John Myers Receives TC Leo Rothschild Conservation Award

If you have ever stepped onto one of the “big four” major trails in our area—Appalachian Trail, Long Path, Highlands Trail, and Shawangunk Ridge Trail—and wondered, “Who put this trail here?” chances are that John Myers, Trail Conference Land Acquisition Director from 1991 to 2007, had something to do with it.

Since starting with the Trail Conference, John has been a pioneer in assembling properties and permissions to create new trail corridors—more than 300 miles of them. Including his prior work at the Trust for Public Land, and since 1986, John has helped to protect over 20,000 acres of open space. In recognition of his tremendous body of work over the last 17 years for the Trail Conference, John was awarded the Leo Rothschild Conservation Award at the Trail Conference’s annual meeting last October. The following is a brief Q&A interview Bill O’Hearn recently conducted with John. (See page 11 for all of this year’s award winners.)

How did you get started in land preservation? What was your educational and professional background at the time?

My college background in anthropology and psychology had little to do with land, but has been useful in dealing with all kinds of different people. I jumped into the field by working for a few years at TPL, learning how to do land deals and deal with public agencies.

How and when did you start working for the Trail Conference? In 1991, then-Executive Director John Dolan hired me to be Trail Lands Consultant. My first project was working with the National Park Service to create the new Shawangunk Ridge Trail. My task was to take the vision and make it into a reality on the ground. I probably contacted over 75 landowners and finally got permissions from about 35. Then the volunteers went out and built the trail.

What were some of the obstacles you had to overcome to start your early days with NY-NJ TC?

At that time, there was no state land acquisition program in New York. So all I could do was ask landowners for revocable permission to put a hiking trail on their land. Many said no, but a surprising number agreed to let us do this. This was in the days before online maps and databases, so I had to go to each county to gather paper maps and landowner addresses. It was a process that worked, but was much slower than today.

How did you develop your methods for implementing trail corridors? Every deal required a different problem-solving approach. Some landowners were very easy to deal with and supported our efforts. Others simply wanted money, and if the price was right they would sell. Others pointed a shotgun at my head and told me to take a hike.

Please provide highlights that come to mind from your work on the Big 4 trails – AT, HT, LP, SRT.

In 1995 we decided to apply what we had learned on the Gunks ridge trail and continued on page 7

$100,000 Challenge Grant Helps Launch TC Community Trails Initiative

“With the explosion of development in our region, open space preservation has become a priority for many. Since well designed and constructed foot trails are the most economically and environmentally sensitive ways to provide public access to open space,” he says, “many agencies have contacted the Trail Conference for advice and help. This generous grant from the Westchester Community Foundation will enable us to develop the capacity to respond to more of these requests and to make it possible for more people to get out and connect with nature close to home.”

Brenda Bates, Senior Curator of Ward Pound Ridge Reservation of Westchester County Parks, the county’s largest park with 35 miles of trails, has been working continued on page 3

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www.nynjtc.org Connecting People with Nature since 1920 January/February 2008

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference – Maintaining 1,688 Miles of Foot Trails

In this issue: New Gunks Map Set... pg 3 • Boots vs. Shoes... pg 6 • Skinks on the Loose... pg 7 • TC Annual Awards... pg 11
Let me introduce myself. My name is Bob Boyesen and I have succeeded Jane Daniels as Chair of the Trail Conference Board of Directors.

This is apparently the kind of thing that happens to you when you are a volunteer and you keep saying yes. And yes, I am one of those rare creatures, a native New Yorker: born in Princeton, engineer- ing degrees from Rutgers and New York University's School of Law. I live in a 40-acre farm in Warren County, NJ. Do not expect any big job changes in the Trail Conference. The position of chair of the board of directors is certainly not the only and probably not the first step on the future direction of the organization.

Bill O’Hearn, Conservation & Advocacy Director, responds: The Trail Conference appreciates that the agreement announced by Gov. Carl S. Spitzer today represents an important step forward in the issues we raised initially about the Belleayre proposal. But, as our members have pointed out to us, this does not mean there is no more work to do. Nonetheless, the Trail Conference hopes to continue to be available through public hearings on draft and final environmental impact statements. Trail Conference representatives attended two DEc meetings about the project in December, and also provided oral testimony and submitted detailed written comments during the scoping phase. To the extent Trail Conference resources allow—and in this as in all of our work—we will be dependent upon our volunteers—we intend to continue our participation in this process.

The following recapcs the Trail Conference’s participation, in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conference, in the Belleayre Mountain issue.

1. TC and ADK submitted joint testimony in April 2004 which found the impact of the proposed development of the eastern side of Belleayre Mountain unacceptable.
2. Both TC and ADK did not participate in negotiations with the developer, the city, and the state; nor did they sign the compromise Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), formally known as the September 5 “Agreement in Principle.”
3. The MOA such as the move of the development from the eastern side of Belleayre Mountain to the western side of the mountain, the reduction in acreage from 573 to 273 acres, and the purchase of 1,200 acres on the Big Indian Plateau that will be added to the Catskill Forest Preserve.
4. By not signing the agreement, TC and ADK retain the right to participate in the Environmental Quality Review (SEQQ) process, and to sue if the SEQQ, permits, or Unit Management Plan outcomes are unsatisfactory.
5. TC is eager to work with our member clubs and individuals in the ongoing SEQQ process.

A Thru-hiker Says, Thanks! To all volunteers, trail maintainers, and ridge-runners of the NY-NJ Trail Conference:

I just want to extend my deep appreciation for all the hard work that you have done to maintain the AT. As I hiked through the different states, I was in awe at how such a beautiful trail is maintained by all volunteers. Without you, my hike would have been extremely difficult if not impossible. Your hard work and efforts are truly recognized.

