Trail Conference Projects among 32 in New York to Get Funds for Trails

Two New York-New Jersey Trail Conference projects are among the 32 trail-related projects in New York State that will receive funding in 2009 as part of the federal Recreational Trails Program. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Preservation Coordinator Carol Ash announced the grant awards on June 23.

The Trail Conference was awarded $150,000 to complete rebuilding work on a section of the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain. This original section of the Appalachian Trail, the nation’s first National Scenic Trail, at Bear Mountain is also the most heavily used and degraded. As part of a larger project to rebuild this historic trail to safely accommodate the hundreds of thousands of users annually, this project will open a three-quarter-mile section originating behind the Bear Mountain Inn.

A second grant, of $210,935, will support construction of a half-mile accessible trail along the Bear Mountain summit, giving access to an area that is not now available to persons with disabilities. The Trail Conference is a partner in this project with the Palisades Parks Conservancy, the grant recipient, and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

Trail users of all levels of experience deserve great trails on which they can explore parks.

“These grants will help the Trail Conference and our partners achieve our goal of making hikes on Bear Mountain excellent experiences for all, not just hikers,” said Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell.

With its close proximity to New York City, Bear Mountain is a very popular destination for people who want to enjoy time in nature. These visitors deserve to have a great experience when they explore the trails there. Our trained volunteers, working alongside professional trail-builders, are creating the trails that make great hikes possible. The public will get a lot for its investment in this project.

State Parks administrators the federal matching grant program providing funding to state and local governments, not-for-profit organizations, corporations, and partnerships for the maintenance, renovation, development, acquisition and construction of trails and trail-related facilities. Funding is provided through the Federal Highway Administration’s Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

Within days, volunteers had the trail reopened.

Says Bob Boyle: “I did get a lot of comments from the hikers who helped, saying, ‘This was fun,’ and ‘It feels good to work on the trail.’ These are comments I frequently say to myself while doing trail work.”

Ground support was provided by the Outhouse Hostel, owned by Richard Ludwick, who brought the hiker volunteers to the site and provided water, potato salad, and hero sandwiches for all volunteers on the last big day of clean-up.

A big thanks for a great job by all!

Join us rain or shine for our 2nd Annual People for Trails Hike-a-thon at Bear Mountain State Park on October 3, 2009 starting at 7:30 a.m. Registration is limited. Gift bags stuffed with goodies donated by our sponsors will go to the first 100 registrants. Sign up today! Our new online registration and pledge forms make it easy for participants and the people supporting you.

Thanks to our sponsors:

GO TO WWW.NYNJTC.ORG

Beware This Beetle!
The Asian long-horned beetle’s varied appetite poses a major threat to our forests.

Top Honor from ATC; Others Earn 25-Year Awards

Since completing a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail in 1980, Larry Luxenberg, a Trail Conference Life Member and resident of New City, NY, has dedicated much of his volunteer time to preserving the history, memories, and stories of the trail and the community that has built up around it. In July, his efforts were recognized by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy with the announcement that he has been made an “Honorary Member” of the ATC. The award was announced by Betsy Thompson, an ATC board member, at the group’s biennial meeting in Vermont in July.

The award is given to a select few. Only 51 other people have been designated as Honorary Members by the ATC, among them AT founder Benton MacKaye. The honor recognizes “distinguished contribution to the Appalachian Trail through service that shall have had an inspirational or exemplary effect because of its special quality, character or innovative aspects rather than simply service of a conventional nature performed in a superior manner.”

Larry is the author of Walking the Appalachian Trail (1994), which includes excerpts from 200 interviews he did with AT hikers, maintainers, and land-acquisition pioneers. “During that book writing process,” Betsy Thompson said in making the announcement, “Larry did a lot of chain-sawing to clear blowdowns.”

The AT near Unionville after a tornado hit.

By August 3, and despite rain delays, volunteers including Trail Conference members and passing thru-hikers had the trail cleared. Workers on the cleanup: Bob Boyle, Jim Wright, Matt Degner (“Flatlander,” from North Dakota), “Cartoon,” (name and address unknown), Pietro Lanchelle (“Gnaarly,” from Manhattan, NY), Robert Ballagh (“Blue eyes,” from Blacksburg,VA), and Dave Foley (“Dah Wha He,” from Maine).
This letter is prompted by recent events in Harriman State Park in New York where trail repair efforts (controlling erosion) on the AT were repeatedly dismantled. An initial report of natural erosion was first brought to our attention in the fall of 2006 by Gail Neffinger, the AT trail chair for Orange and Rockland counties. The section of the trail is located on the northeast shoulder of West Mountain. We spent over 230 volunteer hours in the spring of 2007 rebuilding the trail, and it was subsequently dismantled. We resumed on May 30, 2009, to begin restoring the same section once again only to return on June 13 to find it vandalized again. This was not a case of a person (s) just kicking some rocks and brush out of the way. Heavy rock steps were dislodged, the extensive piles of brush used to block the old eroded path were removed, and the new blazes were scraped off the trees.

Based on these incidents, our trail crew believes a misperception exists among some users of the trails as to why crews of volunteer hikers go out and build water bars, stone or wood steps, switchbacks, check dams etc. There is only one reason—erosion control. Our goal is to minimize the impact of hikers on medium-to-heavy used trails as much as possible using both corrective and preventive methods. We are not tasked with providing the hiker an easier, more aesthetic, or less strenuous way to navigate the terrain. We perform this as part of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference at the request of park management and rangers. Many trails in the Hudson Valley, the Catskills, and the Adirondacks were built at a time when there were not nearly as many hikers as there are today and trails were built with the goal of getting to the destination the quickest way possible. Over time, as more people started using the trails, erosion became widespread on sections of heavily used trails, as many of you have experienced. Muddy sections have widened as hikers go around the wet spots. Guiles and ditches (some knee-high) have developed where there is extensive water run-off. Sleep, “straight up the mountain” trails have eroded to the point that hikers seek other routes, further increasing erosion.

