The grand opening of the newly rebuilt Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain is just around the corner—June 5, National Trails Day. Five years of hard work by hundreds of Trail Conference volunteers alongside a crew of professional trail builders is about to be tested by the first of millions of feet.

The trail up the steep slope of Bear Mountain includes more hardwoods than any other Trail Conference-built trail and is designed to endure a century or more of heavy use by the public and prevent the need for future relocations. But it’s not finished yet! Help is still needed to complete the first 800-step section in time for the public opening. And throughout May, the crew will be constructing sections that will link the work of the past five years with the existing Appalachian Trail.

The remaining work will involve splitting, crushing and moving stone as well as finishing work. This is where we have the biggest need. Finishing involves moving and spreading trail surfacing into place with the aid of tracked carriers and hand tools. Drill marks must also be diminished and old unofficial trails and work areas must be restored so that the forest can reclaim them.

This restoration will be a major new theme for this 2010 work season. It involves naturalizing work zones (our quarries and associated access routes) as well as obliterating old trail segments. This is the “light-duty” task that many of you have been waiting for!

We will selectively move downed and rotting logs and branches from the surrounding forest along with leaf and organic duff to hide, disguise, and create the optimal environment for ecological recolonization of the impacted areas by the native forests. We need as many hands as we can get for this instantly rewarding work.

By late May, crews will be “sweeping” the completed trail, looking for last-minute details to correct, and finally… blazing.

In June, crews will move tools to the south side of the mountain, where we will start a new era in the project and a new trail segment. This project would not be where it is today if it were not for the help of hundreds of volunteers and the tens of thousands of hours they have donated. Likewise, we are not going to be able to make it through this last push without the help of volunteers. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to be able to point to this impressive trail segment and say, “I helped build that!”

We are not going to be able to complete this project in one work season. Likewise, we are not going to be able to obtain the required requirements for volunteering by visiting www.nynjtc.org/bear-mountain-trails-project or by emailing the crew leaders at bearmountaintrail@gmail.com.

Learn more about the project and the requirements for volunteering by visiting www.nynjtc.org/bmp/bear-mountain-trails-project or by emailing the crew leaders at bearmountaintrail@gmail.com.

Besides all the logistical details above, another requirement for volunteering is to have some level of physical fitness and willingness to work hard under the some less-than-ideal conditions. Don’t let that deter you, though! Some of the work can be pretty intense on the mountain, but the work is rewarding in so many ways.

The Volunteer Project continues on page 5

Catherine lists a series of trail building skills she has learned, including how to move rocks with high-line and grip-hoist rigging, and how to use tools to split and shape rocks. Experimenting with the project management side of the endeavor over several years has also been educational, she says. “It does take some effort to work with people of different skills and interest levels— they’re pretty conscious of that on the project—they want to make sure they’re using people’s time productively.”
The TRAIL WALKER (USPS Permit #1239) (ISSN 0749-1352) is published bi-monthly by available to libraries only at $15.00 a year. Subscriptions are and 10,000 individuals. A federation of 103 hiking and outdoor groups, volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference isa service organization committed to: dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community. The Conference is a volunteer-elected public service organization committed to: • Building and maintaining hiking trails. • Preserving hiking trails lands through support and advocacy. • Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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

More than 500 Wonder Lake Hiking Trail Map brochures have been distributed at the kiosk in the Wonder Lake parking lot for since the trial dedication, proving how popular the new trail has become. The brochure is also available online at nynjtc.org by clicking on “Find a Park” and then “Wonder Lake State Park.”

Many of the hikers we have seen at Wonder Lake are local residents of the Towns of Kent and Patterson. We hope they will join Trail Conference members in campaigning members of the New York State Legislature to keep all New York State Parks, including Wonder Lake, open.

Volunteers with the Wonder Lake trails team take a break. More than 500 Wonder Lake Hiking Trail Map brochures have been distributed at the kiosk in the Wonder Lake parking lot for since the trail dedication, proving how popular the new trail has become. The brochure is also available online at nynjtc.org by clicking on “Find a Park” and then “Wonder Lake State Park.”

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Correction
We made a wrong choice of frog photo to accompany the article “Frozen Frogs Under the Wonder Lake Design and Build team to see our two-year effort to open up the Wonder Lake trail network appear as the second bullet item in the FY09 Accomplishments in the March/April 2010 Trail Walker! We were Improving the trail network last year that we never did get the chance to thank each of the more than 50 Trail Conference volunteers, and especially the three trail crews, who took time out of their busy schedules to build the three separate flights of rock stairs on the Long Trail to the trail system, or the six additional miles of trails that were dedicated on June 6, 2009.

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Volunteers with the Wonder Lake trails team take a break.

Nominations - We Want Your Voice To Be Heard
The Trail Conference Nominating Committee is seeking Delegate-at-Large and nominations for membership on the Board of Directors. The qualification for both is current membership in the Trail Conference. Please email your nomination to nominations@nynjtc.org. Self-nominations for Delegate-at-Large, trail maintenance and committee service positions are appropriate and welcome.

Letters to the Editor
Send Us a Letter
Email us to tw@nynjtc.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.