Many hikers discussed their gratitude while in a shelter along the AT in regard to the countless volunteers who make this trail possible. There were times water was difficult to find, but there were volunteers and trail angels who set up jug by the trail or roadblock to make sure no one would get dehydrated in the heat. Without them, it would have been a much more difficult trip. Again, thank you. Thank you, for your work出资 effort! I just wanted to let you know that it certainly does not go unrecognized...even if you do not receive notes stating so.

Happy trails,
Bob Boyesen
From the Executive Director

Bringing Trails and the Trail Conference to the People

The Trail Conference’s eight-plus decades of success in building and maintaining an ever-growing network of hiking trails in our region’s backcountry testifies to the effectiveness of enthusiastic volunteers who are supported by the expertise of staff.

That model is the inspiration behind two initiatives we plan to move forward this year. In addition to the new Community Trails Program, we will focus more of our attention on building and maintaining trails and recruiting and retaining volunteers to make them more available to all our volunteers.

Community Trails Program

In a column last year, I opined that “community trails are going to be a much bigger part of the Trail Conference’s future than they have been in our past.” Now, thanks to the generosity of a $100,000 challenge grant from Dr. Lucy Latimer and our first and only check for that match, $30,000 from the Westminster Community Foundation, I’m able to confirm that notion with the Southwest Conference Trail Conference’s pilot Community Trails Program in Westminster and Putnam counties.

The program is designed to extend the Trail Conference’s capacity to support volunteers in the delivery of services to community parks and trails in place and develop a trail director and a field coordinator—volunteers that will make them more readily available to all our volunteers.

Open Space Trust Fund and the New Jersey Green Acres Program.

This was very good news to all of our partners for their support of this project,” Goodell said. “This has been a very fruitful public-private partnership from the state to the Trail Conference to Morris Land Conservancy to Morris Township.”

Open Space Trust Fund

TC Plans to Make Historic Schoolhouse New HQ Take Big Step Forward

Progress toward making the historic Darlington Schoolhouse in Mahwah the new headquarters for the Trail Conference took a giant step forward.

The November closing marked the culmination of a four-year effort by the Trail Conference and its project partners to acquire the schoolhouse for preservation and rehabilitation. The $550,000 purchase price was raised from the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund and the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program.

We are very grateful to all of our partners for their support of this project,” Goodell said. “This has been a very fruitful public-private partnership from the state to the Trail Conference to Morris Land Conservancy to Morris Township.”

The Darlington Schoolhouse project. “We plan to respect the integrity of its architecture and history even as we renovate the building to meet our organization’s requirements and 21st century standards,” Goodell said.

Friends of Darlington Schoolhouse

The location of the future home for the Trail Conference is adjacent to the 3,313-acre Ramapo Valley Regional Reservation, where the network of trails is among the 1,700 miles of trail maintained by TC volunteers. Goodell anticipates that new trails will eventually connect the Darlington Schoolhouse to the Ramapo Reservation and contiguous open space on both sides of the New York-New Jersey state line.

Friends of Darlington Schoolhouse

The Friends of Darlington Schoolhouse committee has been formed to take on the necessary fund raising. For more information or to volunteer or donate to the Darlington Schoolhouse rehabilitation, contact the Trail Conference at 201-512-9348, ext. 10, or online at www.darlingtonschoolhouse.org.

NJ Historic Trust Awards Grant to Darlington Project

On November 26, New Jersey Historic Trust announced a grant of $50,000 to the Trail Conference for the rehabilitation stage of the Darlington Schoolhouse project. “We thank New Jersey Historic Trust for this early gift,” said Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell. “We plan to respect the integrity of its architecture and history even as we renovate the building to meet our organization’s requirements and 21st century standards,” Goodell said.

The Field Conference:

“M allows us to take advantage of the bucket of tools at our disposal,” said TC Executive Director Ed Goodell. “We have a lot to do before we move in and involve the community. But this is the first step.”

Requests for architectural bids to design the rehabilitation and upgrades to the building went out in December, and fundraising to pay for work began immediately. Goodell anticipates that construction will start in the spring.

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WESTCHESTER GRANT

continued from page 1

with the Trail Conference for more than a year, I’ve been impressed that through the Trail Conference we have developed a core of volunteers who come regularly, are committed, and are really friends of the park,” she says. “And with improved trails, other things become possible through the Trail Conference—trail maps, guidebooks. All of this is an important difference for a park. It helps get people pumped up about getting out and visiting these places.”

Dr. Lucy Latimer chairs the New York State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Taconic Regional Commission. She is a life-time member of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. The Westchester Community Foundation (WCF) is a non-profit community endowment for the benefit of Westchester County. The foundation is broad in scope and maintains philanthropic resources, and to distribute them in a way that is responsive to donor interests and needs. The foundation provides grants to support charitable giving on behalf of the area’s non-profit organizations. WCF is a division of the Westchester County Community Trust, the largest community foundation in the country with assets of approximately $2 billion.

With the support of this $30,000 grant, WCF has made a difference in the way we’re using our trails and therefore the trails are going to be much bigger part of the community’s life,” Goodell said. “We have a lot to do before we move in and involve the community. But this is the first step.”

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On Your Mark, Get Set... Member Get-A-Member Is

The Trail Conference will be holding the Member Get-A-Member campaign again this year. The kickoff will be March 1, 2008 and the program will last through the end of May. Once again, there will be great prizes for you and your friends and family to join the Trail Conference. Visit www.nynytc.org/mgm for more information.

