The push is on for the Highlands Trail in New Jersey. Volunteers led by Glenn Oleksak and Adam Rosenberg, co-supervisors of the trail, are on track this fall to develop one of the trail’s final links through Hunterdon County in New Jersey to near the Delaware River. If all goes according to plan, HT Trail Committee Chair Gary Haagland says there will be a celebration event on the river bank this spring, in Ringelsville, PA, where the trail will cross and continue, developed by Appalachian Mountain Club, into the Pennsylvania Highlands.

Delaware River or Bust! The Highlands Trail Nears a Landmark

T he idea, says Gary Haagland, grew out of the burgeoning efforts to preserve open space in the Highlands of New York and New Jersey in order to protect water resources, wildlife habitat, and natural recreation areas for residents. A long-distance trail through the region would help bring public attention to the existence and vulnerability of this extensive swath of green. Then the Highlands Trail Committee’s first volunteer, Dolan was an early champion of the idea, and creating the trail became a Trail Conference’s first volunteer. “In 1994, I retired early and devoted many hours to the developing Forestation Project,” Bob Moss reminisces. “This brought to JoAnn Dolan’s attention that I had some time on my hands, and John Myers (former TC land acquisition consultant) asked me to start attending meetings of the Sooc Highlands Trail Committee, consisting of representatives of all the outdoor groups that could be thought of (Sierra Club, AMC, etc.), New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the state, counties, and active individuals. Soon I was chair pro temp. Next John started sending me out to the field to look at properties and potential trail routes, getting information (which were not available online yet), etc. In 1995, the Trails Council formally created the Highlands Trail Committee, and appointed me chair. “I loved the concept of a long-distance trail through New Jersey. Equally enthralling was the chance to build hiking trails into new areas. Having lived here since 1947, and hiked here since 1950, I thought I knew the state, but there were so many beautiful places that I had no idea of. It also gave me an excuse to spend half my time in the woods.”

The Highlands Trail, a combination of co-alignment on established trails, new trails, and natural brook trout spawning streams, is the first trail run through the Highlands of New Jersey. The idea, says Gary Haagland, grew out of the burgeoning efforts to preserve open space in the Highlands of New York and New Jersey in order to protect water resources, wildlife habitat, and natural recreation areas for residents. A long-distance trail through the region would help bring public attention to the existence and vulnerability of this extensive swath of green. Then the Highlands Trail Committee’s first volunteer, Dolan was an early champion of the idea, and creating the trail became a Trail Conference’s first volunteer. “In 1994, I retired early and devoted many hours to the developing Forestation Project,” Bob Moss reminisces. “This brought to JoAnn Dolan’s attention that I had some time on my hands, and John Myers (former TC land acquisition consultant) asked me to start attending meetings of the Sooc Highlands Trail Committee, consisting of representatives of all the outdoor groups that could be thought of (Sierra Club, AMC, etc.), New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the state, counties, and active individuals. Soon I was chair pro temp. Next John started sending me out to the field to look at properties and potential trail routes, getting information (which were not available online yet), etc. In 1995, the Trails Council formally created the Highlands Trail Committee, and appointed me chair. “I loved the concept of a long-distance trail through New Jersey. Equally enthralling was the chance to build hiking trails into new areas. Having lived here since 1947, and hiked here since 1950, I thought I knew the state, but there were so many beautiful places that I had no idea of. It also gave me an excuse to spend half my time in the woods.”

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Trails, New Volunteer Opportunities in the Future for Westchester’s Angle Fly Preserve

The NY-NJ Trail Conference is excited to be working with Somers Land Trust, Westchester Land Trust, the Town of Somers, Taconic Lake Reservation, and other key supporters to design and construct a network of trails at Angle Fly Preserve. The preserve, named after the natural stream running through it, is the last natural brook trout spawning stream in Westchester County. A mixture of wetland, stream, forest, and upland habitats encompass the 654-acre preserve.

Angle Fly Preserve was purchased in 2006 through the cooperation of Somers Land Trust, Westchester Land Trust, New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection, and New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. The recent Angle Fly Preserve Comprehensive Management Plan articulates the desire for a trail network that protects the existing important and sensitive habitats while opening up TC Preserve for education and recreational uses. An archeological site survey and an environmental assessment have occurred and are important resources in the trail design and layout process.

On September 28, Somers Land Trust held its annual membership meeting at Angle Fly Preserve. Invasive plant species (taken from Angle Fly Preserve) were showcased, along with information about the impacts of invasive plants on native habitats. Hikes, led by Rod Christie, executive director of the Adirondack Alpine Club, took community members through sections of Angle Fly Preserve. This provided an opportunity to see some of the proposed trail routes and learn about plants, insects, amphibians, and birds along the way. Somers Land Trust has created the Friends of Angle Fly group to promote the public enjoyment of these natural lands while protecting them.

If you are interested in being part of activities at Angle Fly Preserve, contact Michael Barnhart, info@SomersLandTrust.org, or Christine Ferguson, East Hudson Regional Representative, ferguson@nynjtc.org, to learn about trail building and maintaining opportunities.

Hike-a-thon Raises $15,000 for Trails

Forty-one hikers, both members and non-members of the Trail Conference, raised over $15,000 in the first-ever Trail Conference Hike-a-thon on October 4 at Bear Mountain State Park. The event, co-sponsored by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, aimed to raise funds for trail projects at the park, in particular, for the People for Trails interpretive exhibit that is a component of the Bear Mountain Trails Project. Special thanks go to Eric Fuchs-Stengel, Robert Fuller, and the Begin family for leading the way with pledges and support totaling over $5,500. Pictured are those who were on hand at the 8 am start of the event, which was marked by an environmental leadership award to the Trail Conference from the Global Sports Alliance (GSA). (Learn more about the award on page 2.) The Trail Conference plans on holding its second Hike-a-thon next year on October 3, 2009 to raise money for trail projects in public parks throughout our region. A big thank you also goes out to the NJ Search and Rescue and David Landford and his US Army Cadets for patrolling the course.
If You Are Reading This:

Most Likely You Are a Member of the Trail Conference.