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make his last pair of shoes the next day. To his surprise and delight, the most exquisite of shoes were sitting on his workbench. The shoemaker used the leather to be turned into shoes, the public for public recreation. Like the elves who continued to be in high demand and the couple lived happily ever after. And now for the allegorical interpretation... Like the shoemaker couple setting out to be turned into shoes, the public in the metropolitan region has been treating open space and making it available for public recreation. Like the elves who made shoes from the leather, park staff and volunteers have been making that open space accessible via trails, turning raw open space into outdoor experiences for millions—and none more so than the long-suffering and unselfishly dedicated Trail Conference volunteers.

If you like what you see, follow the lead of the shoemaker’s wife and make a donation to help the Trail Conference cover its basic financial commitments. We won’t disappear like the elves in the faire, but will continue to reward your generosity many times over.

Do you remember the Grimms’ tale of the shoemaker and his wife? They were very honest and hard working but only had enough leather to make a single pair of shoes. So, the shoemaker cut the leather and put it on his workbench with the intention to make his last pair of shoes the next day. To his surprise and delight, the most exquisite pair of shoes were sitting on his workbench. The shoemaker used the

income to buy even more leather which was miraculously transformed into perfect shoes. Word spread and soon the shoemaker and his wife were thriving again. The shoemaker’s wife was curious about his good fortune so, one night, they decided to hide in view of the workbench to witness this miracle. Round about midnight, two elves appeared, naked and shivering, but rapidly began to stitch the leather together into a perfect set of shoes before disappearing in a twinkling of the eye. The shoemaker’s wife was appalled. The elves had made her and her husband well-off while they had no clothes to protect them from the elements. She decided to sew them a full set of clothes and leave them out on the workbench. In the morning, the clothes were gone and, although the elves never returned, the shoemaker’s shoes continued to be in high demand and the couple lived happily ever after.

NEW YORK

- Catskills
  - Revised Catskill Trails map set published; all trails nearly GPSed and coverage area increased.
- Southern Taconics
  - Planning initiated for Taconic Ridge Trail extension south to Rudd Pond.
- Dutchess County
  - Wagatica Falls Greenway Trail adopted.
- Shawangunk Ridge
  - Downloadable edition of Shawangunk Ridge Trail map produced.
- Sterling Forest
- Schunemunk Mountain
  - Hundreds of downed trees cleared to reopen trails after February 2009 ice storm.
- Storm King and Black Rock Forest
  - Stillman Trail rebuilt in two locations and a bridge replaced on Storm King Mountain.
- East Hudson Highlands
  - Volunteers created a new trail network at Wender Lake State Park.
- Fahnstock
  - Bridge installed on the Fahnstock Trail, giving access to other trails needing repair.
- Harriman-Bear Mountain
  - Chain saw crews cleared 496 fallen trees in 48 work trips.
- Rockland County
  - Three trails on Weid Hook Mountain in Cornwall adopted.
- Westchester County
  - Wakable Westchester book, highlighting almost 600 miles of trails, published.
- New York City
  - Trail assessment and rehabilitation plan prepared for Van Cortlandt Park.
- Long Island

NEW JERSEY

- Kittatinny
- Bearfort Ridge and Wawayanda
  - Scouting and approvals for 26 miles of new Iron Mine Trail completed.
- Wyandokes
  - Several miles of new trails, including Overlook Rock Trail, created in Norvin make State Forest.
- Rarapungo Mountains
- Watchung Mountains
  - Trail Conference assists in relaying the 32-mile Larapee Trail in Essex County.

Where We Work

The 21 regions and 4 long distance trails identified on this map coincide with regions covered by our New York and New Jersey Walk Books.

For each region, we highlight a recent trail accomplishment by our outstanding volunteers.

To support trails in your favorite region, please go to the overview map at www.nynjtc.org.

Where We Work

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Building Bridges

Anyone who hikes or walks on School Mountain Road in Fahnstock State Park knows about Bridge #3, which was devastated by Tropical Storm Floyd in 1999. Subsequent rain storms furthered its demise. The process ofHundredsofvisitorsrecruitedfromseveralorganizationsand

by Walt Daniels and John Magelein (volunteer coordinator). Jean Arledge, John Busso,


Thanks are also due to Bill Bauman, Amy Knapp and Frank Manzi, park staff, and Jolyne Tallis and John Blatt from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Trail Conference supplied all the heavy equipment.

A celebration of completion of the project was held on site on Saturday, December 5.

—Jane Daniels

A big thank you goes to all the volunteers: Walt Daniels and John Magelein (Leaders), Jack Daniels (volunteer coordinator), Jean Arledge, John Busso, Chris Chippell, Warren Eeger, Bob Flavin, Chrisy Guattaro, Susan Hall, Tim Kegler, Noel Knept, Mark Lintelman, Bruce Lucas, Karen Magelein, Tom Magelein, John Maasik, Freidel Muller-Landau, Jean Ruda, David Small, Jill Sprance, Christine Tortino, Larry Wheelock, Kenny Zadek (specialists).

Crushed in Catskills

The past two months have presented a broad array of serious trail protection issues in the New York-New Jersey region. They include:

• government threats to close parks in New York;
• efforts in park staff in New Jersey;
• a proposal by the New York governor to end all land acquisition in the state, which would disrupt pending land transfers, including of parcels held by the Trail Conference;
• hearings on a utility company proposal to develop two portions of the National Park system in New Jersey—the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Delaware Water Gap National Scenic Trail—with power lines that many deem to be unsightly;
• and a hearing on a development plan for large second homes in the Shawangunk that threatens to impact the Shawangunk Ridge Trail.