Trails crews’ purpose is to build and repair trails so that erosion is controlled and user impact is minimized.

Volunteer Recognition:
...for Trails at Wonder Lake
I’d like to say thanks so much for the wonderful new trails that the Trail Conference has built in Wonder Lake State Park in the towns of Kent and Patterson, NY. The layout and the quality of the trails is just outstanding. My wife and I have often hiked this park before the new trails, and as members of the Conservation Advisory Committee for the Town of Kent, we’ve led groups of people on hikes along the old roads that now have new hiking trails. During those many hikes, we’ve rarely seen anyone in the park. But since the opening of the new trails, we see a significant increase in the use of the park. Thanks so much for making this possible.

David Ehnbrot
Chair, Conservation Advisory Committee, Town of Kent, NY

...for Work at Sterling Forest
I am very impressed with the staff volunteers from the Trail Conference installed on the Lakeville Ironworks Trail. I can see that it was a big job. I am surprised [at work] done in one long day. It will be easier and safer for patrons to climb and descend that incline now. The steps blend in well and complement the natural and cultural resource.

Thank you!
Please pass my thanks on to all the volunteers who assisted.

Jim Cell
Park Manager
Sterling Forest State Park

Send Us a Letter
Email us at info@nynjtc.org in the subject line, put “letter to TW editor,” or send it to Trail Walker Letters, NYSNJT Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430.

From the West Hudson Trail Crew

Open Letter To The Hiking Community Re: Vandalism on the AT in Harriman State Park and building steps to control erosion. Twice, their work was undone by vandals.

Twice, Trail Conference crews invested heavy labor in relocating a stretch of the AT in Harriman State Park and building steps to control erosion. Twice, their work was undone by vandals.

Chris Bristow, Trail Conference Regional Coordinator, Catskills and the Adirondacks, reported to the conference a stretch of the AT that was repeatedly dismantled.

Thanks for the Great Trails
In July, my husband and I had the pleasure of hiking the Wanaque Ridge, MacEvoys and Cannonball Trails. We were prompted to take this journey after reading the article on the Wanaque Ridge Trail in Trail Walker (Featured Hike, July/August 2009). It’s definitely helpful to have a GPS in the car to navigate along the residential streets off Skyline Drive, in order to find the start of the MacEvoy. Nonetheless, the drive is rewarded by the terrifc 5.5-mile loop that follows. With only moderate, though frequent, undulations (read...elevation change), this is a fine hike to raise your heartbeat without starting to pant. The foliage is varied, then open to a fine hike for those looking for an undemanding one. The MacEvoy and Cannonball Trails have often hiked this park before the AT, so we are familiar with the area—through planning, designing, creating, and maintaining the wonderful trail system.

Enjoy your day on the trail!
Margaret and Todd Schreibman
Denville, NJ

Letters to the Editor
A panoramic photo of the view from the Wanaque Ridge Trail.

Visit our new site today! www.nynjtc.org

TRAIL WALKER
September/October 2009

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Mission Statement
The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a federation of member clubs and hiking trails dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community. The Conference is a volunteer-directed public service organization committed to: Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails. Promoting hiking trails lands through support and advocacy Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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Hady Abad Membership Program Manager

Our volunteer trail crew consists of hikers who have trained in the best ways to control erosion to ensure we employ solutions that do not have to be redone in a year or two. As crew leaders scout trail problems that have been reported by hikers to the Trail Conference, park officials, or crews as we work on the trails. Once a trail problem is evaluated we determine if corrective action is needed and, if so, the most appropriate action. The approach we took with the section of the AT followed all the general procedures—it was a trail just falling apart and we were called to shore it up. We made every effort to discuss with those of you who have issues with the way we are trying to control erosion to bring your concerns to the appropriate forum, such as the Trail Conference or the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, instead of dismantling our work.

For more information on the AT in Harriman State Park please contact the Trail Conference:
TODD SCHREIBMAN
156 Ramapo Valley Rd. (Rt. 202)
Mahwah, NJ 07430.
201-512-5946
info@nynjtc.org

From The West Hudson Trail Crew

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From the Executive Director

Are trails important to society or mere recreational amenities? I raise the question because I am chal-
gen to answer it daily as I struggle to raise the operating funds needed to support our mission of creating the best trail system serving a major metropolitan area. Many potential funders approve of what we do but consider the Trail Conference to be more of a special interest group than a publi-
c and, therefore, they ask, should they support an organization that serves a population of mostly white and aging enthusiasts? Because I answer, trails are where chil-
dren meet nature, where people get and stay healthy, where people reenact their spi-

ty. Trails are not amenities to be enjoyed by a select few, but rather are places where indi-

guals and, therefore, society, forge a sustainable relationship to the environment. A generation or two ago, the world was entirely different; the majority of people encountered nature as part of their every-
day lives—on and about them—spent their days outside, playing in woods, climbing trees, swimming in lakes and streams. Those opportunities seem harder to take advantage of these days.

Yet there is broad agreement on the importance of outdoor physical activity, from the Centers for Disease Control Healthy Communities program to the No Child Left Inside movement inspired by Richard Louv’s book Last Child in the Wood, which links a theory of “nature deficit disorder” to increases in depression, obesity, and attention deficit disorder.

