“What exactly is a blaze?”
Answers at the Breakneck Ridge Trailhead

Setting the Course for ATV Legislation Victory in New Jersey

With ATV legislation yet to be enacted in New Jersey, we can expect rules to continue to hit the state’s publicly protected lands and trails. Unless, however, legislation to regulate ATVs can be passed before then, and there is real hope that it can be. The Trail Conference needs its members to support a grassroots campaign to be launched this fall to win this legislative battle!

In June, the Assembly Transportation Committee unanimously voted in favor of Assembly Bill 823, which regulates the operation of all-terrain and other off-road vehicles through mandatory registration and provides significant penalties for violations. This legislation, sponsored by Assemblymen Reed Gusciora, Paul Morrissey, and John Wisniewski, is set to hit the Assembly for a vote as soon as the legislation returns after its summer hiatus. A companion bill has been introduced by Senator Gordon and is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Transportation Committee in the fall.

The Trail Conference has advocated for ATV legislation in New Jersey for many years and is extremely excited about the possibility for its passage this year. The TC is working closely with Pinelands Preservation Alliance, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, New Jersey Audubon, and many others to ensure that the legislation has strong statewide support among the public, as well as with the Governor and Legislature. In order to achieve this goal, the TC and its partners will launch a full grassroots campaign spotlighting ATV damage to conserved lands and hiking trails throughout northern New Jersey.

Volunteers are needed. If you would like to be a volunteer TC advocate and help fight for ATV legislation in New Jersey, please contact Brenda Holzinger, New Jersey Regional Representative, via email (bhonziger@nynjtc.org) or cell phone (973-303-3538).

Visit the Trail Conference website (www.nynjtc.org/issues/NJATV.html) to learn more about ATV legislation in New Jersey and find out how to enter the ATV trail damage photo contest. The deadline is September 15th to make the next issue of TrailWalker.

Join Our Hike-a-thon! Saturday, October 4 at Bear Mountain State Park
Kick off the fall in style and let your feet do the talking at the first People-for-Trails hike-a-thon at Bear Mountain State Park on October 4, 2008. See details on page 3.
Ward Pound Ridge Earns ‘Most Improved Trails’ Honor With Help from Trail Conference

Thanks to the NY-NJ Trail Conference and the wonderful group of trailblazing volunteers, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation won Westchester Magazine’s Best of Westchester’s 2008 Editor Pick for Most Improved Trails. "It makes no difference if you are a main-tainer or have assisted in any other way," said Brenda Bates, senior curator of Westchester County’s largest park. "A trail is ready for the delegates to becom e more involved in the organization. So the signifi-cant amount of effort expended by staff and volunteers in setting up and conducting these meetings seems to add little overall value to the Trail Conference."

The Trail Conference is organized in a way that guarantees the voicing of a wide variety of opinions. We have our own “separa-tion of powers.” There are three major volunteer groups that have broad powers for managing the organization. I sometimes wonder at the creative inspir-ation of the folks who invented this organization. 1. The TRAILS COUNCIL is a relatively informal group of trails chairs and supervisors that do overnight manage-ment of our core function—maintaining and building trails. Trails policies, new trails, and changes in existing trails are the most common concerns of this group. Jane Daniels is currently the chair. 2. The BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) appoints all trails and non-trails committee chairs. It elects its own officers. It appoints the executive director. It has 16 members.

The BOD has broad general manage-ment responsibility but effectively is not consulted on the day-to-day management of our core function, trails, or with detailed management of the staff. The chair of the Trails Council (Jane Daniels) and the execu-tive director (Ed Goodell) respectively represent these functions on the BOD. So the BOD for all practical purposes deal chiefly with management of the non-trail committees that support the trails function (Publications, Administration, Develop-ment, Membership, Darlington Schoolhouse, Nominating, Conservation, etc.) and with overall financial and legal management of the Trail Conference. The Nominating Committee of the BOD nominates new BOD members and delegates at Large for final appointment by the Delegates (see below). 3. The DELEGATES appoint the mem-bers of the board of directors. Any changes in our bylaws require a 2/3rd majority of the delegates present. Each affiliated hiking club has the right to appoint one delegate. In addition, one Delegate at Large for every 400 individual members is appointed by the delegates. Each club and each BOD member is also a delegate. So the total number of delegates is about 160 people. But only 1/6th of the total dele-gates constitutes a quorum—i.e. about 27 people. Three delegates meetings per year up to date as we would like, so we need your help. All volunteers, current and retired, please email volunteers@nynjtc.org with name of position, months and year of start/finish. It will take the committee sever-al years to back fill the awards, so please be patient. Dan Van Engel, Chair, Volunteer Committee

Proposed: That There Be Fewer Delegates Meetings

The BOD has taken two actions to attempt to address this issue. A. The February 2009 Delegates Meet-ing will be held in conjunction with the February BOD meeting. A one-hour dele-gates business meeting (the usual duration) followed by a two-hour BOD meeting will be held in the Mahwah area. We will there-by reduce the number of days required to attain a quorum of delegates and we will provide opportuni-ty for the delegates to become more engaged with the Trail Conference via attendance at a board meeting. B. We have proposed that the required number of delegate-by-year be reduced to two— the Annual Meeting and one other. Typically, most of our business is conducted at our Annual Meeting. Little or no business is done at the other two, and it does not seem essential to have two such meetings per year. This proposal requires a modification of the bylaws that will be voted upon at the October 18, 2008 Annual Meeting.