New bridge on School Mountain Road in Fahnstock, clockwise from top left: admiring the gables standing on steel beams; the finished bridge.

JPG

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!

Advocacy & Conservation Update

The past two months have presented a broad array of serious trail protection issues in the New York-New Jersey region. They include:

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New Jersey Parks

We were pleasantly surprised when Gover-

nor Christie, in his March budget message, indicated no plans to close any parks this year. Once released, his detailed budget proposals are expected to include reductions, but at the deadline for this

publication, supporters of the state's parks and trails were cautiously optimistic.

An End to New York Land Protection? The Trail Conference joined with hun-

dreds of environmental organizations across the state to support New York's Environmental Protection Fund. This fund pays for a broad array of environmental projects in the state, from infrastructure for clean water to protecting open space. As of the deadline for this issue, the state senate and assembly had both voted to increase funding for the EPF above the governor's proposals, but they were far apart on the amount and the purposes. The Assembly, for example, had voted to eliminate $30 million in stewardship funds from the EPF—$15 million each for NYS DEC and State Parks. Go to our website for background and updates.

PSE&G Powerline through Parks and across North Jersey National Park Service hearings in February on PSE&G's proposal to run powerlines through the Delaware Water Gap NRA and across the Appalachian Trail were packed with hundreds of citi-

zens concerned over the plans. Trail Conference members and representatives were among them. The Trail Conference submitted official comments to the park service's Environmental Impact Statement planning team, outlining the potential impact of various planned routes on existing trails and scenic viewsheds and suggesting additional alternatives to be studied. Our comments can be found and read on our website (see directions above).

Seven Peaks Development on the Shawangunk Ridge A draft environmental impact statement was the subject of a March public hearing on this project slated for the Shawangunk corridor in the town of Mamakating. The Trail Conference signed onto comments submitted by the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, which focused on the many unfoldable, but for

clearly submitted our own comments, which focused on issues relating to the Shawangunk ridge. Our work to get our website to find and read both sets of comments, along with those by DEC, and to find other links relating to this project.

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!
This one-day training session will cover the skills necessary to maintain a shelter (liner-less) so that it is ready for use by hikers and is harmonious with its surroundings. Students will learn how to do an assessment of the overall shelter condition, cleaning and clearing the area, the proper use of tools, and how to report the shelter’s condition. No previous experience is necessary and beginners are welcome. Students will spend the morning in a classroom environment and then head out into woods for hands-on instruction.

Shelter Caretaker Training Saturday, May 15, 1:30-4pm Location: Eld Ridge Lean-To, Maplecrest, NY (Catskills) This one-day training session will cover the skills necessary to maintain a shelter (liner-less) so that it is ready for use by hikers and is harmonious with its surroundings. Students will learn how to do an assessment of the overall shelter condition, cleaning and clearing the area, the proper use of tools, and how to report the shelter’s condition. No previous experience is necessary and beginners are welcome. Students will spend the morning in a classroom environment and then head out into woods for hands-on instruction.

Trail Renovation and Restoration Saturday, Apr 27 Location: Bear Mountain, Hartman State Park, NY This workshop will cover how to remove obsolete or unnatural trails so that they can be reclaimed by their native environments. Topics covered will include why trails have to be relocated or removed and the methods of dislocating these trails from public view so that they have the best chance of getting reestablished in the forest. Participants will be working on an existing section of the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain transplanting native plant species and transplanting organic matter.

GPS/Tools Training Saturday, June 26 Location: Rock Brook Nature Center, Englewood, NJ This workshop provides a basic level of skills for those interested in History, Systems and Geographic Information Systems to aid in trail layout, design, and inventory keeping. This is a great workshop for all you "techies" who love to hike.

Catherine reports putting her newly learned skills to work back home on several NPTC projects—standing-building at Harper’s Ferry, building a small recyling wall on section of the AT, expanding a parking area by splitting and dragging away a boulder with a grip-hoist, moving large stepping stones. "Now the idea of moving a rock several times bigger than myself is no longer something I might be thinking about, it shouldn’t let it pass me by,” she says. "The organization should be proud, its web page is very, very good. We don’t think of ourselves as part of a group that was willing to take a risk on such a huge effort."
Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

To indicate your interest, or for more information about these or other volunteer opportunities, go to www.nynjtc.org/volunteer; or contact us at volunteers@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 ext. 22.

Here are some exciting and unique off-trail opportunities!

Communications/Editorial Assistant
Help the Trail Conference Communications Manager keep up with and get out all the news that’s fit to print, email, or put on our website! Training will be provided. Work from the office or from home.

Hike Writers for Long Island, NJ Pinelands, and Jersey Shore
We want to add hikes from these regions to our website and need contributors who enjoy hiking, are willing to carefully document routes, and take photos. Work doesn’t get more fun than this!

Copyright and Intellectual Property Lawyer
The Trail Conference produces a wide variety of material both in print and on the web. If you are a lawyer with at least 5 years’ experience in copyright and intellectual property law and would like to provide the Trail Conference with pro bono services to help write and review contracts in these areas, we’d love to hear from you!

General Counsel
Trail Conference receives and creates contracts ranging from construction and service provider agreements to work-for-hire and trail building proposals. We’re looking for a lawyer with 5 or more years in general law, who can provide pro bono services to help write and review these contracts and also to advise the organization on some best practices to protect itself.