Where will these children, and their par-

more trails and trails, of course. They will walk and hike trails—if they exist and are safe and attractive. I over the past couple of decades, we have seen public focus shift from programming at parks to protecting land from develop-
m ent. From a long-term perspective, the protection priority is desir-
able, but with park budgets and staff being reduced, the immediate impact is that few-
ter and fewer park staff people are managing more and more land.

Trail Conference volunteers and staff have stepped in to fill the gap, creating an average of 50 miles of new trails per year and providing high quality stewardship and maintenance of the growing trail system.

With additional support, we could do so much more. That’s a big reason we are col-

laborating with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission on a 2nd Annual People for Trails Hike-a-thon. Our hike-a-thon is an opportunity to reach out to wider public, remind them about the importance of trails and the need to take care of them, and recruit their support in a fun way.

The case for the societal importance of trails is strong. The Trail Conference is the public service organization addressing this need in our region. Now, perhaps more than ever, trails need attention.

So I urge you to join us at Bear Mount-

on October 3 for this year’s People for Trails Hike-a-thon. Our members and clubs can participate by registering for the event and soliciting pledges from non-

member friends and family, by pledging financial support to a participant, or by recruiting non-member trail users to sign up. Find details and sign up on our web-

site. We promise the event will be fun. And we know it will be a great way to spread understanding of why trails are important and to thereby build a constituency that will support them.

Call for Nominations for Awards

Members may nominate individuals for Trail Conference awards. Award win-

ners are honored and recognized at our Annual Meeting. Cut-off date for rec-

ommendations is September 18, 2009. Please send nominations (with support-

ing statements) to Chris Connolly at c.connolly@7verter.net.

View the list of past award recipients on our website: www.nyntjc.org/content/award-winners

Nominations and a Vase: Conveys life status and the right to vote at Delegates’ meetings. Usually given after long years of service to the Conference.

Raymond H. Torrey Award

The Conference’s most prestigious award, given for significant and lasting contributions that protect hiking trails and the land upon which they rest.

William Hopefertin Award

Recognizes Trail Conference volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.

Leo Rothschild Conservation Award

Presented to a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to the protection of our trails and/or the natural lands that surround them.

Corporate Partner Award

Given to businesses or their employees for outstanding service to the hiking community.

Major William A. Welch Trail Partner Award

Presented to those outside the Trail Conference—e.g., state, federal, or local agency partners—whose efforts have given long and/or significant assistance to the local hiking community.

Next Generation Award

Given to those under age 35 who are making significant contributions of time and energy to trail building or protection.

Ken Lloyd Award

Recognizes members of Trail Conference member clubs or member clubs who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.

Paul Leink Extra Mile Award

Recognizes those volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to projects such as a book, map or advocacy.
Earl Shaffer and the Appalachian Trail Opens at the Smithsonian

“Earl Shaffer and the Appalachian Trail,” celebrating the early years of the Appalachian Trail project and Shaffer’s historic 1948 thru-hike, opened in June in the Albert Small Documents Room of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History.

The exhibit, which will remain in place through October 11, follows displays in the same space this year of Abraham Lincoln and Duke Ellington artifacts. Walking with Spring, Shaffer’s lyrical account of his first Appalachian Trail hike, is a major focus of the exhibit, along with other papers and artifacts Shaffer donated to the Smithsonian after his 1998, “50th anniversary” dedication of the trail. Three years before his death. (He also hiked end-to-end southbound in 1965.)

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 JERSEY

By advocate volunteer Brenda Holzinger

Push on ATV Bill Expected After November Elections

ATV regulatory legislation in New Jersey (S2055 and A8235), regarding the registration, identification and enforcement of All Terrain Vehicles and their use, is now expected to come to votes in the Senate and Assembly after the November elections.

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reported the bill June 22, but it did not come to the full Senate before the legislature’s summer break. After the summer break, the legislation will be occupied with the November elections, so no action is expected on this legislation until after November 3. If the current legislation is not acted upon during the seven weeks following the election, the entire process will need to begin anew with a new legislation. Because this time frame is so short, your help will be needed more than ever to pass this important legislation!

For current updates about this legislation, please visit the TC website at www.njntc.org/content/atv-regulation-summary.

Open Space Funding To Be on November Ballot

The NJ Keep It Green Coalition, comprised of over 135 member groups representing environmental, outdoor recreation, farmland preservation, and historic and cultural resources across the state, worked closely with the state legislature to get the Garden State Preservation Trust bond measure on the ballot in November. Although it may be far from the ideal, long-term funding supported by every member of the KIG Coalition, the $400,000 3-year bond emerged as the most politically palatable measure given the current fiscal state of New Jersey.

The KIG Coalition has already begun planning for its public education and advocacy campaigns, which will begin Labor Day weekend with airplane banners along New Jersey’s coastline. For more information about the bond measure and KIG efforts, or to find out how to help, please visit the KIG website at www.njkeepitgreen.org.

NEW YORK

Bottle Bill Still on Shelf

Implementation of the Bigger Better Bottle Bill, on the verge of happening on June 1, has been on hold since May 29, when U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Griesa delayed implementation of all the new updates to the law until April 1, 2010. A dispute that originally focused on the timetable for requiring label requirements became the lever for delaying all updates to the bill, including the transfer of 80% of the unclaimed deposits to the state and the 1.5 cent handling fee increase for stores and redemption centers. As of the deadline for this issue, no resolution of the dispute was on the horizon. New York Public Interest Research Group estimates that the delay will result in more than two billion water bottles added to the waste stream or litter rather than being recycled, and that the state will lose at least $115 million this year in revenue from the unclaimed deposits.

