce a horizontal leaf blade with five, seven, or nine lobes. The leaves range anywhere from 6 inches to 14 inches in height and up to 12 inches across. Large patches of these leaves can often be seen covering the forest floor in the springtime.

Mayapple is a perennial plant that grows in clonal colonies. That is, the plants are connected to each other through underground runners, called rhizomes, so that what looks like a large population of plants is actually just one plant with many stems sticking up above the ground. Large colonies can contain more than 1,000 shoots.

If you find a stalk with two leaves, be sure to check beneath the leaves for the flower. The mayapple flower is a single large creamy white blossom that blooms in early May under the shade of its large leaves. The flower can be up to 2/3 inches across. They only remain open for 5 to 10 days, so they are an uncommon treat to see! Stalks with only one leaf do not produce a flower.

Mayapple is a medicinal plant. The ground under the shade of the mayapple leaves is actually just one plant with many stems connected to each other through underground runners. That is, the plants are clonal. Compound called podophyllotoxin and alpha and beta peltatin that have anti-cancer properties, and it has been studied for its pharmaceutical uses. However, due to its toxicity, mayapple is considered unsafe to use in herbal remedies.

In eastern box turtles are fond of eating the fruits, as are mice, squirrels, and some birds. But turtles appear to be the primary distributor of mayapple seeds. The decline of box turtle populations in recent years may be hurting the ability of mayapple plants to colonize new areas. So, helping one endangered species may be crucial to keeping another species off the endangered list!

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

By Eddie Walsh

Adequate funds could help convert this building to a trail work museum.

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Thru-running the Long Path to Benefit The Trail Conference

This spring, David O’Neill of Charity Runners is going to run 363.45 miles on the Long Path from the George Washington Bridge, NJ, to Albany, NY. Why? He loves to run and he wants you to support him and his chosen charity: The New York/New Jersey Trail Conference (NY/NJTC). Go to www.charityrunners.org for more information and to follow David’s progress.

By David O’Neill

Every day at lunch time, I put on my trail shoes and head a few city blocks east to the north bound trailhead of the Long Path. The entrance to the trail is clearly marked, yet hardly noticed by the thousands of commuters that head onto the Palisades Interstate Parkway each day. I run north along the escarpment over the blow-downs, through seasonal wet areas, around familiar foundations, up and down rocky inclines. I stop to say hello to the regulars on the trail and to see a 40-year-old kid running along the trail, say hello. There is a good chance that I have had the good fortune to run on nearly 600 miles of these trails, and I plan to enjoy the remaining 1,000 miles in the years to come. So if you see a 40-year-old kid running along the trail, say hello. There is a good chance that a trail runner is looking for a reason to put on the brakes and share the adventure.

On Saturday mornings, my two sons and I head to one of the many local trails in Warwick. We hike to a new crap, or a waterfall, or a shelter, and then turn around, running most of the way back to the car. Along the way we discuss what they learn in school and how it applies to the trail. Earth science, biology, history, and mathematics are all fair game. Hiking and running the trails is something that I hope to do with my children for the rest of my life.

Sunday is the day I run long distances on the Appalachian Trail. A favorite run of mine is from Wawawanda State Park to Mt. Peter and back again. The trip requires about 4.5 hours to complete and is always challenging. The many PUDs (pointless up and downs), stream crossings, puddling ridges, dark forests, and rock climbs, combine with miles of relatively smooth running surfaces to create a strenuous trail run. It is an incredible effort and by the end of the journey I realize that blow-downs are really nature’s couches, hills are God’s way of saying slow down, and cold streams are the best form of pain relief found on earth.

Though I do most of my trail running alone, there are always others on the trail. Contrary to most people’s beliefs, trail runners are always looking for a reason to stop running and there is no better reason to stop than to meet another trail enthusiast. Most people I meet are extremely friendly and eager to exchange experiences and feelings about the trail. I enjoy talking about trail running and my thru-run experience on the Long Path in 2005. These exchanges are a great opportunity to learn and to regain some strength for the miles of running ahead.

Thanks to the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, there are over 1,600 miles of locally maintained trails for all of us to experience. I have had the good fortune to run on nearly 600 miles of these trails, and I plan to enjoy the remaining 1,000 miles in the years to come. So if you see a 40-year-old kid running along the trail, say hello. There is a good chance that a trail runner is looking for a reason to put on the brakes and share the adventure.

