Southern Gunks Greenway Grows as 435 Acres are Protected

The Trail Conference, in partnership with the Open Space Institute (OSI) and Orange County Land Trust (OCLT), purchased and protected 435 forested acres on the southern Shawangunk Ridge. The parcel, known as the Ridgeview property, includes meadows and four small ponds and is to be preserved as open space. It is located in the Orange County, New York, towns of Deer Park and Greenville, close to the state’s border with New Jersey.

The purchase was completed July 17 with $1.7 million in private funds, including $450,000 from the Trail Conference’s donor-supported Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund (LASF). The partnership anticipates the funds will be returned when the property is sold to the New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as an addition to Huckleberry Ridge State Forest.

The acquisition of the Ridgeview property is another big step toward the Trail Conference goal of working with partners to preserve a Gunks Greenway from Port Jervis to the Catskills as a recreational resource for residents and visitors, a valuable habitat for wildlife, and a tourist attraction that brings business to local communities. The DEC had long targeted the property for protection, but did not have the money when the land went up for sale.

“The Open Space Institute, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, and Orange County Land Trust are to be commended for completing this important conservation project,” said Kathy Moser, DEC Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources.

“This acquisition protects the landscape features and natural communities of the southern Shawangunks and provides opportunities for an enhanced recreational trail system, including an improved route for the Shawangunk Ridge Trail.”

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The partners hope to see the state acquire the property as soon as its finances permit. All three organizations are active members of the Friends of New York’s Environment, a coalition working to restore funding to the Environmental Protection Fund, the state’s principal source of land conservation funding.

“Preserving this land has been important for many years to Greenville area residents,” said New York State Senator John Bonacic, who represents the 42nd District, which includes part of Orange County. “It is my hope the land can ultimately be transferred to the state to ensure its preservation forever. I want to applaud [former continued on page 2

Our Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund has now helped to preserve nearly 5,000 acres as open space.

Volunteers Tackle a Crumbling A.T. at Fitzgerald Falls in Greenwood Lake

An ambitious and technically difficult trail reconstruction project at Fitzgerald Falls on the Appalachian Trail in Greenwood Lake, NY, is more than halfway to completion, thanks to the Jolly Rovers Trail Crew and the Orange and Rockland Long Distance Trail Crew (ORLD).

The Falls is an easy walk and popular destination for local residents and avid hikers, but the project itself has been far from easy for these Trail Conference volunteer crews. Quarries where stone is hand-split for steps are 200 to 300 feet away from where the steps are being placed. To move the 300-pound blocks, the crew must erect an extensive network of overhead highlines and rigging systems each time they are on the project. A further complication is the extreme narrowness of the gorge in which they are working.

The project requires more than 50 stone steps, each 300 pounds and 2 feet long; several sections of 4-foot-high stone retaining walls; and three long step-stone crossings on the approach to the bottom of the Falls. All three step-stone crossings are constructed and in use. The staircase will take hikers up a narrow gorge to the top of the Falls, with several overlooks and viewing platforms along the way. Because many families and novice hikers visit the area, special attention is being paid to making the currently unstable scramble up the Falls safely accessible for the general public, while staying true to a rustic aesthetic.

“The Fitzgerald Falls project is scheduled to be completed in April 2013. In the meantime, hikers are welcome to check out the accomplishments thus far. Though still a work in progress, the trail is hikeable and very impressive,” says Jolly Rovers Crew Chief Chris Ingui.

The Falls trail had been heavily eroded and in need of major repair for more than a decade. Rich Taylor of our local A.T. Management Committee envisioned and promoted a plan for improvements, but needed technical expertise was unavailable. A solution was devised in winter 2011, when the Jolly Rovers and ORLD met to review the problem. ORLD, led by Chris Rayling, takes on a variety of projects but generally not technical rockwork. The Rovers— who are alumni of the Bear Mountain Trails Project—focus on technical stonework projects on heavily trafficked and eroded trails in all Trail Conference regions. The Fitzgerald Falls staircase is the Rovers’ most ambitious undertaking since the crew launched in March 2011. Many crew members come equipped with their own stone-working tools; others have

continued on page 3

continued on page 9

Native Forests at Risk

Emerald Ash Borer found at state campground in Catskills. Poses widespread threat.

READ MORE ON PAGE 3

Fracking in the Catskills?

Trail Conference sees threat to trails and votes ‘No.’

READ MORE ON PAGE 3
**Feedback**

RE new AT Boardwalk in Pawling

I want to thank all the contributors who made the 5th grand opening celebration such a success:

- speakers David Kelly, Pam Underhill, Karen Lutz, Ed Goodell, Mark Wendeck, and Willie Janeway, thank you for your words;
- all the people who helped spruce up the area and set up: Bob Haas, Frank Dogil, Steve Klauck, Metro-North;
- the Town of Pawling Highway Department (John Daley) and Building and Grounds (Wendell Weber) for parking lot improvements and the loan of trol- ly barriers, chairs, and podium;
- Peter Cis for his use of sound system;
- Mid-Hudson ADK hike leaders Sally Decker, Sue Mackison, and Lalita Malik;
- the Pawling Girl Scouts;
- Leigh Decker and Bob Sickley for displays;
- Ron Rosen, Mike Fraatz, and Frank Dogil for all their pre-event planning;
- Peter Murocki for opening his facilities and parking area at Native Landscapes Garden Center for our use;
- Charlie Dennis for help with installing the bulletin board and fence.

My sincere appreciation to all the contributors.

Again, my sincere appreciation to all the contributors.

**SOUTHERN GUNKS continued from page 1**

owner] Peter Carr for agreeing to this sale and the Open Space Institute and New York-New Jersey Trail Conference for purchasing it for all their pre-event planning. Gaylord Holmes, vice chair of the Trail Conference’s Board of Directors, said, “We are delighted to be part of this important land protection project. This purchase adds another 24,408 acres to the Trail Conference has preserved with its Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund, either by purchase or in partnership with the DEC and other agencies. Andy Garri- son, our very dedicated volunteer in the area, was a driving force in making this happen. And to all the partners in the DEC’s Land Trust Alliance. The Orange County Land Trust will manage the Ridgeview property until it is transferred to the DEC. We are delighted to be part of this important conservation effort with OSI and the NYS-NJ Trail Conference, said Jim Delaune, executive director of the Orange County Land Trust. “Protecting important ecosystems and wildlife habitat found along this ridge will provide lasting benefits for the people of Orange County. We look forward to stewarding this amazing property, with its scenic beauty and natural wonders, until such time as the land can be transferred and permanently protected by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.”

**Thank You**

To the honest I’d never seen any trail work- ers until [mid August]. An experience I’ll never forget. I was hiking up on Crow’s Nest in Storm King State Park, and after a very tiring climb, I rested at the top. My legs were covered in overgrowth. I said to myself, wow, it must be a hassle to clean up this trail. Just as I said that a man appeared over the hill, weeding the trail to perfection. I chatted with this man and learned that he did this twice a week! Thanks for all you do to Trail Conference. You really make my hiking experience an adventure every weekend.

—Robert Schudick, August 31

On Our Website

On the Forum: Mapmaking Gods

I own the king of Tuxedo, NY. It would be the hiking capital of New York. Thered’s an outis r right near the train station where the R-D goes in it. I would be what Rosco, NY, is to fly-fishing. The people who make these maps would be gods. I think Harriman State Park is just as beautiful and the NYNJTC mapmakers are the best at it—that’s all.