Save the Date

Delegates Meeting

February 9, 2008 2:00 pm

Location: Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew

United Methodist

263 West 77th St.

New York, NY 10024

Speaker/presentation TBD.
Advocacy

The Silence of the Land

We were taking one of our usual hikes through Long Pond Ironworks State Park in Mahwah, when my son Pierce suddenly froze in horror. I had been talking to Pierce, then about 10, and a friend of his from his boyhood, Bob Pierce. They might have walked that exact trail during the Revolutionary War, and the importance of preserving special places like this, when Pierce’s friend came out with, “But Mr. O’Hearn, it’s just woods.” Pierce, who started hiking in a backyard sandbox at the age of 6 months and has been raised by an extended family of enviros, waited for a volley of rage from his father, but he didn’t get it.

Because I knew that Kenny (not his real name) and the Trail Conference, including the Capwiz grassroots advocacy group, live in a world of TV and video games where audio and visual stimulation are constant and relentless—“action” is the key to all entertainment, whether it’s crashing cars, scoring touchdowns, or blowing the heart out of a diastolic murmur. Thus, even the most beautiful forest, mountain, or stream is perceived as “it’s just woods.” The trees look at each other, not doing anything.

Conservation & Advocacy News Notes

Get timely news about trail issues by subscribing to the TC monthly e-newsletter and/or action alert list. Go to www.nynjtc.org/emaillists/index.html.

Trail Threat in Heart of Ramapo

Subject of Jan. 22 Planning Meeting

Executive Director Ed Goodell appeared before the Town of Ramapo Planning Board on November 27 to testify against Pierson Lakes Phases II and III, a proposed 74-unit subdivision in Ramapo right on the New York-New Jersey border near Route 17 and including two lakes. Cranberry and Potaka. Goodell stated that Pierson Lakes lies right at the intersection of four major parks (Sterling Forest, Harriman, Ringwood, and Ramapo Valley County Reservation) in two states, and an easement agreement to route a trail through this area had not been addressed in the current proposal. The Ramapo Highlands Coalition and other local advocacy groups are opposing this development, and the planning board extended the discussion to the next meeting on January 22. Please attend if you can.

NJ Ballot Question 83 Passes

With Just 54% Voter Approval

New Jersey voters on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 Public Question 83 authorizing a $220 million, one-year, stop-gap bond measure to provide funding for the nearly dry Garden State Park Trail (GSPT) this fund provides the financial resources for much of New Jersey’s open space conservation activities, usually in combination with county and local funding. Although the new bill did not pass and the project remains on hold, the details and the current reality, it also appears that the GSPTF will provide the resources for landowners to have needed development rights under the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act.

The Keep It Green Coalition, an alliance of nearly 100 statewide groups, supported the effort in the statehouse, is ready to fight for an open space conservation in 2008. If you would like to join in this fight, please contact Brenda Holzinger, Assistant Director of Conservation Advocacy, at the Trail Conference to be placed on the list of those interested in upcoming opportunities.

New Grassroots Advocacy Resource Available to TC Members

The Trail Conference is pleased to announce a new internet-based advocacy system that will enable our members to become more involved in advocacy activities. This new exciting new resource allows members to send action alerts to elected officials from the municipal to federal level, write letters to newspapers, or sign petitions on current issues. In addition, during early 2008 a variety of forum areas and blog spaces will be added so members can communicate with each other on issues of mutual concern.

This new tool—called Capwiz—is very similar to one previously used by the Trail Conference, but also contains municipal level, as well as up to date alerts. Members can be much more involved in advocacy activities. This focus on grassroots advocacy is part of a larger Trail Conference reorganization to become more regionally and locally oriented so we can serve our members more effectively. Visit the new TC advocacy site (http://capwiz.com/nynjtc/) or Contact Brenda Holzinger, Assistant Director of Conservation Advocacy, at the Conference to participate in these projects. A one-time “guest” participation is allowed, so bring your friends.

Conservation & Advocacy

Editor: William P. O’Hearn

From the Conservation & Advocacy Director, William P. O’Hearn

Advocacy activities. This focus on grassroots advocacy is part of the Trail Conference, but also contains municipal level, as well as up to date alerts. Members can be much more involved in the Conference is working with regional groups like Scenic Hudson and the Orange County Open Space Alliance to add Orange, Ulster, and Rockland Counties to the list of areas where residents can become involved in conservation efforts.

Kick Off 2008 Campaigns

The Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act, signed into law by Governor Spitzer in August, authorizes municipalities in Westchester and Putnam Counties to seek voter approval to create special preservation accounts to fund conservation efforts in local communities. A coalition of statewide and local advocacy groups, including the Trail Conference, is working with communities in these counties to plan municipal ballot campaigns for November 2008. On November 15 and 16, 2007, a group of about 30 organizations and community leaders convened at the Garrison Institute for an intensive, two-day training workshop sponsored by the Trail Conference, including the Nature Conservancy, and Scenic Hudson. This training session provided attendees with vital information about the nuts and bolts of a successful campaign.

Advocacy efforts are also underway to add additional counties to the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act via special legislation. More information on these efforts is available at the Conference’s Bear Mountain Trail website pages (to be updated in early January).

Conservation Advocacy News Notes

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Tail Crew Schedules

January – February 2008

For the latest schedules and additional details, go to nynjtc.org and click on “Tail crews/Work trips.”

This crew consisted of Mr. O’Hearn, Piers, Mr. Walsh, and Hal BK. The purpose of this trip was to complete immediate needs on the Trail and to provide an opportunity for new advocates to get involved. If you’re interested in being on call for this work, contact Michael Walsh by email.