Maps and other objects from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy adorn the walls, and that book and related products and interactive exhibits as well. Visit www.americanhistory.si.edu; click on “Exhibits” for further information.

Trail Conference Assists with Minnewaska Trails Study

Trail Conference volunteers and staff from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation get ready to head out to assess trails at Minnewaska State Park Preserve. A draft revised master plan is expected to be released for public review this fall.

3 Lakes Trail in Fahnstock State Park Closed

The 3 Lakes Trail in Fahnstock State Park is officially closed between Sunk Mine Road and the AT crossing (not Rt. 301). The closing is due to high water released from John Allen Pond, in an attempt to stabilize a problem. As an alternate, hikers can use the AT from Sunk Mine Road, but because of the high water conditions, the stream crossing just north of there may be a problem.

A safe and dry alternate is to go north on the gated mine road just east of the bridge (dotted line on the TC map), and about a five-minute walk east of the 3 Lakes Trail. This road will join the 3 Lakes Trail at the junction with the Ontonagon Railroad Trail. This is in the closed section, but it is well north of the problem area.

Shaffer at the end of the Appalachian Trail, Mount Katahdin, Maine.
The Trail Conference Publications Committee is pleased to announce that the 14th edition of our Hudson Palisades Trails map set is now available. This edition includes a number of updates to the trails and parklands on the western side of the Hudson River from Fort Lee, NJ, to Hawthorne, NY. Approximately 40 miles of the Long Path are shown, including a relocation of the trail near State Line Lookout. Parking areas and public transportation access points are clearly identified, and public land boundaries have been updated. Marked trails recently established by Trail Conference volunteers on West Hook Mountain, located just south of Rockland Lake State Park, are also included on this revision. So be sure to pick up a copy of this map set and explore the wonderful hiking and biking opportunities available along the Hudson Palisades! To obtain this map set, see the Hikers’ Marketplace on page 12, 201-512-9348, shop online at www.nynjtc.org, or stop in at the Trail Conference office.

The Trail Conference offers workshops in Trail Building and Trail Maintenance at locations across our region. Register online or by calling the office, 201-512-9348, ext. 14.

To register online:
1. Go to www.nynjtc.org
2. Click on Trail Workshops under Get Involved
3. Select Register Now

Stone Cutting, Splitting, and Shaping
Location: Bear Mountain
Date: Saturday & Sunday, September 5 & 6

Stone Moving
Location: Bear Mountain
Date: Saturday & Sunday, September 19 & 20
Moving stone by hand on the 19th and by barge on the 20th

Volunteer Orientation and Trail Maintenance 101 Combo
Location: University Settlement Camp, Rockleigh, Bergen County
Date: Saturday, September 26, 2009
Volunteer Orientation: 10am to 10am 10:30am to 4:30pm

Trail Maintenance 101
Location: Mercedard Manor, in Westchester (Mount Kisco)
Date: TBA
Time: TBA

To register online:
1. Go to www.nynjtc.org
2. Click on Trail Workshops under Get Involved
3. Select Register Now

Saturday, October 3
Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Forest
We will continue installing rock steps and side-hill tread on a steep section of the trail between Hessian Roads and Bluestone Road.

Saturday, October 17
Terrace Pond North Trail, Wawayanda State Park
We will install stepping stones in a wet area of the Terrace Pond North Trail.

Saturday, October 24
Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Forest
We will rock step and sidehill tread on a steep section of the near Bluestones Road.

Saturday, October 31
Terrace Pond North Trail, Wawayanda State Park
We will install stepping stones in a wet area of the Terrace Pond North Trail.

Saturday, November 14
Garvey Springs Trail, Washington State Forest
We will install water bars and mitigate an eroded area of the Garvey Springs Trails.

HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW
Leaders: Glenn Olekasik, HT Supervisor: g.olekasik@verizon.net or 873-283-0206
Adam Rosenberg, HT Co-Supervisor: dorisosian@verizon.com or 973-570-0853

Monthly on a Sunday
We generally get together the first Sunday of every month to tackle various jobs building new sections or reworking existing sections of the Highlands Trail throughout New Jersey as well as in New York west of the Hudson River. We also schedule other weekend projects. All are welcome, experience is not necessary. Contact leader for details of the current trip and what tools to bring.

Sunday, September 13 (2nd Sunday due to Labor Day holiday)
Combine Hike & Work Trip
Location TBD
Leader: Adam Rosenberg
Sunday, October 4
Combine Hike & Work Trip
Location TBD
Leader: Adam Rosenberg

METRO TRAILS CREW
Leaders: Joe Gandolfi, 719-614-2019, jgandolfi@nynjtc.org; Linda Sullivan, crew chef, 347-791-6113, marmelade@yahoo.com; Liz Gonzalez, lgonzalez@verizon.net

Sunday work outings or other hiking footers is mandatory. All participants must sign in to perform trail work. RSVP is a must.

Please contact Linda Sullivan, Metro Trail Crew Chief in order to receive email notices of work outings, or check the Metro Trail Crew page on the Trail Conference website.

EAST HUDSON CREWS

Work begins at 9am and is finished before 4pm. Covers the entire SJ section of the AT, blue-blazed side trails, and shelters. Supplements work by our individual maintainers as requested and for special work projects. Workers bring lunch, water, and appropriate work equipment and clothing. Email leader to be placed on email notification list.