Sue August 11

Send us a Letter

Email it to tw@nynjtc.org in the subject line, put “letters to the editor,” or send it to Trail Walker Letters, NY-NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430.

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**Trail Conference**

The Conference is a volunteer-directed public service organization committed to:

- Protecting hiking trail lands through its 75-year history and concerns of the hiking community.
- Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails.
- Preserving hiking trail lands through support and advocacy.
- Educating the public in the responsible use of the trail and the natural environment.

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- Secretary: David Weise

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- Skip Card
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**New York-New Jersey Trail Conference**

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer-run, non-profit, non-profit, non-profit organization. It is a federation of 103 hiking and outdoor groups, a benefit of membership. Subscriptions are available to libraries only at $15.00 a year.

** 추가 정보**

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- Directors
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- nynjtc@nynjtc.org

**추가 정보**

- Community: Hiking and Outdoors
- Region: New York
- Language: English

**관련 항목**

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Proposed Hydrofracking Rule Threatens Catskill Park Wilderness

"Don't frack with the Catskill Park!" That is the message of a resolution passed by the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee (FPAC) and sent to Governor Cuomo, members of the New York State Legislature, and the Commissioner of the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in August.

The resolution urged DEC to exclude all lands within the state-owned and New York City watershed lands—within the Catskill Park Blue Line from the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS), then DEC should require site-specific environmental impact reviews as prescribed by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for every application for a gas drilling permit on lands inside the Park. Drillers would have to demonstrate no adverse impact to the Park and its resources with each application.

The Trail Conference is a member of the Beyond the Blue Line Campaign (btybl.org) which is fighting to protect state parks, lands— not just state-owned and New York City watershed lands—within the Catskill Park Blue Line. It is currently developing an educational outreach program to engage New Yorkers and help them understand the importance of protecting the Catskill Park watershed.

Views in the Catskills may be in for big changes with threats posed by hydro-fracking and the emerald ash borer.

Our Nature Forests at Risk: Emerald Ash Borer Found for the First Time in a New York State-Owned Campground

An Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation was found in the Catskill Forest Preserve at a state-owned campground, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens announced August 10. The discovery was confirmed after a DEC employee recovered a single EAB beetle from a state-owned campground. (nynjtc.org/event/annual-meeting-2012) or call 201-512-9348

When we enjoy our parks today, we are benefiting from decisions made decades ago. With all the economic, political and environmental issues facing us today, we must work together to ensure that our state parks are around well into the future. The budget battles ahead, it is up to Trail Conference members to make the case that this is a MUST HAVE policy rather than a afterthought. In this political season and in the budget battles ahead, it is up to Trail Conference members to make the case that this is a MUST HAVE policy rather than a

Join Us at Our Annual Meeting and Awards Presentations

With pancakes and followed by hikes.

When: Saturday, October 20
Where: West Milford, NJ (The Lodge at Ocaicasen, 625 Macopin Road, West Milford, NJ)

For details and to register, visit our website (nynjtc.org/event/annual-meeting-2012) or call 201-512-9348

From the Executive Director

Nature-based Recreation is an Economic Powerhouse

Outdoor recreation and access to nature is fundamental not only to a healthy lifestyle but also to a prosperous one as well.

Trail Walker readers probably don’t need convincing that protecting open space and maintaining parks are important quality of life issues, but with major deficit reduction debates occurring at all levels of government, it is important to point out how important outdoor recreation is as a very efficient, very sustainable, and very BG economic engine.

A recent study by the Outdoor Industry Association, “The Outdoor Recreation Economy”, shows that despite the effects of the Great Recession, almost 50% of Americans take part in outdoor recreation, spending $664 billion and directly supporting 6.1 million jobs nationwide. Outdoor recreation is defined as resource-based, human powered sports, with running, fishing, biking, camping, and hiking being the five most popular.

There are big numbers. The economic output is twice that of the pharmaceutical sector and involves more jobs than insurance and financial services combined. Citing U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics, the study reports that 768,000 American jobs depend on trail sports (for comparison, more jobs than there are lawyers—728,200—in the U.S.). Astonishingly, Americans spend more on bicycling get-togethers and trips ($81 billion) than they do on airline tickets and fees ($51 billion).

It is about time our elected officials recognize how important nature-based recreation is to our well-being—economic, physical and emotional—and stop treating it as an afterthought. In this political season and in the budget battles ahead, it is up to Trail Conference members to make the case that this is a MUST HAVE policy rather than a

Continue on page 6

Fall 2012 Page 3

TRAIL WALKER

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* Find this article and links to the studios continuing at our website: nynjtc.org/new/nature-based-economy.
Regional Field Notes

Catkills
Jeff Senterman,
Catkills Program Coordinator
jentserma@nynjtc.org

Come out and enjoy the Catkills this fall—take a hike during October's Lark in the Park (see page 9), take a Trail U course (nynjtc.org/view/workshops), or get your hands dirty working on the Long Path on Roundout Mountain (nynjtc.org/view/trail-crew-outings)!

Lean-to Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

We continue to work with DEC to identify lean-to sites that need to be moved, or rehabilitated throughout the entire Catkill Mountain region. This summer, 4 individuals enrolled in Trail U: Introduction to Lean-to Maintenance and, after some classroom training, hiked to the Trout Pond Lean to put their training to use. The day was supported by our partner, Mountain Outdoors in Livingston Manor. This fall we hope to relocate the roof and floors of the Desc's Acre Lean-to and Minik Hollow Lean-to.

Trail Updates

Kaatreek Trail Trail—Work continued on this effort to open the S-Ridge section of the abandoned Ulster & Delaware Railroad between the Mountain Top Historical Society property in Haines Falls and Forest Preserve land at the end of Laurel House Road. We have been working to secure funding to complete this section and Phase II of the project, which would involve constructing a bridge over Lackawaxen Creek to connect the trail road to the Escarpment Trail, creating a direct connection to the North and South Lake Campground.

Woodland Valley/Romer Mountain Long Path Relocation—Our biggest project this summer was to start relocating the Long Path off its last remaining long road walk in the Catkills. Volunteers have been diligently clearing the route and constructing new trail on the first 4 miles, which will ascend Romer Mountain. A Tread and Drainage workshop at the project brought in new volunteers and taught us useful skills. As work on this first section winds down, we expect to begin the final layout and construction of the new trail by the end of the month. Thanks to DEC Trail Crew! DEC trail crews have rebuilt several bridges that were lost during Hurricane Irene. They also worked to stabilize portions of the future Kaatreek Rail Trail and began to build the parking lot that will service the new Long Path section on Romer Mountain.

Catkill Trail Maintenance Crew

We are working to develop a revolving Trail Maintenance Trail Crew for the Catkill Mountain region. If you are interested in joining this crew, which would tackle basic trail maintenance throughout the region, please send me an email or give me a call.