Calls & Letters to the Editor

A Fan Letter to NY-NJ TC

I am enclosing a modest contribution to further your work. I want you to know that as I slowly, summer by summer, hike north on the AT, you are the best trail club north of PXTC (Potomac Appalachian Trail Club). I have found. I was delighted, as were other hikers who recorded their experiences in the shelter journals, to find xpeaks on Wayawanda Mountain, and evidence that the trail designers put the path on the mountain in the most easy to climb up the mountain. Let me tell you, such a thing would never happen in [deleted], where they believe that slapping paint on trees con-struIts building a trail. I also appreciate your Clavis private property policy. I wanted to hug the person who decid-ed to construct alternate routes for those of us who are too gimp to struggle across the rocks. Thank you!!

The Trail Conference worked with park officials to hold a first trail blazing work-shop for volunteers in October 2006. We also shared our GPS database of the trails there with the Westchester County Depart-ment of Planning so that an improved park map could be developed. The project was featured in the November December 2007 Trail Walker, available online at www.nynjtc.org.

Next Trail Blazing Workshop

Saturday, October 25

Join the dedicated volunteers at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation for a fun workshop; help clear, mark, and maintain trails. Start time: 9:30am

For more information call 914-864-7317.

How long have you been a volunteer for the Trail Conference?

It makes no difference if you are a main-tainer or have assisted in another way. We would like to hear from you even if you are no longer a volunteer. The recently formed Volunteer Committee is establishing a pro-gram to recognize and thank volunteers with gifts commensurate with the number of years of service. Our records are not up to date as we would like, so we need your help. All volunteers, current and retired, please email volunteers@nynjtc.org with name of position, months and year of start/finish. It will take the committee several years to back fill the awards, so please be patient.

Dan Van Engel, Chair, Volunteer Committee

Join Breakfast, a business meeting, and a presentation by New Jersey Search & Rescue, followed by hikes in nearby Ramapo Reservation.

Breakfast will be served at 8:30. Please RSVP so we have pancakes, coffee, and juice for you. Contact office@nynjtc.org (put “Annual Meeting” in the subject line) or call the office at 201-512-9349 to tell us you’re coming.

Directions to Camp Yaw Paw will be sent upon registration. They are also available on the web.

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New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc.
The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a non-memb er ship, ded icated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and repre-senting the int erests and conce rns of the hiking community. The Conference is a volunteer-directed public-service organization committed to: • Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails. • Provincial hiking trails land through support and advocacy • Educating the public in the responsible use of trail and the natural environment. Board of Directors

Robert Byrnes, Chair Chris Connolly, Vice Chair Mac Higuer, Treasurer Daniel Chazin, Secretary Directors

Harry Aherney, Treasurer Ellen Eiren, Director Jane Daniels, Director Melissa Elsig, Director Josie Gay, Director John Good, Director

Bill O’Hara, Director Lisa Keppeler, Director Brenda Holzinger, Director Brenda Bates, Director New Jersey Regional Representative Brenda Holzinger, New Jersey Regional Representative Peter Kentand, New York Regional Representative Seth McKee, New York Regional Representative Mary Smoot, New York Regional Representative Larry Wheelock, New York Regional Representative Paul Viera, New York Regional Representative Matt Pare, New York Regional Representative

Anne Chase Washington, D.C.

Send Us a Letter Email it to nw@cnytc.org; in the subject line, put “Letter to TW editor,” or send it to Trail Walker Letters, NY-NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Rd, Mahwah, NJ 07430

All Trail Conference members and delegates are invited to join this yearly fall event.

To order a copy of the TRAIL WALKER, please contact the office at 201-512-9349 to tell us you’re coming.

Breakfast will be served at 8:30. Please RSVP so we have pancakes, coffee, and juice for you.

Contact office@nynjtc.org (put “Annual Meeting” in the subject line) or call the office at 201-512-9349 to tell us you’re coming.

Directions to Camp Yaw Paw will be sent upon registration. They are also available on the web.
The remaining capital dollars raised in our campaign have supported Trail University, which trains trail builders and volunteers. The Trail Conference have held steady; we are still a volunteer-based organization that provides access to a recreational nature and we found an ideal location in Mahwah, near many of our most popular hiking trails.

Less than a decade later, with the help of New Jersey state and county grants, we own the hiking trails. With the help of Darlington Schoolhouse in Mahwah. Eventually it will become our headquarters and, as such, will help our productivity, give us a better working and hard-working board of directors, who contributed to the building, maintenance, and responsible operations.

About six years ago, the Trail Conference undertook the first capital campaign in its 82-year history. Along with Mary Smart, I co-chaired this campaign. We raised $3.9 million, an original goal of $2.5 million.

The majority of the contributions went toward acquiring land to preserve or extend hiking trails, with the land subsequently be sold to the appropriate state park or conservation agency in New York or New Jersey. Currently, the majority of funds are locked up in 81 acres of land but the proceeds from sales will return to the revolving fund to assure our continued ability to preserve lands.