Perhaps you are one of over 1,000 trail maintainers, each watching over a section of trail, visiting it two or three times a year (or more) clipping back the blueberry, the pesky scrub oak, various weeds and vines that have no name, looking for drainage problems, blow-downs, carrying out trash. No doubt, while cutting back last year’s growth, or repairing blazes or rebullding cairns, you encountered hikers on ‘your’ trail who thanked you for maintaining it easier for them to follow a foot path through the wilderness. (You put in over 52,000 hours of volunteer time doing this last year.)

You may be a volunteer in the TC office in Mahwah. We are after all a small business and we need all the help we can get, fulfilling orders, preparing our packets of publications, sending out notices and newsletters. Perhaps you have helped the publications committee, GPState, or field checking maps and books. (You put in over 11,000 hours of volunteer time doing this last year.)

But Wait: You Might Be A Lapsed Member.

Yes, we continue to send the Trail Walker, for a time, to former members, hoping not to lose them. We worried: Did we do something to alienate you? What happened? Did you move away or just overlook those renewal notices? Saying goodbye is so hard. Don’t just go away. Talk to us. We are very proud of our new rules in acquiring and protecting land, advocating for trails friendly legislation in Trenton and Albany: What’s not to like? But if you disagree, let us know. Give us feedback. Come back.

You Might Be Reading This Even If You Are Not A TC Member.

You belong to a hiking club, or you have hiking buddies, and after a hike, you are downing a brewski with those usually feet up on the back porch, reading your buddy’s Trail Walker. Why he has not explained to you how important it is to support the Trail Conference is beyond me. Since 1920, the Trail Conference has been the umbrella organization that advocates for and protects the interests of hikers. We build and maintain the trails; we publish the maps and books; we train armies of volunteers in outdoor stewardship. We have over 9,300 members. We deserve your support. Your buddy should lean on you to join; then you can read your own Trail Walker.

Mission Statement

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

- Developing, building, maintaining hiking trails.
- Promoting hiking trails through support and advocacy.
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a federation of 103 hiking and outdoor groups, representing over 1,000 trail main- tainers, over 9,300 members. We need all the help we can get, fulfilling orders, preparing our packets of publications, sending out notices and newsletters. Perhaps you have helped the publications committee, GPState, or field checking maps and books. (You put in over 11,000 hours of volunteer time doing this last year.)

From the Board of Directors

By Malcolm Specter

The Global Sports Alliance honors the Trail Conference history of service.

Global Sports Alliance (GSA) is an official partner of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Its mission is to promote environmental awareness and actual participation among sports and outdoor recreation enthusiasts around the world.

Kevin Torrca, New York team captain for GSA, presented the GSA Ecoflag to TC Executive Director Ed Goodell. “It is a great honor for me to be here today in the company of vibrant people, too engaged in living robust lives to be disheartened by the prevailing doom and gloom felt in some sectors,” Torrca said at a brief ceremony. He described the Trail Conference as “an organ- ization that is the truest manifestation of the fundamental premise that if you really want something good to happen, you roll up your sleeves and work to make it happen... In light of the Trail Conference’s extraordinary volunteer-powered public service and truly inspiring accomplishments in defense of recreation and the natural world, I present you with the Ecoflag as a token of our respect and gratitude.”

TC People: ‘Too Robust to be Disheartened’

On October 4th, the New York Team of the Global Sports Alliance kicked off the first annual Trail Conference Hike-a-thon by honoring the Trail Conference for its leadership in conservation, recreation, stewardship, and education. The award acknowledged the 85th anniversary of the first completed section of the Appalachian Trail from Bear Mountain at an event that raised funds to support the trails project at Bear Mountain, which will relo- cate and restore a portion of the AT.

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I have enclosed a check or money order payable to the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: NY-NJ Trail Conference, 50% OFF Gift Membership, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430.

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Go to: wwwynnjtc.org and click Join/New.

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Pssst... the Trail Conference enables hiking in our region. Spread the word.
Sampling Progress at the Bear Mountain Trail Project with the Wednesday Hikers
By Edward Goodell

Since the 1960s, a group known as the Wednesday Hikers has been meeting for weekly hikes in our area. Recently, I had the pleasure of walking with a group of 60 or so members of this congenial group on my first ever complete walk of the new but incomplete route of the Appalachian Trail over Bear Mountain. The hike was an opportunity for me to survey progress of this largest of Trail Conference projects and to show it off and explain to it a group that regularly enjoys trails but is not affiliated with the Trail Conference (though many individuals are TC members).

The entire project is scheduled to be finished in 2011, but significant and impressive portions of the trail, particularly on the steep and boulder-strewn east face of the mountain, are virtually complete, though are not yet officially open. Other parts are still under construction, and some parts are nothing more than a few ribbons of surveyor’s tape tied to branches along the way.

All in all it was a delightful and interesting hike, and we came away with a better appreciation of the need for a project of this scope to cope with the extremely heavy visitation and resulting foot traffic at Bear Mountain.

Thanks, also, to Bob Maloney who provided the lake stats above, both Susan Sternsgold and Peter Heckler for their photographs and, especially, Naomi and Dave Sutter for arranging the hike.

The Trail Conference participated in the master plan process and is generally pleased with the results. Several Wilderness areas have been expanded, strengthening protection of these crucial lands. Much of the Hunter Mountain area, including South- west Hunter, formerly categorized as Wild Forest, is now included in Hunter-West Kill Wilderness Area. The Windham-Blackhead Range area, previously Wild Forest, is also now designated as Wilderness. Together these two Wilderness areas include 11 peaks over 3,500 feet: Balsam, Sherrill, North Dome, West Kill, Rusk, Hunter, and Southeast Hunter (Hunter-West Kill Wilderness) and Black Dome, Blackhead, Thomas Cole, and Windham High Peak (Windham-Blackhead Wilderness). The latter also includes Ara Point, Burnt Knob, and Stopple Point, all popular hiking destinations along the Long Path.

We met Bill Horowitz on the Major Welch Trail as he touched up his blazes in anticipation of turning over his maintenance duties to another volunteer at the end of the month.

Several Wilderness areas have been expanded, strengthening protection of these crucial lands.

DEC Finalizes Catskill Park State Land Master Plan: Wilderness Areas Expanded, Bike Routes Approved

The plan guiding the future management of the state’s 292,000 acres in the Catskill Forest Preserve has been finalized, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Pete Grannis announced in early September. The update to the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan has been the subject of extensive public comments and reviews. Among other changes, the plan expands Wilderness areas and adds a new “Primitive Bicycle Corridors” classification. It also includes innovative approaches to address emerging threats to resources.