New Jersey

Jonathan Martin,
New Jersey Program Coordinator
jmartin@nynjtc.org

REI in Ringwood State Forest

On July 14 our Bear Claw crew, along with volunteers provided by REI's trail work, spent the day creating a new single track trail off of the Manatantic Point Trail in Norvin Green State Park. At the end of the hand day's work clearing brush, approximately 1 mile of trail was defined. The section still needed some finishing touches at the end of their work day, but it should be opened soon. Thanks to everyone involved.

Lenape Trail

We're extremely pleased to welcome new recruit Federico Nealon as the first Trail Supervisor of the Lenape Trail in Essex County. Federico, a recent graduate of Slippery Rock University with a degree in Parks and Recreation Management, has been volunteering with Lenape Trail Trail Crew Chair Steve Marano since the spring. He would be hard to find a person who is a better match for this position. Read more about Federico and get an update on the Lenape Trail on page 6.

Help Wanted in Northwest Jersey

We love the trails in the Kittatinny Point State Park, Wharton State Park, Stokes State Forest, and a few other places in northwestern New Jersey, we have great need of volunteers for trails that include some of the most scenic parts of the mountains. Volunteers for trails that include some of the most scenic parts of the mountains.

In the Metro Region, the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park (FVCP) held a trail work day the first Saturday of each month. Also, with the Trail Conference, FVCP hosted The Joshua Foundation, an international service group based in London, for 2 days. The foundation provides holidays and experiences for children with cancer and their families. We were happy to assist with the foundation's first-ever "USA Experience," which allowed young people to engage in conservation and community service projects in Chicago, New York City, and Washington, DC. The Raph Cobin Volunteers, which meets every Saturday, spring to fall, to work on the Appalachian Trail in Putnam and Dutchess counties, held its 13th annual Work Weekend and Cookout in July. Participants painted and repaired the Seth Lyon Memorial Bridge and installed new check dams on the trail south of Shemandoah Mountain, rebuilt a wooden walkway, replaced several water bars, and restored a 40-foot section of trail near the I-84 overpass. The Jolly Rovers Stone Crew joined the fun to continue a year-long step project. See pictures and learn more about a group of international students sponsored by the Joshua Foundation on trails at Van Cortlandt Park. http://tinytrek.milenium.com

New York City

Larry Wheelock,
West Hudson Program Coordinator
lwheelock@nynjtc.org

Congratulations go to volunteer Gene Costa for organizing a great day of events June 30 to cele- brate the 30th anniversary of the Trail and the Town of Warwick's designation as an official Trail Community by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Gene, who lives in War- wick, and chairs our New Jersey AT Management Committee, led the effort that brought together AT supporters, local government, and area businesses and residents to prepare a community-wide celebration and a day-long celebration. Events started with a potluck breakfast and ended with music, nature programs, and fun for everyone in between. Hikers came from as far away as Long Island to participate in activities at a parking lot near the Green Mountain summit, which brought attention to the recreational and economic benefits trails can bring to communities.

The day's offerings included a short hike to a current Trail worksite at Fitzgerald Falls, which has long been in need of major trail work to control ero- sion, the Jolly Rovers have been working at Fitzgerald Falls for 2 years, and have made the most of it. They also worked to stabilize portions of the future Orange and Rockland Long-Distance Trail Crew and worked on the trail at Aeger Klein Museum in upstate Orange County, and South Lake Campground. The project, which would involve constructing a bridge over Lackawaxen Creek to connect the trail road to the Escarpment Trail, creating a direct connection to the North and South Lake Campground.

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We are working to develop a revolving Trail Maintenance Trail Crew for the Catkill Mountain region. If you are interested in joining this crew, which would tackle basic trail maintenance throughout the region, please send me an email or give me a call.

More Volunteer Opportunities

We have quite a few openings for maintain- ers throughout New Jersey. If you or someone interested in volunteering, please visit our website. You can find on-trail opportuni- ties at nynjtc.org/vol-trail-vacancies. Most of the trails you know and love are maintained by folks just like you. We’ll provide the training and help find a trail that’s right for you.

Volunteers Wanted on Gunks

We continue to seek volunteer maintain- ers for trails that include some of the most beautiful in our region: Shawangunk Ridge and New York's Gorge Unique Area. Andy Garrison, our Shawangunk guru, is also looking for someone to help him supervise maintainers on the Shawan- gunk trail. If you found it too difficult to edit your resume into two pages, you may want to include some of the SRT’s like to work on! Focus on nynjtc.org/vol-trail-vacancies and look for Trail Supervisor Shawangunk Ridge. Andy knows more about the Ridge than you have ever seen, and he is a great person to work with and learn from.

West Hudson

Steve Dumas,
Passaic County Recreational Trail Coordinator
sdumas@nynjtc.org

A group of international students sponsored by the Joshua Foundation volunteered on trails at Van Cortlandt Park. http://tinytrek.milenium.com

More pictures and videos from East Hudson projects are posted at flickr.com/photos/ehnynjtc.

Along the Hudson River

In the Metro Region, the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park (FVCP) held a trail work day the first Saturday of each month. Also, with the Trail Conference, FVCP hosted The Joshua Foundation, an international service group based in London, for 2 days. The foundation provides holidays and experiences for children with cancer and their families. We were happy to assist with the foundation’s first-ever “USA Experience,” which allowed young people to engage in conservation and community service projects in Chicago, New York City, and Washington, DC. The Raph Cobin Volunteers, which meets every Saturday, spring to fall, to work on the Appalachian Trail in Putnam and Dutchess counties, held its 13th annual Work Weekend and Cookout in July. Participants painted and repaired the Seth Lyon Memorial Bridge and installed new check dams on the trail south of Shemandoah Mountain, rebuilt a wooden walkway, replaced several water bars, and restored a 40-foot section of trail near the I-84 overpass. The Jolly Rovers Stone Crew joined the fun to continue a year-long step project. See pictures and learn more about a group of international students sponsored by the Joshua Foundation on trails at Van Cortlandt Park. http://tinytrek.milenium.com

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TRAIL UNIVERSITY
nynjtc.org/view/workshops
Register for Trail U workshops online or call 201-512-9348.

We thank REI for its support of Trail University.

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOPS
Open to all, membership not required. No prerequisites. No fee. Advanced workshops may require membership and a fee or recommendation. Contact workshop liaison for details.

Saturday, September 29
A.T. Natural Heritage Monitoring Workshop 5995
Location: Trail Conference office, Mahwah, NJ 10am-4pm
Volunteers are trained to monitor threatened or endangered plants along the Appalachian Trail. Open to members.

Thursday, October 4
Intro to Trail Maintenance Workshop 5960
Location: Mountain Top Historical Society, Haines Falls, NY (Catskills) 9am-5pm
Open to all.

Saturday & Sunday, November 3 & 4
Trail Layout and Design Workshop 5993
Location: Patterson, NY 9am-4pm
Fee or free with recommendation.

Check our online calendar for the many courses and trail work outings added to the schedule after this issue’s deadline.

PHOTO AT TOP
The Trout Pond lean-to in the western Catskills received some attention this spring as part of our workshop Intro to Shelter/Lean-to Maintenance. Our retail partner in the area, Morgan Outdoors, co-hosted the day.

TRAIL CREW SERVICE PROJECTS
nynjtc.org/view/trail-crew-outings

Orange-Rockland Long Distance
Trail Maintenance Crew
Contact: creyling42@verizon.net or 914-428-9878
Fall trail rehabilitation projects.