The capital campaign has also supported the creation of a cartographer position, which has allowed the digitization of almost all of our maps (Kittatinny and Catskill digital maps are in the works) and which has allowed the digitization of almost all of our maps (Kittatinny and Catskill digital maps are in the works) and which has allowed the digitization of almost all of our maps (Kittatinny and Catskill digital maps are in the works) and which has allowed the digitization of almost all of our maps (Kittatinny and Catskill digital maps are in the works) and which has allowed the digitization of almost all of our maps (Kittatinny and Catskill digital maps are in the works) and which has allowed the digitization of almost all of our maps (Kittatinny and Catskill digital maps are in the works) and which has allowed the digitization of almost all of our maps (Kittatinny and Catskill digital maps are in the works) and which has allowed the digitization of almost all of our maps (Kittatinny 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Conservation & Advocacy News Notes

Make sure you get Action Alerts from the Trail Conference so that you can help support our region's trails, parks, and open spaces. Set your email program to accept mail from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

NEW YORK
New Master Plan in the Works for Minnewaska

Empowered Access to Minnewaska's integrated signage system and an adaptive management approach were the general recommendations made by the Trail Conference at its May conference to those devising a new master plan for the Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

In July, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) held two public information meetings as prelude to developing a Draft Master Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Minnewaska State Park Preserve, which were due by August 11. In making specific recommendations for improved access, the Trail Conference requested that Minnewaska include at least four points (excluding the small Jenny Lane/Long Path parking area), three of them along Route 44/55 and one at Sant's Point. All four of these parking areas have a parking fee and have limited space for parking. Most importantly, they are far removed from the interior area of the Preserve and from recent acquisitions.

Additional formal access points need to be developed in order to provide improved access to the lands recently added to the park and to relieve the pressure on the existing overworked access points.

As a reaction to the inadequate access currently available, the Trail Conference has identified four access points as the minimum.

The master plan is mandated by the Highlands Act of 2004, which was adopted by state lawmakers to protect the resource of about 2/3 of the state's drinking water—the Highlands region, an area that comprises about 100 municipalities in Passaic, Bergen, Morris, Sussex, Warren, Somerset and Hunterdon counties.

The Trail Conference would like to see greater emphasis on protection for hiking trails, rides, and viewpoints. Also, the plan should include local ATV regulations as part of the municipal conformance process.

Many argue that the document violates the Highlands Act by allowing new water uses in areas that are already in deficit by allowing clustered development to release what they consider an unacceptable level of pollutants to the groundwater, and by letting redevelopment areas encroach upon no-development buffers next to hiking trails. Although about a dozen amendments aimed at strengthening different parts of the plan were considered, the Highlands Council ultimately voted against any significant changes.

Visit the Highlands Council website (www.highlands.state.nj.us) for further information, including the Regional Master Plan full text and maps. The NJ Highlands Coalition (www.njhighlandscoalition.org) and the four-state Highlands Coalition (www.highlandscoalition.org) websites offer additional information, resources, and links.

New Light Power Would Impact North Jersey Trails, Open Space

Throughout July, north Jersey residents attended public information meetings sponsored by PSEG and NJDEP about a planned 500,000-volt power line that will stretch 40-50 miles from the Delaware River to Roxbury, NJ. The line, called the "Shellfish," is part of an ongoing project to transmit power from 12-foot wide, and can be used for walking, biking, and horseback riding. Multi-use is fine for rails-to-trails projects and trails in developed areas, but the existing backcountry network of single-use trails, especially the long-distance trails like the AT and the Highlands Trail, must be protected in order to maintain the wilderness experience that has been preserved for decades.

With good planning, we can develop separate loop trails for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian uses in the same area or park. Trails must include signage designating all allowed uses (i.e. equestrian, hiking, biking). Far and beyond, what trails can be used in the future is up to the users themselves. The plan mentions inventory as a future project, but three to five years is too long to wait for this.

A list of the lands recently added to the lands preserved for decades.

The plan reflects the nationwide trend toward "multi-use" trails, which typically have a hard surface of asphalt or packed stone, are 8 to 12 feet wide, and can be used for walking, biking, and horseback riding. Multi-use is fine for rails-to-trails projects and trails in developed areas, but the existing backcountry network of single-use trails, especially the long-distance trails like the AT and the Highlands Trail, must be protected in order to maintain the wilderness experience that has been preserved for decades.

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Trail Crew Schedules

September - October 2008

For the latest schedules and additional details, go to nynjtc.org and click on “Trail crew/Work trips.” TBD = To Be Determined

For all trips bring work gloves, water, lunch, insect repellent. In some cases, tools are provided. Contact leaders in advance for meeting times and places. Volunteers must become members of the Conference to participate in these projects. A one-time “guest” participation is allowed, so bring your friends.

Wonder Lake Trail Project

Help construct a new trail in a recently opened New York state park in eastern Putnam County. This exciting project is a fantastic way to learn about how a trail is created and what tools are used. No prior experience is needed. We will train you. Projects include side-hilling, rock steps, and blazing. Proper footwear is necessary; bring your own lunch and plenty of water.

Meet: 5:30 in the Wonder Lake parking area on Ludingtonville Road (parallel to I-84; the park is between exits 17 and 18).

Trail Building Dates

Several weekends TBD in Sept. and Oct. Check the website for specific dates or contact the East Hudson Regional Representative to be put on the East Hudson Trail Crew list for updates and more information: ferguson@nynjtc.org

North Jersey Weekend Crew

Leader: Sandy Part, 732-406-1109

Second Sunday of each month

Trips start at 9:30 am; call for location and details during the week before the scheduled trip date. Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in northern New Jersey.