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While the Trail Conference did not object to creation of a new Primitive Bicycle Corridor classification, it did object to proposals to permit bicycles on the Overlook Turnpike route on Overlook Mountain and the Colden-Lake-Dyke Trail (Notch Trail). Though these objections were not successful, the plan does call for prohibiting the use of bicycles and motorized vehicles in Wilderness areas. The question of permitting bicycle use on the Long Path/Escañrup Trail in the new Elm Ridge Wild Forest appears to be left open. The Trail Conference does not oppose new bike corridors in the Elm Ridge Wild Forest, but strongly objects to their use on the Long Path. The issue is expected to be addressed when a Unit Management Plan for the new area is developed.

The Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell comments, “By realocating and strengthening the wilderness and wild forest areas within the Catskill Forest Preserve, the plan manages the state’s lands in an environmentally balanced way to increase the needs of various users and remain true to the ‘forever wild’ designation in the state constitution.”

The Catskill Forest Preserve is part of the Catskill Park, which consists of 785,500 acres of public and private lands. Since its creation in 1885, the Forest Preserve in the Catskills has grown from 34,000 acres to nearly 300,000 acres of public land within Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, and Ulster counties. Forest Preserve lands are protected under Article 14 of the state constitution as “forever wild” and cannot be logged, leased or sold, and must be managed to protect wilderness values. The state pays property taxes on DEC land.

The original Catskill Park State Land Master Plan was developed in 1985 and classifies state forest preserve lands within the park based on their physical character and capacity to accommodate human use. This resulted in four land classifications: wilderness, wild forest, intensive use, and administrative. The plan also designates management units and directs DEC to develop individual unit management plans that guide management activities and public use of those units.

DEC revised the draft in April 2008 for additional public review and comment. This final plan reflects that input and recognizes the existence of future mountain biking opportunities on state lands in the Catskills and commits DEC to preserving bike trail corridors.

Specific changes from the original plan include the following:

- Create a new land classification - Primitive Bicycle Corridor - to encompass approximately 176 acres. The Master Plan reclassifies four trail corridors (100 feet wide) through existing or proposed new wilderness areas, mostly in Greene County, that will allow the public to use a bicycle but will otherwise be managed according to wilderness guidelines. These corridors are along old roads and have had historic bicycle use:
  - Indian Head Wilderness: Mink Hollow Road - its entire length
  - Indian Head Wilderness (3.2 miles)
  - Indian Head Wilderness: Overlook Turnpike from Overlook Mountain - Wild Forest boundary to Platte Clove and Prediger Road (4.5 miles)
  - Hunter-Westkill Wilderness: Diamond Notch Road - its entire length through the Hunter-Westkill Wilderness (3.2 miles)
  - Blackhead Range Wilderness: Colgate Lake - Duxthor Turnpike Trail, an old road including Colgate Lake Wild Forest to Storck’s Nest (2.4 miles)

- In Wild Forests, allow for bicycle use on roads open to the public, state back trails, old wood roads, foot trails, snowmobile trails, and horse trails, unless such use is deemed unsuitable through the Unit Management Planning process.

- Increase the size of the Colgate Wild Forest from 608 acres to 1,495 acres, utilizing the 2,400-foot contour as the boundary. This will provide increased opportunities for recreation appropriate in Wild Forests, including bicycle use.

- Include invasive species management, which the original Master Plan did not address. Any reference to this emerging threat, DEC and its new Office of Invasive Species will work with the Catskill Region Invasive Species Partnership to help identify and educate the public about invasive species.

- In addition, DEC may take necessary actions to control exotic invasive species where there is potential for significant degradation to the native ecosystem.

The complete plan and maps are available online at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43013.html.
**Conservation & Advocacy**

From the Conservation Director: William P. O’Hearn

Let’s Not Panic in the Face of the Economic Downturn

For those of us who are movie buff, the last economic crisis reminds us of the famous film *It’s a Wonderful Life*, in which Jimmy Stewart plays George Bailey, who has become one of our greatest little-business loan association in Bedford Falls, New York, that provides home loans for working poor in the area. In one memorable scene, there is a run on the local banks in town, perhaps part of the banking crisis of 2008. In that situation, Bryant Velker, the DEIS, which identified many defici-

cencies in the document. The DEIS is 2005. As a member of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, the TC this time voted

to commission an engineering review of the Bluestone Wild Forest, preventing incompatible development at an important gateway to the Catskill Preservation.

Two Large Developments Planned On Shawangunk Ridge

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a proposal to build 194 single-family units, two retail developments, and recreational facilities on an undeveloped site of 636 acres near the Basha Kill Wildlife Management Area was the subject of public hearings in the Orange County Town of Deerpark in August and September. The development, known as the Baskerville Subdivision, is bounded by Route 211, Route 62 and Port Orange Road in the Town of Deerpark.

The Trail Conference provided comments during the scoping phase of the proposal, and the second phase has begun in 2005. As a member of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, the TC this time voted to approve the application for approval has yet been made. The proposal calls for 49 luxury houses on 3- to 4-acre lots, a 280-room hotel, a spa, conferences center, and restaurants on all 650 acres at the top of the ridge. The Trail Conference had identified the property as a priority target for protection.

NEW JERSEY

TC Contacts:
West of Hudson Regional Representative: Chuck Wheelock, wheelock@nynjtc.org, 201-512-9348
East of Hudson Regional Representative: Chrissy Ferguson, Ferguson@nynjtc.org, 201-797-4474

Bluestone Mountain
Gateway to Catskills

The Open Space Institute (OSI) and New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced the acquisition of nearly 20 acres of prime recreation land at the southeastern gateway to the 380,000-acre Catskill Forest Preserve. The 19.52-acre Frazier property will be conveyed to DEC and managed as part of the Catskill Forest Preserve. The Frazier property buffers the Bluestone Wild Forest, a section of the Catskill with terrain suitable for more intensive development such as biking, hiking and hunting. In protection was strongly supported by local residents and represented by the Alliance for Historic Sites who permanently protect a vital conduit—as the historic Wintergreen quarry road—building and the Town of Kingston community center and the trail network of the Bluestone Wild Forest, preventing incompatible development at an important gateway to the Catskill Preserve.

