



Fracking in the Catskills?

Trail Conference sees threat to trails and votes 'No.'

READ MORE ON PAGE 3 ▶



Native Forests at Risk

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

READ MORE ON PAGE 3 ▶



TRAIL WALKER

Fall 2012

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference – Connecting People with Nature since 1920

www.nynjtc.org

Trail Conference Honors Basha Kill Area Association's 40 Years of Stewardship



Jakob Franke presented the Trail Conference's prestigious Leo Rothschild Conservation Award to BKAAs President Paula Medley.

The Rothschild Conservation Award is presented to a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to the protection of our trails and/or the natural lands that surround them. It is named for a long-time conservation chair of the Trail Conference.

For 40 years, the Basha Kill Area Association (BKAAs) has been steadfast in protecting the natural resources and scenic viewsheds along the Shawangunk Ridge. The organization has been a crucial partner to the Trail Conference in protecting land along the Shawangunk Ridge, mitigating or stopping unwise development plans, and educating area residents and visitors about the natural benefits and economic potential of a Gunks Greenway.

Founded in 1972, the BKAAs's mission is to protect the Basha Kill wetlands and surrounding area from ecological degradation, to promote education and respect for the environment in general, and to preserve the beauty of the area.

BKAAs representatives are avid local watchdogs and advocates, working effectively with—sometimes at odds with—local and state officials to protect the 2000-acre Basha Kill Wildlife Management Area (BKWMA) since it was purchased by New York State in 1972. The Shawangunk Ridge Trail traverses the BKWMA along a protected rail trail.

BKAAs cultivates active and informed citizens by offering guided outings and talks, and publishing a newsletter, website (thebashakill.org), and *The Basha Kill Wetlands Field Guide*.

The Trail Conference honors the long, accomplished history of the BKAAs and looks forward to a continuing partnership in protecting the Shawangunk Ridge.

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), has 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 Deerpark 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



The large ridgetop parcel in Orange County includes four ponds, meadows, woodland, and views, now protected as open space and public access.

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

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."

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

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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 A.T. 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 install 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



Crew members maneuver rocks into place in a narrow gorge.

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 Reyling, 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

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TRAIL WALKER

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GEORGETTE WEIR
LOUIS LEONARDIS

EDITOR
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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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-directed public service organization committed to:

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

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Feedback

RE new AT Boardwalk in Pawling

I want to thank all the contributors who made the July 1 grand opening celebration such a success.

- speakers David Kelly, Pam Underhill, Karen Lutz, Ed Goodell, Mark Wenger, and Willie Janeway, thank you for kind 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 Buildings and Grounds (Wendell Weber) for parking lot improvements and the loan of traffic barriers, chairs, and podium;
- Peter Cris for use of his sound system;
- Mid-Hudson ADK hike leaders Salley Decker, Sue Mackson, and Lalita Malik;
- the Pawling Girl Scouts;
- Leigh Draper and Bob Sickley for displays;
- Ron Rosen, Mike Fraatz, and Frank Dogil for all their pre-event planning;
- Pete Muroski 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 apologies to anyone I might have neglected to mention.

Again, my sincere appreciation to all.
—Jim Hagggett, Chair Dutchess-Putnam AT Management Committee

DEC Reply: Jim, you and the volunteers did a great job and make all the partners look good. More importantly, the trail is better than ever. Thank you.

—William C. Janeway,
Regional Director, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 3

Are You Sure About That?

Latest *Trail Walker*, summer 2012, says on page 3 in Conservation News that Minnewaska's latest additions to a new total of 22,000 acres makes it "the largest park preserve in New York State." There is life west of the Catskills: Allegany State Park encompasses something like 65,000 acres.

—Irene Szabo, Life Member

Editor's note: Thanks for your note and close reading of *Trail Walker*. The distinction between Minnewaska and Allegany is that Minnewaska is classified as a state Park Preserve, while Allegany is not categorized as a preserve ("just" state park). Preserve status confers added levels of protection for the natural resources. According to the state, Minnewaska is the largest park preserve in the OPRHP system.

On Facebook Great Maps!

25-year veteran Harriman hiker, tore my house apart looking for my Southern Harriman trails map, couldn't find it. Bought a new set—the 2012 version—at Campmor, and, what a beauty! Thanks to the publications/map team from a happy hiker.

—Shelly Freierman, July 14

Kudos for LP Reroute

"Recently hiked the newly relocated Long Path in Minnewaska Park. The trail provides the opportunity to take in several varying ecosystems as the hiker ascends the trail from Foordmore Rd. Kudos to the the Trail Conference for a great job constructing the new trail!"

—Steve Aaron, August 17

Editor's note: For more about the relo, see Summer 2012 *Trail Walker*, page 1.

Thank You

To be honest I'd never seen any trail workers 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, weed whacking the trail to perfection. I chatted with this man and learned that he did this twice a week! Thanks for all you do Trail Conference. You really make my hiking experience an adventure every weekend.

—Robert Schablik, August 31

On Our Website

On the Forum:

Mapmaking Gods

If I were the king of Tuxedo, NY, it would be the hiking capital of New York. There'd be an outfitter right near the train station where the R-D comes in. It 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 amazingly beautiful and the NYNJTC mapmakers are the best at it—that's all.

—Suzy, August 11

Send Us a Letter

Email it 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.

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."

Gaylord Holmes, vice chair of the Trail Conference's Board of Directors, said, "We are pleased to once again work with our partners OSI, OCLT, and DEC on an important land protection project. This purchase adds to the 4,400 acres the Trail Conference has preserved with its Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund, either by outright purchase or in partnership with the DEC and other agencies. Andy Garrison, our very dedicated volunteer in the area, and Ed Goodell, executive director, were very effective in keeping track of opportunities to preserve this land and

bringing together the people and organizations who could make it happen."

The Shawangunk Ridge stretches for 50 miles from Kingston, NY to the New Jersey border. OSI has focused its efforts there since its inception, protecting more than 27,000 acres along the ridge over the last quarter-century. However, the area that includes the Ridgeview parcel—an approximately 9-mile stretch of ridgetop from Otisville south to Port Jervis—is the least protected stretch of the Kittatinny-Shawangunk Ridge in New York and New Jersey.

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 NY-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."

Trail Conference work on the Gunks Greenway is supported by a donor-supported Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund (LASF) and by grants from the Conservation Alliance—a national group of outdoor recreation companies—and the Conservation Partnership Program of New York, administered by the DEC and Land Trust Alliance.

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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 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 remember just how important outdoor recreation is as a very efficient, very sustainable, and very BIG 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 \$646 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.

These are really 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 far more on bicycling gear and trips (\$81 billion) than they do on airplane tickets and fees (\$51 billion).

These are nationwide numbers, but there are local studies that demonstrate the importance of nature-based recreation for the New York-New Jersey region, too. A 2010 economic impact study of Minnewaska State Park, Mohonk Preserve, and Sam's Point Preserve showed a \$12 million economic impact and 358 jobs. A 2010 report of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area showed that the approximately 5 million annual visitors spent more than \$150 million and supported approximately 2,500 jobs. The 4.4 million visitors to New York State parks in the Palisades Region are estimated to have a \$94 million impact.

Of course, we know that the personal fitness that accompanies outdoor recreation leads to health benefits and reduced obesity. Conversely, the lack of exercise and access to outdoor recreation contributes to the obesity epidemic. Fifty percent more Americans are obese today than 20 years ago and 33% more are predicted to be obese 20 years from now. The U.S. cost of obesity has been estimated at almost \$150 billion annually, or about 9% of total medical expenditures. Outdoor recreation can't solve this epidemic alone but it highlights the need to bring access to open space closer to those who need it most (a focus of the Trail Conference).

Furthermore, nature-based recreation depends primarily on open space, which independently supplies a wealth of ecosys-

tem services to society. The value of ecosystem services provided by natural habitat in the continental United States is estimated to be more than 10% of the total U.S. GDP. The best local example of this is New York City watershed lands, estimated to cost \$1-1.5 billion to protect compared to \$6-8 billion to build a filtration plant plus \$300 million annually to operate. The outdoor recreation economy is both sustainable and robust, growing at "approximately 5% during the recession when many other sectors contracted."