North Jersey Weekday Crew

Leader: John Moran, hmoran@trailstobuild.com

This crew covers the NJ Ramapos, Ringwood S. R. and Narvin Green S. R. and NJ Palisades area. Its purpose is to respond quickly to immediate needs, rather than to schedule definite events far in advance. If you’re interested in being on call for this work, contact John Moran by email.

West Jersey Crew

Leaders: Monica and David Day
Phone: 973-937-9038 Cell: 908-307-0949
Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
Website: www.trailstobuild.com

Bring your lunch, plenty of water, gloves and sturdy work shoes, and be prepared to get dirty. All tools, materials and training will be provided. Beginners are welcomed on all work trips.

All events begin at 9:30am. Please phone or email the leaders for meeting location and driving directions. There is usually a walk to the work site, so please be there on time (call the leaders’ cell phone if you are coming on an event and are running late). Rain cancels—i.e., call in, double check the leaders between 6:00 and 6:30 that morning.

Carpooling: If anyone is interested in carpooling (offering a ride or riding), please let the leaders know and we will arrange a shared ride. (Passengers please be prepared to contribute for gas.)

Stillman Trail Bridge Reunion

How many folks does it take to build a bridge on the side of a cliff? Many! Close to 40 people helped carry in materials and build the Stillman Trail Bridge and start an era. Hikers just passing through picked up lumber on their way up the mountain. Youth and supporters from the Osining, NY Rotary Interact Club pitched in. Skilled craftsmen and craftswomen from around the area offered their talents, as did many new and veteran Trail Conference volunteers and employees.

If you were one of the many who were part of this project, we welcome you to join us on Sunday, October 5 for a reunion picture. We’ll meet at 9:30 at the Mountain Road parking lot in Cornwall. After the picture, we’ll carry out the remaining lumber and tools... many hands make light work. Refreshments will be served after the carry-out.

Many hands make light work? Hundreds of pounds of black locust were hand carried 25-mile to the Stillman bridge work site.
Contact volunteer@nynj.org or 201- 5936, ext. 14 to indicate your interest or get more information about these or oth- er volunteer opportunities. Information is also available at www.nynj.org click on Volunteer.

ATV Campaign Assistant
Trail Conference Executive Director has his fingers in too many projects and needs someone to help manage it all. Main responsibilities include ATV-related advocacy efforts, communication with DEC and state agencies, and as liaison for the Midstate ATV group.

Executive Assistant
Trail Conference Executive Director has his fingers in too many projects and needs someone to help manage it all. Main responsibilities include ATV-related advocacy efforts, communication with DEC and state agencies, and as liaison for the Midstate ATV group.
In June, three groups of hikers assembled at the HenRJ Center (Highlands Environmental Research Center), a small building across the street from the Lautenberg Visitors Center in Sterling Forest State Park, NY. They were curious, perhaps a bit nervous, and eager to take on somewhat new. Spending the day with a group of researchers from Rutgers University as part of a collaboration, the volunteers brainstormed and discussed the importance of maintaining hiking trails and the role of hikers in stewardship of outdoor spaces. By the end of the day, the volunteers all felt reasonably comfortable with their newly gained ability to pick individual plant species out of the general green background along a trail.

Equipped with a GPS unit, a plastic bag with some simple supplies, and maps, the hikers were sent in pairs to collect data on an assigned two-mile stretch of trail, either in the Warwick region of New Jersey or the Bear Mountain-northeastern Harriman Park region of New York. The volunteers stopped at tenth-mile intervals along their assigned trail segment, recorded GPS location information, and collected data on the occurrence and abundance of the target species. Their surveys complemented the similar surveys conducted in 2006 in the Ramapo and the southern portion of Harriman Park, and in 2007 in the Norvin Green area of New Jersey and the northernwestern portion of Harriman Park in New York.

What have we learned so far about plants along trails as they hiked at other times. Volunteers also reported that they planned to take actions to reduce the problem of invasive plants, insomuch as possible. With respect to species plants, the results were both very encouraging and discouraging. The good news: along many miles of trail, there were no exotic species found. This is evident on the map of data from Harriman Park, shown here (2006-2007 data; 2008 data still being processed). Furthermore, the data suggest that trail heads are not a major source of exotic species, and that the target species are just as commonly found back in the woods, away from the trails, as they are along the trails, and so trails—and hikers—are not likely to be a major cause for problems. Also, several of the exotic species are found only in small amounts, or in small areas, within the study region.

The bad news: some of the species, particularly Japanese barberry and Japanese stiltgrass, and, to a lesser extent multiflora rose and wineberry, are widespread throughout the forests of the study region, albeit often at low densities. And some areas are, indeed, heavily invaded by several species of invasive plant. However, the maps we are generating can help local groups and agencies target actions to remove or reduce the extent of invasion. The project has been an exciting and enjoyable collaboration between researchers and local trail groups. It has produced what is undoubtedly the most extensive inventory of plant invasion in the northeast, as well as providing us (the researchers) with an opportunity to spend days hiking and call it ‘work’!

Visit the project website www.rci.rutgers.edu/~trails/index.html— to see the training materials, view the data, and learn more about invasive exotic plants and the value of citizen science.