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Big Bend Trailhead Building

The pedestrian tunnel carrying the AT and 1777 Trail to the parking lot on the north side of the AT is scheduled for construction in November. The Trail Conference is working with the ATC to make plans for the new trailhead building.

BEAR MOUNTAIN TRAILS PROJECT

Contact: Eddie Walsh, Construction Manager

945-591-1557 or Eddie W @bearmountaintrails.org

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Trail construction at Bear Mountain

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Temporary AT & 1777 Trail Relo

Around 9W Pedestrian Tunnel

The pedestrian tunnel carrying the AT and 1777 Trail underneat Route 9W (in between Bear Mountain Inn and the zoo) is temporarily closed for construction work. A temporary stoplight has been set up just north of the tunnel to provide a safe crossing. The closure is expected to last at least until March.

Northbound directions: Continue on the paved walkway until just past the bathroom, where a paved walkway turns to the right and leads to the stoplight crossing. After crossing 9W, pass through open gate and continue towards pintail pond and two entrances to rejoin AT northbound. Southbound directions: Pass blocked off tunnel entrance on the left. Cross 9W at the stoplight and go through the fence to reach stoplight crossing. After crossing 9W, continue on walkway to bathroom, then turn left and follow wide paved walkway to rejoin AT southbound.

Visit the new TC advocacy site (http://capwiz.com/nynjtc/home/) and take action!
TRAIL U
Teaching Practical Skills to Trails Volunteers at Locations Throughout the NY-NJ Area

Spring Workshops Set for April

Sign up online (www.nynjtc.org) or call the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348.

April 5 & 6 (Saturday & Sunday) Trail Layout and Design
Instruction: Estie Wain Location: Fairfield State Park, (classroom), and Worthington State Park (Field Work)

April 12 (Saturday) Trail Construction and Restoration
Coordinated by Gary Haugland
Location: Bear Mountain State Park

April 19 & 20 (Saturday & Sunday) Stone Chip Construction for Novice Rock Workers
Instruction: Estie Water
Location: Bear Mountain State Park

April 26 (Saturday) Trail Maintenance 101
Coordinated by Gary Haugland
Location: Fairfield State Park

May 3 (Saturday) Trail Maintenance 102
Coordinated by Gary Haugland
Location: Fairfield State Park

May 10 (Saturday) Trail Layout and Design
Instruction: Estie Wain Location: Fairfield State Park

May 24 (Saturday) Trail Construction and Restoration
Coordinated by Gary Haugland
Location: Bear Mountain State Park

May 31 (Saturday) Stone Chip Construction for Novice Rock Workers
Instruction: Estie Water
Location: Bear Mountain State Park

June 7 (Saturday) Trail Maintenance 103
Coordinated by Gary Haugland
Location: Fairfield State Park

June 14 (Saturday) Trail Maintenance 104
Coordinated by Gary Haugland
Location: Fairfield State Park

June 21 (Saturday) Trail Maintenance 105
Coordinated by Gary Haugland
Location: Fairfield State Park

June 28 (Saturday) Trail Maintenance 106
Coordinated by Gary Haugland
Location: Fairfield State Park

NORTH JERSEY CREW

Scout Troop Builds New Bridge on Fire Tower Trail in Sterling Forest

Late this summer, a group of scouts and adult volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 45 in Warwick, NY, completed a new bridge on the Fire Tower Trail in Sterling Forest State Park. This community service project, organized by Scout Greg Miller, constituted one of his requirements for advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout, and started in November 2005. Sterling Forest Trail Superintendents Pete Tilgher and Suzan Cordova oversaw and helped Greg with the project, which also required approvals by the park administration and a review by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (for structural integrity and aesthetic quality of the bridge). Greg spent months raising money for the project from local businesses, then organized work crews to pre-assemble the bridge at his home. In early July, the pre-assembled components were taken to the site for assembly. The final steps for the bridge were completed in September with the placement of additional stones at the base of the bridge and attaching the plaque that recognizes the donors for the project. The bridge is now complete for all to enjoy.

Greg thanks the staff at Sterling Forest State Park, the NY-NJ Trail Conference, Chrysler Jeep Dodge of Warwick, Dawson Motors Inc., Etched In Time Engraving, Leo Knees Ford, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Roe Brothers, Inc., Warwick Knights of Columbus, Dr. Edwin O. Wiley, and the many scouts and parents of Boy Scout Troop 45 in Warwick for their help and support of this project.

Scouts and Scoutmaster from Troop 45, Warwick, NY, from the third and final work crew, standing on the completed bridge in Sterling Forest State Park on the Fire Tower Trail. In the photo from left to right are: Luke Segota, Eric Segota, Mark Haney, Ryan Miller, Nick DiNardo, Daniel Miller, Greg Miller, Daniel Johnson, Paul Haney, Justin Levitt and Mark Bellantone.

NYC Scouts Help Reroute Trail

15 Scouts from Troop 97, New City, worked off their Thanksgiving dinner on the following Friday by helping to reroute the 1777/1779 Trail near Fort Montgomery. Under the direction of Scoutmaster Dave Ridge and our Outdoor Activities Chairman (and long-time TC volunteer) George Cartamail.

North Jersey Crew Finishes Campgaw Bridge

The North Jersey Weekend Crew, with Sandy Parr as crew chief, completed a bridge replacement in Campgaw Mountain County Reservation, in Mahwah, NJ, this past fall. The action took place on four successive second Sundays at Fyke Brook on the Old Cedar Trail. The crew welcomes new hands for their second Sunday projects.