The outdoor recreation economy is both sustainable and robust, growing at "approximately 5% during the recession when many other sectors contracted."

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 Nice-to-Have one.

Here are some things our political leaders need do to reinforce this quiet economic giant:

Governor Cuomo
Restore the Environmental Projection Fund budget for land acquisition back to, at least, 2009 levels (\$60 million) from the current \$17 million;
Make sure that there is no gas drilling within the Catskill Park (i.e. inside the Blue Line).

Governor Christie
Introduce legislation that provides a long-term funding mechanism for the Garden State Preservation Trust and New Jersey parks, forests, and wildlife management areas.

President Obama
Don't let U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and the Dept. of Interior overrule the Environmental Impact Statement finding that the PSE&G transmission line across the Delaware Water Gap and Appalachian National Scenic Trail should be stopped in its tracks.

When we enjoy our parks today, we are benefiting from the active advocacy of prior decades. We need to do our part now to ensure that nature-based recreation continues to benefit our region and its people.

— Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

* Find this article and links to the studies mentioned in it on our website: nynjtc.org/news/nature-based-economy

Our Native 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 purple prism trap that was placed in DEC's Kenneth L. Wilson campground in the Town of Woodstock, Ulster County.

Since it was first discovered in Michigan in 2002, EAB has destroyed 70 million trees in the United States. New York has more than 900 million ash trees, representing about 7% of all trees in the state, and all are at risk from EAB. Hikers and trail volunteers are encouraged to be aware of signs of EAB and to be alert to its presence (see website link at end for more information.)

Shortly after the EAB was first detected in New York, Troy Weldy, Director of Ecological Management for The Nature Conservancy-New York, reported in these pages (July/August 2009 *Trail Walker*), "New York and New Jersey have four native species of ash: green, white, black, and pumpkin. Ash trees are prevalent along streams and wetlands, as well as backyards and city streets, and the impact of the emerald ash borer—it is considered to be unstoppable—is likely to severely alter important wildlife and human habitats."

DEC Background on Emerald Ash Borer
After EAB was first discovered in Ulster County near Kingston in 2010, state and federal agencies initiated an EAB quaran-



Emerald Ash Borer larvae destroy trees from under the tree's bark.



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

tine, which restricts the movement of ash products and firewood out of the quarantined area. Although the newest infestation exists within the quarantined county, it lies about 4 miles west of the previously defined area and is the first EAB found in a DEC campground. The discovery highlights the threat EAB poses to New York campgrounds and the Catskill Forest Preserve.

"Campers should not bring untreated firewood to any of the Catskill campgrounds," said Commissioner Martens. "Untreated ash firewood that is brought into these campgrounds from as little as 5 miles away can greatly accelerate the spread of this insect and the death of the cherished ash trees in the Catskill Preserve. Heat-treated firewood is the only firewood that is safe to transport because the heat eliminates any pests living inside the wood."

DEC has adopted a strategy, Slow Ash Mortality (SLAM), to slow the spread of EAB within the state and its devastating economic and environmental impacts. SLAM includes removing infested trees, defining and monitoring infestation boundaries, and researching insecticides and organisms that kill pests. The purple detection trap that was placed in Kenneth L. Wilson campground is part of a SLAM initiative that enables DEC to detect new EAB infestations in high-risk locations, such as campgrounds.

DEC's response plan for the Kenneth L. Wilson campground includes taking inventory of all ash trees there and in nearby DEC campgrounds, assessing the health

of these trees, and conducting a thorough visual inspection for potential EAB infestation. Dying or hazardous ash trees will be removed from high-use areas such as campsites, roads, and paths, which is consistent with DEC's protocol to continuously identify and remove hazard trees. DEC also may girdle select ash trees outside high-use areas. A tree with a section of bark removed may become more attractive to the beetle, making EAB easier to detect and control from spreading outward to new areas.

Damage from EAB is caused by the larvae, which feed in tunnels just under the ash tree's bark. The tunnels disrupt water and nutrient transport, causing branches and eventually the entire tree to die. Adult beetles leave distinctive D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark of the branches and trunk. Other signs of infestation include

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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—not just state-owned and New York City watershed lands—within the Catskill Park Blue Line from the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) it is developing to allow hydraulic fracturing in the state. Further, the committee urged that if fracking within the Blue Line boundary is not prohibited outright (by excluding all lands within the Blue Line from the 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 FPAC and voted with the majority (16 yeas, 3 abstentions) in favor of the resolution.

The resolution was prompted by concerns that DEC's proposed regulations that would effectively prohibit hydrofracking on state owned and New York City watershed lands within the Blue Line would not

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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 Ocawasin, 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

Regional Field Notes

Catskills

Jeff Senterman,
Catskills Program Coordinator
jsenterman@nynjtc.org



Come out and enjoy the Catskills 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

Lean-to Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

We continue to work with DEC to identify lean-tos that can be reconstructed, moved, or rehabilitated throughout the

entire Catskill 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-tos to put their training to use. The day was supported by our partner, Morgan Outdoors in Livingston Manor. This fall we hope to replace the roofs and floors of the Devil's Acre Lean-to and Mink Hollow Lean-to.

Trail Updates

Kaaterskill Rail Trail—Work continued on this joint effort to open the 1.5-mile 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 Lake Creek to connect the rail trail 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 Catskills. Volunteers have been diligently clearing the route and constructing new trail on the first 2.5 miles, which 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 remaining 8 to 9 miles of trail this fall. It will traverse the ridge on Cross Mountain and Mount Pleasant. We hope to open the trail by the end of 2013.

Thanks to DEC Trail Crews! DEC trail crews have rebuilt a number of trail bridges that were lost during Hurricane



Carving a new route for the Long Path.

Irene. They also worked to stabilize portions of the future Kaaterskill Rail Trail and began to build the parking lot that will serve the new Long Path section on Romer Mountain.

Catskill Trail Maintenance Crew

We are working to develop a roving Trail Maintenance Trail Crew for the Catskill 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 East Hanover store, spent the day creating a new lollipop trail off of the Manaticut Point Trail in Norvin Green State Park. At the end of a hard 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



JONATHAN MARTIN

Staff and customers from REI worked a day with our Bear Claw crew in Ringwood.

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 Chair Steve Marano since the spring. It 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

If you love the trails at High Point State Park, Wawayanda State Park, Stokes State Forest, and a few other places in northwest Jersey, we have a great volunteer position for you: Northwest Region Trails Chair. This new position was created as a result of a recommendation by West Jersey Chair Don Tripp to divide the region

into two more manageable areas. Don continues as West Jersey Chair. The position involves overseeing trail maintainers on the nearly 150 miles of trails in the region and helping as liaison between maintainers, Trail Conference staff, and park managers. If you would like to learn more, please contact me.

More Volunteer Opportunities

We have quite a few openings for maintainers throughout New Jersey. If you're interested in volunteering, please visit our website. You can find on-trail opportunities 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.

East Hudson

Leigh Draper,
East Hudson Program Coordinator
draper@nynjtc.org



The opening of the **new boardwalk for the Appalachian Trail** in Pawling was a highlight of the Summer season. More than 100 people attended the July 1 ribbon-cutting event. For more, turn to page 7.

The Community Trails Program, a partnership of the Trail Conference and Teatown Lake Reservation, connected eager volunteer groups to several "shovel-ready" trail projects this summer.

Members of the *Greening Project from the White Plains Youth Bureau* spent an August morning improving the tread of a trail at Teatown Lake Reservation by side-hilling it to make walking easier and to allow water to run off instead of pooling on the trail. Twenty-five Service Corps members from Camp Combe worked 3 days to clean up FDR State Park after the July 4th weekend and built almost half a



LEIGH DRAPER

Members of the White Plains Youth Bureau completed a trail project at Teatown Lake Reservation.

mile of new trail at Yorktown Trails.