BEAR MOUNTAIN TRAIL PROJECT
Project Manager: Eddie Wash, bear -mountain@trailconference.org, 845-591-1537
Volunteer Coordinator: Christopher Ingui, bear-mountain@trailconference.org, 201-783-3098

Third Saturday of Each Month, April through November
Work begins at 9am and is finished before 4pm. Covers the entire NJ section of the AT, blue-blazed side trails, and shelters. Supplementary work by our individual maintainers as requested and for special work projects. Workers bring lunch, water, and appropriate work equipment and clothing. Email leader to be placed on email notification list.

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Special Project in Sterling Forest
Suzan Gordon and Peter Tilgner (at right in photo) are putting in a new trail to Bare Rock in Sterling Forest. Richmond Ridge (left) and Allarn Goshin (second from left) joined on the inaugural work trip in July. A work outing is planned for Saturday, September 19. Check the Trail Crew Schedules on the website for details.

Angle Fly Preserve in Westchester County
Saturday, September 12
Sunday, September 27
October dates TBD (Check Trail Crew Page)

Contact: Christie Ferguson, ferguson@nynjtc.org
Meet: 9:30am at location TBD (Check Trail Crew Page)

A be a part of connecting Kitchawan Creek County Park to Tuxedo Preserve with a carefully planned trail on designated DEP recreational lands. New trail construction begins in October, and will continue through the end of the year.

Fahnestock State Park
Saturday, September 12
Saturday, September 19
Saturday, October 4
Saturday, October 24
Saturday, October 31
Sunday, October 3

Contact: Christie Ferguson, ferguson@nynjtc.org
Meet: 9:30am at location TBD (Check Trail Crew Page)

The bridges on School Mountain Road in need of repair. Help the Friends of Chestnut Rock and Hudson Highlands, and Trail Conference volunteers on this exciting project!

NEW JERSEY APPALACHIAN TRAIL CREW
Leaders: G. Obrien, trail@genegiordano.com

Second Saturday of Each Month, April through November
Work begins at 9am and is finished before 4pm. Covers the entire NJ section of the AT, blue-blazed side trails, and shelters. Supplementary work by our individual maintainers as requested and for special work projects. Workers bring lunch, water, and appropriate work equipment and clothing. Email leader to be placed on email notification list.

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Project Manager: Eddie Wash, bear -mountain@trailconference.org, 845-591-1537
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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/content/retail_partners for current offers.

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

FREE Subscription to the Trail Walker, the Trail Conference’s bi-monthly 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 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!

Become a Trail Volunteer! Opportunities Abound!

TRAIL MAINTAINER OPPORTUNITIES:
- Adopt a segment of a trail to keep clear and blazed on two or more visits a year.
- Help to keep our region’s footpaths accessible, pristine and protected.
- Opportunities exist in the Catskills, Staten Island Greenbelt, South Taconic Trail, and in West Jersey, including Stokes State Forest and High Point State Park. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator volunteer@nynjtc.org to find out if there is a trail near you!

CORRIDOR MONITORS NEEDED in Putnam County:
- Corridor Monitors: Walk the boundaries of the Appalachian Trail lands, reporting invasions and misuse, documenting monuments and markers, and interact with neighboring landowners.
- If you enjoy the off-trail experience, and would like to help preserve this land, then this is the opportunity for you.

SHELTER CARETAKERS:
- There is just one vacancy remaining for a shelter caretaker at the Wiley Shelter in the Taconic Range.
- Shelter caretaking includes picking up trash, reporting vandalism, basic structure maintenance, and testing the water source. By maintaining this overnight shelter, you are helping hikers by preserving a much-desired dry place to camp after a long hike.
- **Join a Trail Crew!**
- Our Trail Crews welcome new and experienced volunteers. If you’re willing to do some physical work and enjoy working on the hiking trails, this may be an opportunity for you.

Volunteer Office Assistants Needed!
- Are you looking for something new to do? Why not visit the Trail Conference office once a week and volunteer to spend a few hours with us. We need your help! The Trail Conference has a wide variety of tasks that could use your expertise, from assisting customers with phone calls to working on special projects, and many more exciting challenges. Make new friends or join current ones at the Trail Conference office for a few hours.

Trail Conference staffer Larry Wheelock and former Catskills Region Chair Pete Senterman (positions 3 and 4 in photo) welcome new volunteers in the Catskills, left to right: Region 3 Chair Elice Bijo, Regional 4 Chair Howie (Pete) France, and Douglas Senterman, new Leanto Supervisor for both regions in the Catskills.

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Volunteer Profile Joe Henderson

Joe Henderson, of Fair Lawn, NJ, enjoys volunteering both on the trail and in the Trail Conference office. Outside, he maintains a section of the Hoeferlin Memorial Trail and South Ridge Trail, both in the Ramapo Mountains, and a section of the Long Path in Havervaste. He started maintaining in 2003.

Joe added office volunteering in December 2006, helping the Trail Conference’s Fulfillment Coordinator Gary Willick with shipping of Trail Conference books and maps, compiling welcome packets for new members, processing mailings, and assorting other tasks.

“I usually ship orders once or twice a week. Joe flies up about two hours for me so I can get other things done. He is diversified at work so I can count on him for other jobs if needed.” Gary adds, “His pleasant conversation and humble demeanor are something everyone here in the office enjoys and appreciates, and some of his military stories are fun to repeat to my 11-year-old nieces.”

Joe has a big family, with four sons, one daughter, and eight treasured grandchildren.

Joe’s advice to everyone? “Volunteer, because you never know how nice it will be.”
The Asian long-horned beetle’s appetite for a variety of our native trees poses a major threat to forests. This beetle, native to eastern Asia,ALB was first documented in 1996 in Brooklyn, where it is believed to have entered the United States in the late 1980s via wood pallets holding pipe shipped from China. Though separate introductions, this forest pest established itself near the ports of New York, Chicago, and Toronto. In 2008, it was then also found in Worcester, Massachusetts, where it likely went undetected for 10 years.