Insurance Expert
The Trail Conference is looking to bolster our newly formed Operations Committee and needs your insurance expertise. We have a complex set of insurance policies and need a professional to review our policies on an annual basis and assist with our renewals.

Prospect Caller
Do you want to put that clear and friendly voice of yours to good use? Do you have sales experience? We have a new volunteer position in our sales department, calling stores and asking them if they want to receive our new, free, full-color catalogue of our high-quality books and maps. Managers are very busy, but people like you can get right to the point and help close deals! The Trail Conference and its indispensable hiking books and maps we all love so well!

Become a Trail Maintainer!
Adopt a section of a trail and help to keep our region’s footpaths accessible, pristine, and protected by helping keep them clear and adequately blazed on two or more visits a year. We have vacancies in almost all regions our trail network covers. Check out our website at: www.nynjtc.org/vol-trail-vacancies or email volunteers@nynjtc.org to see if there is a vacancy in the area of your choice.

This position is available to Trail Conference members only.

New to Trail Work? Join a Trail Crew... and learn on the job! Our Trail Crews welcome both new and experienced volunteers. Participation is flexible; most crews spend 3–4 hours—weekdays or weekends—working at a specific site. Trail crews perform a wide variety of tasks ranging from painting blazes, heavy maintenance to trail building and restoration. We have crews working on trails in West Hudson, East Hudson, northern New Jersey, and western New Jersey.

Retail Partner News: Gravity Vault Opens Second Rock Gym

The Gravity Vault Indoor Rock Gym, a retail partner of the Trail Conference, announces the opening of a second state-of-the-art climbing facility, in Chatham, NJ (40 Watchung Ave.). Its first gym, in Saddle River (107 Pleasant Ave. at Rt. 17 N), continues operations. Trail Conference members can enjoy 10% discounts on day passes at both locations when they show their current membership card.

The new gym in Chatham offers 14,000 square feet of rock climbing, 58 top rope stations, extensive bouldering and lead climbing, a huge retail shop, locker rooms, a fitness studio, a private party room, and much more. This facility, one of the two largest rock gyms in New Jersey, is great for beginners, seasoned climbers, or anyone looking for a new way to stay in shape. One can get involved in indoor rock climbing at The Gravity Vault through more than a dozen avenues including memberships, classes (for both adults and children), scout programs, group events, private events and birthday parties.

For more information on The Gravity Vault visit www.gravityvault.com or contact the Chatham facility at 973.701.ROCK (7625).
Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Is a Family-friendly Outdoor Discover Center

If the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum (HHNMM) in Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY, has anything to do about it, there will be no local epidemic of “nature-deficit disorder,” a health and environmental concern raised by author Richard Louv in his influential 2005 book, Last Child in the Woods. Louv wrote that a growing body of research “reveals the necessity of contact with nature for healthy child—and adult—development.” But, he asserted, too often our society scares people “straight out of the woods and fields.” Their resulting “nature deficit,” he says, is a threat to their well-being and, if sufficiently widespread, a danger to the health of the planet.

HHNMM addresses these challenges in a very direct way: with a program they call Quest Discovery Hikes. These are a series of four self-guided walks on the nearly six miles of trails that explore the 177-acre historic farm that comprises its Outdoor Discovery Center. (A second camp, the Wildfiffe Education Center, is a short drive away.) These Quests are designed to introduce beginners to the basic features of nature and the pleasures and protocols of hiking.

The trails are color-coded and meticul- ously blazed; traditional blazes are reinforced with colored flags on the easiest trails. “We’re kind of a bunny slope for hik- ing,” says Jackie Grant, HHNMM executive director, referring to the gentle slopes with most beginning skiers learn the basics of the sport. Published guides available on site explain the basics of reading trail blazes.

There are four designated Quest Discovery Hikes: Pond Quest, Field Quest, Woodland Quest, and Hiking Quest. Each features 12 learning stations, Ms. Grant explains. Visi- tors can purchase a guide to each Quest’s stations for $5 (there is no fee to access the grounds) and follow the field notes about the natural and human history visible along the trail and do suggested interactive, hands-on activities that aim to promote observation and learning.

The guide books, says Ms. Grant, are designed to be of interest to multiple genera- tions. “They are intended to be something that families can do and enjoy together and learn together and learn together, perhaps slightly oriented to kids. People can use these to learn no matter what their age.”

Education Director Judy Ouwer: “We’re focusing on ways to forge the bonds between people and nature that we now know we need to be teaching children and adults to think of nature in love with the Hudson Valley. You’re not going to care about protecting something unless you love it.”

Families, school groups, an on-site pre- school program, and independent walkers all explore the trails and grounds at the center.

The HHNMM Outdoor Discovery Center is located at 100 Mason Drive, across from 174 Angola Road in Cornwall (off of Route 9W). Quests are open weekends April 24-November 15. The Quest Visitor Center is open from 9am until 5pm, Satur- day and Sunday. Trails are open all year and there is no admission charge; there is a $5 fee for a Quest guidebook. Additional pro-grams offered by HHNMM include lectures, demonstrations, and exhibits. The museum is member supported. Learn more at www.hhnatureruseum.org.

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum is a sponsor of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

We had settled on a list of 52 high peaks...

But most important, this list helped us, both life-long residents, to get to know New Jersey better. In a state better known for traffic-clogged interstates, corrupt politicians, post-industrial cities, and sprawling suburbs, over the course of 5 years we discovered an impressive patch-work of public open space—state forests, parks, wildlife management areas, county reservations, and more—that allows us all to enjoy the outdoors.