The *Jewish Outdoors Club, Davetrek Adventures, and Mosaic Outdoor Mountain Club of Greater New York* joined forces for a day that combined trail maintenance with hiking at Mt. Gulian Historic Site in Beacon. The clubs worked with local volunteers to restore almost 1 mile of trail that will become a section of the Fishkill Greenway Trail

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 RPH Cabin 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, installed new check dams on the trail south of Shenandoah 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 stone step project. See pictures and learn more at



LEIGH DRAPER

A group of international students sponsored by the Joshua Foundation volunteered on trails at Van Cortlandt Park.

<http://timtrek.mikentim.com>

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

West Hudson

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



Congratulations go to volunteer Gene Giordano

for organizing a great day of events June 30 to celebrate the Appalachian Trail and the Town of Warwick's designation as an official Trail Community by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Gene, who lives in Warwick and chairs our New Jersey AT Management Committee, led the effort



ANDREA MINOFF

Volunteer Gene Giordano

that brought together AT supporters, local government, and area businesspeople and residents to prepare a successful nomination and a day-long celebration. Events started with a pancake breakfast and ended with music and fireworks, with hikes in between. Hikers came from as far away as Long Island to participate in activities and explore the town. The day 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 erosion, the **Jolly Rovers** have been working with high-lines, drills, and hammers to create stone stream crossings and a complex staircase up the cliff adjacent to the falls. Their well-planned demonstrations impressed a crowd of about 30 who hiked in to see the project. (See page 1 story.)

At other locations on the A.T., the **Orange and Rockland Long-Distance Trail Crew** led by Chris Reyling rehabilitated the trail at Agony Grind, in the Green Pond Mountain area of Harriman State Park, and on the Long Path near Woodbury Creek at Schunemunk Mountain.

Volunteers Wanted on Gunks

We continue to seek volunteer maintainers for trails that include some of the most beautiful in our region: Shawangunk Ridge and Neversink Gorge Unique Area. Andy Garrison, our Shawangunk guru, is also looking for someone to help him supervise maintainers on the Shawangunk Ridge. He would like to split the job in two—you choose which part of the SRT you'd like to focus on. Go to nynjtc.org/vol-trail-vacancies and look for Trail Supervisor Shawangunk Ridge. Andy knows more about the Ridge than just about anyone and is a great person to work with and learn from.



See complete and updated calendar at nynjtc.org/calendar



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 #595**

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 #603**

Location: Mountain Top Historical Society, Haines Falls, NY (Catskills)
9am-3pm
Open to all.

**Saturday & Sunday, November 3 & 4
Trail Layout and Design Workshop #593**

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 Trails 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, Harriman S.P.**

**Saturday, November 3
Long Path at Woodbury Creek/
Route 32 crossing**

Long Path & Catskills
Contact: Andy Garrison, srtmaintainer@gmail.com or 845-866-7201

**Saturday, September 29
Sunday, September 30
Long Path relocation over Romer Mountain**

**Catskills Mountain Crew
A roving maintenance crew**

**Saturday, September 29
Frick & Hodge Pond trails,
Livingston Manor, NY
10am-3pm**
Trail maintenance on Quick Lake Trail, Flynn Trail and others in the area.
Contact: Leigh Draper, draper@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348

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

**Westchester Trails Tramps
Maintenance Crew**
Contact: Mary Dodds at doddshelmer@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, wprtrailmaintainer@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, Ramapos**

West Jersey Crew
Contact: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com or 732-937-9098. 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 rained-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: catskillslark.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.



PHOTO AT TOP

Girl Scouts from local troops 10064 and 10066 cut the ribbon July 1 and officially opening the new Appalachian Trail boardwalk in Pawling. The Girl Scouts are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year, and troops all along the East Coast have been hiking the A.T. as part of their activities. More than 100 people attended the opening. See more about the project on page 7.

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—and 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 Vernoooy 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 Fratti, Chris Reyling, and Andy Garrison.

Lenape Trail News

The Lenape Trail is a 34-mile trail that connects parks and open space in Essex County, NJ. The trail was adopted by the Trail Conference in 2011.

Lenape Trail Chair Steve Marano welcomes our first Trail Supervisor for the Lenape Trail (LT). Federico Nealon is a recent graduate of Slippery Rock University with a degree in Parks and Recreation Management. A resident of Hudson County, Federico has had a significant amount of experience working with municipal and county organizations in both 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, Federico 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, Federico will be working closely with Steve on a number of revitalization projects, including installation of signposts 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," Federico says. "I'm excited about the chance to work with the Trail Conference and look forward to getting the chance to meet and work with members of this great organization."



PSE&G Work Closes 3 Miles of LT

Extensive work being conducted by PSE&G to replace transmission towers along the powerline right-of-way in West Orange and Livingston has closed the westernmost three miles of the Lenape Trail for up to two years. Signs have been posted.

While this is disappointing, Steve reports that, in working with the company to coordinate the temporary closure of the LT, the Trail Conference and PSE&G have established a much stronger working relationship. Steve states that the company has offered to work with the Trail Conference to accommodate the needs of hikers, including the possibility of correcting some long standing trail erosion problems.

Big Extension through South Mountain Reservation

South Mountain Reservation Conservancy and Essex County Dept of Parks and Recreation have completed a major extension of the Lenape Trail through the reservation. This beautiful new trail is a huge step forward in finally establishing a continuous link between the main Lenape Trail and the Reservation, the county's largest (2,000 acres) and best known park.

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GIFTS

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

Trails to Great Photography

LARRY ZINK (FULL PHOTO ON PAGE 8)

Check Out Our New Photo Blog: blog-photo.nynjtc.org

By Larry Zink

It's easy to take what we have for granted, but today our ecosystems are changing or under attack. Mountaintop removals in the Appalachians, oil spills that threaten our waterways, and unprecedented droughts that currently affect many areas around the globe. Amidst all of those issues and the normal daily grind in our own area, there still are plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy the protected lands in the New York/New Jersey region.

Perhaps photography can provide the impetus to walk to the top of a mountain, stand in a clear mountain stream, or witness a beautiful sunset over a lake. The name of this blog, Trails to Great Photog-

raphy, implies not only the trails that currently exist for you to explore but also historically what has been blazed before you by artists, and also what creative challenges lay ahead.

Take a look at our new Trails to Great Photography blog (there are also links to it from the Trail Conference website) and let us know how you feel about the site. We hope that you will be inspired to venture out and create your own vision, and that you might share it through us with other lovers of trails and nature. Enjoy.

Larry Zink is a professional photographer and vice president of creative services for Macy's. He is planning to offer an autumn photo workshop for Trail Conference members, location to be determined. Watch your email or our website for an announcement.

HYDROFRACKING RULE

continued from page 3

apply to privately owned land there. These thousands of acres are largely in the southeast and northeast parts of the Catskill Park and would be open to drilling under the DEC's proposed regulations.

"Drilling rigs, pipelines, access roads, additional truck traffic, and all the impacts that come with this industrial-scale process are incompatible with the wilderness experience many people enjoy in the Forest Preserve, and this is a primary focus for the Trail Conference," explains Jeff Senterman, Catskill Region Program Coordinator and Trail Conference representative to the FPAC.

The FPAC stated that any hydrofracking-related activities within the Catskill State Park will adversely affect Forest Preserve and State Forest lands. The committee cited seven specific concerns:

- The technology's use of enormous amounts of clean water will likely be detrimental to the normal hydrology and ecology of Catskills lakes, rivers, and streams and the quality of New York City's water supply.

- The increased infrastructure required by the industry—roads, bridges, pipelines, well pads, closed-loop fracking water storage facilities, and compressor stations—will industrialize the natural character and appearance of the Catskill State Park.

- Drilling and associated increased local traffic, including heavy truck traffic, will degrade the park's natural beauty and severely change the character of the many rural towns that are working to develop sustainable, tourism-based economies.

- The leasing of state-owned gas rights might result in the compulsory integration of neighbors whose land adjoins state

lands and who don't want to participate in the industry.

- Drilling infrastructure, uncapped wells, hazardous and toxic wastes may be abandoned by drilling companies.