Joan Ehrenfeld is professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources at Cook College, Rutgers University. She is also a member of the Trail Conference Science Committee.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A BLAZE
(continued from page 1)

Trail is not a loop,” and even to give out water for a $1 donation; 2. to let people in on the big secret that all the trails are created and maintained by volunteers—you can’t see this from the main parking area; and 3. to ask “would you like to go back to the trails” by volunteering and joining the trail committee. The trail committee is a group of people, and you can sign up online or purchase maps from the website. They are all coming back for more! It was an extremely satisfying volunteer experience for all involved, and every one of the volunteers from that weekend is interested in doing so again because we recognized the huge opportunity to reach more people at these trailheads. We really felt like we were helping the hiking community and reaching out to a very diverse future membership of the Trail Conference.

I estimate that 90% of the people we spoke to—and we encountered a few hundred—did not have maps, or had very poor maps. We were successful in selling maps and signing up volunteers, but an unexpected number also went away with TC brochures and free maps, and these people, we hope, will sign up online or purchase maps from the website.

Another note about our volunteers: most people who were volunteering for the Trail Conference for the first time, and we were diverse in ages and gender and experience. Lesson here: this type of outreach is a good opportunity to attract volunteers, too. It was a different kind of day than one spent moving rocks or clearing a trail, but we were satisfied knowing that our knowledge and love of the trails were getting passed on.

We spent a very productive day hiking the east-west trail and the Northline trail. We were very well received, and our funds were appreciated. We spent a very productive day hiking the east-west trail and the Northline trail. We were very well received, and our funds were appreciated. We spent a very productive day hiking the east-west trail and the Northline trail. We were very well received, and our funds were appreciated. We spent a very productive day hiking the east-west trail and the Northline trail. We were very well received, and our funds were appreciated.

Volunteers: Aaron Balloum, Dave Droverly, Geoff Carone, Jason Gray, Jean-Claude Ficou, Joan Arenella, Ned and Suzanne Hamlin, Sherly Lynch, Stephen Staats, Georgette West, East Hudson Regional Representative Christine Ferguson
Tuesday, September 2

HIKERS’ ALMANAC
A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs

HIKERS from Mid-Hudson ADK and the view from Wittenberg Mountain in the Catskills

Saturday, September 13
ADK-Beginner’s Hike on Hock Mountain, NY. Leader: call 845-369-0513 for information and meeting place. 4 miles; for those new to hiking. Rain cancel. Aicha Misri.

Wednesday, September 17
Lewis Morris Park, Riverdale, NJ. Leader: 973-322-2555. Meet at 8am. Information about this hike is on our website. Visit our website for more information. Visit our website for more information.

Thursday, September 18
Lewis Morris Park, Riverdale, NJ. Leader: Susan Schaper, 973-402-2255. Meet at 8am. Information about this hike is on our website. Visit our website for more information. Visit our website for more information.

Tuesday, September 23
High Mountain Park, Wayne, NJ. Leader: George Smith, 973-719-2556. Meet at directions. 5 miles; for experienced hikers; some snow on the ground during the winter. Bad weather cancel.

Saturday, September 27
Hiawatha Trail, Bearfort Ridge, Hewitt, NJ. Leader: 973-728-9774. Meet at 10am. Information about this hike is on our website. Visit our website for more information. Visit our website for more information.

Sunday, September 28

Sunday, October 1
Highland Park, Paterson, NJ. Leader: Mike Mikula, 973-719-2556. Meet at directions. 5 miles; for experienced hikers; some snow on the ground during the winter. Bad weather cancel.

Sunday, October 2
Mahanoy Mountain, Lititz, PA. Leader: Raymond W. Schleigh, 973-746-4397. Meet at 9am. Information about this hike is on our website. Visit our website for more information. Visit our website for more information.

Sunday, October 9
Adams Rock Rim, Pyramid Mountain, NY. Leader: call 718-775-2110 for information and meeting place. 4 miles; for experienced hikers. Visit our website for more information. Visit our website for more information.

Friday, October 10
Mountains of the Hudson, Milton, NY. Leader: 973-322-2555. Meet at directions. 5 miles; for experienced hikers; some snow on the ground during the winter. Bad weather cancel.

Monday, October 13
Mountains of the Hudson, Milton, NY. Leader: 973-322-2555. Meet at directions. 5 miles; for experienced hikers; some snow on the ground during the winter. Bad weather cancel.

Sunday, October 19
Mohawk Trail, Mohawk, NY. Leader: 973-794-6989. Meet at directions. 5 miles; for experienced hikers; some snow on the ground during the winter. Bad weather cancel.

Sunday, October 26
Highland Park, Paterson, NJ. Leader: Mike Mikula, 973-719-2556. Meet at directions. 5 miles; for experienced hikers; some snow on the ground during the winter. Bad weather cancel.

HIKERS in the Catskills

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

HIKERS HIKING IN THE CATSKILLS

HIKERS from Mid-Hudson ADK and the view from Wittenberg Mountain in the Catskills

Saturday, September 13

Sunday, September 14

Hiawatha Trail, Bearfort Ridge, Hewitt, NJ. Leader: 973-728-9774. Meet at 10am. Information about this hike is on our website. Visit our website for more information. Visit our website for more information.