And yet, there are views on a lot of these mountains too, some of which, like the trailless Hamburg Mountain High Point, Hassenclever Hill, Green Pond Mountain, and Buck Mountain (Kinnedien), are pretty incredible, yet relatively unknown destinations.

Peaking Bagging Comes to New Jersey!

By Eric Koppel with Jeffrey Bennett

Trail Conference member and Hiking Buddy, Jeffrey Bennett, and I, Eric Koppel, founded the New Jersey 1K Club, dedicated to identifying and climbing New Jersey’s high peaks—52 mountains (that’s at least 1,000 feet above sea level. Check their website at www.nj1k.org.

“The center is not for kids only.”

The center is not for kids only.

Science & Ecology

The mission of the Museum is to create responsible caretakers of our environment.

Eric Koppel and Jeffrey Bennett, founders of the New Jersey 1K Club.

Grandfather and grandson take a Quest Hike.

The care was an interesting find, but we felt compelled to head on top to the mountain, for summit fever had gotten the best of us. With a map, a compass, and some guesswork we negotiated our way through desolate leafless forest toward an unfamiliar summit.

After trekking uphill for a while, following gullies carved by rain and snow-melt, we found ourselves high on a ridge covered by low-lying shrubs and windresistant greens. So this was the unknown mountain top? We had identified months ago on a topographic map. If you closed your eyes it was almost like a slice of alpine tundra. The scene changed again a few minutes later when we arrived at the true summit; bloothirsty prickly bushes capped the summit flat, like sentinels guarding the secrets of the mountains. After a brief struggle with the briars, we made it to the top, with sweat and blood to show for it.

Ah, peakbagging; that odyssey, mad quest, obsession, psychiatric condition found in the Adirondacks, Catskills, White Mountains, Colorado Rockies, New Zealand Alps, and more. The Marshall brothers of Adirondack fame may have been the first peakbaggers, but nearly 100 years later the disease had finally spread to New Jersey. I, Eric Koppel of Rutherford, and my collaborator, Jeffrey S. Bennett of South Orange, were the agents of contagion.

Two years ago we were Cardall 3500 Club and ADK 46ers aspirants who just decided to do some county high pointing closer to home. We hadn’t even made it to the southern New Jersey county high peaks when I said to myself, what the heck, why can’t New Jersey have a peakbagging club of its own? So after doing a bit of research, Jeff and I came up with a preliminary list of New Jersey’s 1,000-foot mountains with 200 feet of prominence. Over the next several months, the list changed but at least it was a start.

We soon lost count of how many moun- tains we had climbed for this local peakbagging quest without being totally discouraged. We also lost count of how many more we had to go. Thanks to USGS topographic maps, our list was constantly growing; yet thanks to our own reconnaissance missions we were continually discovering which of our iden- tified “high peaks” were actually accessible.

About two years ago we had started researching New Jersey’s high peaks, finally reaching the end of the beginning. We had settled on a list of 52 high peaks and had climbed every single one of them. Interestingly, the very first mission to com- plete our list, William Maurer, is from Reading, Pennsylvania. Jeff and I were 3rd and 2nd to finish respectively.

Well admit that the mountain described above on the Jenny Jump range wasn’t the most awe-inspiring summit to be found. Yet, there’s something special about peak- bagging, even if it takes you to treed-in summits and fields of prickly bushes. Peak- bagging gets you to mountains you would never think of climbing otherwise.

There’s also something liberating about peakbagging when you don’t have the ben- eft of trails to guide you up. And there’s the thrill of discovery. Is the stream’s ravine scenic? Does the forest have magic to it? Are there interesting rock formations? Is there a view from the top?

Weird Mountain: Bald Mountain

Easiest Climbing: Guerin Benchmark

Hardest Climbing: Hassenclever Hill

Worst Prickly Bushes: The Tornfell and Upper Pohatcong Mountain

Highlights:

Chief View: Hassenclever Hill and bowling Green Mountain

Most Interesting Forests: Bearfort Mountain North

Weirdest Mountain: Bald Mountain

Easiest Climbing: Guerin Benchmark

Hardest Climbing: Hassenclever Hill

Worst Prickly Bushes: The Tornfell and Upper Pohatcong Mountain

Best View: Hassenclever Hill and bowling Green Mountain

Most Interesting Forests: Bearfort Mountain North

Weirdest Mountain: Bald Mountain

Easiest Climbing: Guerin Benchmark

Hardest Climbing: Hassenclever Hill

Worst Prickly Bushes: The Tornfell and Upper Pohatcong Mountain
May

Saturday, May 1

AMC. Taconic Trail: Big Hill Monument, Highbridge State Park, NY. Leader: Art Atchison, 914-967-8699 or artachison@optonline.net. Meet: contact leader for details. You'll be walking through small hills, low woods, and open fields. Bring plenty of water, look for some interesting sites along the way. Remember, "beggar's downward" at 1 p.m. Josie Couch, jocouch@hvc.com. May 1.

ADHD. Hoods and Meadowlarks, Sleater Kinney State Park, NY. Meet at 8:30 a.m. to explore a variety of habitats including woodlands, marshes, and grasslands. Bring binoculars, glasses, and a snack. Contact: leader for details/registration. Meet: 530-352-3046. You may cancel in advance! May 1.