- Large quantities of highly contaminated fracking waste or production water may not be cleaned sufficiently for safe return to Catskill rivers and streams.

- Methane released from the wellheads, pipelines, and compressor stations may have large, cumulative impacts on people and the environment.

The FPAC resolution also asked the DEC to affirm that the New York State Constitution prohibits leasing of natural gas/oil extraction rights or permitting for the exploitation of gas/oil rights on or below state-owned lands of the Catskill Forest Preserve and State Forests located in Sullivan, Delaware, Ulster, and Greene counties.

According to Jeff Senterman, "The potential for fracking to damage the Catskill Park and its hundreds of miles of hiking trails is very real. Our FPAC vote in favor of stringent environmental review of all drilling proposals within the Catskill Park is prompted by the Trail Conference's mission 'to protect hiking trails and the lands they cross'."

What Is FPAC?

The Forest Preserve Advisory Committee (FPAC) advises New York State's Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on issues unique to the Forest Preserve, the constitutionally protected land within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. The Trail Conference has had a seat on the committee for more than a decade. When Pete Senterman was the Trail Conference's representative, the former Trails Chair for the Catskill region earned a reputation as a fair but strong defender of the Forest Preserve. Pete is now an individual member of the FPAC, and his son, Jeff, is the Trail Conference's representative.

The FPAC's role has grown in importance as the DEC tries to manage increased public use of the Forest Preserve with a shrinking work force. The FPAC works to ensure that the Forest Preserve's core values are not lost through reorganizations, changes in management, or new uses.

If you are interested in learning more about the FPAC or attending a meeting with Jeff, contact him at jsenterman@nynjtc.org.

REI Doubles Its Support for Trail U

The Trail Conference is pleased to announce that REI, the national outdoor gear co-operative, is doubling its support for our Trail University program in 2012-2013. REI is awarding the Trail Conference \$20,000 so we can expand Trail U by:

- increasing the number of course offerings and the number of trained participants;
- offering a new, intensive training series for our "Invasives Strike Force" (nynjtc.org/invasives);
- rolling out a new course series designed to fast-track the process of forming new trail crews;

- purchasing tools and supplies to be used by Trail U participants and instructors;
- and coordinating with more REI stores (SoHo and Yonkers in New York, and Paramus and East Hanover in New Jersey) to connect REI's members with volunteer opportunities and outdoor experiences on our region's trails.

With a \$10,000 grant from REI in 2011-12, the Trail Conference worked with expert trail builders and experienced volunteers to reassess and overhaul the trail building and maintenance courses available through Trail U. The resulting four-part course series provides advanced training on tools, equipment, and techniques. The

courses—Trail Assessment, Trail Layout and Design, Trail Structures, and Trail Tread and Drainage—were launched this year.

These new courses are helping to meet the increasing demand from our park partners for help from our growing volunteer force. We are pleased to report that the number of Trail U courses increased by 26% from the 2010-2011 to the 2011-2012 program year. From July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, we offered 69 courses, most in the field on actual trail projects.

Since Trail U's start in 2006, more than 3,000 participants in New York and New Jersey have trained in various aspects of trail work.

Trailside Nature

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*) brighten fields, woodlands, wetlands, and sandy beaches. About 50 species of goldenrod are native to northeastern North America. Many species can be difficult to distinguish, even for experts. Most of the more common species have large, curved clusters of densely packed, small, bright yellow flowers. One species with spikes of whitish flowers is aptly named silverrod (*Solidago bicolor*) and is common in thin woods or dry, open soil in our area.

Some people mistakenly think that goldenrods aggravate pollen allergies and avoid going near them. In fact, it's the green-flowered ragweed (genus *Ambrosia*) that launches the airborne pollen that makes us snuffle and sneeze. Instead of avoiding goldenrods, it's fascinating to approach them and observe the bountiful faunal activity that goes on around them during autumn and into winter.

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



Field of gold(enrod)

The large assemblage of insects on goldenrod flowers is a smorgasbord for a predator—the goldenrod crab spider (*Misumena vatia*). This bright yellow spider lurks motionless, undetectable among goldenrod flowers. If an unsuspecting insect gets close, the spider quickly snares it, injects it with venom, and sucks its body fluids dry. Although the crab spider is most often found on goldenrod flowers, it also sometimes awaits its prey on white flowers, where it will turn white for camouflage.

Goldenrods also are host plants for the larval stage of many moth species and several butterfly species. The shiny, brightly-colored caterpillar of the brown-hooded owl moth (*Cucullia convexipennis*), the usually bright green, striped caterpillar of the asteroid moth

(*Cucullia asteroidis*), and the yellow and black caterpillar of the goldenrod flower moth (*Schinia nundina*) feed on goldenrod flowers. The caterpillars are valuable food for resident and migrating birds.

The larvae of the goldenrod gall moth (*Gnorimoschema gallaesolidaginis*) feed and develop unseen during summer, protected within goldenrod stems. Stem tissue thickens around the larvae, forming spindle-shaped galls. After pupating, adults emerge in early autumn, and females lay eggs that overwinter.



Goldenrod flowers are busy places.

Other gall-making insects also use goldenrods as their host plants. The most well known is a species of fruit fly, *Eurosta solidaginis*. Its larvae make goldenrod ball galls in the stems of the abundant Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*). The round galls are about 3/4-inch in diameter and usually are in the upper half of the stem. About 20% of Canadian goldenrod stems have one or more ball galls. The 1/4-inch larvae overwinter within the thick-walled galls on dried goldenrod stems, protected from the cold.

The fruit fly larvae, 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 neat, conical holes in the ball galls and extract the larvae. The woodpeckers prefer to stay near the cover of trees, so feed most heavily on ball gall larvae near the woods' edge. Chickadees also occasionally feed on ball gall larvae—the holes they make have ragged, irregular edges.

There's one other wintertime predator of ball gall larvae—the ice fisherman. Before bait was readily available for purchase, fishermen often would gather buckets of goldenrod ball galls, carefully slice the galls open with a sharp knife and extract the larvae to use as bait.

During autumn and winter, goldenrods provide enjoyable, close-to-home opportunities 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: eyeonnature.wordpress.com.



OUR NATIVE FORESTS AT RISK

continued from page 3

tree canopy dieback, yellowing, and extensive sprouting from roots and trunk. Infested trees may also exhibit woodpecker damage from larvae extraction.

The first detection of EAB in New York was in the town of Randolph, Cattaraugus County, in June 2009. Since then, infestations have been discovered in seven other counties in western New York and five in the Hudson Valley. Nineteen counties in New York are under state and federal EAB quarantines.

Communities face economic risk because ash is a common street and park tree. Green ash, in particular, has been widely planted as an ornamental tree in residential yards. Recent research papers have reported that potential costs to municipalities from EAB could exceed \$12 billion over the next 10 years. Efforts such as DEC's SLAM initiative can significantly delay the loss of ash

trees and the subsequent costs to communities for their removal and replacement.

In 2008, New York adopted regulations that ban untreated firewood from entering the state and restrict intrastate movement of untreated firewood to no more than a 50-mile radius from its source. This was done as a precaution against the introduction and spread of EAB and other invasive species because of the documented risk of transmission by moving firewood. After more than 3 years of outreach and education, DEC is increasing its enforcement efforts to prevent the movement of untreated firewood into and around New York.

DEC urges residents to watch for signs of infestation in ash trees. To learn more about EAB and the firewood regulations, or to report suspected EAB damage, call DEC's EAB hotline at 1-866-640-0652 or submit an EAB report on DEC's website: dec.ny.gov/animals/72136.html

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 recognized 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 designation of Warwick as an "Appalachian Trail Community."

Just off the 2,181-mile long trail, at the crest of Bellvale Mountain in the Town of Warwick, the Bellvale Creamery hosted the formal designation ceremony. Elected officials and other dignitaries spoke to more than 100 outdoor enthusiasts from near and far, including several Appalachian Trail thru-hikers. Mike Sweeton, Warwick Town Supervisor, and Karen Lutz, Director, 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 getting 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 residents, elected officials, Chambers of Commerce, students, and teachers.