The Asian long-horned beetle lays its eggs on maple, poplar, willow, and many other deciduous tree species. The larvae burrow through the wood, creating tunnels which weaken and eventually kill the tree. This process will be highly expensive and wrought with costs as well as backyards and city streets, and the impact of the emerald ash borer—it is considered potentially greater threat to our forests. It is, however, characterized as a “lazy flyer,” which scientists hope that, with vigilance and proper action, its spread can be checked and the beetle eradicated.

Unfortunately, the fate of this bird, like many other migratory species, is uncertain. Its population level in most regions has undergone precipitous declines. Since the beginning of the Breeding Bird Survey in 1966 (an annual survey conducted to count the number of birds breeding in North America) the Golden-winged Warbler has experienced an overall decline of 3.4 percent per year in the United States. This has resulted in the extinction of this bird from 11 states where it previously bred. If trends continue, New Jersey may soon join this list.

The Golden-winged Warbler requires a unique combination of herbaceous plants, scrubby shrubs, and grasses next to a forest edge. This combination of plants, typical of early successional vegetation, is found after a forest fire, a timber harvest, or in a forest area along a stream. The availability of this habitat has been decreasing steadily with fire suppression, changing logging activities, and the loss of agricultural in the region.

One landscape feature that may promise the continued availability of this habitat is the power line right-of-way. Cross-cutting the landscape, these rights-of-way require that the vegetation within them remain undisturbed. Consequently, Golden-winged Warblers are often found breeding in these corridors. Currently these areas can be passed by without even a casual glance. The availability of this habitat has been decreasing steadily with fire suppression, changing logging activities, and the loss of agricultural in the region.

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The Golden-winged Warbler is currently being conducted to monitor the success of these changes, if they prove successful, other sections of power line rights-of-way could be widened in the future. With the prospect of revering the Golden-winged Warblers. While these areas of cut-down forest may look like environsmen- to many artificial trees, this may just see a flash of gray and gold.

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Past and present AMC hikers enjoyed a party at the South Shore Marina in Hewitt, NJ, hosted by State Park Manager Naomi Sutler.

**September 12**

**AMC-Watchung Reservation, NJ:** Leader: Angelicaアナcliffe, 609-463-3863, adventure@watchung.org. Meet at the Watchung Reservation parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Spring Valley, NY:** Leader: Albert Marzetti, 845-331-3520, almarzetti@nycap.net. Meet at the Spring Valley parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Little Rock Reservation, NY:** Leader: Steve Gruber, 718-357-4818, sgruber@optonline.net. Meet at the Little Neck parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Rockland, NY:** Leader: Betty Kelly, 914-941-5331, halliewolfe@optonline.net. Meet at the Tappan Reservoir parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, NJ:** Leader: Betty Kelly, 908-996-5277, hmcd74@optonline.net. Meet at the Mahlon Dickerson parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-West Milford, NJ:** Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475, davidhogenauer@comcast.net. Meet at the Wallkill parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Navesink Reservation, NJ:** Leader: Steve Gruber, 718-357-4818, sgruber@optonline.net. Meet at the Navesink reservation parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Montclair, NJ:** Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-943-1475, davidhogenauer@comcast.net. Meet at the Wallkill parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Peekskill, NY:** Leader: Steve Gruber, 718-357-4818, sgruber@optonline.net. Meet at the Peekskill parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Black Rock Forest, NY:** Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475, davidhogenauer@comcast.net. Meet at the Black Rock Forest parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Lake Sonoma, CA:** Leader: Steve Gruber, 718-357-4818, sgruber@optonline.net. Meet at the Lake Sonoma parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Kistler, NY:** Leader: Steve Gruber, 718-357-4818, sgruber@optonline.net. Meet at the Kistler reservation parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Bedford, NY:** Leader: Steve Gruber, 718-357-4818, sgruber@optonline.net. Meet at the Bedford reservation parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.

**AMC-Catalina, CA:** Leader: Steve Gruber, 718-357-4818, sgruber@optonline.net. Meet at the Catalina reservation parking lot at 9 AM. Rain cancels.
Enjoy the 22nd Annual Sterling Forest Conservation Day Saturday, September 27, 8am - 4pm

Enjoy a day full of hiking and biking led by experienced hikers and surrounded by the beautiful fall foliage in Sterling Forest State Park.

For membership information, please contact Tom Thompson at 201-768-5573 or pky Heather@juno.com.

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South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: George Shapiro, 973-564-8780. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove parking, call 878-0694 for directions. Moderate 8 miles; for experienced hikers.

UCHC.多くの展望点がパトリッサリアをトリクルします。ストライクピックはヒュッセンに残されているが、横幕常にバートルを続いている。ニューオーリンズ・グリーン・ストリート・レジオナリ・ニュージャージー。

UCHC.北極圏のアドベンチャーダンク・ブラック・モンターニ・フルハイム・ステート・パーク・ニューヨーク。

Leader: George Smith, 973-778-3586. Meet: 9am at commuter parkinglot; call for directions. Moderate 8 miles; for experienced hikers.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, NJ. Leader: Marilyn Varley, 914-698-2339. Meet: 10am at Lake Skannatati Rd. and Red Cross Trail. For experienced hikers. Calling people and dogs to climb plenty of hills; views abound on Dunderberg Mountain. Dogs must be under control of owner and park leash laws must be followed. Bring lunch and make sure your photos are time-friendly. Call 914-698-2339 to register or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am, out by 2pm. Moderate 8+ miles; for experienced hikers.