Correction to SRT Route

From SRT Supervisor Andy Garrison re the rebuilt trail section of the Shawsangunk Ridge Trail over Cobblers Knob in Mount Hope (correction is underlined): Directions: Going north from Rt. 211 on Otisville Rd, turn right in about 0.3 mi, then pass over the railroad tunnel. The trail climbs fairly steep to a nice lookout point, and then turns south. The trail passes a low escarpment on the right, follows an old woods road for a while, and slowly descends through a wide, open cut before crossing over the railroad in just about 0.1 mile before it reaches Indian Orchard Road. Be advised that Indian Orchard Road changes to North Road when you cross the Deeprock Orange County/Mount Hope bridge. The elevation is below 20 feet. The trail drops very steeply to an old woods road, then continues on a very steep, hard climb for about 0.1 mile before it reaches Indian Orchard Road. Be advised that Indian Orchard Road changes to North Road when you cross the Deeprock Orange County/Mount Hope bridge. The elevation is below 20 feet. The trail drops very steeply to an old woods road, then continues on a very steep, hard climb for about 0.1 mile before it reaches Indian Orchard Road. Be advised that Indian Orchard Road changes to North Road when you cross the Deeprock Orange County/Mount Hope bridge. The elevation is below 20 feet. The trail drops very steeply to an old woods road, then continues on a very steep, hard climb for about 0.1 mile before it reaches Indian Orchard Road. Be advised that Indian Orchard Road changes to North Road when you cross the Deeprock Orange County/Mount Hope bridge. The elevation is below 20 feet. The trail drops very steeply to an old woods road, then continues on a very steep, hard climb for about 0.1 mile before it reaches Indian Orchard Road.

Red Back Loop Revisited:

Park Says ‘Not Open Yet’

Sterling Forest State Park has advised us that contrary to notice in the previous issue, Trail Walker, the Red Back Loop is not yet open. The trail as it stands is considered incomplete and inadequately marked at this time. Among the causes for the lack of completion are a fairly recent beaver-caused flooding at one location, where options for rerouting are both limited and extensive. Stay tuned.

AT Relay in Pawling

On August 18, work on a relocation of the Appalachian Trail in the Pawling area, where the trail opened to the public, led to community.

short case side trail and Cat Rocks, was completed and declared open to hikers—a great improvement over the steep incline and eroded trail. Many thanks to the volun-

teers who helped on this project. AT section leaders include Sitka, Dori, Gene Kinsey, Bob Siddeley, Walt Daniels, Don Owen, Andrew Lee, Jim Haggett, women from Beacon, New York.

Work Postponed in Popolopen Gorge:

Trail to Stay Open This Season

Construction work on a new water tower that would have closed trails in the Popolopen Gorge this fall has winter and has been postponed, owing to the cold weather. Five students from Roosevelt High School, Chris Everett, Al Verheugen, Georgie Weir.

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Construction work on a new water tower that would have closed trails in the Popolopen Gorge this fall has winter and has been postponed, owing to the cold weather. Five students from Roosevelt High School, Chris Everett, Al Verheugen, Georgie Weir.

**News**

Correction to SRT Route

AT Relay in Pawling

On August 18, work on a relocation of the Appalachian Trail in the Pawling area, where the trail opened to the public, led to community.

short case side trail and Cat Rocks, was completed and declared open to hikers—a great improvement over the steep incline and eroded trail. Many thanks to the volun-

teers who helped on this project. AT section leaders include Sitka, Dori, Gene Kinsey, Bob Siddeley, Walt Daniels, Don Owen, Andrew Lee, Jim Haggett, women from Beacon, New York.

Work Postponed in Popolopen Gorge:

Trail to Stay Open This Season

Construction work on a new water tower that would have closed trails in the Popolopen Gorge this fall has winter and has been postponed, owing to the cold weather. Five students from Roosevelt High School, Chris Everett, Al Verheugen, Georgie Weir.
TRAIL NEWS

In November, we welcome newcomers. Check the crew schedule for tripssuitable for beginners are planned.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE 101, NJ
Location: Jenny Jump State Park
Saturday, October 25
Throughout the NY-NJ Area
Trails Volunteers at Locations
November/December 2008 Page 5
Instructors:
201-512-9348, ext. 14.
pageat: www.nynjtc.org/workshops/trailu/

Making a Nice Trail Even Better
The West of Hudson South trail crew spent two very hot days in June rerouting a section of the Sterling Lake Loop trail in Sterling Forest State Park. The original trail ran down a difficult, rocky slope that made passage a real scramble. It also turned into a streambed in wet weather, making passage even harder. The crew made a long switchback around the area that included a very heavy duty staircase.

Some of Our Discount Partners

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Hudson Valley Outfitters
Dorsett's
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ROB'S
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VISIT WWW.NYNJTC.ORG/COMMERCE/DISCOUNT.HTML FOR COMPLETE LIST OF MONEY-SAVING DISCOUNTS!

Trail Conference members can take advantage of exclusive discounts and benefits with participating retailers and businesses! You can recoup the cost of your membership in one visit!}

The Trail Conference is proud to offer a Membership Benefit Program, which was created to provide our members with money-saving discounts at area retailers and service providers — benefits only available to Trail Conference members.

As part of your Trail Conference membership, you are issued a card identifying you as a Trail Conference member, making you eligible for all program discounts. To receive your member discounts, you must present your valid membership card at the time of purchase. Some stores offer the discount only on select items, so be sure to ask.

We encourage our members to take advantage of this incredible opportunity that comes with a Trail Conference membership. New discounts and offers are continually being added so be sure to visit our website's membership benefits area at www.nynjtc.org/commerce/discount.html for current offers.

25% Discount on Trail Conference publications and clothing purchased directly from the Trail Conference.

FREE Subscription to the Trail Walker, the Trail Conference's bimonthly newsletter filled with timely articles and columns that will enhance your hiking experiences.

Money-Saving Discounts at participating retailers and businesses.

Workshops and Seminars on trail maintenance and construction, leadership training, wilderness first aid, chainsaw operation, environmental monitoring and GPS operation.

Volunteer Opportunities to "learn by doing" in areas as varied as trail maintenance, construction, publications, environmental monitoring, and cartography.