Tuesday, September 16

Thursday, September 18

Friday, September 19

Sunday, September 20

Thursday, September 24

Sunday, September 27

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Sunday, September 28

HIKERS from Mid-Hudson ADK and the view from Wittenberg Mountain in the Catskills

Tuesday, September 16
Lewis Morris Park, Riverdale, NJ. Leader: Susan Schaper, 973-402-2255. Meet at 8am. Information about this hike is on our website. Visit our website for more information. Visit our website for more information.

Saturday, September 27
Hiawatha Trail, Bearfort Ridge, Hewitt, NJ. Leader: 973-728-9774. Meet at 10am. Information about this hike is on our website. Visit our website for more information. Visit our website for more information.

Sunday, September 28
Shawangunk Mtns, Ramapo Valley, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-933-2603. Meet at directions. 5 miles; for experienced hikers; some snow on the ground during the winter. Bad weather cancel.

Sunday, October 1
Highland Park, Paterson, NJ. Leader: Mike Mikula, 973-719-2556. Meet at directions. 5 miles; for experienced hikers; some snow on the ground during the winter. Bad weather cancel.

Sunday, October 2
Mahanoy Mountain, Lititz, PA. Leader: Raymond W. Schleigh, 973-746-4397. Meet at 9am. Information about this hike is on our website. Visit our website for more information. Visit our website for more information.

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Sunday, October 13
Mountains of the Hudson, Milton, NY. Leader: 973-322-2555. Meet at directions. 5 miles; for experienced hikers; some snow on the ground during the winter. Bad weather cancel.
UPCOMING EVENTS FOR HIKERS

Teatown’s 15 miles of trails include this boardwalk across Teatown Lake.

Teatown Lake Reservation

Teatown Lake Reservation in Westchester County is a nonprofit membership organization that operates an 834-acre nature preserve with 15 miles of trails, offers nature education programs for young people and adults, and promotes open space and community greenways in the region it has dubbed the Hudson Hills and Highlands.

Teatown was founded in 1963 with a gift of 194 acres from the Gerald Swopes, Sr., family. Today, the reservation extends into three towns: Yorktown, Cortlandt, and New Castle. Fourteen trails meander abundant fields, mixed hardwood forests, laurel groves, and farm land and along or, via boardwalks, across lakes, streams, and swamps. The trails range from easy/homiev to moderately difficult. They are open to the public from dawn to dusk 365 days a year; admission and parking are free. (There are charges for programs.) Hikers can connect with the Backwards Peekskill Trailway and the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail from Teatown’s trails.

An estimated 25,000 people visit Teatown each year to attend an educational program, visit the Nature Center, hike, or camp. Your Wildflower Field is a rare area of sanctuary located within Teatown Lake that is home to over 230 native and endangered species of wildflowers.

Teatown provides assistance to towns and villages through its Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance and helps land owners and residents become more “nature friendly” between the parks.

In July, this long-time Trail Conference member organization signed an agreement with the Trail Conference to collaborate on promoting and facilitating the Hudson River Valley Ramble as one of its regional events.

For more information about Teatown Lake Reservation, go to www.teatown.org or call 914-762-2912, ext. 110.

Upcoming Events for Hikers

Hudson River Valley Ramble
September 14-19, 20-27, 28

More than 200 events are being offered this year, including hikes, bikes, walks, historic site tours, festivals, paddles, and river explorations. There are activities for all ages and ability levels. Get the complete schedule at www.hudsononvalleymag.com/ramble.

Grand Walkabout
4 Countries, 400 Tours, 400 Trails, 400 Miles
A Hudson-Fulton- Chapman Quadrilateral Event
September 14: Kickoff event
A year-long event along trails in New York State’s Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam Counties to celebrate 400 years and hundreds of miles of trails in the Mid-Hudson region. From September 2008 to September 2009, Grand Walkabout will begin and end on dates corresponding to each year’s Hudson River Valley Ramble. Trail resources and related events will be posted online at www.GrandWalkabout.com and a kick-off event is planned for Sunday, September 14, in Hyde Park, hiking groups and land groups with trails open to the public are invited to participate. Go to the website for contact information.

Sterling Forest Conservation Day
September 28

Hikes and activities for all ages. Check the Trail Conference website for details: www.nynjtc.org.
If the Trail Conference Had a Penny for Every Internet Search...

We could earn a lot of money! How? It’s as easy as choosing the right search engine! GoodSearch, a search engine powered by our donors, provides half of its income to the Trail Conference for every click you make. If 100 people search two times every day, the Trail Conference could earn $730 a year. If 1,000 people searched using GoodSearch two times a day, the Trail Conference could earn $730,000 a year!

Please visit www.goodsearch.com and click on “Visit Us Today” or download the search toolbar that makes GoodSearch your homepage. Be sure to choose the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference as the “Cause I care about.” Every search you do with GoodSearch, you’ll make a difference in our world.

**CONSERVATION & ADVOCACY continued from page 4**

In response to efforts to seek other sources of funding to conserve and steward New Jersey’s remaining open space.

The coalition planned to launch a statewide education campaign in August to support its efforts and help convince state legislators and the governor that keeping the GSPT fully funded is not only a public priority, but a necessity for every citizen of New Jersey. If not interested in helping keep the Garden State green, please contact Brenda Holinger, NJ Regional Representative, via email (bholinger@nynjtc.org) or at 973-303-5358 (cell). For additional information, visit the Keep It Green Campaign website at www.njkeepsitgreen.org.