David O’Neill is the founder of Charity Runners, a non-profit organization promoting running and charitable giving as a part of a healthy lifestyle. Charity Runners conducts trail running clinics and the Annual Long Path Long Run to benefit the NY/NJ Trail Conference. For more information about the Charity Runners, go to www.charityrunners.org.

Wappinger Greenway Trail Opening Scheduled for May 20

The Village of Wappingers Falls, Town of Poughkeepsie and Wappinger, Scenic Hudson and the NY/NJ Trail Conference will be celebrating the opening of several segments of the Wappinger Greenway Trail system along the lower Hudson River Greenway creek in Dutchess County. The celebration will include hikes on May 20 in Wappingers Falls. More than 100 volunteers contributed over 2,000 hours in 2004 and 2005 in the construction of new segments of the Hudson River Greenway.

Work accomplishments include:
- 5 cedar kiosk trailhead signs with roof
- 2 metal kiosk trailhead signs
- A 16 x 4 pedestrian bridge
- 2,700 feet of new sidehill trail
- 1,000 feet of widened sidehill trail
- A 10’ black locust waterbar
- A 20’ stone waterbar
- 86 stone steps
- 100 square feet of black locust cribbing
- 80 square feet of stone crib walls
- 43 cribbed black locust steps

Thanks to the following Trail Conference members for their contributions to this substantial project:

Volunteer Ollie Simpson builds a bridge.

In addition the following people contributed over 100 hours each to the project: Mike Garrison, Sarah Heidenreich, Ollie Simpson, and Denise Vitale.

For more information on the trail or the opening, contact Joe Ennesser, Wappinger Greenway Committee Chair at 845-297-7026 or Eddie Walsh at the Trail Conference, eddiewalsh@nynjtc.org.

CREW SCHEDULE

continued from page 4

SUNAMUNK RIDGE TRAIL & LONG PATH CREW

Leaders:
- Jakob Franke, 201-768-3612
- Malcolm Specter, 212-245-0360
- mspence@tutu.com
- Eric Meyer, 845-847-4638, emeyer@linnrmr.com

May 13 (Saturday) and May 14 (Sunday)
Blue Trail at Sam’s Point
Leader: Malcolm Specter
Help clear and reopen the Blue Trail at Sam’s Point. Meet at Sam’s Point visitor center in Cragmor, NY at 9:30 am. Bring work gloves, beverage and lunch, clippers and/or loppers if you have them.

June 10 (Saturday)
TBD
Leader: Jakob Franke, Eric Meyer

METRO TRAIL CREW

Leaders:
- Joe Gindoff, 718-672-3855, joe@jagindoff.com
- Liz Gonzalez, 646-319-3159, liz@nynjtc.org

May 6 (Saturday)
Pelham Bay Park, Hunter Island, The Bronx
Leaders: Joe Gindoff, Liz Gonzalez
Join Friends of Pelham Bay Park in restoring the trailhead and first 300 yards of trail. The PB Park Administrator has asked us to lead the trail restoration effort.

May 13 (Saturday)
Pelham Bay Park, Hunter Island, The Bronx
Leader: Liz Gonzalez
For details, see May 6.

May 20 (Saturday)
Pelham Bay Park, Hunter Island, The Bronx
Leaders: Joe Gindoff, Liz Gonzalez
Add eight new water bars with heavy grating and cul in a 150 trench along the trailway.

June 11 (Sunday)
Forest Park, Queens
Leader: Joe Gindoff
Park manager has asked us to service all trails.

Additionally:
1. Please notify Joe Gindoff if you wish to be added to our mailing list.
2. We need a crew leader to lead a new weekday crew.
3. Stay tuned for many more crew trips that are TBD and some that will be spontaneous.

BEAR MOUNTAIN PROJECT

To sign up for any of the trips below, or for more info, email: office@nynjtc.org. register through the Trail Conference website, www.nynjtc.org/bearmountaintrails, or call 201-512-3948.

All projects will take place on a section of the new AT route. Directions, meeting places, and times will be given upon registration. Consecutive day stays are encouraged. Nearby overnight housing within the park is available for all trips or for the workshops. Contact the NY/NJTC for more information.

General Work Trips: Work will likely involve a variety of tasks and experience: corridor clearing, quarrying stone with use of highline, building crib walls, setting rock steps, moving crushed stone from road to trail site, and splitting stone. Novices are very welcome but limits will be set on the exact number of new crew members each day according to the number of crew leaders available and specific work planned.