Access to the Hoeferlin Library at the Trail Conference office that includes more than 1,000 books on hiking round the world, along with maps, guides and a historical archive.

Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

Trail Maintainers for Staten Island Trails
Maintainers are needed for sections of the Staten Island Greenbelt. Help maintain the trail, clean up litter, trim plant growth, clean out water bars, refresh blazes, and work with Trail Conference volunteers, Boy Scout groups, and park employees to repair those beautiful trails.

Data Entry and Clerical Support
Office help needed for the busy times at our office in Mahwah, 2 to 3 hours per day, 1 to 2 days a week. Duties include, but are not limited to, processing and shipping retail orders, helping with mailings.

Web Writers: Adopt a Trail Region
New Parks and Regions online database resources will complement and expand the Trail Conference's highly regarded Walk Books for New York and New Jersey. We've got New Jersey covered and need help with New York. Work from home or in the office. Adopt a region and write about it. Required: a computer, online access, commitment to accuracy, ability to be concise, willingness to learn and use online tools that are still in development. A great opportunity to support trails without getting dirty.

Volunteer Profile

Jay Hughes: New Volunteer

Jay Hughes of Monroe, CT, was searching for the missing half of a map when he was sent into the path of Ollie Simpson, an AT trail overseer in Dutchess County, NY, and adopt volunteer recruiter.

Jay, who is section-hiking the AT, had in hand a map he had picked up at the AT train stop north of Pawling, NY. Photocopied from a portion of the out-of-print Dutchess/Putnam Appalachian Trail brochure, the map showed the AT's route from the Connecticut border to the Taconic Parkway. Jay wanted a map for the other half of the Dutchess/Putnam route and so called the Trail Conference to see how he could get it. The Trail Conference asked Ollie to help him out.

"I called Jay and provided immediate information on the phone, sent a follow up email, and later mailed additional information," Ollie says.

"Later, Jay said that he'd like to give back to the trail. I suggested corridor monitoring (walk the AT boundary looking for survey markers, condition of the boundary blazes, and encroachments). He agreed. Our day was hot and buggy. Jay wore shorts. His advice to corridor monitors is to wear long pants due to the bushwhacking involved.

"Jay decided the corridor monitoring was not for him. He asked Ollie if there were other possible projects, such as clipping. "I suggested the Berkman Uplands Loop, once the actual path of the AT and now a side trail. A reroute in 1998 brought the AT along the shore of Nuclear Lake. Since then, what is now called the Berkman Uplands Loop has been largely underused and neglected. It needed extensive clipping. This was something Jay could do whenever he had available time. On his first day of clipping, he brought his daughter Allison along. Again it was hot and buggy. But Jay continued to come back until all the brush had been trimmed. Now he can walk the trail without clippers in hand."

Ollie, a certified chain saw operator, decided to tackle the many blow-downs across the trail herself, but she needed a "swamper," trail jargon for chain sawyer assistant. Jay agreed to give it a try. "We had an excellent day trail clearing 1.7 miles of trail plus some prep work for National Trails Day," Ollie reports. "Being a swamper is now Jay's preferred trail week. And it all started with his need for half of a map!"
On your next hike through incomparable, wet terrain, take a moment to consider the bog itself. Sphagnum—dense and endless masses of it—is quite beautiful and can teach us a lot about the changing natural world.

In a new York botanist has called sphagnum the most important plant on Earth,” because of the huge effect this small plant has on its environment.

Sphagnum contains the largest living genus of moss (bryophytes) with unusual chemical characteristics. The group includes about 61 species in North America, about 46 of these call New York State home.

In physical appearance, the plant is delicate and beautiful. An individual plant has a main stem covered with stem leaves. At the top is the “capitulum,” comprising a compact cluster of tiny branches. Branching off are clusters of branches or “fascicles”—usually two or three spreading branches, and too few hanging branches.

The leaves include two kinds of cells: chloroplasts, or green, living cells, and hyaline, or large, clear, structural dead cells. These latter cells give the plant its pale appearance when dry, and also endow it with great water-absorbing ability. Some species can hold up to 25 times their dry weight in water.

Ticks: No One’s Hiking Friend
By Holly Vuong

While hiking through the forests at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY last June, I noticed a brown speck crawling on my pant leg. Upon closer inspection, I recognized it as a nymphal black-legged tick (Ixodes scapularis, formerly known as deer tick). Like all ticks, they feed by piercing a blood of a mammal, bird, or reptile host. If I hadn’t flicked it off, the tick nymph on my pants would eventually have gotten onto my skin somewhere, embedded its mouth parts, and drunk my blood.

Black-legged ticks live for two years, in which they undergo four different life stages—egg, larva, nymph, and adult. Females lay approximately 3000 eggs per adult in the spring. These eggs hatch in August and appear as six-legged larvae. These larvae, which are tiny and difficult to see, stay on the ground or climb onto low vegetation and hatch onto passer-by, mostly small mammals, some birds, but also larger vertebrate hosts in the forests, including hikers. High mortality occurs during this life stage as many ticks will not find a host to feed on. After feeding until they are full, larval ticks drop off onto the forest floor and stay in the leaf litter, where they molt to become an eight-legged nymph.

These nymphal ticks, which are about 1 mm (1/16th inch) long, remain dormant for more than six months during the winter, and start to seek a host after the following late spring or early summer. They feed on a similar suite of hosts, and when full, they again fall off into the leaf litter and molt into adult ticks. The adults, which can now be differentiated into male and female ticks and are an easier to see 3-4 mm (1/4th inch) long, climb up vegetation and search for their last blood meal host. They primarily feed on white-tailed deer, although these ticks are opportunistic and will feed on various other medium sized mammals such as ruminants, raccoons, opossums, and skunks. It is on the last host that mating occurs and the cycle begins anew.

Many people in the northeast are wary of these little critters. This is because I. scapularis is known to transmit Borrelia burgdorferi, the bacterium that causes Lyme disease in humans. Added to this, recent research has found that black-legged ticks also harbor emerging pathogens like Anaplasma sp, which causes a newly recognized disease called “aplasmosis,” and Haemoplasses, which causes another serious disease called “babesiosis.”