Sunday, May 2

ADHD. Steep Rock, Hudson Highlands State Park, NY. Leader: George Cline, 914-693-6140. Meet: at 9 a.m. at North White Plains station for a train to Steep Rock Station. Considers itself both challenging and relaxing. Bring plenty of water. You'll see a few interesting sights along the way. Bring binoculars and a camera. Meet: 9 a.m. at the train station. 914-693-6140. May 2.

CWC. Croton Dam to Crotonville on the Old Croton Aqueduct, NY. Leader: Tom Rink, tom.trinknow@gmail.com. Meet: 10 a.m. at Croton Gorge Park on 6/2. May 2.

Wednesday, May 5


Verify!

For more information and to register, please visit www.ny-njtc.org.Click on Scheduled Hikes under Go Hiking! Find more hikes at www.nynjtc.org. Click on Scheduled Hikes underGo Hiking! The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikers are welcome to participate in the listed hikes. Free hikes are open to all, and club members may participate in member club hikes. Non-member individuals must be accompanied by a club member. Hikes cannot complete the hike in less than 1 hour. Equipment is not available to everyone, and some hikes may require prior registration. For information regarding member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference and to register for any hike or hike-related event, please visit our website www.ny-njtc.org or call 914-763-1200.

May 21

ADK-MH. Woods and Meadows, Fahnestock State Park, NY. Leader: Tom Bull, 518-732-3046. Meet: 8:30 a.m. at Indian Head overpass. Take 9W south to Indian Head exit. Look for a sign in a field before the bridge. Meet at the field. May 21.

ADK-MH. Woods and Meadows, Fahnestock State Park, NY. Leader: Tom Bull, 518-732-3046. Meet: 8:30 a.m. at Indian Head overpass. Take 9W south to Indian Head exit. Look for a sign in a field before the bridge. Meet at the field. May 21.

May 22

AMC. Outdoor Adventures for Women, AMC New York-Northern New Jersey chapter, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Rutherford, NJ. Leader: George Cline, 914-693-6140. Meet: 9 a.m. at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. May 22.

GS. Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, Rutherford, NJ. Leader: George Cline, 914-693-6140. Meet: 9 a.m. at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. May 22.

IHC. Weis Ecology Center, Weis Family Farm, Rosendale, NY. Leader: Nan West, 914-763-4595 and nanis@weis.com. Meet: 10 a.m. at Weis Family Farm parking area. May 22.


Saturday, May 8


MRT. Hiking the Jersey Highlands. Sponsored by Member Clubs. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send an email to NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikers are welcome subject to club regulations. May 8.

Sunday, May 9

WS. High Country Trail: Duchess rail-trail past Morgan Lake, through GS. Baby and Me Hike, Kay Environmental Center, Chester, NJ. Leader: WEC naturalist; to register, call 973-835-2160. Meet: 10am for car shuttle or 10:30 at the trailhead; details available upon registration. May 9.

AMC. Taurus Twice for Beginners, Hudson Highlands State Park, NY. Leader: Rusty Gile, 201-536-2555. Meet: 10 a.m. at Croton Gorge Park on 6/2. May 9.

Saturday, May 15

ADK-MH. Ringwood State Park to Mahwah, NJ. Leader: Ollie Simpson, olliesimpson2005@yahoo.com, 845-298-6355; call before 9:30 p.m. May 15.

WEC. W ildflower Hike w ith Author George Petty, Weis Farm, Rosendale, NY. Leader: Great outdoors; contact organizer for information. May 15.

Saturday, May 16


Saturday, May 22

AMC. Old 210 Circuits, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Larry Spinner, 845-548-3194; call before 9:30 p.m. May 22.

AMC. Old 210 Circuits, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Larry Spinner, 845-548-3194; call before 9:30 p.m. May 22.

Monday, May 17

WS. Appalachian Trail and return via carriage roads. Bad weather cancels. May 17.

Saturday, May 29

WS. High Country Trail: Duchess rail-trail past Morgan Lake, through GS. Baby and Me Hike, Kay Environmental Center, Chester, NJ. Leader: WEC naturalist; to register, call 973-835-2160. Meet: 10am for car shuttle or 10:30 at the trailhead; details available upon registration. May 9.

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Appalachian Trail Museum to open in June

After years of planning, the Appalachian Trail Museum Society, founded in 2001, plans to open The Appalachian Trail Museum at Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Pennsylvania on June 5, National Trails Day. Potomac Appalachian Trail Club volunteers will rehabilitate a 2006-old grant mill to bring it up to code and install displays. New York-New Jersey Trail Conference members are working with ATMS. Details about the museum and the opening are available at www.atmuseum.org.

Shopping Online

Start your shopping trip from the Trail Conference website and your never shoppers connect to them through our website.

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Liz Gold
In memory of Tom Jones
Ritchie Peter Hedder
In memory of Bob Duarte
Sarah E. & Susan K.
In memory of Norman Grau
Jack A. & Aria Young
In memory of David Kennedy
Patricia Bennett

Tributes are only printed for donations of $25 or more.