North Jersey Crew Finishes Campgaw Bridge

The crew built a crossing on the Willow Crest Trail in Swartswood State Park...

...and another at Dunnfield Creek, Worthington State Park.

Camp Vacamas (NJ) Seeks Packs for Urban Teens Hiking Program

Our friends at Camp Vacamas, which recently sold 310 acres that includes the Hewitt-Butler Trail to NJ DEP Green Acres to be preserved as open space, have asked the Trail Conference to assist them in gathering 25 daypacks and 25 backpacks for use in their hiking programs for underprivileged teenagers. These packs can be used as long as they are clean and in good condition. Please contact Bill O’Hearn (ohearn@nynjtc.org) or 201-512-9348, ext. 22) for information on how to donate a pack. Thank you!

Monica & David Day, Leaders, West Jersey Crew

Year-end Report from West Jersey Crew

The West Jersey Crew worked in five different parks in 2007, engaging in projects that ranged from rock steps to side-hilling to bridge repairs to opening a major relocation on an existing trail.

The crew continued construction of the new Warten Trail in Jenny Jump State Park, clearing more new trail and improving the trail way with side-hilling and rock steps. The crew also completed a bridge and placed about 150’ of puncheon (recycled from the AT in Vernon last summer) in Swartswood State Park. We also began work on a stream crossing on the Dunnfield Creek in Worthington State Forest, which we completed in the fall session. We finished up the season by refurbishing the bridge and its abutments across the Beaver Brook in the Wilden Brook Wildlife Management Area. In the fall, the crew cleared and opened the new 0.5-mile long relocation of the Terrace Pond North Trail in Wawah State Park and restored roughly a mile of the original trail from the Warwick Turnpike trail head. We then wrapped up the season by completing the crossing over Dunnfield Creek.

We extended a hearty “thank-you” to all who worked on these projects in 2007: Jack Baccaglini, Ian Blundell, Bob Boyson, Roland Beauldr, Gordon Campbell, Carolyn Castfield, Kevin Dempsey, Dan Elliott, Toby Golick, Ed Goodell, Jim Gregoire, Joan James, Ken Manes, Mike Manes, Gary Mayer, Keith McNair, Marshall McKnight, Brian Mulaney, Karl Peters, Rich Puglisi, Steve Reiss, Chuck Rodd, Karen Rycklick, Louis Schneider, Malcolm Specter, Andrew Stever, Bill Taggart, Linda Taggart, Hui-Chen Tai, Rudy Templin, and Bob Warren.

We also extend a huge “thank-you” to the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection: Supt. Jessica Kruegel of Wawahma State Park, Supt. Ernie Kabert of Worthington/Jenny Jump State Parks, Supr. Blanca Cheves of Swartswood State Parks and their staffs. Their assistance and direct support helped make this year’s work a success.

Monica & David Day, Leaders, West Jersey Crew

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Hiking Boots vs. Trail Shoes: What’s the Difference and How to Select?

By Howard E. Friedman, DPM

O

er the past year hiking around New

A remarkable variety in the

Eye of hikers’ feet. Hiking boots still pre-
don’t use the term “hiking boot.” The

The hiker who had just completed the Giant Stair

during much of the year, however, are

t are many hikers who wear ankle support in

A stone hiker advocates, however, hik-

ing footwear purely personal preference?

would-be hikers that “sturdy hiking boots

ing boot, a light hiking boot, a trail shoe, or

A quick note here and who is wrong? Is

hiking footwear purely personal preference?

The difference between a backpack-

boots. A review of multiple studies on the

But a true athletic shoe is more than just

boots. A high top boot may give an ankle sprain prone backpacker some sensory input to help reduce a full

A personal anecdote. I have sprained my ankle both in my Vasque Sundowner at backpacking shows and my Society

Group Publishes Field Guide To Bashakill Wetlands

Trailside, extends, includes species lists, a color fold-out map of the

The Bashakill Wetlands: A Field Guide has been published by the Bashakill Area

The Basha Kill Area

management area in the Shawangunks, through which the Shawangunk Ridge Trail extends, includes species lists, a color fold-out map of the wetlands, an almanac that tells you what to look for at different times of the year, mini-essays about plant and animal residents, a kid’s section, and superb pen-and-ink drawings of plant and animal residents by artist Lilith Jones. Price: $25, includes tax.

The Basha Kill Wetlands: A Field Guide has been published by the Bashakill Area

Wanted: Afternoon Hikers

The Bashakill Kill, one of the tallest mountains in the world, is a good place to

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About 250 million years ago an ancestor to the modern reptiles (lizards and snakes) evolved from a group of fish-like creatures. Of Pangaea, but true lizards probably did not arise for another 100 million years. These lizards evolved fast, with many species appearing in the Gunns for many years, and some living in New York, just to name a few.

The Gunns, or New York Fencer lizard (Sceloporus undulatus) is one species found in New Jersey, and it is most common in the Pinelands. It can be spotted sunning itself on trees and logs, or more often on rocks.

Who are some of the memorable people you’ve worked with over the years?

There are so many that it’s hard to single out just a few, but Bob Anderson of the Open Space Institute is a real visionary, and a great partner in our work in the Gunks. I made good friends at NYS DEC, the local land trusts and advocacy groups. Jack Dolan and Ed Goodwell were both great people to work with and have become very close friends, and I’ve met many other volunteers that I have a lot of respect for who worked very hard on building these trails, in particular times.

What was the most difficult aspect of doing trail-based acquisition work?