In the case of all these tick-borne disease, the nymphal ticks are the most dangerous stage because of their small size, high infectivity rates (~30% for Lyme disease in many areas), and summer activity. Although adult ticks have greater infectivity rates, their larger size make them easily discernable on clothing and their peak activity of late October/early November coincides with reduced outdoor activity by people. Larval ticks are essentially free of the bacterium when they hatch from eggs. The bacterium is maintained in wildlife because infected nymphal ticks emerge and feed on hosts and transmit the bacterium to these hosts prior to the emergence and feeding of larval ticks. Transmission of B. burgdorferi requires at least 24 hours of feeding by the ticks.

Black-legged ticks can be a nuisance to people who want to enjoy the outdoors. However, the presence of these ticks should not restrict folks from their outdoor activities. People who are aware of tick natural history can be forewarned and should be able to take precautions. The most important are:

- wear light-colored clothing to help see dark ticks, use repellents, check yourself for ticks after hiking, especially if you are bush-whacking through dense vegetation, and be aware of disease symptoms so you can seek quick medical attention if sick. So, bask in the sun and enjoy the forest! And remember, as Brad Paisley sings in his “Tick” song, he would “like to check you for ticks.” But, since he may not be as cold, do a thorough check of yourself at the end of a great hike!

Holly Vuong is a Ph. D student in the Grad Program in Ecology and Evolution at Rutgers University and Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.
**September**

**Saturday, November 1**

IHC. Naturalization Hike. Leader: Gary Silverman, 908-229-6583. Meet at 10am at Roosevelt Island. 7 miles. Easy. Group will conduct all the necessary paperwork to become citizens.


IHC. Black Rock State Park, NY. Leader: Chris John, 518-943-5292. Meet at 10am at Black Rock State Park. 7 miles. Easy to moderate. Hike in the woods, then up to the top of the cliff.

**Saturday, November 8**

RVW. Olana, NY. Leader: Laura Morgan, 845-472-8699. Meet at 10am at Olana State Historic Site. 5 miles. Easy to moderate.

Austin Lake Reservation, NY. Leader: Chris John. Meet at 10am at Austin Lake. 2 miles. Easy.

PMNHA. Full Moon Hike, NJ. Leader: Matt Lloyd, 901-553-9520. Meet at 6pm at Full Moon Hike. 4 miles. Easy.


IHC. Black Rock State Park, NY. Leader: Chris John, 518-943-5292. Meet at 10am at Black Rock State Park. 7 miles. Easy to moderate. Hike in the woods, then up to the top of the cliff.

**Saturday, November 15**

RVW. Olana, NY. Leader: Laura Morgan, 845-472-8699. Meet at 10am at Olana State Historic Site. 5 miles. Easy to moderate.

Austin Lake Reservation, NY. Leader: Chris John. Meet at 10am at Austin Lake. 2 miles. Easy.

PMNHA. Full Moon Hike, NJ. Leader: Matt Lloyd, 901-553-9520. Meet at 6pm at Full Moon Hike. 4 miles. Easy.


IHC. Black Rock State Park, NY. Leader: Chris John, 518-943-5292. Meet at 10am at Black Rock State Park. 7 miles. Easy to moderate. Hike in the woods, then up to the top of the cliff.

**Saturday, November 22**

RVW. Olana, NY. Leader: Laura Morgan, 845-472-8699. Meet at 10am at Olana State Historic Site. 5 miles. Easy to moderate.

Austin Lake Reservation, NY. Leader: Chris John. Meet at 10am at Austin Lake. 2 miles. Easy.

PMNHA. Full Moon Hike, NJ. Leader: Matt Lloyd, 901-553-9520. Meet at 6pm at Full Moon Hike. 4 miles. Easy.


IHC. Black Rock State Park, NY. Leader: Chris John, 518-943-5292. Meet at 10am at Black Rock State Park. 7 miles. Easy to moderate. Hike in the woods, then up to the top of the cliff.

**Saturday, November 29**

RVW. Olana, NY. Leader: Laura Morgan, 845-472-8699. Meet at 10am at Olana State Historic Site. 5 miles. Easy to moderate.

Austin Lake Reservation, NY. Leader: Chris John. Meet at 10am at Austin Lake. 2 miles. Easy.

PMNHA. Full Moon Hike, NJ. Leader: Matt Lloyd, 901-553-9520. Meet at 6pm at Full Moon Hike. 4 miles. Easy.


IHC. Black Rock State Park, NY. Leader: Chris John, 518-943-5292. Meet at 10am at Black Rock State Park. 7 miles. Easy to moderate. Hike in the woods, then up to the top of the cliff.

**December**

**Saturday, December 6**

RVW. Olana, NY. Leader: Laura Morgan, 845-472-8699. Meet at 10am at Olana State Historic Site. 5 miles. Easy to moderate.

Austin Lake Reservation, NY. Leader: Chris John. Meet at 10am at Austin Lake. 2 miles. Easy.

PMNHA. Full Moon Hike, NJ. Leader: Matt Lloyd, 901-553-9520. Meet at 6pm at Full Moon Hike. 4 miles. Easy.


IHC. Black Rock State Park, NY. Leader: Chris John, 518-943-5292. Meet at 10am at Black Rock State Park. 7 miles. Easy to moderate. Hike in the woods, then up to the top of the cliff.

**Saturday, December 13**

RVW. Olana, NY. Leader: Laura Morgan, 845-472-8699. Meet at 10am at Olana State Historic Site. 5 miles. Easy to moderate.

Austin Lake Reservation, NY. Leader: Chris John. Meet at 10am at Austin Lake. 2 miles. Easy.

PMNHA. Full Moon Hike, NJ. Leader: Matt Lloyd, 901-553-9520. Meet at 6pm at Full Moon Hike. 4 miles. Easy.


IHC. Black Rock State Park, NY. Leader: Chris John, 518-943-5292. Meet at 10am at Black Rock State Park. 7 miles. Easy to moderate. Hike in the woods, then up to the top of the cliff.

**Saturday, December 20**

RVW. Olana, NY. Leader: Laura Morgan, 845-472-8699. Meet at 10am at Olana State Historic Site. 5 miles. Easy to moderate.

Austin Lake Reservation, NY. Leader: Chris John. Meet at 10am at Austin Lake. 2 miles. Easy.

PMNHA. Full Moon Hike, NJ. Leader: Matt Lloyd, 901-553-9520. Meet at 6pm at Full Moon Hike. 4 miles. Easy.