Nine hikes, ranging from easy to difficult, were held both before and after the



GEORGETTE WEIR

Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell served as master of ceremonies, with remarks delivered by Pamela Underhill, National Park Service Park Manager for the Appalachian Trail; Mark Wenger, ATC Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer; Congresswoman Nan Hayworth; State Senator John Bonacic; Warwick Town Supervisor Mike Sweeton; ATC Mid-Atlantic Director Karen Lutz; Orange County Park Commissioner Rich Rose; and Barbara Moore, Mike Newhard, and Jim Pawliczek, mayors of the villages of Greenwood Lake, Warwick, and Florida, respectively.

dedication ceremony. Thanks to hike leaders Don Weise, Jesse Dwyer, Les Ferguson, Gene Giordano, Alan Breach, Jill Arbuckle (AMC), and Aaron Schoenberg (North Jersey/Ramapo ADK).

Volunteers and staff from the Trail Conference, ATC, Sustainable Warwick, and employees of event sponsors Ramsey Outdoors, Campmor, and REI staffed booths, dispensed maps and information, and chatted with event participants.

Andrea Minoff is a Trail Conference member and volunteers as a writer and photographer.



Volunteers Finish Boardwalk over Great Swamp in Pawling

PROJECT: Build a 1,600-foot long boardwalk and 34-foot bridge for the Appalachian Trail over the Swamp River and associated wetlands in Pawling, NY.

TIME FRAME: 2.5 years, start to finish

OPENED: July 1, 2012 with more than 100 local and state officials, residents, hikers, volunteers, and agency representatives in attendance.

VOLUNTEERS: Some 75, including members of Appalachian Trail Conservancy Mid-Atlantic Trail Crews. Dutchess-Putnam A.T. Management Committee Chair and project leader Jim Haggett of Poughkeepsie reports that more than 5,000 volunteer hours went into the work. A big thank-you to all who contributed their time and skills!



LEIGH DRAPER

Carpentry work was a major part of this big project.



JIM HAGGETT

Rising waters of the Great Swamp in Pawling created problems for the A.T.



LEIGH DRAPER

Volunteers learned to drill pilings down as far as 40 feet into the muck.



GEORGETTE WEIR

A volunteer project that "takes my breath away," in the words of National Park Service Appalachian National Scenic Trail Superintendent Pam Underhill.

Since opening, the boardwalk has become an even more popular destination for walkers, birders, and area residents.



Find many more hikes at www.nynjtc.org. Click on Scheduled Hikes under Go Hiking!

October

Saturday, October 6

UOC. Princeton Nursery Lands Trust, NJ. Leader: Nona Henderson, nrhenderson@verizon.net. Meet: contact leader for time and meeting place to carpool. Walk the trails of this public open space, with historic buildings, natural areas, and wildlife.

RLC. Fall Foliage Hike, Sparta Mountain Preserve area, Sussex, NJ. Leader: For more info go to www.rocklodge.com. Meet: 10am at Rock Lodge Club (nudist/family and kid-friendly), with its beautiful lake, historic Stone House, and recreational facilities. Short, easy hike along pleasant woodland paths to Indian Cave to roast hotdogs/sausages for lunch. After lunch return to lodge or continue for another 2 miles along rocky ridges and streams. After the hike, all are welcome to enjoy the lodge's facilities, including swimming lake, small boating, tennis, sauna, and children's play area.

NYHC. Hastings to Tarrytown, Westchester County, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, call 718-435-4994. Take 4/5/6 train to 42nd Street. Meet at 10am Grand Central Terminal, Upper Level Information Booth at 10am. Mostly easy terrain. Bring lunch and water.

Sunday, October 7

AFW. Sterling Forest State Park, NY. For info and to register, contact www.adventuresforwomen.org or 973-644-3592. Meet: 9:30am. Moderate hike; out by 2pm.

IHC. Coppermines and Mt. Mohican, Delaware Water Gap, NJ. Leader: Al MacLennan, 732-412-7092, maclennan_al@comcast.net. Meet: 9am at Coppermine Trail parking, Rt. 606, Hardwick, NJ. Moderately strenuous 9 miles up the Appalachian Trail and over to Mt. Mohican, with excellent views of the Delaware River and Poconos.

Saturday, October 13

SW. Bridges & Waterways of Central Park, NY. Leader: Matthey Brozyna, 917-912-9533. Meet: 9am at atrium entrance to Time Warner complex, 59th St. at Columbus Circle. Moderately paced 8 miles; 5 hours. See all the amazing architectural wonders throughout the park. Bring lunch or snack. Rain or shine. Suggested donation for non-members is \$3.

UHC. Long Pond Iron Works State Park, NJ. Leader: Gregg Hudis, grhudis@verizon.net, 973-584-0135. Meet: 10am at museum parking lot, just after Monksville Reservoir. Moderate 3-hour hike. Explore ruins, walk up to Paterson Mine, back on Highlands Trail. Visit museum afterwards.

Sunday, October 14

WEC. Seven Hills Trail and Pine Meadow Lake, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Don Weise, donweise@hotmail.com. Meet: 9:30am; contact leader for meeting place. Fast-paced 9 miles over very steep terrain; cardiovascular fitness required. Superb views and a lakeside lunch.

AFW. Glenclyffe, Garrison, NY. For info and to register, contact www.adventuresforwomen.org or 973-644-3592. Meet: 9:30am. Easy to moderate hike; out by 2pm.

IHC. Breakneck Ridge and Mt. Taurus, Hudson Highlands State Park, NY. Leader: Roy Williams, royhiker1@aol.com. Meet: 9am at Breakneck Ridge parking lot, just past train tunnel on Rt. 9D north of Cold Spring, NY. Or, meet 8:30am at Anthony Wayne parking in Harriman for shuttle. Bad weather cancels.

Saturday, October 20

UOC. Tammany Blue Trail, Delaware Water Gap, NJ. Leader: John Clyde, jimbjclde@aol.com, 732-846-9013. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place. This challenging trail ascends 1,200 feet in just 1.5 miles, but the view is worth the tired muscles.

AFW. Appalachian Trail in NJ. Leader: For info and to register, contact www.adventuresforwomen.org or 973-644-3592. Meet: 9am. Moderate to strenuous hike at a moderate pace; out by 5pm.

Sunday, October 21

PM. Autumn Colors at Pyramid Mountain, NJ. Leader: For more info and to register, call 973-334-3130 or go to morrissparks.net. Meet: 1pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, 472A Boonton Ave., Boonton, NJ. Bring a camera and be prepared to climb to spectacular vistas. Appropriate for ages 7 and up.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Lee Fanger, 973-376-3160. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove parking, across from Millburn RR station. Moderate 4 miles with hills; about 2 hours. Rain cancels.

Saturday, October 27

ADK-NJR. Apshawa Preserve, West Milford, NJ. Leader: Pat Marcotullo, 845-729-4046, patmarcotu@optonline.net. Meet: 9am at Stop and Shop parking off exit 55 on Rt. 287. Moderate 7 miles in this 570-acre preserve with wonderful trails and Butler Reservoir. Steady rain cancels.

UOC. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, Morris County, NJ. Leader: Coleen Zdziarski, cpt3769@aol.com. Meet: contact leader for meeting time, place and carpool info. This moderate hike features scenic streams and panoramic viewpoints.

Sunday, October 28

NYR. Long Path to Torrey Memorial, Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park, NY. Leader: Lee Ruelle, leerruelle@gmail.com. Meet: Contact leader for meeting time and place. From Arden, hike the Appalachian Trail to Long Path for a reading in honor of Trail Conference and Long Path visionary, Raymond Torrey. Out via Popolopen Gorge to Bear Mountain Inn.

SW. Rockefeller Preserve. Leader: Bill Wrublewski, 646-369-0279. Meet: 9am at Grand Central Terminal information booth for 9:20 train to Philipse Manor (RT). 12-13 miles at a moderate pace.