Sunday, October 7
Long Path at Woodbury Creek/Route 32 crossing
Sunday, October 21
A.T. - Green Pond Mountain, Hariman S.P.
Saturday, November 2
Long Path at Woodbury Creek/Route 32 crossing
Long Path & Catskills
Contact: Andy Garrison, srmaintainer@gmail.com or 845-866-7201

Saturday, September 29
Long Path education over Roman Mountain
Catskills Mountain Crew
A roving maintenance crew
Saturday, September 29
Frick & Hodge Pond trails, Livingston Manor, NY 10am-5pm
Trail maintenance on Quick Lake Trail, Flyn Trail and others in the area.
Contact: Leigh Draper, draper@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348

Thursday, October 4
Kasterskill Rail Trail, Haines Falls 9am-4pm
Cleanup
Contact: Jeff Senterman, jenterman@nynjtc.org or 518-703-1196

Westchester Trails Tramps
Maintenance Crew
Contact: Mary Dodds at doddsmiller@gmail.com or 914-261-7082 for info and to get on email list. Meets most Wednesdays.

PHOTO AT TOP
Volunteer crews throughout our area welcome new members. New projects and work outings are added to the schedule posted on our website.

Ward Pound Ridge Trail
Maintenance Crew
Also maintains trails at Mountain Lakes Park.
Contact: Fred Stern, wprrmaintainer@gmail.com for info and to get on email list.
Meets most Fridays

Bear Claw Crew (North Jersey)
Contact: bearclawtrailcrew@gmail.com or 646-294-7732
Saturday & Sunday, September 29 & 30
Schuber Trail, Ramapo

West Jersey Crew
Contact: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com or 732-937-9898. All trips meet/start at 9am. Contact leaders for carpooling or meet location.

Saturday, September 29
Howell Trail, Stokes State Forest
We will continue work restoring a bridge on the Howell Trail.

Saturday, October 6
Appalachian Trail, High Point State Park
We will continue installing rock steps and drainage on a steep and eroded section of the Appalachian Trail (continued from spring 2012).

Saturday, October 13
Appalachian Trail, High Point State Park
See October 6

Saturday, October 27
Duck Pond Trail, Swartswood State Park
We will construct a high water route for the Duck Pond Trail.

Saturday, November 3
Appalachian Trail, Pochuck Boardwalk
We will continue installing tie-down anchors on critical sections of the boardwalk.

Saturday, November 17
Rain Date/TBD
This will either be a make-up trip from a rain-out work date or work at a location to be determined.

TRAIL EVENTS
nynjtc.org/view/events

September 29-October 8
Annual Lark in the Catskill Park
Explore and celebrate the Catskill Mountains.
Full schedule: catskilllark.org
Join Trail Conference Larks (see below)

Saturday, September 29: 10am-3pm
Lark: Hike with Trail Maintenance Frick & Hodge Pond Trails, Livingston Manor (see Trail Crew Outings for details)

Wednesday, October 3: 6pm
Lark: History of the Catskill Park and its Trails with Catskill Program Coordinator Jeff Senterman
Location: Morgan Outdoors, 46 Main Street, Livingston Manor

Saturday, October 20
Our Annual Meeting & Presentation of Awards
West Milford, NJ
Find details and register online.

Long Path Relocation in Catskills Makes Great Progress

The Long Path-Catskills Trail Crew led by Jakob Franke and Andy Garrison conducted 11 work trips at Romer Mountain in June, July, and August. The crew is relocating the trail off of its longest remaining road walk in the Catskills—7 miles on Woodland Valley Road—into the woods. The first stage of the project is creating new trail to the top of Romer Mountain.

75 volunteers contributed 600 hours of service on the trail during these months. This was on top of additional hours of scouting and planning. When the entire relocation—the next stages that await approval from DEC will continue the trail over Cross Mountain and Mount Pleasant—and another one planned through the Verwooy Kill area, are complete, the Long Path will extend approximately 100 miles, from Wawarsing to Windham, without a road walk.

Making way for the Long Path on Romer Mountain are volunteers Joshua Fretz, Chris Reyling, and Andy Garrison.
The Lenape Trail is a 34-mile trail that connects parks in Essex and Hudson Counties. “It would be hard to find a person who is a better match for this position,” says Steve. This spring and summer, Fedicono worked with Steve to get a “behind the scenes” feel for the unique aspects of the trail. In addition to overseeing a group of 10 trail maintainers, Fedicono will be working closely with several revitalization projects, including installation of signs in all of the Essex County parks through which the Lenape Trail runs. “My goal is to build a career in natural resource and park management,” Fedicono says. “I look forward to the chance to work with Steve on parks projects and for the opportunity of getting the chance to meet and work with members of this great organization.”

Full Image
Autumn Gold
Don’t blame this beauty for your seasonal sniffles and sneezes
By Edna Greig

In late summer and autumn, the yellow flowers of goldenrods (genus Solidago) light up the landscape. Many species can be difficult to distinguish, even for experts. Most of the common species have large, round clusters of densely packed, small, bright yellow flowers. One species with spires of yellow flowers is aptly named silverrod (Solidago bicolor) and is common in thin woods or dry, open soil in our area.

Goldenrods produce pollen and nectar that attract a myriad of insects. Bees, wasps, butterflies, beetles, and flies aggregate to feed on the flowers’ offerings. Monarchs are especially fond of the seaside goldenrod (Solidago sempervirens) along their migration routes.

Goldenrod flowers are busy places.

Other gall-making insects also use gold- enrods as their host plants. The most well known is a species of fruit fly, flavus sol- idaginis. Its larvae make goldenrod gall balls in the stems of the abundant Canadian goldenrods. The round galls are about ⅛-inch in diameter and usually are in the upper half of the plants. About 10-20 galls per plant. The stems have one or more ball galls. The ⅛-inch larva overwinters within the galls on dried goldenrod stems, protected from the cold. The fruit fly larva, snug in their goldenrod ball galls, aren’t entirely protected from predators during late autumn and winter. Downy woodpeckers, the smallest of our woodpeckers, drill near, conical holes in the ball galls and emerge to feed. The wood- peckers prefer to stay near the cover of trees, so feed most heavily on ball gall larva near the woods’ edge. Birders also occasionally feed on ball gall larva—the holes they make have ragged, irregular edges. There’s one other wintering predator of ball gall larva—the ice fisherman. Before bait was readily available for pur- chase, fishermen would gather buckets of goldenrod gall balls, carefully slice the galls open with a sharp knife and extract the larvae to use as bait.

During autumn and winter, goldenrod provides enjoyable, close-to-home opportuni- ties to observe interrelationships in nature.

Edna Greig is a Trail Conference member and regular contributor to Trail Walker. She writes the blog Eye on Nature: eponynature.wordpress.com.

Day-Long Celebration Recognizes Warwick, NY as Appalachian Trail Community
By Andrea Minoff

One of the key goals for the Appalachian Trail is to “connect communities” along the East Coast of the United States. On June 30, the Town of Warwick, NY was recog- nized as an official trail town. A day-long event, jointly organized by the town and volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), celebrated ATC’s designa- tion of Warwick as an “Appalachian Trail Community.”