Bob Busha; 1923-2010
Bob Busha, of Clifton, NJ, a long-time member and volunteer with the Trail Conference, died on March 18, 2010. He is credited with laying out the L.P. through the Capital region. Fred’s obituary recalls that for 30 years, every week, year round, he led hikes throughout the northeast for the Albany Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. He was a member of the Adirondack 46ers, the Cardinal 3500 Club, the New England 111 Club. He was active with the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Taconic Hiking Club, as well as with the Trail Conference. He designed and organized the development and maintenance of miles of hiking trails, particularly in the expanded sections of Thacher State Park. Those wishing to contribute in Fred’s memory may do so through the Endowment Fund of The First Universalist Univeristy of Albany, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206, or the Friends of Thacher and Thompson Lake State Parks, 87 Nature Center Way, Voorheesville, NY 12186, or a charity of their choice. Another way to honor Fred’s memory and legacy is by joining in the effort to save Thacher Park.

Seth Lyon; 1961-2010
Seth Lyon, of Dougheiff, NY, died March 15 while hiking in the Carricks. Seth was an avid naturalist, artist, and active trail volunteer on the Appalachian Trail with the RPH Cabin Volunteers Club and with the Hyde Park trail program in Duchess County. He crafted a hiking and backpacking skills course for Dutchess Community College. He was 69 years old. He was found near the summit of Blackhead Mountain, in the Township of Windham on March 15. Seth and his climbing partner had spent Saturday night in a snow storm, but they had bug, after becoming engulfed in an unnecessarily severe wind and ice storm. On Sunday morning, Seth made a valiant attempt to hike out to get help and save his climbing partner, who could not move his legs. Weakened himself, Seth died in the attempt. His daughter recalled him as “a compassionate, generous man who always had a smile and found peace in the mountains.” Memorial donations can be made to: Winnakee Land Trust, P. O. Box 610, Rhinebeck, NY 12572 or RPH Cabin Voluneteers Club for The Seth Lyon Fund, c/o Beth Habermann, 31 Country Club Rd., Hopewell Jct. NY 12533.

Art Schneier
Word has come of the passing in 2009 of Art Schneier, of Huntington, NY. Art was long active with the Trail Conference and, since the 1960s, with the Interstate Hiking Club, of which he and his wife Art were both past presidents. When both served as trails chair for the club for many years as well as supervisor of the Appalachian Trail in Pem㎝ County for the Trail Conference. He section-liked the AT over the course of two decades, ultimate fulfilling his dream of becoming an End-to-End. An avid naturalist, Art wrote the “Nature’s Notebook” column for Trail Walker for many years. Art will be missed by the many who knew him.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
continued from page 2

crowded as they were when I took my first hike in 1950, Chris Ingui’s response was on the mark—we have to accommodate hikers in numbers that Benton MacKaye never imagined. It’s the least we can do.

And Benton MacKaye is not spinning in his grave. Rather than envisioning a trail through unbroken wilderness, his vision included communities “on or near the trail,” where people could live in private domiciles. These community camps...should not be allowed to become too populous and thereby destroy the experiences they are created. Greater numbers should be accommodated by more communities, not larger ones. There is room, without crowding, in the Appalachian region for a very large camping population... These communities would be used by a tremendous kinds of non-traditional activity... Summer schools or seasonal field courses could be established and scientific travel courses organized and accommodated in the different communities along the trail.


—Bob Mous, Bloomfield, NJ

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Stone Steps Will Protect the Mountain

I read the letter critical of the stone steps work on the Bear Mountain Trail and the response from the Special Projects Manager (Chris Ingui). As a trail maintainer myself, I can’t help but respond and offer my encouragement for the project. Two years ago I "adopted" the 1-1/2 acre West Rock Ridge State Park in Hamden, CT, because the trails were sadly neglected. I have put in many hours fixing up the trails, including blazing, pruning, relocating eroded sections, hardening others, installing rock waterbars, and building boardwalks through muddy areas.

Most people have been very positive and supportive of what I have done. The occasional hard-core mountain biker thinks that some of my efforts are ruining the "fun" and challenge of riding the trails. I reply that my efforts focus on protecting the trails and the park, and not on the experience of one class of user. The hikers, dog walkers, and mountain bikers appreciate how I am keeping these trails open.

From looking at the online pictures, I think the stone steps at [Bear Mountain] look fabulous. West Rock has a series of stone steps that were probably built by the CCC and I would love to see them restored, rehabilitated, and maintained.

When people talk to me about relocating wet and eroded trails, I always educate them about the importance of doing it right, so the problem is not recreated elsewhere. I think the stone steps are the way to go and they look as natural as they can be made.

—Tom Eberold, Milford, CT

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Discover Wildflower Island at Teatown Lake Reservation

Wildflower Island is a unique, two-acre remnant of a forest once prevalent on the Island Path at Teatown Lake Reservation that invasive alien plants are removed and certain native competitive species are not encouraged. Guided tours are given during the months of April through September as certain native competitive species are not encouraged. Guided tours are given during the months of April through September as certain native competitive species are not encouraged. Guided tours are given during the months of April through September as certain native competitive species are not encouraged. Guided tours are given during the months of April through September as certain native competitive species are not encouraged.

Rock Lodge Club Plans June Events

Rock Lodge Club in Stockholm, NJ, a returning Trail Conference Supporting Member, will celebrate its 100th birthday on Sunday, June 5, for its annual Open House. The group’s Trail Conference membership was reaffirmed at the February Delegates meeting.

Rock Lodge is a historic family and kid-friendly trail network of 14 acres of woodlands. The club maintains a trail network that connects to trails through the Passaic River Coalition's Russbrook Sanctuary and the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The Highlands Trail crosses within 2 miles of the Rock Lodge gate. The club has a clean, spring-fed swimming lake, tennis, sauna, and hot tub.