Sunday, November 18

AMC-NYNJ. Arden, Harriman State Park, NY. Leaders: Nancy and Art Tollefson, tolleffson@verizon.net, 212-727-8961, call before 9:30pm. Meet: 9:25am at Arden parking lot, Arden Valley Rd. off Rt. 17, 2 miles north of Southfields, NY. Take 8:30am Shortline bus from Port Authority to Arden (leaders take bus). 9 miles at moderate-plus pace, with hills. Join us in one of our favorite parts of Harriman park. Rain cancels; call eve before if in doubt.

UOC. Delaware & Raritan Canal Walk, NJ. Leaders: Howard Wright, howiewh@comcast.net and John Clyde, jimbjclde@aol.com, 732-846-9013. Meet: contact leaders to register. This 5-mile stretch of the canal path between Griggstown Causeway and Kingston will be an easy, enjoyable walk.

NYR. Manaticut Point Trail, Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: Basia Baranski, 973-661-0637. Meet: Contact leader for meeting time and place, and hike details. From Monksville Dam, hike on various trails including the new Manaticut Point Trail. Out to Rt. 511 via West Brook Rd. Full day hike with climbs; bring headlamp.

NYHC. Tarrytown Reservoir, Westchester County, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, call 718-435-4994. Take 4/5/6 train to 42nd Street. Meet at 9:15am at Grand Central Terminal, upper level information booth. Easy to moderate. Bring lunch and water.

Saturday, November 24

SW. Walk Off The Turkey, NY. Leaders: Cy Adler and friends, call hotline at 212-330-7686 for more info. Meet: 10am at entrance of Staten Island Ferry terminal at South Ferry, Manhattan. Join our annual post-Thanksgiving walk from Battery to the Little Red Lighthouse under the George Washington Bridge; about 12 miles and 5 hours. Socialize as you enjoy the Hudson River shoreline, and walk off those pesky holiday calories. Suggested donation for non-members is \$3.

Sunday, November 25

WEC. Sylvan Glen & Granite Knolls, Westchester County, NY. Leader: Don Weise, donweise@hotmail.com. Meet: 9:30am; contact leader for meeting place. Moderately challenging 8-9 miles. Come see what great natural and unnatural features result when a forest grows up around an old granite quarry. Bird's eye views, rock walls, hand-cut stone steps, and a massive oak tree.

PM. Turkey Mountain, Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, NY. Leader: For more info and to register, call 973-334-3130 or go to morrissparks.net. Meet: 1pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, 472A Boonton Ave., Boonton, NJ. Moderately strenuous hike up and over Turkey Mountain to burn off those extra holiday calories.

December

Saturday, December 1

SW. Heckscher State Park, Long Island, NY. Leader: Ludwig Hendel, 718-626-3983; call only evening before hike. Meet: 9am at Pennsylvania Station, NY, LIRR ticket windows for train to Great River (RT). 8-10 miles at moderate pace, flat terrain. LI Greenbelt Trail along Great South Bay, with possible extension to Bayard Cutting Arboretum. Suggested donation for non-members is \$3.

AFW. Long Path from Lake Skannatati, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: For info and to register, contact us at adventuresforwomen.org or 973-644-3592. Meet: 9:30am. Easy to moderate hike at a leisurely pace; out by 2pm.

ADK-NJR. Lunch on the Bottle Cap, Harriman State Park, NY. Leaders: P. Tilgner and S. Gordon, browning.27@verizon.net, 201-546-0509. Meet: 9:30am; please register for location. Moderate 7 miles in northern Harriman. Severe weather cancels.

Saturday, December 8

SW. Rockland Lake to Nyack, NY. Leader: Marvin Malater, 718-376-3608; call to confirm hike is still on. Meet: 8:45am at Port Authority bus terminal, south wing by white commuter statues, for 9:15 bus to Rockland Lake (one-way). 7 miles at moderate pace, several climbs. Hike the Long Path with many Hudson River vistas along Hook Mountain ridge. Optional dinner/gallery in Nyack. Suggested donation for non-members is \$3.

Sunday, December 9

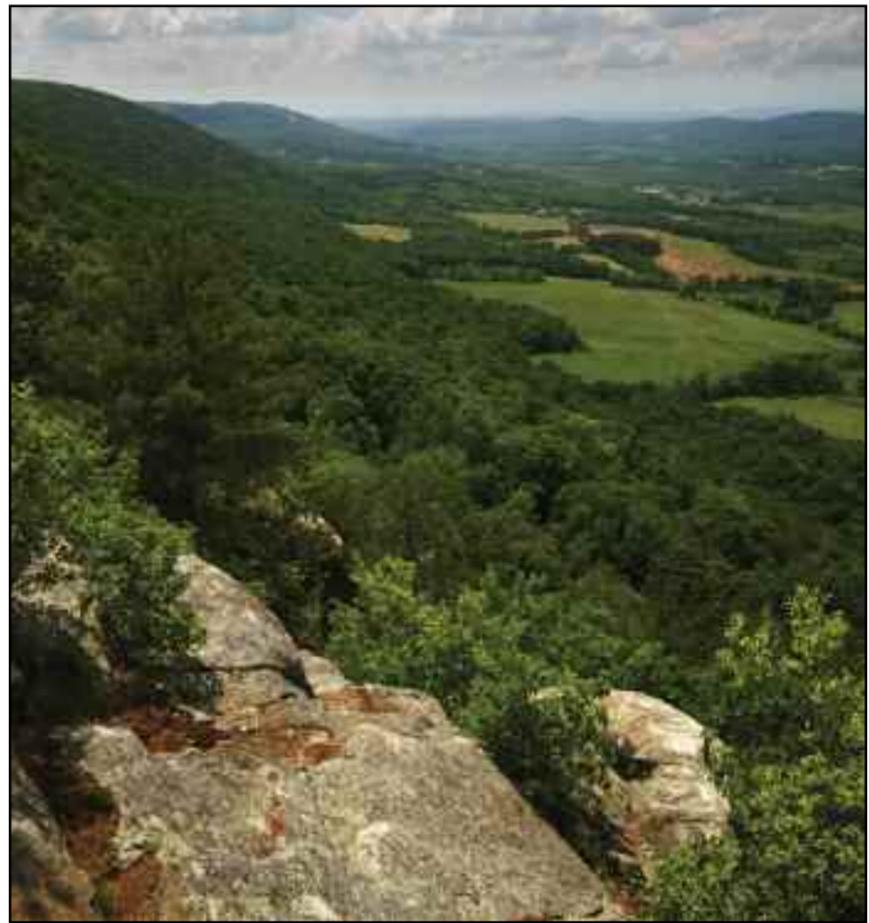
AFW. Black Mountain, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: For info and to register, contact us at adventuresforwomen.org or 973-644-3592. Meet: 9:30am. Moderate to strenuous hike at a moderate pace; out by 2:30pm.

UHC. Merrill Creek Reservoir, NJ. Leader: Pat Horsch, 908-693-8331. Meet: 10am at visitors center parking lot. Easy but scenic 5.5 miles around the reservoir, with a few small hills; suitable for beginners. Bring binoculars if you'd like to view some of the resident birds.

Sunday, December 16

WEC. Monster Mines Hike, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Don Weise, donweise@hotmail.com. Meet: 9:30am; contact leader for meeting place. Fast-paced 9-10 miles. Back by popular demand, hike through beautiful northern Harriman scenery and past several large mines.

AFW. Pyramid Mountain, NJ. Leader: For info and to register, contact us at adventuresforwomen.org or 973-644-3592. Meet: 9am. Moderate hike; out by 2pm.



View from Pinwheel's Vista on Wawayanda Mountain in New Jersey. Photographer Larry Zink is editing a Trail Conference blog on nature photography. See story on page 6.

LARRY ZINK

FOCA/WTA. Old Croton Aqueduct Weir Tour and Hike, NY. Leaders: Herb Hochberg, 914-723-6566, h.hochberg@hotmail.com, and Sara Kelsey, 646-303-1448, saraakelsey@gmail.com. Meet: For 7-mile hike, meet 9am at main parking lot, Croton Gorge Park off Rt. 129, Croton-on-Hudson, NY. For 3-mile hike, meet 9:45am at Caputo Community Center, 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY (shuttle required). Morning for both groups of hikers features short film about Old Croton Aqueduct and walk to Weir, where we'll descend into the original 1842 water tunnel to learn its history. Then explore trails of Crawbuckie Nature Preserve, with lunch overlooking Hudson River. Those hiking 3 miles will then return to starting point. Those hiking the full 7 miles will continue north along the aqueduct to the dam.