Just off the 2,181-mile long trail, at the crest of Bennett Mountain in the Town of Warwick, the Bellevale Country hosted the formal designation ceremony. Elected officials and other dignitaries spoke to more than 1000 outdoor enthusiasts from near and far, including several Appalachian Trail thru-hikers. Mike Sweeton, Warwick Town Supervisor, and Karen Lutz, Direc- tor, Mid-Atlantic Region for ATC, read a proclamation and proudly displayed a sign announcing the designation.

Trail Conference volunteer Gene Giordano, chair of the New Jersey AT Management Committee and a Warwick resident, got the designation process rolling almost two years ago by approaching Supervisor Sweeton with the idea and get- ting an enthusiastic reception. Giordano led a team of residents and volunteers who completed the application and organized the event.

The ATC program, now in its third year, aims to highlight the trail, including its potential economic benefits, to local resi- dents, elected officials, Chambers of Commerce, students, and teachers. Nine hikes, ranging from easy to diffi- cult, were held both before and after the dedication ceremony. Thanks to hike lead- ers Don Weine, Jose Dwyer, Les Ferguson, Gene Giordano, Alan Breach, Jill Asbuckle (AMC), and Aaron Schoenberg (North Branch CAMS), the event went smoothly.

Volunteers and staff from the Trail Confer- ence, ATC, Sustainable Warwick, and employees of event sponsors Ramsey Out- doors, Campmor, and REI staffed booths, dispensed maps and information, and chatted with event participants.

Andrea Minoff is a Trail Conference member and volunteers at a writer and photographer.
Saturday, October 13
SW. Bridges & Waterways of Central Park, NY. Leader: Debra Haddix, 212-276-6777, debrachristina@optonline.net. Meet: 9am at Central Park West 72nd Street. Moderate 6 miles in 3 hours. Rains cancel. Sponsored donation for non-members is $3.

AFW. Sunrise Mountain, Stokes State Forest, NJ. Leader: Liz Tzvi, 973-438-6061. Meet: 9am at the Stokes State Forest parking lot. 3-hour hike. $5 donation requested.

Saturday, October 14
NC. Seven Hills Trail and Four Mountains, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Don Wilson, donwilson@hotmail.com. Meet: 9am. Contact leader for meeting place. Flat 9 miles in 2.5 hours. Great views and hiking through four mountains.

October
October 6
ADK-NJR. Apshawa Preserve, West Milford, NJ. Leader: Pat Cool, 973-625-2173. Meet: 9am at the Apshawa Preserve. Moderate to strenuous hike of 4 miles in 1.5 hours. Rains cancel.

Friday, October 5
FICA/MT. Old Croton Aqueduct West-to-East Hike, NY, Leader: Herb Hochberg, 914-723-6566, h_hochberg@hotmail.com, and Sandy Veliky, 203-628-0948, saveliky@gmail.com. Meet for First Time, meet at Man’s parking lot, Croton Gorge Park. Leader: Pat Cool, 9am at 470 Croton-Harrison Road, NY. Meet at Capodimonte Concession 95, Bruckman’s Farm, Croton, NY (shuttle required.) All for hike are to get shuttle (please bring your own or $10). Arrive at 8am. Bring water; can use this as a guide for another hike later in the day.

Saturday, October 6

EC. Morey Cemetery of Pyramus Mountain, NJ. Leader: For more info and to register, call 973-792-0000 or go to nthl.org. Meet: 9am at Pyramus Mountain Natural Historic Area. 4.25 miles, 2 hours. Bring lunch.

UC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Lee wender, 973-239-2062. Meet: 9am at Lowes Drive parking, across from Millburn Village. Moderate 4 miles with 2 hours and 15 minutes.

The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All outings are welcome to club regulars. Times and rates of the hikes are subject to change. If you are responsible for your own water. We hike during all kinds of weather, from snow to thunderstorms. Bring water, food, and appropriate clothing.

October 9
FICA/MT. Seven Hills Trail to Indian Cave, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Joe Sales, jsales@karat.com. Meet: 9am at Lantern Pond parking, moderate 4 miles with 2 hours. Punch hotdogs/sausages for lunch. After lunch and meeting place to carpool. Walk the trails of this public open space and see the ruins of a colonial cemetery.

November
November 3
UC. Watchung Reservation, Mountain Lakes, NJ. Leader: Carl Varnell, 970-407-4031. Meet: 9am at the Lantern Pond parking lot. Moderate 4 miles and 2 hours.

November 4

November 9
WC. Lunch on the Bottle Cap, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Pat Horosh, 908-978-3080, to confirm if cool to hike also. Meet: 8am at the Roundout RR station, Roundout by bus or car to Roundout, then bicycle to the hike. 7 miles at moderate pace with some hills, nice views. Bring food, water, and lunch on the bottle cap.

November 10
AF. Brownlee Preserve, Lakeland, NJ. Leader: Pat Horosh, 908-978-3080, to confirm if cool to hike also. Meet: 9am at Monaticut Point Rd, Lakeland, NJ. 3 miles at a moderate pace with some hills. Rains cancel.

November 11
UC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Carl Varnell, 970-407-4031. Meet: 9am at Lantern Pond parking, moderate 4 miles with 2 hours. Punch hotdogs/sausages for lunch. After lunch and meeting place to carpool. Walk the trails of this public open space.

November 12
AF. Herrick Clove Reservoir, NJ. Leader: For info and to register, call 973-644-3592 or go to www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 9am. Easy hike.

November 19
WC. Merhitt-Dix Bridge and Gardens, Northern Westchester County, NY. Leader: Akiko R. Tanaka, 914-246-6203, tanakaakiko@verizon.net. Meet: 9am at the parking lot at the bridge. Easy to moderate, 4 miles with some hilly sections. Rains cancel.

November 22

November 24
WC. Holiday Hike, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Pat Horosh, 908-978-3080, to confirm if cool to hike also. Meet: 8am at bus stop in front of Arden RR station, Roundout, NY. 4 miles at a moderate pace with some hills. Rains cancel.

December
December 1
AMC-NJ. Arde, Harriman State Park, NJ. Leader: Nancy and John Dursa, adursa@verizon.net, and 9am at Arden parking lot. 2 miles at a moderate pace with some hills.

December 2

December 9

December 10
SV. Rockland Lake to NYC, NY. Leader: Marie Malaret, 914-768-7036, to confirm if cool to hike also. Meet: 8am at 4pm at Arthur Avenue bus terminal, southbound in white commuter coaches. 18 miles to Rockland Lake RR station. 7 miles at moderate pace with some hills. Bring water and lunch.

December 11
AMC-NJ. Merrick Hills, Harriman State Park, NJ. Leader: Don Welch, donwellic@ameritech.net. Meet: 9am at the Cure Gate. 2 miles at a moderate pace with some hills.

Find more many hikes on their website: www.nynjtc.org/Contact/Scheduled-hikes

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TRAIL WALKER Fall 2012

ADK-NJR. Ards, Harriman State Park, NJ. Leader: Nancy and John Dursa, adursa@verizon.net, and 9am at Arden parking lot. 2 miles at a moderate pace with some hills.