IHC. Black Rock State Park, NY. Leader: Chris John, 518-943-5292. Meet at 10am at Black Rock State Park. 7 miles. Easy to moderate. Hike in the woods, then up to the top of the cliff.

**Sunday, December 21**


IHC. Black Rock State Park, NY. Leader: Chris John, 518-943-5292. Meet at 10am at Black Rock State Park. 7 miles. Easy to moderate. Hike in the woods, then up to the top of the cliff.

**Sunday, December 28**


IHC. Black Rock State Park, NY. Leader: Chris John, 518-943-5292. Meet at 10am at Black Rock State Park. 7 miles. Easy to moderate. Hike in the woods, then up to the top of the cliff.
Steady rain cancels.

Moderately strenuous, 8 miles. Up the AT, across rock ledges of Shapiro, 973-762-1832; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove parking, corner Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Bus Terminal for 8:22 bus (OW) to Piermont, NY. Moderately erately strenuous, 4-hour hike up this very noticeable feature of preregistration required, $5 fee. Meet: 10am in Ossining, NY. Moderate, but moderately strenuous, 5 miles. Meet: 10am at parking off Arden Valley TLR. Popolopen Torne, Harriman State Park, NY. NY.

SW. To Hoboken and Beyond, NJ. IHC. Sterling Forest, Hewitt, NJ. AFW. Merrill Creek, NJ. SW. Piermont to Upper Nyack, NY. November/December 2008 Page 9

IHC. Sterling Forest, Hewitt, NJ. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-947-1528. Meet: 9am at Fair Lawn Botanical Gardens bus stop. Call for directions. Moderate 5 miles with several steep goals, for experienced hikers. Tuesday, December 16

AFW. Turkey Mountain, NJ. Leader: 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am at fair weather location. Rain cancels.

10:00am at commuter lot in Sloatsburg, NY, off Rt. 17.

AMR. Ramapo Valley Reservoir, NJ. Leader: 973-644-3925 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am at location Moderately strenuous, 4 miles. Call for directions. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately 8 miles, out by 2pm.


South Woods, Reservation, Wilburton, NJ. Leader: Naomi Shapin, 973-762-9022, by noon. Meet: at local Good Sam Park in New York City: “Look at what we accomplished on Sep-

Figure 27: Certain rings are very visible to a casual eye, but are one of many lesser known “rock stars.”

Figure 26: Steve Huntington, a leader of the Mountain Rescue Association is at the wheel under and then over Williamburg Bridge.

January 21

Figure 25: Holidays in the Woods, NY. Leader: Larry Syronny, 845-565-2451. Meet: 10am at the Old Erie RR bed, Long Path, and Bear Mountain Highway. Join us as we celebrate Chanukah and Christmas in the woods. All levels, including beginners, are welcome on this moderate hike. Leader brings cookies and hopes others will bring treats to share. Snowstorms and blizzards may be ignored. Imminent weather may cancel. Call all leader for directions. Fairly level 5 miles with a bench view of Lakewville and Wanaque mountains.

Sunday, December 13

Figure 19: IHC. Sterling Forest, NJ. Leader: Carol Dover, 973-379-3705. Meet: 9am at Ramapo Valley State forest upper lot, 9:45. Oak Hill, NJ. Moderate 4-5 miles. Call for directions. Meet: take 9:14am LIRR train (RT) to Great River; meet at Great River RR station at 10:37am. Moderately brisk, flat, option of the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA), the national accrediting body for search and rescue teams across America, one of just four accredited groups east of Colorado. (There are 76 such teams in west of Colorado.)

Tuesday, December 27

Figure 18: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 17: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 16: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 15: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 14: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 13: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 12: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 11: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 10: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 9: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 8: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 7: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 6: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 5: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 4: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 3: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 2: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.

Figure 1: UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Claire Oliver, 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for details and to register. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderately strenuous; out by 2pm.
CONSERVATION & ADVOCACY
continued from page 4

Keep It Green Campaign

Just in as this issue goes to press, Parks funding is under attack again! The NJDEP is asking counties to take over maintenance and operations in some parks and scenic places statewide. At the same time, the department has also asked state park offices to close two days a week during the parks and forest fiscal year 2009 during the winter months, and recommend state parks and forests in New Jersey, as first supply of pure, plentiful water, beginning in 1842. It is a National Historic Landmark, and the footpath atop it is a treasured recreational trail through the river towns of Westchester and New York City. The new edition adds routes and features to the original full-color map, published 10 years ago, while maintaining its clarity and user-friendliness. As before, on one side is a detailed map of the trail. On the reverse side is a narrative about the aqueduct and brief descriptions of 55 sites of interest along the way. The new edition also has improved inset maps—enlargements that help guide walkers through the more obscure parts of the trail—as well as narratives about newly featured sites of interest along the trail. Non members may order maps for $7.75 ($5.00 for map plus $.75 postage).

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In memory of William & Edith Hyle Edith Green
In memory of Louis Allen Eves Daniel R. Hyde
Tributes are only printed for donations of $25 or more.

Hunting Season 2008

New York

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Parks. However it is allowed in parts of all other state parks.

ADK Winterbackpacking

You're invited to hike in Bear Mountain State Park during the 26.2-mile part of the aqueduct in Westchester County. The Old Croton Aqueduct is the brick tunnel that brought New York City its first supply of pure, plentiful water, beginning in 1842. Today it is a National Historic Landmark, and the footpath atop it is a treasured recreational trail through the river towns of Westchester and New York City. The new edition adds routes and features to the original full-color map, published 10 years ago, while maintaining its clarity and user-friendliness. As before, on one side is a detailed map of the trail. On the reverse side is a narrative about the aqueduct and brief descriptions of 55 sites of interest along the way. The new edition also has improved inset maps—enlargements that help guide walkers through the more obscure parts of the trail—as well as narratives about newly featured sites of interest along the trail.

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New Jersey

In New Jersey, the safest course in the fall is to hike only on Sundays, when hunting is prohibited throughout the state. Otherwise, hunting seasons vary by weapon and geography.

WE'RE IN STORE WITH THE N. Y. TRAIL NETWORK

If the Trail Conference had a Penny for Every Internet Search...
DEBBIE RUNDECKER

Planning to Hike the HT?