May 2 (Tuesday)
TBD

May 11 (Friday)

May 14 (Monday)

May 24 (Friday)

May 29 (Monday)

May 21 (Sunday)

June 2 (Friday)

June 3 (Saturday): National Trails Day

June 9 (Friday)

June 10 (Saturday)

June 23 (Friday)
Workshops May-June 2006: Stone and Tread Building

To register for any of the workshops below, or for more info, contact eddie@nynjtc.org. call 201-512-9348, ext. 22 or register online. All workshops will take place on a section of the new AT route. Directions, meeting places, and times will be given upon registration.

Basic Stone Construction Workshops* April 28 & 30 (Friday & Sunday)
Basic rock moving and stone construction. Topics covered will include: mechanical advantage, simple tools for moving large rocks, safety considerations, proper body mechanics, and ways of reducing natural resource impacts. We will be constructing stone steps and cribbing walls. Although registering for both days is preferred, participants can register for only one day.

Stone Cribbing Apprenticeship Level I* May 5 & 7 (Friday and Sunday)
This workshop will be focused on the basics of building dry stone retaining walls and construction of crib wall systems using steel pins. Topics to be covered include: safety issues, use of mechanical advantage, splitting and chip-chopping rocks, safety considerations, proper body mechanics, and ways of reducing natural resource impacts.

Project Overview and Orientation May 7 (Sunday)
Join us for an on-site review of the project and a walk-through of the new trail route. There may be light trail work opportunities in the afternoon.

Stone Cribbing Apprenticeship Level I and II* May 26, 27, 28 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
Instructor: Peter Jensen (Peter Jensen and Associates LLC) and Eddie Walsh (NY/NJTC)

General Construction Workshop* June 4 (Sunday)
Basic rock moving and stone construction. See April 28 for details.
Instructor: Eddie Walsh (NY/NJTC)

Stone Pinning Workshop* June 11 (Sunday)
Techniques will be taught to build and anchor trails over exposed upslope bedrock surfaces using steel pins. Topics to be covered include: safety issues, use of mechanical advantage, splitting and chip-chopping rocks, hand power rock drills, pin/steel selection, different methods of affixing and sealing pins into bedrock, and building off of the set pins.

Stone Shaping and Splitting* July 1 & 2 (Saturday & Sunday)
Topics to be included are: proper use of tools to split and shape (dress) stone to desired dimensions (possible generator, electric hammer drill, hand drill and single jack hammer, top quality carbide hand chisels, stone hammers, hand points, tracers, and riffling hammers). Stone step and crib walls likely will be constructed in the process. Participants are required to attend both days.
Instructor: Peter Jensen (Peter Jensen and Associates LLC)

Stone Cribbing Apprenticeship Level II* July 8 & 9 (Saturday & Sunday)
This apprenticeship will cover the basics of building dry stone retaining walls to support a tread way and retain a hillside. Crib size will be kept very small to ensure optimal skills transfer.
Instructor: Ted Talbot (Off the Beaten Path)

Stone Cribbing Apprenticeship Level II* July 14, 15, 16 (Friday – Sunday – Monday)
This apprenticeship will cover some more advanced dry stacking and stone shaping techniques. Rotary hammer drill and diamond bladed cut-off saw demonstration will be used. Size will be kept very small to ensure optimal skills transfer.
Instructor: Ted Talbot (Off the Beaten Path)

Womens’ Weekend* July 22 & 23 (Saturday & Sunday)
Basic rock moving and stone construction. See April 28 for details. Registration is limited to females.
Instructor: Sarah Heidenreich (Tahawus Trails LLC and SCA Trail Skills Instructor)
*These workshops are sponsored in part by funds from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and National Park Service Appalachian Trail Park Office.