December 12

December 25
MRC. Seven Mountains Hill of the Catskill, Kansas, NY. Leader: Don Welch, donwellic@ameritech.net, Meet: 9am at the Cure Gate. 2 miles at a moderate pace with some hills.
At Minnewaska State Park Preserve, all four trail bridges that were washed away by last year’s hurricane are still out as of the deadline for this issue—Missy Glen, Blueberry Run, and two over the Peterskill. Also at Minnewaska, some trail color changes that bear repeating: Scenic Trail is now blazed purple; Rainbow Falls is orange; Jenny Lane is light blue; Old Minnewaska Trail is pink. All were previously blazed Long Path aqua, but have been realigned following the rerouting of the LP through Mine Hollow. In addition, these trails will be co-aligned with the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and its blazes will be seen at trailheads and intersections.

Trails at Riffe Camp Park in Passaic County, NJ, have been relocated and extended. See the Featured Hike on page 12 for details.

TRAIL RELATED NEWS

Recreational Trails Program reauthorized through 2014

We are thrilled that the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), the funding program that has sustained state trail programs for two decades, has been reauthorized as part of the transportation bill approved by the U.S. Congress on June 29, 2012, and signed by President Barack Obama on July 6, 2012. Under the new legislation, which will fund transportation programs through September 30, 2014, the RTP will receive $85 million in annual funding for the next two fiscal years. The Coalition for Recreational Trails, of which the Trail Conference is a member, worked to ensure continued funding of this user-pay/user-benefit program. Funds from the program have supported trail projects throughout our region.

PSE&G Work Closes 3 Miles of Lenape Trail

Extensive work being conducted by PSE&G to replace transmission towers along the powerline right-of-way in West Orange and Livingston has resulted in the closure of Blue Mountain Lakes Road to motor vehicles. A barrier has been erected at the beginning of the road at Old Mine Road, approximately one mile north of Millbrook Village. Skyline Drive, an extension of Blue Mountain Lakes Road, up to Crater Lake, is also inaccessible to motor vehicles. Hikers planning a visit to this area should use access trails via the Appalachian Trail from Millbrook Road or the Buttermilk Falls Trail from Mountain Road. Alternatively, walking up Blue Mountains Lakes Road is also an option.

The National Park Service reports that bids for the road repairs will be submitted during August 2012 with a completion date of Fall 2012.

TRAIL NEWS

The ninth annual celebration of the Lark in the Park, from September 29 through October 8, will bring exciting new hiking, biking, and paddling ventures suitable for everyone in recently opened New York City reservoirs and watershed land. And, throughout the entire region, there will be lots of other hikes, paddles, cycling, fishing, nature walks, and lectures as well as cultural and social events over the 10-day period of the Lark in the Park.

The Lark in the Park was originally created in 2004 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Catskill Park by the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. The Lark is sponsored by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, the Catskill Mountain Club (CMC), and Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, with the cooperation of the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Check the Lark in the Park website: www.catskillslark.org for schedules and other important information, including pre-registration for some events.

9th Annual Lark in the Park

September 29 – October 8, 2012

The Lark in the Park, an annual event sponsored by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, celebrates the trails of the Catskill Mountains and features hiking and other trail-related activities. This year’s event will feature new trails in recently opened New York City reservoirs and watershed land.

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

Young volunteers from Groundwork USA pulled invasives and enjoyed a rustic weekend in Harriman, with support from the Trail Conference.

Thank You, from Groundwork USA

Once again, thanks for helping to organize this wonderful invasive species removal event for our youth. All indications are that the youth had a wonderful time, and many were truly transformed by the experience (first time camping, first time in a tent, first campfire, first cooking on a campfire, first time hiking, first visit to a state park [Harriman], first time swimming in a mountain lake, etc. Could not have done it without the NJ-NY Trail Conference’s support and assistance. Looking forward to fruitful collaborations in the future.

— Curt Collier, Groundwork USA
TRAIL CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

May 25 – August 20, 2012

The Volunteer Committee acknowledges these new volunteers who took on or completed an assignment during the time period noted above. The list also includes existing volunteers who accepted additional assignments. We thank all Trail Conference volunteers!

Invasives Strike Force Monitor: Adrienne Abramowitz, Christine Audet, Diane Aiden, Bruce Barnes, Marta Baulis, Joanne Beliveau, Ben Burton, Ernst Derrn, Wendy Fowler, Matt Frye, Michael Hambouz, Anne Hunter, Phyllis Ianniello, Mary Kissane, Susan Lefther, Michael Lenhardt, Frank Libert, Suzy Libert, Kathy Marcimak, Cathy MILLINGTON, Gennina, Tish Miller, Landau, Daniel S. Murphy, Khan Nguyen, Elisabeth Ollu, Diane Powers, Susan Pidcock, Jackson Prouthy, Martha Rabbson, Virginia红State, Rene Patricia, Robert Schucker, Vidi Shiah, Mycie Siegel, Anne Crowe Smith, Gailen Smith, Gregory Snop, Smecia Smith, Karl M. Soehrein, Louis Spanier, Benjammin Sternman, Emily Sweet, Gene Tadlock, Justin Turchick, Sebastien Venaut, Shelley Waltz, Jean Weich

Publications Book Field Checker: Marjorie Elder, Gene Wiggins

Trail Coordinator: Bryan Blackburn

Trail Crew Member: Timothy St. Thomas


Trail Shelter Caretaker: Todd Lantz

Trail Supervisor: Chris Connolly, Federico Nealon

Web Associate: Moshe Arad, Aaron Wolfe

Did we miss you or someone you know? Please tell us so we can correct our records and give you the thanks you deserve. Contact the Volunteer Administrator via email: volunteers@nynjtc.org

TRAIL CONFERENCE

email: volunteers@nynjtc.org

the Volunteer Administrator via

thanks you deserve. Contact

additional assignments. We thank

Marta Bautis, Joanne Beliveau, Ben Burton, Ernst Derrn, Wendy Fowler, Matt Frye, Michael Hambouz, Anne Hunter, Phyllis Ianniello, Mary Kissane, Susan Lefther, Michael Lenhardt, Frank Libert, Suzy Libert, Kathy Marcimak, Cathy MILLINGTON, Gennina, Tish Miller, Landau, Daniel S. Murphy, Khan Nguyen, Elisabeth Ollu, Diane Powers, Susan Pidcock, Jackson Prouthy, Martha Rabbson, Virginia红State, Rene Patricia, Robert Schucker, Vidi Shiah, Mycie Siegel, Anne Crowe Smith, Gailen Smith, Gregory Snop, Smecia Smith, Karl M. Soehrein, Louis Spanier, Benjammin Sternman, Emily Sweet, Gene Tadlock, Justin Turchick, Sebastien Venaut, Shelley Waltz, Jean Weich

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ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

Program Highlights

10/1/2010-12/31/2011
Trail Conference celebrated its 90th anniversary

Published

New edition of Harriman Trails (book)
New edition of Shuangango Trails (maps)
New edition of North Jersey Trails (albums)
Brand new map set: Jersey Highlands-Central North

Four new trail crews launched after training at Trail U
Jolly Rovers (specializing in technical rock work)
Invasives Strike Force
Orange-Rockland Long Distance Trails Crew
Bear Claw Crew in northern NJ

New trails built and opened at:
New York
Sylvan Glen Preserve in Westchester Co.
Wander Lake State Park in Putnam Co.
Angler Fly Preserve in Westchester Co.
An ADA compliant trail that includes a section of the Appalachian Trail on the summit of Bear Mountain
Minnewaska Trail at Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Ulster Co.