UCHC. Appalachian Trail to Black Mt., returning on 1779 Trail, Owl Lake parking lot; call for directions. Car shuttle required. Moderate 8+ miles; for experienced hikers. Call 973-875-1300 for details. Calling people and dogs to climb plenty of hills; views abound on Dunderberg Mountain. Dogs must be under control of owner and park leash laws must be followed. Bring lunch and make sure your photos are time-friendly. Call 914-698-2339 to register or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am, out by 2pm. Moderate 8+ miles; for experienced hikers.

UCHC. Appalachian Trail from Wawayanda to the Pochuck Boardwalk, NJ. Leader: Dave Bennett, 973-530-2079. Meet: 10am at Pochuck Boardwalk; call for directions. Car shuttle required. Moderate 8 miles. At Wawayanda Mt., take Pochuck Boardwalk and suspension bridge over the marshland—a Trail to be appreciated. Dogs must be under control of owner and park leash laws must be followed. Bring lunch and make sure your photos are time-friendly. Call 914-698-2339 to register or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am, out by 2pm. Moderate 8+ miles; for experienced hikers.

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The Trail Conference thanks The Home Depot store in Mahwah for the donation of garage doors for the Delaware Schuyler Farm museum, as well as Buy-Rite Overhead Doors for installing them. The work was done in July. Pictured are, left to right, Tom Weber and Nick Concillo, installation crew chief at Buy-Rite Overhead Doors; Tim Longo, the Delaware Schuyler Farm museum’s Director; Dennis Fischer, Director of the Mahwah Land Trust; and Denise Vitale, a board member of the Mahwah Land Trust.

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Communications Coordinator

The current coordinator is moving, and a replacement is needed if you have access to a computer and the internet, and are interested in trail work at Ward Pound Ridge, then you can be the next WPRR Communications Coordinator. This fun, energetic, and dedicated group works closely with park management on trail projects. A sense of humor is necessary, and good rapport with park management on trail projects is a must.

Outreach Event Coordinator for the East Hudson Region!

If you enjoy working with people, planning events, and talking about the importance of the Trail Conference, we need you! There are many events in the East Hudson Region that you would have to represent at, but need someone to help organize volunteers and coordinate materials. You can also participate in the events themselves, which are always fun!

East Hudson Outreach Event Volunteers Needed

No matter what your background is with the Trail Conference, you could be a valuable asset to the conference and share with people what the Trail Conference does! Volunteer your time for a few hours or a whole day, and enjoy the experience as well! All of our current outreach volunteers comment on what a fulfilling experience it is to work at an outreach event. Join us today!
Help Make Hudson Highlands Triathlon a Success

This year the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference East Hudson Trails Committee will co-sponsor the Philipstown Greenway Committee’s fourth Annual Hudson Highlands Triathlon. The race takes place Sunday, October 11, and promotes the lands Greenway Trail at the Trail Conference’s headquarters near Millbrook. For more information or to register, visit www.hudsonhighlandstriathlon.org. Say “Hudson Highlands Triathlon” to almost anyone, and they will likely picture thousands of miles of nature in the raw, a serene hiking trail through the woods. Say “Global Positioning System” and most people will think of satellites, navigating unfamiliar city streets, and high-tech equipment. At the finish line, the race results will be displayed on a large screen. The top 10 finishers in each age category will receive an award, and there will be a prize for the best-dressed runner. The race starts and finishes in the beautiful setting of the Hudson River Valley Greenway System and the Hudson Highlands. The event will begin at the waterfront at Dockside (1 West Street) in Cold Spring. The race will include a six-mile kayak paddle down the Hudson River to Bannerman’s Island and back; then a 24-mile bike race down to Bear Mountain Bridge and back up to Breakneck Ridge. An eight-mile trail run follows, through Scenic Hudson’s Foundry Preserve, then up and over Bull Hill, and back into the Village of Cold Spring. Interested runners can register at Active.com. The East Hudson Trails Committee encourages Trail Conference members to volunteer to help on the day of the race. Call 845-803-4145 or email info@hudsonhighlandstriathlon.org.

Scouts Complete Project at Bear Mountain

Mahwah Bay Scout Troop 258 with family and advisers pose on the bridge on Bear Mountain they completed in May as part of Charles Scully’s Eagle Project. Charles (fifth from left in front row; his mother, Patricia, stands next to him) worked with Matt Townsend (holding dog) over six months to clear over 50 feet of new trail as part of the AT relocation project and build a small stone wall and bridge to prevent erosion on the trail. Scouts and their parents volunteered well over 300 hours over 4.5 days to complete this work. “It was a great experience for everyone involved,” wrote Patricia Scully. “The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a great organization to work with.”

Hunting Seasons 2009

NEW YORK

Deer Seasons: Regular and Archery Southern Zone (includes Hudson Valley and Catskills)

Regular: Nov. 21 – Dec. 13

Westchester County
Bow only: Oct. 17 – Dec. 31

Suffolk County
Bow only: Oct. 1 – Dec. 31

NEW JERSEY

In New Jersey, the safest course in the trail is to hike only on Sundays, when hunting with firearms is generally prohibited throughout the state. Otherwise, hunting seasons vary by weapon and geography. A six-day firearm season is set for December 7-12 in all zones.

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

Black Rock Forest (845-534-4517) closes to all hikers from Nov. 21 through Dec. 13.

For more information about deer season in New York, go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28685.html. For info about all big game hunting seasons and regulations in New York, visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/10003.html.

A one-shot hunting season is set for December 16 in many zones with additional days permitted in some zones. For the complete set of deer season regulations, go to www.state.nj.us/dep/fsh/ and then click on Hunting, then Deer. Go to the same site for other hunting seasons and information.