MEMORIAL GIFTS
In memory of Paul Lehman
Peter Backer

In memory of Sylvia Zatal
Vince Zatal

In memory of Nat Miller
Kevin Miller

In memory of Betty Lesem
In memory of Tom Dun

In memory of Roberta H. Stratemyer
In memory of Louis Segal

Stewarts PARK and RESERVE COALITION (SPARC) DONORS

DONORS TO THE ANNUAL FUND
January 21, 2006 to March 20, 2006

GIFTS

MATCHING GIFTS

SPECIAL GIFTS
In honor of Dr. Joan Gardner Eshemeld, June Eshemeld
In honor of Richard Torrey’s birthday, Daniel & Naomi Sutter, June Sutla

NEW LIFE MEMBERS
Karen Selba & K. Dianna Nuki, Chester Senevir*"
Sauntering Manhattan’s Rim

Favorite Hike

By Cy A. Adler

Walking Manhattan’s Rim

By Cy A. Adler

There is no better way to know New York than to walk it. The Great Saunter, also known as the Great Saunter Walk or Great Sauntering, is a two-week event that takes place each year on the first Saturday of May. The event is organized by the nonprofit Shorewalkers, which was founded in 1954 as the Great Saunter Walk. The event has been held every year since then and has grown to become one of the largest and best-attended events in the city. The event is open to anyone, regardless of age or fitness level, and everyone is encouraged to participate. The event is a great way to experience New York City in a unique way and to learn more about the history and culture of the city.
A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes sponsored by Member Clubs

May

Saturday, May 6

UOHC: Watchung Trail Maintenance, NJ. Leader: pre-register by calling Trail Conference at 973-635-6629. Meet 9:30 am for call to location. Meet new people and learn new skills while working out of doors and giving back a little to the trails. No experience needed. Bring gloves, trash bags, shovels, rakes, pruners, and loppers. All work until noon; canceled if it snows on the ground or severe storms are expected.

OSF: Ramapo Lake, NJ. Leader: Mickey Seygol, 201-718-1354. Meet 10 am at Spuyten Duyvil boat launch on Old U.S. Rte. 9W. Bring a little bit of the old saw trail (Causal Hall of 6-8 miles. Very scenic, with views of Ramapo Lake.)

PMHHA: Great Swamp trails at night! We’ll listen for nocturnal animals and do some star gazing if the skies are clear. Meet 9:45 pm. Rain date—following Monday. Out by 9:30 pm.

Saturday, May 7

GAIHC: Washington Crossing Historic Park, Titusville, NJ: Leader: Christopher and Jackie Maas, 609-737-3055. Meet: 10 am at Titusville Historic Park, near the American Museum of漆油. Easy, enjoyable walk through garden and grounds. Meet new people and learn new skills while working out of doors and giving back a little to the trails. No experience needed. Bring gloves, trash bags, shovels, rakes, pruners, and loppers. All work until noon; canceled if it snows on the ground or severe storms are expected. 

LIGTC: Hither Woods, Montauk, LI. Meet: call for directions. 6-7 moderate miles on varied terrain. Test your sense of direction on this crooked beach walk to Kismet and Saltaire. Rain cancels. 

Sunday, May 8

RVW. Dry Brook Ridge (3460’), Catskills. For information: 495-2182. Meet: 8 am. A sunrise bushwalk: 7 hours, 7 hours. indifficult weather—day following Monday.

UOHC: Ramapo Lake, NJ. Leader: Mickey Seygol, 201-718-1354. Meet 10 am at Spuyten Duyvil boat launch on Old U.S. Rte. 9W. Bring a little bit of the old saw trail (Causal Hall of 6-8 miles. Very scenic, with views of Ramapo Lake.)

ADK-NY. Night Hike in the Swamp, NJ. Leader: must call 973-635-6629 to pre-register; Meet 7 pm at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Take an easy first stroll through the swamps, listen and see interesting things. All $15

PMS: Big Indian (2700’) and Fir (3020’), Catskills. For information: 495-2182. Meet: 8 am. A sunrise bushwalk: 7 hours, 7 hours. indifficult weather—day following Monday.

Saturday, May 9

LUGT: Moonlight Hike, LI. Leader: Bruce, 631-659-1794. Meet 6 pm at Information Center (north 0.25 mile north of L.I. Rte. E 170). 4-5 moderate miles, flat. Walk the pines before moonlight.

Sunday, May 10

OSF: Hackenbaugh State Park, NJ. Leader: Contact Lyne Cisceloni, 800-269-0127. Meet 10 am at rear visitors center, Hackenbaugh State Park, Morganville. Meet new people and learn new skills while working out of doors and giving back a little to the trails. No experience needed. Bring gloves, trash bags, shovels, rakes, pruners, and loppers. All work until noon; canceled if it snows on the ground or severe storms are expected. 