New Jersey
Jenny Jump State Forest in Warren Co., NJ

Major trail relocations and improvements made:
Manasfield Trail Trail in Nervin Green State Forest, NJ
Silver Trail in Ramapo Valley City Reservation

Conservation

Trail Conference worked with partners, OSI, to acquire an easement on 2.3 acres that closed a gap in the Long Path on the Shawangunk Ridge.
We transferred two large parcels to NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation for permanent protection: 389 acres in Greenville (Orange County) on the Shawangunk Ridge and 205 acres in Greene County. Both parcels offer protection to the Long Path.
We celebrated the addition of land around Arrow Lake in Monroe to Sterling Forest State Park in Orange County. The land adds to the buffer for the Appalachian Trail.

Advocacy

State parks were kept open in the face of threats to close them in New York and New Jersey thanks to public support generated by partnerships in which we participated.
Money for open space protection in New York's Environmental Protection Fund was included in the state budget after very difficult negotiations.

Other

Strenghened work in Catskill Mountain Region with the addition of a Program Coordinator
Broke ground on Phase I of the restoration of Darlington School House as our future headquarters
Launched Invasives Strike Force by training more than 100 volunteers to identify and monitor 14 common invasive plants along our trails. More than 132 miles of trails in New Jersey and New York were surveyed in the first year.
Our website was the destination for 646,609 unique visitors; pageviews totaled 3,087,560.
Our volunteers and staff responded quickly to impacts of Hurricanes Irene and Lee on trails in communities collecting and sharing information, food, clothes, money, and moral support where it was needed.

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

A volunteer opening was highlighting the ADA-compliant Appalchian Trail section at the top of Bear Mtn.

Treasurer's Report

For the year ended September 30, 2011 and the three months ended December 31, 2011
By Jim Gregoire, Treasurer

Due to the change in our fiscal year-end from September 30 to December 31, we have two sets of financials for 2011—one for the year ended September 30 and one for the three months ended December 31. Results for both periods have been audited and an unqualified opinion was issued by the Trail Conference’s auditors, WithumSmith + Brown, PC. The numbers below are for the entire 15 months ended December 31, unless otherwise indicated.
Total revenues of $3,022,656 came principally from membership dues and contributions ($1,478,588), income from various grants and trail building contracts ($662,140); gains from sales of previously purchased land ($955,129); and map and book Sales ($299,722). In-kind contributions of services accounted for $424,480 of revenues. Our expenses totaled $1,974,140.
Major components were trail programs ($1,352,174) and publications and other program services ($544,468). The balance were expenses related to fundraising ($440,546) and management/general ($157,552).
With such a large excess of revenues over expenses, our net income (a.k.a. “change in net assets”) for the 15 months was over one million dollars. This extremely favorable result is a testament to the generosity of the Trail Conference’s supporters, our ability to garner grants to support our program services and Marlton Schoolhouse construction, and the wise stewardship of available funds. As of December 31, total net assets of the Trail Conference were $3,892,121, an increase of 37% since the end of fiscal 2010. Those assets consist principally of land and investments of the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund ($1,601,337); cash and investments ($1,192,912, of which $500,000 has been designated as an operating reserve fund); and receivables ($142,662). We also have an investment of $1,089,648 in the Darlington construction project. The Trail Conference has no debt outstanding.

Volunteer Report for Calendar Year 2011

Category Work Hours Travel Hours Total Hours Valuea
Trail Work 35,919 9,938 45,756 1,173,184
Off-Trail Work 8,816 1,143 9,959 253,349
Walking 1,125 53 1,178 60,667

TOTAL 46,856 11,564 58,420 $3,532,722

a The value of volunteer time presented here is $25.64, the average wage plus benefits of non-management, non-agricultural workers in New Jersey as determined by Independent Sector: independentsector.org/volunteer_time

To view independent assessments of the Trail Conference as a charitable organization, visit CharityNavigator.org and GuideStar.org and look for our profiles.

HILLTOP ACRES RESORT


HAVEN OFF THE HUDSON


Mel: 3-47-3077-4642 or melgrinker@yahoo.com
FiveTenn Guide Tenna
A climber’s shoe good for all-around hiking
Reviewed by Howard E. Friedman

A shoe designed for rock climbers—good for climbing, hiking miles over rocky trails, and providing excellent traction on wet terrain while carrying heavy climbing gear—is well suited for day hiking and short back-packing trips. I have been wearing the leather FiveTenn Guide Tenna, called an “approach” shoe, for 14 months (they are also available in canvas). I wanted to try these shoes to see if their oval shape is roomy around the forefoot and toes; the laces extend almost the full length of the shoe, allowing for small adjustments; and they include a layer of ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) cushioning that is neither too thick nor too thin and that is reinforced with a plastic arch support.

But two features were of particular interest to me: First, I wanted to try Five Tenn’s proprietary “sticky,” Stealth rubber compound, used for the shoes’ raised-dot sole pattern. Second, these shoes can be resoled. Resulting can delay the need to buy new shoes and help keep one’s hiking shoes out of the landfill. Usually, resoling is an option only for heavy and expensive boots or shoes.

My Guide Tennies have performed well on sky hikes in northern New Jersey, Harriman State Park, Schunemunk Mountain, and the Catskills. Their “sticky” rubber soles have provided me with solid traction when crossing wet, moss-covered rocks in swollen streams and hiking up and down rocky sections of trail. The cushioning is adequate when walking over rocks, and the flexible lightweight shoes (about 1.5 pounds for men, size 10.5) allow me to feel the ground and react to the terrain. I replaced the sock liner was a Spenco PowerStep inside; there may not be room in the shoe for bulkier arch supports.

The outer rubber upper, EVA cushioning, full rubber rand (rubber on the toe box), and even the laces have held up well. After almost six months of heavy use that included hiking, daily wear, and running outdoors twice a week, a few of the raised dots under the outer heel area were worn down (although still solid enough for good EVA shape). I sent the shoes to a repair shop in Plattsburgh, N.Y., that specializes in resoling climbing shoes, and they resoled them with the identical Stealth sole. Eight months later the shoes and soles are still in good shape, but with some thinning of the dots in high-pressure areas.

Three cautions: When it provides excellent traction, Stealth rubber doesn’t seem to wear down more quickly than other rubber soles; the life of the shoes will depend on the condition of the EVA midsole material; when wet, the soles leave a black dot pattern on floors. The shoes don clean up easily with a paper towel or sponge.

Howard E. Friedman, DPM, is an avid hiker, a podiatrist in Suffern, N.Y., and a frequent contributor to Trail Walker. Find many of his articles on our website at njnyc.org/news/health-news.

Ratings:
4.5 boots out of 5
Ratings are 1-5 boots, with a 5-boot ranking signifying “This is very good. I like it.”

GREAT FOR RIVER TRAVELERS AS WELL

In New Jersey the safest course in the fall/winter is to hike only on Sundays when hunting with firearms is prohibited (except on private preserves). Otherwise, hunting seasons vary by weapon and geography. Hunting season information is found in the NJ Hunting Digest, available at police agencies and at www.njfishandwildlife.com/sightmt.htm.