**Auction of Hand-Crafted Bench To Benefit Trail Conference Project**

The Knickerbocker Bench is a custom made hand-crafted bench, made by Long Island woodworker, Robert Slattery, for an up- coming auction. The bench, made of oak and designed for comfort, will be sold to benefit the Trail Conference.

The Theodore Roosevelt and George W. Perkins benches at Bear Mountain’s Trailside Amphitheater.

**DONORS TO THE ANNUAL FUND**

May 20, 2008 to July 30, 2008

**GIFTS**


**Tributes**

In memory of Al E. Briccio, a New York State citizen who passed away in September 2007, his wife, Lorraine, has created a Bridge Fund to honor his memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of John M. Ford, Jr., a former Trail Conference Trustee and environmental attorney, who passed away in August 2007, his wife, Ann, created a John M. Ford, Jr. Bridge Fund to honor his memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of Paul R. Hennessey, a former Trail Conference Trustee, who passed away in August 2007, his wife, Barbara, created a Paul R. Hennessey Bridge Fund to honor his memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of John K. Jones, who passed away in July 2007, his family, including Mimi and Barbara Stuhl, created a John K. Jones Bridge Fund to honor his memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of Thomas J. VanCleaf, a former Trail Conference Trustee, who passed away in September 2007, the Van Cleaf Family, including William E. Van Cleaf, created a Thomas J. Van Cleaf Bridge Fund to honor his memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of Jack W. Smith, who passed away in July 2007, his family, including his wife, Charles, created a Jack W. Smith Bridge Fund to honor his memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of John G. T. Ware, who passed away in July 2007, his family, including his wife, ster, created a John G. T. Ware Bridge Fund to honor his memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of Robert F. Willman, who passed away in August 2007, his family, including his daughter, created a Robert F. Willman Bridge Fund to honor his memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of Jennifer L. Joy, who passed away in July 2007, her family, including her father, created a Jennifer L. Joy Bridge Fund to honor her memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of John H. Herrick, who passed away in September 2007, his family, including his wife, created a John H. Herrick Bridge Fund to honor his memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of John R. Kingsbury, who passed away in September 2007, his family, including his wife, created a John R. Kingsbury Bridge Fund to honor his memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of Mary E. Brown, who passed away in September 2007, her family, including her husband, created a Mary E. Brown Bridge Fund to honor her memory and support the Trail Conference.

In memory of Edward A. Hynes, who passed away in September 2007, his family, including his wife, created a Edward A. Hynes Bridge Fund to honor his memory and support the Trail Conference.

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Rt. 17 S. Ramsey 201-327-8141

Rt. 46 201-327-814

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Shawangunk Ridge Trail from High Point State Park, NJ to Lake Minnewaska, NY

The Shawangunk Ridge Trail is still very much a work in progress, with the Trail Conference continuing to lead efforts to protect an intact corridor in New York from the New Jersey border to Minnewaska State Park Preserve. Because of this flux, publication of a full-featured map is premature. The trail has, however, reached a point where it can be enjoyed by hikers. The Trail Conference is providing the map here as a courtesy to hikers. Larger versions of the map are available online in three segments that can be downloaded and printed on 8.5 x 11-inch paper. Go to www.nynjtc.org.

SRT IN A DAY

This year I decided to train for and run the Vermont 100-mile trail run race. I decided to do all of my training on a different trail each week. This was really fun to do, but also a little difficult to find good running trails week after week. I stumbled upon a reference to the 41-mile perfect. I had never heard of it before, but was familiar with both High Point State Park in New Jersey and Minnewaska State Park in New York. It would be fun to link them together.

The plan was to load up on food and water and have my wife drop me off at High Point and then pick me up at Lake Minnewaska. With a pack full of water, blueberry pancakes, banana walnut waffles, a hummus wrap, and a bunch of dried fruit, I started out May 31st on my first attempt. It was drizzling and humid, but I did not let that bother me. I really wanted to do this trail. The weather was still and easy to follow. I ran through a lot of really typical, rocky-yet- runnable trail in Jersey and the first few sections of New York. Before I knew it, I was overlooking I-84 and a beautiful valley. I was starting to get nervous as the half mile mark was very close to what I experienced on my first attempt, and I was tired and in a large amount of expected pain, but happy as can be.

The variety of the trail treadway and environment was impressive. I started out on a single-track footpath; the next thing I knew I was running along active railroad tracks, old railroad beds, dirt roads, and ridge-top trails. Awesome! Next came the low-lying Basha Kill Wildlife Management Area, a large, impressively fertile— the largest in southern New York, according to the guidebooks. The SRT is not just a mountain trail.

After the Basha Kill, the trail regains the ridgegetop in Wurtsboro State Forest, and for a while I ran along at the base of the huge power line towers there. I got a little bummed out. I’d rather run the ridge without the power lines.

I eventually made my way to Wurtsboro and ran on some steep road, when I entered the woods, I made a HUGE mistake. I took an old railroad track past a group of town instead of the DEC trail. I led me back down to Route 209 and I ended up running the road to Ellenville and calling my wife for a ride. I really wanted to see the rest of the trail and was very disappointed.