Books Received

Adirondack Trails with Tales

History hikes through the Adirondack Park and the Lake George, Lake Champlain & Mohawk Valley Regions

By Russell Dunn and Barbara Delaney

Black Dome Press, 2009

The authors may be familiar for their series of regional waterfall guides (Catskill Region Waterfall Guide, 2004, and Hudson Valley Waterfall Guide, 2005, among others) from the same publisher. Well organized, with photos and easy-to-read, simple maps. Each hike is described in a clear, concise manner.

Exploring the Hudson Valley

100 Great Places Just North of New York City

By Howard Friedman

ExploringTheValley.com, 2009

This self-published guide is organized topically (i.e., Agri-tourism and Airborne Ventures to Zoos), with one Great Place suggested (among other notables) in each category. The suggestions are eclectic and sometimes offshore, such as Metro North, identified as a “mournful” great place in the category “Train & Trolley.” The book includes lots of ideas and contact information for more than just the top 100 M. Kraehmer, a Trail Conference member, recommends.

Book Review

Hiking by the Numbers

Backpacker magazine’s online map of the Appalachian Trail

Reviewed by Howard Friedman

Say “Appalachian Trail” to almost anyone, and they will likely picture thousands of miles of nature in the raw, a serene hiking trail through the woods. Say “Global Positioning System” and most people will think of satellites, navigating unfamiliar city streets, and high-tech equipment. Backpacker magazine has paired technology and back-country and mapped the entire Appalachian Trail using 10 months of GPS data collection by one of their correspondents. Their AT can be viewed online at www.backpacker.com. This review focuses on the trails through New York and New Jersey, which backpacker divides into 8-15 mile sections (some sections in Maine are more than 50 miles in length). GPS coordinates are sprinkled along the trail as “waypoints,” markers that identify a landmark with a specific satellite-based coordinate. At the top of the screen, viewers can select how to view the map: topographic, terrain, satellite image, or a standard road-map type image. These maps are built on the familiar Google maps, which the Trail Conference also uses on its website to locate, for example, trailhead parking for hikes (see www.nynjtc.org/hikes). Click on a trail segment and more detail pops up, as does a photo gallery for the segment. Zoom in on the map so that the waypoints are distinctly separate. Click on a camera icon to see a thumbnail image of a photo snapped from that spot on the map. Click on the image and a larger version of the photo will pop up, including its GPS coordinates. Rarely are images otherwise identified. The photos for each segment are also displayed in a slide-show format at the right; with a click you get the same bigger picture with its GPS info as by clicking on the camera graphic.

Hunting by the Numbers

A one-shot hunting season is set for December 16 in many zones with additional days permitted in some zones. For the complete set of deer season regulations, go to www.state.nj.us/dep/fsh/ and then click on Hunting, then Deer. Go to the same site for other hunting seasons and information.

Backpacker Magazine, 2009

Exotic Plant Monitors!

If you are or were a volunteer for the exotic plant monitoring project during any of its four years, please help us by doing the short survey at www.rci.rutgers.edu/~trails/.
Editor's note: Now that direct access to the Roomy and Blue Mines in Norvin Green is trailhead (see page 4), member Howard the little-used trailhead for the Wy anokie they retain their appeal. For one such al branches of Posts Brook. The water is be challenging when the volume of water ascents and descents, the trail crosses several- er al times each year, including at least once in the thick of winter, using mini-cram- ern section of Norvin Green State Forest in Otter Hole trailhead on Glenwild Avenue in lead to the top of Carris Hill in the south- east section of Norvin Green State Forest in northern New Jersey. I hike this route sev- eral times each year, including at least once in the thick of winter, using mini-crampons for traction.

The most popular route leaves from the Otter Hole trailhead on Glenwood Avenue in Bloomingdale, but I prefer an alternative route, beginning at the trailhead for the yellow-blazed Wy anokie Circular Trail. 0.7 mile southeast of the Otter Hole trailhead. This route traverses a less-used portion of the park.

The hike begins by traversing low-lying terrain, a wet area, and a modest boulder field dotted with rocks the size of mus- shapen bowling balls. After a few gentle ascents and descents, the trail crosses several branches of Posts Brook. The water is usually not very deep, but the crossing can be challenging when the volume of water increases after rain or snowmelt.

Just beyond the brook, the Wy anokie Crest Trail reaches the blue-blazed Hewitt-Butler Trail (co-aligned with the Highlands Trail). Turn right here, following the Hewitt-Butler Trail southeast along a wide, well- traveled dirt-and-leaf-strewn path. Another brook crossing lies ahead.

A short distance ahead is a junction with the white-blazed Posts Brook Trail. Follow the white-blazes along the brook to Chikahoki Falls, a loud rush falls. They are quite impressive for the volume of water they spill into a large and shallow basin at their base. The path closely hugs the cascading rapids along the water’s edge, before leaving the rushing sound of water and climbs back into the forest.

Follow the Posts Brook Trail until you reach the junction with another white- blazed trail—the Lower Trail—and turn left. Almost immediately, turn left again at the junction with the yellow-blazed Carris Hill Trail. This trail begins a gradual climb, which soon steepens, gaining about 500 feet in elevation over a distance of one mile. The payoff is several great viewpoints with a panoramic view of the Ramapo Moun- tains, the Wanaque Reservoir, and even the New York City skyline on a clear day.

The Carris Hill Trail (yellow) continues along the ridgeline, soon ending at a junctio

Chikahoki Falls is a favorite destination in Norvin Green State Forest.