GS: Full Moon Hike, NY. Please call: must call 609-664-8029 to pre-register. Meet 6 pm at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. It’s your chance to walk the Great Swamp trails at night! We’ll listen for nocturnal animals and do some star gazing if the skies are clear. Out by 9:30 pm.

ADK-NY. Night Hike in the Swamp, NJ. Leader: must call 973-635-6629 to pre-register; Meet 7 pm at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Take an easy first stroll through the swamps, listen and see interesting things. All $15

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Saturday, May 11

LUGT: Fire Island Lighthouse, LI. Leader: Lynne, email lynne_n117i@gmail.com. Meet 7 am; a beautiful entrance to light house to see the lighthouse (50 steps to parking lot). 6-8 beach blocks walk to Holcomb and Saltman. Rain cancels.

GAHC: Bear Mountain State Park, NY. Leader: Brian Konski, 845-369-5876. Meet: 9 am at Bear Mountain State Park parking lot. We’ll discuss the sites and history of the park, and then walk along trails of the Bear Mountain State Park. Easy, enjoyable walk through garden and grounds. Meet new people and learn new skills while working out of doors and giving back a little to the trails. No experience needed. Bring gloves, trash bags, shovels, rakes, pruners, and loppers. All work until noon; canceled if it snows on the ground or severe storms are expected. 

Saturday, May 12

Monday, May 22

RVW. Sugarleaf Mt. (3180’), Catskills. For information: 495-3380. Meet: 6 am. Hike Sugarleaf Mt.; moderate hike; moderate pace; 6.2 miles, 7 hours, around 1800’ indifficult weather—day following Monday.

Tuesday, May 25

UOHC: Trail Clearing at Six Mile Run, Franklin Township, NJ. Leader: Mike Wilkins, 720-249-1918. Meet: call for details. We continue our commitment to clear trails at Six Mile Run; Reservoir; no experience necessary; we’ll meet with the park naturalists.

Wednesday, May 26

UOHC: Birding in the Swamp, NJ. Leader: must call 973-635-6629 to pre-register; Meet 7 am at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Rain cancels.

June

Tuesday, June 6

**NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**

Plan to spend the day helping to develop, maintain, and enjoy some of your favorite hiking trails throughout the state. The Trail Conference invites you to visit your favorite trail or a new one, volunteer as a trail steward, or simply take a hike! For more information, visit www.adkli.org.


LUGT: NTD Celebration at Byghedown Park, LI. Leader: call 631-677-9217 for details and meet 9 am—10:30 am. Contact your local trail club for information on a trail project near you.

LPHC: John Boyle Thuderer Trail Maintenance, near Albany, NY. Leader: Fred Schneider, 518-495-0553. Meet at the Thuderer Trailhead with trail club accessories, tools, and transportation. Call for information on the trail project near you.

National Trails Day: Your local park or trail club is waiting for you!
Join the volunteers who bring you the great outdoors!

1,629 miles of trails and counting; your membership helps us expand our horizons.

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

Join/Renew

Save time and a tree by joining or renewing online at www.nyntjc.org. Just click on the Join/Renew button.

Membership Level

Individual

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

Join/Renew

NY/NJ TC member?  □ YES  □ NO  □ JOINING NOW

Official Conference Maps

- NEW! Catskill Trails (2005) & see combo
- NEW! East Hudson Trails (2005)
- NEW! Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails (2005) & see combo
- NEW! Hudson Palisades Trails (2005)
- NEW! Kittatinny Trails (2005) & see combo
- NEW! North Jersey Trails (2005)
- NEW! Shawangunk Trails (2005) & see combo
- NEW! South Taconic Trails (2006)
- NEW! Sterling Forest Trails (2005)
- NEW! West Hudson Trails (2006)

Please order by circling price

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Books

- New York Walk Book (2005) & see combo
- New Jersey Walk Book (2004) & see combo
- Day Walker (2002)
- Harriman Trails Guide (1999) & see combo
- NEW! Hiking Long Island (2005)
- Kittatinny Trails (2004) & see combo

Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) & see combo

- Health Hints for Hikers (1994)
- ADK Catskill Trails Guide (2005)
- ADK Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons (2002)
- Scenic & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) & see combo
- East Hudson Trails (2005)


TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________

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

Hikers’ Marketplace

You can also order at our website: www.nyntjc.org

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New Jersey residents add 6% tax

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ____________