GS. Evening Trail Tales, Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, (Chatham) NJ. Leader: For info and to register, contact 973-635-6629 or morrissparks.net. Meet: Hour-long walks 5:30-8:30pm; register for time slot and meeting place. Hear slightly spooky, silly, and nature-themed tales told along the nighttime trails of the Great Swamp. Appropriate for ages 4+; \$5 fee.

IHC. Lake Minnewaska to Gertrude's Nose, NY. Leaders: Charlie Kientzler, 973-835-1060, and Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9:30am at Minnewaska State Park parking (upper lot by the lake); parking fee \$8/car. Or, meet 8am at Harriman RR station, Rt. 17 in Arden, NY, for shuttle. Moderately strenuous 8 miles from Lake Minnewaska up and around Gertrude's Nose, then return via Millbrook Mountain Trail for the view and almost vertical cliffs.

Walk along former carriage roads, through Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, and along the Pocantico River. Rain cancels. Suggested donation for non-members is \$3.

UHC. Tulip Springs, South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319. Meet: 10am at Tulip Springs parking. Moderate 4 miles; about 2 hours.

November

Saturday, November 3

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Gail Waimon, 973-467-4761. Meet: 10am at Trailside Nature Center parking lot on Coles Ave. 4 miles at a brisk pace. Rain cancels.

Sunday, November 4

AFW. Pine Meadow Lake, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: For info and to register, contact adventuresforwomen.org or 973-644-3592. Meet: 9:30am. Moderate hike; out by 2pm.

WEC. Mount Minsi, Delaware Water Gap, PA. Leader: Don Weise, donweise@hotmail.com. Meet: 9:30am; contact leader for meeting place. Moderately challenging 8-10 miles. See the Delaware Water Gap from the quieter Pennsylvania side of the Appalachian Trail.

Saturday, November 10

AFW. Sunrise Mountain, Stokes State Forest, NJ. Leader: For info and to register, contact us at adventuresforwomen.org or 973-644-3592. Meet: 10am. Moderate to strenuous hike at a moderate pace; out by 4pm.

Sunday, November 11

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Lee Fanger, 973-376-3160. Meet: 10am at Tulip Springs parking. Moderate 4+ miles with hills; 2+ hours. Rain cancels.

Saturday, November 17

AFW. Merrill Creek Reservoir, NJ. Leader: For info and to register, contact us at adventuresforwomen.org or 973-644-3592. Meet: 10am. Moderate hike; out by 3pm.

RWW. Saugerties Light House, NY. Leader: For more info call 845-246-9284. Meet: 9am. Easy walk/hike.

SW. Sunken Meadow State Park, Long Island, NY. Leader: Ludwig Hendel, 718-626-3983; call only evening before hike. Meet: 10am at Pennsylvania Station in Manhattan, LIRR ticket windows, for train to Kings Park (RT). 8-9 miles at moderate pace with some hills. Hike on trails and boardwalk along Long Island Sound. Suggested donation for non-members is \$3.

PM. Tripod Rock at Pyramid Mountain. Leader: For more info and to register, call 973-334-3130 or go to www.morrissparks.net. Meet: 1pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, 472A Boonton Ave., Boonton, NJ. Join us for a moderate hike to visit our famous "rock star." Appropriate for ages 7 and up.

The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikers are welcome subject to club regulations and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Wear hiking boots or strong, low-heeled shoes. Bring food, water, rain gear, first aid kit, and a flashlight in a backpack. Leaders have the right and responsibility to refuse anyone whom they believe cannot complete the hike or is not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are relative terms; call leader if in doubt. More than 100 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers' Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Club Codes

Only those clubs with hikes offered in this issue are listed below. Please call numbers listed to confirm.

ADK-NJR	ADK, North Jersey Ramapo	IHC	Interstate Hiking Club
AFW	Adventures for Women	NYHC	New York Hiking Club
AMC-NYNJ	Appalachian Mountain Club, New York-North Jersey Chapter	SW	Shorewalkers
FOCA/WTA	Friends of Old Croton Aqueduct and Westchester Trails Association	NYR	New York Ramblers
GS	Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center	PM	Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area
RLC	Rock Lodge Club	UHC	Union County Hiking Club
RWW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club	UOC	University Outing Club
		WEC	Weis Ecology Center

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference Office. The deadline for the Winter issue is November 15.

Find many more hikes on our website: nynjtc.org/content/scheduled-hikes



Delaware Water Gap: Limited Access to Blue Mountain Lakes Area

Last year's storm damage to Blue Mountain Lakes Road and Skyline Drive 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.

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 closed the westernmost three miles of the Lenape Trail for up to two years. Signs have been posted.

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—Mossy Glen, Blueberry Run, and two over the Peterskill.

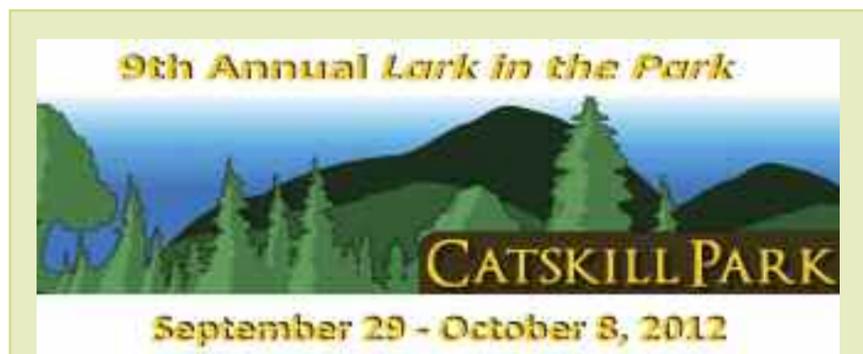
Also at Minnewaska, **some trail color changes that bear repeating:** Scenic Trail is now blazed purple; Rainbow Falls is orange; Jenny Lane is light blue; Old Minnewaska Trail is pink. All were previously blazed Long Path aqua, but have been reblazed following the reroute of the LP through Mine Hollow. 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 Rifle 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.



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.

**FITZGERALD FALLS
continued from page 1**

donated grip hoists, generators, and hammer drills to the crew.

The Rovers scheduled 12 workdays (8 for construction and 4 for various rigging set-ups and quarrying operations) in the 2012 season, which began in April. As of mid-August, they had tallied more than 900 volunteer hours on the project, with an average of 18 volunteers per trip. In

addition, the Rovers are training the ORLD crew in some technical stonework skills. They also shared their work with 30 visitors on June 30, as part of the Warwick AT Community Day celebration. Hikers from age 5 to 80+ were spellbound as the volunteers flew rocks through the air and split boulders with a few well-placed wedges and hammer slams.

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 NY-NJ Trail Conference's support and assistance. Looking forward to fruitful collaborations in the future.

—Curt Collier, Groundwork USA



Student members of the Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization spent hours cleaning up the grounds at the Darlington Schoolhouse, future home for the Trail Conference.



Three Jewish groups joined forces to clear trail on the Fishkill Greenway in Dutchess County.



Ramapo College students spent September 1 clearing new trails in the Fanny Highlands.



Ralph's Peak Hikers Cabin Volunteers (top 2 photos) at 13th A.T. work & eat weekend.



The Orange-Rockland Long Distance Trail Crew had several work trips on the Long Path this summer.



Gely Franke, Joan James, and Ed O'Brien relax after cleanup work on Schunemunk Mountain.