After exchanging emails with the trail maintainers and making a scouting trip to Wurtsboro, I discovered my error and planned a second attempt. This time I took a head lamp, an emergency blanket, matches, and glow sticks. I took less water, planning on replenishing in Wurtsboro or at Sam’s Point.

My second attempt was on July 4 and it was truly amazing. The weather was perfect. I decided to use the same route. Everything had come alive. The flowers were still, the fens were almost waist-high in some sections, the rhododendron had “popped.” The all the berries were starting to ripen, and the lily pads at Hiathorne Lake (Hawthorne Lake on the map) were starting to bloom. I saw baby squirrels, baby turkeys, baby ducks...and a bunch of groundhogs, snakes, turkeys, deer, and eagles.

The abundance of life on the trail made me really glad I tried it a second time. I had no notion to see any bears, although I saw signs of them between Summerville Road and the trail. The ridge-top trail just north of Wurtsboro is absolutely stunning. One of the most impressive parts of the trail in the East! I also got a greater appreciation of the amount of work it takes to plan, build, and maintain a trail.

I made it from end to end, from High Point Monument to Lake Minnewaska, in 13 hours. Many maps suggest that the trail is not continuous between Verkeerder Kill Falls and Mud Pond, but it is. By the time I was done, I was tired and in a huge amount of expected pain, but happy as can be.

What a great way to celebrate the 4th of July! I am really grateful that there are groups like the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and Shawangunk Ridge Coalition that make it possible for me to do this type of thing so close to home. You guys rock!

Murray Resinski Murray Plains, NJ Murray@holy-monkey.com

*Editor’s note: The stretch of trail between Verkeerder Kill Falls and Mud Pond crosses land held by private owners, one of whom closed access for many years. That portion became part of Minnewaska State Park Preserve in 2006, making possible the reopening of that former link in the SRT/Long Path. Nearly one-half mile of trail on private land, including Verkeerder Kill Falls is on private land, the owners of which generously permit hiker access.

Hunting Seasons 2018


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. For the complete set of deer season regulations, go to www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw, then click on Hunting, then Deer. Go to the same site for other hunting seasons and information.

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

Black Rock Forest (845-534-4517) closes to all hikers from Nov. 15 through Dec. 7. For more info about deer season in New York, go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/20665.html. For info about all big game hunting seasons and regulations in New York, visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/10003.html.

Murray Resinski celebrates completion of his 40-mile, one-day run of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail.
For close to a decade, it has been the trail less traveled. The 1.7-mile AT side trail known official route of the AT, taking hikers around County, where a nuclear fuels-processing 1979, the National Park Service acquired away from Nuclear Lake in Dutchess the property for AT corridor designation.

A quatemaintenance resulted in a poorly renamed Beekman Uplands Loop. Supervisor for the Nuclear Lake area, the Appalachian Trail along the western shore of Nuclear Lake, a good spot for a snack (and a swim, if you are inclined; water shoes recommended). A path cleared for a time this fall during work on

Neglect of the old trail followed those changes in 1998. Low usage and inadequate maintenance resulted in a poorly marked and overgrown trail with many blow-downs. But now, thanks to volunteer work crews headed by Ollie Simpson, AT supervisor for the Nuclear Lake area, the downed trees and overgrown brush are cleared away; blue blazes are refreshed, and newly placed stepping stones and drainage ditches help hikers navigate wet areas. The Beekman Uplands Loop was declared restored at the end of June and it now makes possible a pleasant 4.5-mile wood-land circuit hike with water views (and swimming).

Starting from a small, unmarked parking area on Route 55, just west of where the AT crosses the highway, take the blue-blazed side trail 0.1 mile to the AT. Stay straight (left) on the AT, watching on your left (west) for the triple blue blazes that mark a terminus point of the Beekman Uplands Loop.

The start of the loop trail features some initial easy-to-moderate uphill hiking in rocky, wooded terrain, followed by fairly intermittent but very heavy rains, one mushroom hunter found, according to her email, "horn of plenty (cratesus sp., not actually a chanterelle), lactarius velutinus, unidentified lactarius, unidentified bolete, stipitata." At 1.7 miles, the Beekman Uplands Loop ends above a ravine at another intersection with the AT. Turn right (south) to complete the circuit, which will include a walk along the shore of Nuclear Lake, a good spot for a snack (and a swim, if you are so inclined; water shoes recommended).

An optional extension is to follow the 1.1-mile yellow-blazed Nuclear Lake Loop around the east side of the lake. (At deadline, the NPS announced this trail will be closed for a time this fall during work on the lake's dam.) It intersects the AT both north and south of the lake. A complete circuit of the lake is 5.5 miles.

Return to your car, by continuing out on the AT to where you began.

HOW TO GET THERE From the Taconic State Parkway, take exit for Route 55 East and go 9.5 miles. At the crest of a long hill (after traffic light at junction with NY 216 for Poughquag), look for a small parking area on the left. A blue-blazed trail leads a short distance to the junction with the AT. Alternative: Go to an AT parking area with kiosk on Old Route 55 (turning north from R 55), where the trail crosses the highway, just east of the aforementioned spot.

THANK YOU: Those who helped clear the trail included Millbrook Scout Troop 31 under the leadership of Jim Evans, Jay Hughes and daughter Allison, Bernd Lohner, Dave Webber, Eric Harvey, and Ollie Simpson.