The blaze of the Highlands Trail is a teal colored diamond. There is no discrete map of the HT, which for much of its length is co-aligned with other trails. The trail is indicated on relevant Trail Conference maps (North Jersey; Sterling Forest, West Hudson). Maps and updates about HT segments are available online at www.highlandstrail.org. The co-aligned sections bear blazes of both trails, except for the Appalachian and Allis Trails, which have plastic Highlands Trail logos only at critical points. Hikers must pay attention at intersections as the Highlands Trail often leaves one trail to join another.

Camping is not permitted along the Highlands Trail. Thru-hikers must stay at bed-and-breakfast facilities along the route, or at established state park camps. For more information, call the Trail Conference office. No fires, hores-ex, bikes, or motorized vehicles are permitted on the Highlands Trail unless specifically allowed by local regulations.

Fortunately, Glenn replaced his discouragement with an agenda. “We have been working on a very ambitious goal to close gaps in the trail and extending the HT in Hunterdon County from the current end of trail at Black Brook, where it has been stalled for years, to the far side of Musconetcong Gorge Preserve. This will get the trail to about five miles from the Delaware River.” Those last five miles, he says, will be mostly road walk.

Glenz gives a lot of credit for recent progress to Suzanne Wilder, president of the Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy, who he says has done more of the planning of the HT’s route through Hunterdon County. “I couldn’t even begin to guess where we would be without all of her local Hunterdon County knowledge and planning and all of her meetings with town, state and county officials. She has done it all, walks on land where we got permission to build trail, (many where she alone got the permission) and brought her crew on HT work trips. She has spent many hours out with her crew building and maintaining the HT in Hunterdon County.”

The HT’s route, Glenn notes, has been fluid. “The route we settled on differs quite a bit from the original planned route. Having said that, the new trail has been largely completed in Clinton Wildlife Management Area, built and currently being blazed between Tower Hill Reserve and Jugtown Mountain Preserve, blazed through NJAS Deeprock Sanctuary, site walk done in September in Sweet Hollow Preserve, and the very long-awaited extension of the HT to the east end of Musconetcong Gorge Preserve has been completed. This connects is crucial to the route.”

“In Morris County, we have been working on filling in the gap between the HT at Mahlon Dickerson Reservation in Jefferson and the HT in Sparta. This route is half built – the rest has been stalled waiting for permission from Jefferson Township. I have also done site walks on the continuously maintained portions of Trail in Hunterdon Mountain Preserve and Stephens State Park. We have permission to co-align with this largely completed route.”

Recently, Glenn welcomed Adam Rosenberg as co-supervisor on the HT. Adam files GPS reports on the trail, keeps up the website (highlands-trail.org), and helps to run crew work. Says Adam: “I ran into Glenn at a charity hike on the HT at Hudson Farms where we both did a hike together. After complaining about the blazing in the recently lost Lake Luckawanna section, I was recruited as a maintainer. After a couple of years of work doing this, picking up a second section, and numerous work crews, we discussed the co-supervisor role.”

“It is so inspiring to work with TC volunteers like Glenn and Adam—but it is also a challenge,” says Brenda Holzinger, New Jersey Regional Representative, who works closely with the HT co-supervisors to create a permanent, protected route for the trail. “I find myself putting in more and more hours just trying to keep up with them!”

“In addition to work, family, and other volunteer commitments,” she continues, “these guys dedicate enormous amounts of time to the HT effort. Hopefully, Glenn even took some vacation time so he could concentrate on trail building in Hunterdon County before the weather deteriorates.” Holzinger concludes, “The HT is my highest priority for NJ during the next fiscal year. I am very excited about finalizing the route, reaching out for new members and volunteers to help us maintain the trail, producing a new HT brochure and statewide map, and celebrating in official opening.”

The HT bug, it seems, is catching.
The new Overlook Rock (1.5 miles) and Lake Sonoma Trails (2 miles) in Norvin Green State Forest were completed, and offer hikers a variety of loop options. Also, the rocks just west of the junction. Terri Rausser, Karen Schoen, Frank School, Bob Simpson, Brian Sniazkowski, Michael Williams, and Hank Zulauf. In addition, the nearby Shohok Bible Camp in Hewitt volunteered 15 members of its Force for Good, who contributed more than 80 hours of trail work on Natural Trail Day. Thanks to all!

**Osage Trail**

Enjoying the view from Overlook Rock Trail.

**Featured Hike**

By Brian Sniazkowski

**A New Circuit Hike in Passaic County**

Tum right on the Hewitt-Butler (it is 1.75 miles to the northern endpoint of the Overlook Rock Trail), following the trail as it meanders through a rocky area and a woods road. Look for the white-blazed northern junction of the Overlook Rock Trail, which comes in from the right. Turn right (east) onto the Overlook Rock Trail, cross under the power lines, and follow the woods road downhill until it runs right off the road. It soon reaches a rocky outcrop with an outstanding western view. Shortly after passing a segment of private property, the trail joins up with an old woods road. Look for the white-blazed outcrop with a gorgeously eastward view. It then descends through an area with fascinating rock formations, eventually reaching scenic Lake Sonoma, where it skirts the shore offering nice views of the lake through the trees.

The trail then climbs Mt. Amundson, following the white-blazed Overlook Rock Trail just before the trail ends at Overlook Rock. Here you will find one of the finest views in the region and a great place to stop for lunch. After enjoying the views, turn south on the Overlook Rock Trail and continue to where it meets the Hewitt-Butler (it is 2.25 miles south of junction with another dirt road that comes in from right). Look for orange blazes.

NY-NJ TC member? YES NO JOINING NOW Member #__________

**Thank You:** Danielle Bouchard, Chris Connelly, Yin Dyser, Andy Frache, Cliff Croun, Andrew Konnerth, Larry May, John Moran, Natalie Nasr, Craig Nunn, Mark Newsom, Tim O'Brien, Chris O'Mailey, Brian O'Sullivan, Bob Simpson, Brian Sniazkowski, Michael Williams, and Hank Zulauf. In addition, the nearby Shohok Bible Camp in Hewitt volunteered 15 members of its Force for Good, who contributed more than 80 hours of trail work on Natural Trail Day. Thanks to all!

**NY-NJ TC member? YES NO JOINING NOW Member #__________

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