I think the biggest challenge, of course, is fundraising. We had to raise money to buy the land and then to maintain it. The people and the beautiful land I have had the privilege to work with.

There was a Lizard FenceLizard (Sceloporus undulatus) is listed as a Threatened Species by the NY Natural Heritage Program. The FenceLizard is one species found in New Jersey, and it is most common in the Pinelands. It can be spotted sunning itself on trees and logs, or more often on rocks.

Lizards Found in Southern New York

The FenceLizard (Sceloporus undulatus) is one species found in New Jersey, and it is most common in the Pinelands. It can be spotted sunning itself on trees and logs, or more often on rocks.

What challenges do you face when working in New York and New Jersey?

The challenges are varied and complex. Working in New York and New Jersey, where real estate is often scarce, can be difficult. We often have to work with landowners and other stakeholders to find a solution that benefits everyone.

What advice would you give to people who want to get into the land acquisition game?

I think that if you’re serious about it, you need to be persistent. You also need to be willing to take risks and be creative. And finally, you need to be a good listener, because listening is key to understanding the needs and desires of those you are working with.

How will you miss about working at the TC?

The people and the beautiful land that I have had the privilege to work with.

What is your favorite trail, or favorite trail segment, and why?

I have to admit that my first passion is for rock-climbing, but I’ve done a lot of hiking to get to the cliffs and mountains. My favorite trails are in the Gunns, especially the remote wild lands up on Sam’s Point. Of course, I may have other favorites now, as I have climbed in the Gunns for so many years.
January, Tuesday, January 1

RYV. Shawangunk Ridge, Cragsville, NY. Leader: call 845-465-4565 for info. Meet 8:30am. Mountaineers hike 4-5 miles, expect to hike 2 hours. Snowshoes may be required due to weather, hikers should bring their own. Meet at Post Office in Cragsville parking lot. Must call for meeting place. Call 845-465-4565.

GCF. Appalachian Trail at Cane Trace. Leader: call 828-334-3592. Meet 10am at Cane Trace (Note: No parking permit required). Moderate to strenuous 6 miles; expect to hike 6-7 hours. Call 828-334-3592.

February, Sunday, February 3

LTC. Appalachian Trail at Wawayanda Mtn. Leader: call 828-334-3592. Meet 10am at parking lot near Visitor Center. Moderate to strenuous 4 miles; expect to hike 4-5 hours. Call 828-334-3592.

Appalachian Trail at Wawayanda Mountain.

Wednesday, January 23

RVW. Locust Brook Reservation, Morrisville, NY. Leader: call 845-269-0212. Meet 10am at parking lot; call for directions. Easy hikes up to 4 miles. Call 845-269-0212.

Thursday, January 24

RVW. Hudson Valley Rail Trail. Leader: call 845-459-7017. Meet 9am at Avon Pk. Parking area. Moderate to strenuous 4-5 miles; expect to hike up to 7 hours. Call 845-459-7017.

Wednesday, February 6


Thursday, February 7

RVW. Phoenicia Ski Area, Phoenicia, NY. Leader: call 845-626-5850. Meet 10am at parking lot. Easy to strenuous, 4-7 miles; expect to hike 5-7 hours. Call 845-626-5850.

Saturday, February 9

RVW. Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge, Boston, MA. Leader: call 845-269-0212. Meet 8am at parking lot. Easy hikes up to 4 miles. Call 845-269-0212.

ADK-MH. Mid Hudson Valley. Leader: call 845-435-6865. Meet 9am at intersection of Main St. and Yaley Rd. Moderate to strenuous 4-6 miles; expect to hike 5-7 hours. Call 845-435-6865.
New book and organization promotes eco-tourism in heart of New Jersey Highlands

Don Weise, a West Milford author, hiker, and Trail Conference member, plots a course for local adventurers to explore some surprisingly rugged New Jersey terrain in his new book, *West Milford Baker’s Dozen*: A Hiker’s Guide to Climbing the Heart of the Highlands’ 13 Greatest Peaks. Inspired by other peak-bagging organizations such as the Catskill 3500 Club, Weise recently created the group West Milford 13ers; membership requires reaching the summits of all 13 peaks. The range from two to six miles in length. Fit hikers often bag multiple peaks in a day. Weise notes there is a larger goal in creating the new club, which is to establish the North Jersey Highlands as an eco-friendly recreation destination. The Highlands Act protected most of West Milford from having its vast open spaces, glacial lakes, cliffs, wildlife, and 100-plus miles of marked foot trails paved over. But the township, which supplies three million New Jersey residents with clean drinking water, has not been able to generate tax revenues. It currently receives no money for the actual water it supplies and almost no compensation from the state for its lost revenues. Environmentally safe recreation brings tourism and a much-needed economic boost to watershed communities. With this in mind, Weise’s book includes a “peak” for every 13ers: West Milford 13ers. Membership requires reaching the summits of all 13 peaks. The range from two to six miles in length. Fit hikers often bag multiple peaks in a day.

The first step is to become an aspiring member and obtain a copy of the guidebook. A $10 fee plus shipping charges covers membership and entries the aspiring 13ers to one of the copy of the official Baker’s Dozen guidebook which contains the following information:

- Detailed descriptions of the official peaks and required routes
- Description of two additional “unofficial” peaks
- Tall sheet for keeping track of peaks climbed
- Hiking and safety tips

A copy of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference’s North Jersey map set and a one-year membership to West Milford 13ers. West Milford Waterhed also be needed to complete the challenge.

Don Weise is interested in becoming an aspiring member, purchasing the guidebook, or obtaining more information should email the author at donweise@hotmail.com.