From Rock Lodge trails, hikers can access the Audubon Trail, which passes through the Edison Mine area with the historic remains of Thomas Edison’s mine works, or hike to Ryker Lake and meet up with the Highlands Trail just east of the lake to access the ridges of the core highlands.

Each October, Rock Lodge leads a hike on its trails, through Russia Brook Sanctuary and the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area to Ryker Lake. Before leaving, club leaders, the groups stop at "Indian Cave" for the traditional hot dog roast. After lunch, children and "can" hikers are led back to the club, while others continue on to Ryker Lake to rest and pack up and pack up. Other organized and sponsored hikes continue throughout the May-October season.

Learn more about the club at www.rocklodge.com.
**Featured Hike**

**Manitou Point Preserve on the Hudson River**

_by Gigi Weir_

Manitou Point Preserve is a sweet little (1.56 acres) spot along the Hudson River, 1.8 miles north of the Bear Mountain Bridge. It includes several miles of trails and woods that cross-crop steeply sloped woodlands and offer access to the Hudson River. On an early spring visit, most of the trails were walked in a leisurely two hours. The best trail at Manitou extends south from the mansion along the shoreline for perhaps half a mile. It’s a narrow trail, blazed blue, and the water views and moss-covered rocks that line the treadway are enchanting. The trail makes a sharp turn back at the point to meet a red-blazed woods road; the entire loop is about one mile long.

The woods at Manitou clearly show the sad deterioration of our eastern hemlocks. The 2001 edition of the Walk Book describes the woods at Manitou as “primarily hemlock forest.” A decade later, most of the hemlocks are fading or dead. The woods at the top of the bluff are littered with downed trees and branches, an increasingly familiar sight in many of our fire-free, suburban woods. Still, even soon after some major late winter storms, the trails in late March were mostly clear and all were well-blazed and marked by a maintainer with an interest in building whisical, fragile-looking cairns. The New York Wildflower suggests a hike at Manitou be combined with a visit to Mainstgo, less than a mile to the north.

**How to Get There:**

By car, look for Mystery Point Road on the west side of Route 9D, 1.8 miles north of the Bear Mountain Bridge, less than 1 mile south of Manitou. A small parking area is immediately to the left. By train: Manitou Point Preserve (and Manitoga via Rt. 9D) is within walking distance of the Manitou train station. The train stops weekdays only, check the Metro-North schedule. Walk east 0.1 mile on Manitou Station Road, then turn left under two stone pillars onto a woods road that edges the Manitou Marsh.

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**Hikers’ Marketplace**

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<th>NY-NJ TC member?</th>
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<th>JOINING NOW Member #:</th>
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<td>Member</td>
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<td>$3.71</td>
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| **Books** |
| NEW! Walkable Westchester (2009) | $24.95 | $18.71 | $3.20 |
| Hiking the Jersey Highlands (2007) | $22.95 | $17.21 | $3.70 |
| New York Walk Book (2006 & see combo) | $22.95 | $17.21 | $3.70 |
| New Jersey Walk Book (2004 & see combo) | $19.95 | $14.96 | $3.70 |
| Hiking Long Island (2008) | $22.95 | $17.21 | $3.70 |
| Kittinny Trails (2008) & see combo | $18.95 | $14.21 | $3.70 |
| Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (2006) & see combo | $13.95 | $10.46 | $3.20 |
| NEW! AMC Cadillak Mountain Guide (2009) | $23.95 | $17.96 | $3.20 |
| ADK Cadillak Trails (2005 ed. with revisions, 2009) | $19.95 | $14.96 | $3.20 |
| Shawangunk Trail Companion (2003) | $18.95 | $14.21 | $3.70 |
| Moon Take a Hike NYC (2006) | $16.95 | $12.71 | $3.20 |
| 50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley (2008) | $16.95 | $12.71 | $3.20 |
| Best Hikes w/ Children in New Jersey (2005) | $15.95 | $11.96 | $3.20 |
| Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills & Hudson River Valley (2002) | $14.95 | $11.21 | $3.20 |
| Hudson to Delaware: The Great Valley (2004) | $75.00 | $56.25 | $7.50 |
| West Milford’s Bakers Dozen (2008) | $9.95 | $7.46 | $2.20 |

| **Combo-Packs** |
| N.Y. & NJ Walk Books | $38.50 | $28.95 | $4.75 |
| Shawangunk (3-map set & Scenes & Walks book) | $21.65 | $16.24 | $5.35 |
| Kittinny (4-map set & book) | $28.60 | $21.45 | $5.25 |
| Catskill (5-map set & ADK Cadillak Trails book) | $31.73 | $23.80 | $5.25 |

| **The Personal Touch** |
| Note Cards: TC Collection | $12.00 | $9.00 | $3.20 |
| Long-sleeve Denim Shirt | $29.90 | $22.42 | $6.00 |
| Polo Shirt (Forest Green) | $19.90 | $14.93 | $5.00 |
| Trail Conference Baseball Cap | $5.00 | $3.75 | $1.20 |
| Long Path Logo Patch | $2.50 | $1.75 | $0.75 |
| Trail Conference Logo Decal | $0.85 | $0.50 | $0.35 |
| Postage/Handling from above | New Jersey residents add 7% tax* |

**TOTAL ENCLOSED $**

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