Summaries of deer and other hunting seasons can be found at www.njfishandwildlife.com/njregs.htm#Hunting

Fall 2012 Page 11

TRAIL WALKER

GEAR CHECK

Review ed by Jeff Senterman
for climbing, hiking miles over rocky terrain with an Alarm System

The Alarm
What makes the iSafe Backpack different from a schoolbag or a small backpack is the fact that there is a built in audible and visual alarm system. When activated, the alarm emits a very loud (and earsplitting) alarm sound. A series of LEDs (lights) also begin flashing on the back of the backpack.

The alarm is triggered by tapping a small string on the strap that pulls out a pin located underneath a small flap on the shoulder strap. The alarm will continue to sound (and flash) until the pin is put back in the batteries run out (the company says that on a fresh set of two, 9-volt batteries, the alarm will operate for two hours).

I can attest to the impact of the alarm, even when I was testing it. I jumped at the level of the sound and so did the two dogs in the house. When I tried it outside, it was just as startling, even in a loud, traffic filled situation. In the woods, I would imagine that the sound would be able to travel a decent distance; at night, the flashing LEDs could be used to help draw attention to one’s location.

The alarm is designed to scare off would-be attackers, be they human or animals. Not having run into a bear or any other wild animals while testing, I cannot speak to its effectiveness, but considering the reaction of our dogs, I would tend to think most wildlife will hightail it away from you once you activate the alarm.

Design & Use
The standard iSafe Backpack comes in a multitude of colors and follows the general design of a traditional school backpack. It weighs just over two pounds with the two 9-volt batteries installed, and is 17 inches high, 11 1/2 inches wide, and about 9 inches deep when fully filled. The fabric is rip-stop nylon; it offers a bit of water resistance, but is not completely waterproof. There is a chest strap, but no waist strap.

I have used the iSafe Backpack on several different short day hikes and found it equal to my other small backpacks. The one downside is that it is a bit heavier than most. I have often used the backpack in book bag mode and it has held up to carrying books, laptops, and whatever else back and forth between the Catskills and the Trail Conference office in Mahwah. The alarm has worked each time I have demonstrated it.

The iSafe Backpack something that I would likely use in the field other than for a hike, but I know several people who would appreciate its features and the extra bit of security it provides.

Ratings: 3.5 boots out of 5
Ratings are 1-5 boots, with a 5-boot ranking signifying “This is very good. I like it.”

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Among the more significant trail updates:

• the newly marked Cliff Park trail system near Milford, Pennsylvania, and
• the new Comfortable Backpack

Recreational Trail that stretches 32 miles along the Delaware River.

Locations of shelters and water sources along the Appalachian Trail are now more accurately depicted, and updated roads data throughout New Jersey has been incorporated. The maps include many additional minor corrections and changes.

Three inset maps provide additional detail for popular park destinations. Along the Appalachian Trail, sources of drinking water, shelters, side trails, and parking access areas are identified.

Great for River Travelers As Well

In New Jersey the safest course in the fall/winter is to hike only on Sundays when hunting with firearms is prohibited (except on private preserves). Otherwise, hunting seasons vary by weapon and geography. Hunting season information is found in the NJ Hunting Digest, available at police agencies and at www.njfishandwildlife.com/sightmt.htm.

Summaries of deer and other hunting seasons can be found at www.njfishandwildlife.com/njregs.htm#Hunting

This map set was produced with support from Campgroun, an outdoor store and retail partner of the Trail Conference.

This four-map set covers trails and parklands along the Kittatinny Ridge in northwestern New Jersey: 275 miles of marked, including more than 50 miles of the Appalachian Trail, are shown within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, High Point State Park, Stokes State Forest, Worthington State Forest, and other nearby parklands.

Kittatinny Trails

MAP NEWS! New 6th Edition of Kittatinny Trails Map Set Available
Loop Trail offers panoramic views of New York City skyline

**Time:** 2 hours  
**Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate  
**Length:** 3 miles  
**Route Type:** Circuit  
**Dogs not permitted**

Rifle Camp Park in Woodland Park, NJ, sits on the ridgeline and southern side of Garret Mountain in densely populated Passaic County, NJ. (Garret Mountain Reservation is on the north side of the mountain.) It is extensively forested, and large trap rock outcrops are abundant throughout the property. The eastern limit of the parkland consists of nearly vertical basalt cliffs that provide panoramic views of the surrounding area and of the New York City skyline.

Two projects at the park this summer added several trail miles to the park’s network, which now totals about 5 miles. With guidance from Craig Nunzio, Trail Conference area supervisor, and after securing permissions and approvals from Passaic County, Eagle Scout candidate Will Gentile led Boy Scout Troop 8 of Montclair, NJ, in scouting, flagging, clearing, and blasing an extended Rifle Camp Trail (yellow blazes) that added 1.5 miles to the 2-mile trail. In addition, Trail Conference volunteers installed a red-blazed Inner Loop Trail that runs for about 1.5 miles.

The changes to the Rifle Camp Trail include moving portions from woods roads to more attractive footpaths and extending the trail into a long (about 0.5 mile) but narrow (perhaps 300 feet) “panhandle” section of the park that is contained by a fence. Visible through the fence: to the west, the Great Notch Reservoir; to the east, a former quarry that is now a housing development; and along the way, great views of the New York City skyline.

Tiring one’s gaze away from the fence, the hiker sees woods, ponds, and rock formations. The occasional soaring hawk, wading blue heron, and abundant wild turkey are also part of the hike. So are abundant deer. North Jersey Trails Chair John Moran reports, “I was on the yellow trail and encountered a photographer with an extraordinary problem—she couldn’t get a deer to stay far enough away to take the picture she wanted. The deer kept coming too close, probably used to getting snacks handed out.”

The new Inner Loop Trail (red blazes) mainly uses existing park paths with some newly cut trail. It coincides with the Rifle Camp Trail for some of its length, and picks up some of the former route of the now relocated yellow trail. The red trail was scouted by Kevin Cwalina of Passaic County Planning Dept. and Craig Nunzio. John Moran did the blazing and clearing.

Other Passaic County officials who assisted with the project were Nick Roca, Director of Parks, who approved the trails, and Louis Imhof and Michael Martiniello, who walked the trails with John Moran and offered suggestions and advice.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped expand and enhance hiking opportunities in a park that is close to so many New Jersey residents.

DANIEL CHAZIN of a hike on the newly extended Rifle Camp Trail, as well as directions to the park, on our website: nynjtc.org/hike/new-york-city-skyline-rifle-camp-park

**Volunteers Extend Two Trails at Rifle Camp Park in Passaic County, NJ**

The New York City skyline as seen from a trail at Rifle Camp Park.

The outlet from Great Notch Reservoir feeds this brook in the park.

**Support Trails, Parks and Open Space in the New York-New Jersey region by joining the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.**

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  - **Tuition-Free Enrollment** in our Trail University introductory courses
  - **Workshops and Seminars** on trail maintenance and construction, leadership training, wilderness first aid, chainsaw operation, environmental monitoring and GPS operation
  - **Access** to a wide range of volunteer opportunities on-trail and off-trail
- Find links to all these and more at nynjtc.org.

**NY-NJ Trail Conference MEMBERSHIP**

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<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
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<th>Joint/Family</th>
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Fall 2012

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