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Member Club Profile

The Trail Conference comprises 13,000 individual members and more than 100 member clubs with a combined membership of 150,000 hikers. We invite club representatives to submit photos from hikes or maintenance outings or other events please set up your digital photos at our virtual resolution. Email your photos, along with complete caption information to tw@nytc.org “Tell us about your club” in the subject line.

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New York Alpine Club

The New York Alpine Club describes itself as an American-American club with groups focused on rock climbing, snowshoeing, backpacking, snowboarding, skiing, and camping. The club, which former president and current trail maintenance committee chair Chong Pl Kim says “connects mostly with hikers with lots of expertise. We try to make it easy for more experienced people, where more experienced members give lessons in such skills as map reading and basic climbing techniques. Usually these camps—which last a week—are conducted in the New York mountains. We get a lot of small groups, but the most use we get is from young people with 20 adult mentors traveled to Utah for the annual camp. “The individuals who were students 20 years ago are now the teachers,” says Mr. Kim. NYAC welcomes new members. For contact information, go to www.nyac.org and click on Member Clubs.

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Take the ‘Baker’s Dozen’ Mountain Challenge in NJ Highlands

Novartis and Hertz Give Back to the Local Community

On Thursday, October 4, a crew of over 40 employees from Novartis Pharmaceuticals hosted a planting and trail work day at the side of the Appalachian Trail (AT) construction site on Bear Mountain. The group’s trip to Bear Mountain was sponsored by Novartis’ Community Partnership Day, in which the company makes it possible “for associates to help communities in the ways they care about,” said these two groups benefitting from the event were: and they each accomplished a great deal over the course of one day.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is pleased to partner with groups like Novartis and Hertz for projects like these. With programs that has moved farther toward completion. Visit www.novartis.com and www.hertz.com to learn more about these companies and their community-service/environmentally friendly campaigns.

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Organizers Revive Veterans’ Heritage Hike Series and Welcome Hike Alumni

The Veterans’ Heritage Hike was a popular series for several years for veterans in recovery. It has moved further toward completion. Visit www.novartis.com and www.hertz.com to learn more about these companies and their community-service/environmentally friendly campaigns.
Donors to the Annual Fund September 25, 2007 to November 21, 2007

GIFTS

Bill and Linda Berg of Englewood Cliffs
Charles J. Bonanno of New York, NY
Joseph P. Bute, M.D.
John C. Caruso of South Orange
Edith H. Caruso of Montclair
Edward H. Caruso of West Orange
Pamela C. Caruso of West Orange

to the Trail Conference for a generous sum of $10,000, $5,000, and $2,000, respectively.

WILL AND IRREVOCABLE TRUSTS

In memory of...
AWARDS '07
Each year the Trail Conference honors designated volunteers and partners for exceptional commitment to trails and the Trail Conference. Awards are made in up to nine categories and are presented either at the Annual Meeting or at a time and place of the award recipient’s convenience. (This year no awards were given in two categories, the Raymond H. Torrey and Honorary Member awards.)

CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD
Andy S. Norin of Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP
For his dedicated work in providing pro bono legal assistance to the NY-NJ Trail Conference in the acquisition of the Darlington Schoolhouse.

LEO ROTHSCILD CONSERVATION AWARD
John Myers
For his ground-breaking work in planning and protecting more than 300 miles of trail corridors in New York and New Jersey, including the Appalachian Trail, Long Path, Highlands Trail, and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail. From 1991 to 2007, John arranged the purchase of many thousands of acres, contracted 355 property owners, and negotiated 175 trail access agreements with landowners. John leaves us with a legacy of ridge top trails and beautiful mountains and forests, preserved forever. (For more about John, turn to page 1.)

NEXT GENERATION AWARD
Hike ‘n Serve Venture Crew 100
Young people working alongside adults: Venture Crew 100 represents the best of what team spirit and synergy among many enthusiastic accomplishers can do to get a job done and have fun. This group has unlocked a winning combination.

KEN LLOYD CLUB AWARD
Cattkill Mountain Club and Chris Olney
Recognizing the dedicated work of the volunteers of the Cattkill Mountain Club, under the leadership of their former president, Chris Olney; in creating, clearing and marking the beautiful Warner Creek Trail, which connects the Long Path to the Devil’s Path. CMC also supports a growing trail crew.

WILLIAM HOEFERLIN AWARD
John Moran
In a short span of eight years, John Moran has become The Quiet Man of the North Jersey trails, where his droll wit and record of accomplishment as trail chair, supervisor, and jack-of-all-trades do all the talking that’s necessary.

MAJOR WILLIAM A WELCH TRAIL PARTNER AWARD
Morris Land Conservancy/ David Epstein, Executive Director
For many years, the Morris Land Conservancy (MLC) has been a major force behind the preservation of open space in northern New Jersey, both by purchasing lands directly and by facilitating efforts by the municipalities and counties to preserve open space. The Trail Conference especially recognizes MLC’s efforts to preserve the Darlington Schoolhouse by making the initial purchase of this unique historic structure on our behalf.

PAUL LEIKIN EXTRA MILE AWARD
Multiple winners this year, all were volunteers who helped plan and implement the Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s Biennial Conference, Ramapo 2007, hosted by the Trail Conference.

Karen and John Magerlein Registars
Carolyn and Jim Canfield
Turner Committee Chair
Sue Eilers
Youth Program Chair
Walt Daniels
Webmaster
Nominations Committee: George Becker, Jr., John Gunzler, Malcolm Spector, Denise Vitale

The Trail Conference honors designated volunteers and partners for exceptional commitment to trails and the Trail Conference.

Volunteers Haul Trash
continued from page 1
their purchase agreement until the property is clean of all debris, which includes many piles of rotten railroad ties on top of foundations leftover from the LaFarge factory that must be dismantled and reduced to rubble. The Trail Conference has received an offer of $15,000 from the Land Trust Alliance to help with the clean-up, but professional estimates range from about $55,000 to over $80,000—at best, $40,000 in excess of the grant.

Trash Bash I was the kick-off for a more creative approach to bringing the $40,000 clean-up gap. For example, the tires are posted on Craig’s List as “free if you haul,” and a volunteer is investigating a scrap metal hauler, a local waste hauler, and whether any area transfer stations might reduce fees for this nonprofit project.

Visit www.nynjtc.org and Search Site for

Some of the 379 collected tires

"LaFarge Cleanup" for the most current update about the project and a lot more pictures, including the Gallery of Tires. You can also contact Brenda Holzinger, Assistant Director of Conservation & Advocacy, via email holzinger@nynjtc.org or phone (201-512-9348, ext. 25) for more information.

GEARCHECK

Microspikes; pocket-sized traction system from Kahtoola
Suggested retail price: $59
Rated: 5 boots out of 5

You are likely to hike but would like some extra traction when the ground gets icy, try our Microspikes!

I gave up on stabilizers a few years ago and use a combination of steel chains and 3/8 inch spike to give you incredible traction whether you are ascending or descending slippery terrain. For more information about the Microspikes, visit Kahtoola’s website: www.kahtoola.com/microspikes.html.

Taking Digital Pictures for Trail Walker?

File sizes needed for print are larger than those required for the web. Set your camera for a high or highest resolution.

The smallest size photo that we can use is 3 inches x 2.25 inches @ 300dpi (900 x 675 pixels).

Larger sizes are recommended and should be saved as RGB jpeg files.

Some of the 379 collected tires

LaFarge Cleanup" for the most current update about the project and a lot more pictures, including the Gallery of Tires. You can also contact Brenda Holzinger, Assistant Director of Conservation & Advocacy, via email holzinger@nynjtc.org or phone (201-512-9348, ext. 25) for more information.
Two new trails in the western Ramapo Mountains of New Jersey offer spectacular views and open up a whole new area to hiking.

The Ramapo Lake area of Ramapo Mountain State Forest in Oakland has been a favorite destination of hikers for many years, with access available from Skyline Drive to the east. Recently, thanks to the efforts of long-time Trail Conference member and former Trails Council Chair Pete Heckel, an access point from the west has been opened (see directions below), and the new Indian Rock and Wanake Ridge Trails now offer the opportunity for hikers to explore the western ridge of the Ramapo Mountains. This 5.5-mile loop follows along scenic Ramapo Lake and offers several panoramic views from the crest of the Ramapo Ridge.

From the southern end of the parking area at Back Beach Park, follow the red-triangle-on-white-blazed Indian Rock Trail onto the woods. After crossing the Wanaque River on a stone-and-concrete footbridge, rains of former dairy/orest buildings are visible on either side of the trail.

Beyond a short steep climb, you’ll pass a large rock outcrop to your left. Several figures of Native Americans in feathered headdress are painted on the rock, giving it its “Indian Rock.” The Indian Rock Trail continues to ascend more gradually, with several turns, until it ends at a junction with the white “C”-on-red-blazed Cannonball Trail. Turn left onto the Cannonball Trail.

After a few turns, the trail heads north on a level gravel road, parallel to the western shore of Ramapo Lake. In half a mile, after passing a building on the roadside to the left, a rock ledge to the right offers a broad view over the lake. Follow the Cannonball Trail when it turns left onto a wide and marked trail (no sign), and leaves the lake, but when the trail turns right, continue ahead on the gravel road, now following the light-blue blazed of the MacEvoy Trail.

After crossing a pipeline, turn left onto the orange-blazed Wanaque Ridge Trail, which descends steadily on a rocky woods road, then turns left onto a narrower woods road and levels off near a fork at the next fork, then left at a T-intersection with another woods road. Soon, the trail turns sharply right and climbs to a cliff. At the crest of the western ridge of the Ramapo Mountains, it turns left and heads south.

Soon, you’ll emerge in an open area at a high point on the ridge, with a panoramic west-facing view. The Wanaque Reservoir is below, with the massive Raymond Dam in the foreground, and the Wyanokes beyond. A short distance beyond, a white-blazed side trail to the left leads to an east-facing viewpoint at another high point.

The trail now descends to a T-intersection, where the red-paneled-on-yellow-blazed Wanaque Reserve Trail goes off to the right. Bear left to continue on the orange-blazed trail, which follows a woods road along a pipeline. When the Wanaque Ridge Trail ends at a junction with the Indian Rock Trail, turn right and follow the Indian Rock Trail back to the parking lot.

HOW TO GET THERE:
From I-287 south, take Exit 55. Turn right at the bottom of the ramp onto Union Avenue, then turn left at the next light onto Ringwood Avenue (County 511). Continue to the next light, and turn right onto Second Avenue. At a stop sign, turn left onto the Boulevard, then bear right to continue on Fourth Avenue. In 0.2 mile, where Fourth Avenue bears to the left and continues straight ahead on Back Beach Road to a large parking area.

From I-287 north, take Exit 55 and turn right at the second light onto Second Avenue, and continue following the directions above.

MAP:
NY-NJ Trail Conference North Jersey Trail Map #115 (Note: The new blazed Wanaque Ridge Trail is not shown on this map; the Indian Rock Trail is shown as an unmarked trail).