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, Christina Audet, Diane Alden, Bruce Barnes, Marta Bautis, Joanne Beliveau, Ben Burton, Ernst Demm, Wendy Fowler, Matt Frye, Michael Hambouz, Anne Hunter, Phyllis Ianniello, Mary Kissane, Susan Letcher, Michael Lenhardt, Frank Libert, Susy Libert, Kathy Marciniak, Cathy Millington, Geoffrey Millington, Friedel Muller-Landau, Daniel S. Murphy, Khan Nguyen, Elisabeth Oliu, Diane Powers, Susan Predl, Jackson Prouty, Martha Rabson, Virginia Reie, Patricia Salmon, Robert Schucker, Vicki Shiah, Micky Siegel, Anne Crowe Smith, Galen Smith, Gregory J. Smith, Hudson Smith, Karl M. Soehnlein, Louis Spanier, Benjamin Sterman, Emily Sweet, Gene Tadlock, Justin Tucker, Sebastien Venuat, Shelley Waltz, Jeane Welch

Publications Book Field Checker:
Marnie Elder, Gene Wiggins

Trail Corridor Monitor:
Bryan Blackburn

Trail Crew Member:
Timothy St. Thomas

Trail Maintainer:
Frank Asaro, Chris Baker, Jay Beillis, Eugene Carfora, Ted Clancy, Dorota Dabrowska, Kurt Fischer, Wendel George, Timothy Harvell, Patricia Johnston, Mark Kern, Keith Kral, Nicole Lordan, Christopher Losavio, David E. Moskowitz, Raquel Pallak, Robert Reiss, Richard Reynolds, Daniel Rosenstein, Brett Schollman, Richard E. Siegelman, Jeffrey Weintraub, Aaron Wolfe, Martin F. Zumsteg

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



HILLTOP ACRES RESORT
Small resort near Hunter Mountain in Northern Catskills. Beautiful mountain view. Private lake & woods. Ideal for hiking, skiing or relaxing getaway. Central European cuisine. Modestly priced. Open all year. Box 87, Jewett, NY 12444/Tel: 518-734-4580
www.windham-area.com/hilltopacres.htm

HAVEN OFF THE HUDSON
Friendly, historic 3-season wooded community in Westchester County. Co-op offers hiking, tennis, pool, wifi café, social activities, organic community garden. Beautiful Hudson riverfront nearby. Studio, one-bedroom cottages, \$35,000-\$129,000.
www.reynoldshills.org/bungalowshop
Mel: 347-307-4642 or melgarfinkel@yahoo.com

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 Shawangunk Trails (maps)
New edition of North Jersey Trails (maps)
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 Cty.
Wonder Lake State Park in Putnam Cty.
Angle Fly Preserve in Westchester Cty.
An ADA-compliant trail that includes a section of the Appalachian Trail on the summit of Bear Mountain
Mine Hole Trail at Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Ulster County

New Jersey

Jenny Jump State Forest in Warren County, NJ

Major trail relocations and improvements made:

Manaticut Point Trail in Norvin Green State Forest, NJ
Silver Trail in Ramapo Valley Cty Reservation

Conservation

Trail Conference worked with partner, 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 proposals to eliminate it.

Other

Strengthened work in Catskill Mountain Region with the addition of a Program Coordinator
Broke ground on Phase 1 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 641,609 unique visitors; pageviews total 3,087,660.
Our volunteers and staff responded quickly to impacts of Hurricanes Irene and Lee on trails and communities, collecting and sharing information, food, clothes, money, and moral support where it was needed.



JEREMY APGAR

A 2011 highlight was opening the ADA-compliant Appalachian Trail section at the top of Bear Mountain.

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 (\$395,129); and map and book sales (\$299,722). In-kind contributions of services accounted for another \$175,867 of revenues.

Our expenses totaled \$1,974,140. Major components were trail programs

(\$1,132,174) and publications and other program services (\$344,068). The balance were expenses related to fundraising (\$340,346) 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 Darlington 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	Value*
Trail Work	35,919	9,838	45,756	1,173,184
Off-Trail Work	8,816	1,143	9,959	\$255,349
Workshops	3,552	533	4,085	\$104,739
TOTAL	48,286	11,514	59,800	\$1,533,272

*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.

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GEAR CHECK

An occasional series that will review gear appropriate for hiking.



FiveTen Guide Tennie
A climber's shoe good for all-around hiking
Reviewed by Howard E. Friedman DPM

A shoe designed for rock climbers—good for climbing, hiking miles over rocky trails, and providing excellent traction all while carrying heavy climbing gear—is well suited for day hiking and short backpacking trips. I have been wearing the leather Five Ten Guide Tennie, called an “approach” shoe, for 14 months (they are

also available in canvas). I wanted to try these shoes because 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 Ten's proprietary “sticky,” Stealth rubber compound, used for the shoes' raised-dot sole pattern. Second, these shoes can be resoled. Resoling 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 day 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 one pair, men's size 10.5) allow me to feel the ground and react to the terrain. I replaced the sock liner with a Spenco Polysorb insole; there may not be room in the shoe for bulkier arch supports.

The outer leather 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 most of the sole was in good shape). I sent the shoes to a repair shop in Plattsburgh, NY, that specializes in resoling climbing shoes, and they resoled them with the identical Stealth dot 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: While it provides excellent traction, Stealth rubber does seem to wear down more quickly than other rubber soles; the life of the shoes will depend on the resilience of the EVA mid-sole material; when wet, the soles leave a black dot pattern on floors. The spots clean up easily with a paper towel or sponge.

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



Rating: 4.5 boots out of 5

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



iSafe Backpack
Beyond Bear Bells: A Backpack with an Alarm System
Reviewed by Jeff Senterman

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 activated by tugging 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 or 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 animal. 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 carting 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.

Is the iSafe backpack something that I will likely use in the woods? Probably not, but I know several people who would appreciate its features and the extra bit of security it provides.

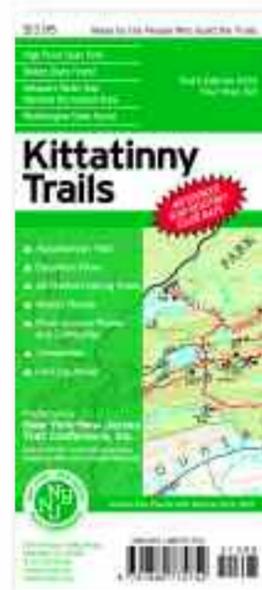


Rating: 3.5 boots out of 5

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

MAP NEWS! New 6th Edition of Kittatinny Trails Map Set Available

This four-map set covers trails and parklands along the Kittatinny Ridge in northwestern New Jersey. 275 miles of marked trails, 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.



Among the more significant trail updates:

- a recent relocation of the Appalachian Trail near Sunfish Pond,
- the newly marked Cliff Park trail system near Milford, Pennsylvania,
- and the now complete McDade Recreational Trail that stretches 32 miles alongside the Delaware River.

Locations of shelters and water sources along the **Appalachian Trail** are now more accurately placed, and additional features along this National Scenic Trail in Pennsylvania are now shown.

This new edition shows more viewpoints and points of interest, and notices of temporary trail and road closures due to storm damage are included. Parking locations are 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 addition to being great trail maps, this set also includes a number of features useful for traveling along the scenic Delaware River. River mileages, access points, and rapids are shown, and river campsite locations have been updated, with the numbers of all campsites now shown.

As with most of our published trail maps, these include 20-foot contour lines, UTM gridlines, green overprint for public access lands, parking areas, viewpoints, camping areas, and other points of interest. As always, the maps are printed in vibrant color on waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek.

At only \$13.95 (\$10.46 for Trail Conference members), this comprehensive map set is a must-have for exploring the vast parklands along the Kittatinny Ridge and adjacent section of the Delaware River. To obtain the revised map set, shop online at www.nynjtc.org, call 201-512-9348, or stop in at the Trail Conference office.

Visit trailpubs.nynjtc.org and click on the **Kittatinny Trails** cover panel for additional resources, including suggested hikes, park contact information and much more!

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

Hunting Seasons 2012

NEW YORK

Special Notes: Bow season starts early this year: October 1.

Also, limited deer hunting will be permitted at Schunemunk Mountain State Park this season. The hunt periods will coincide with DEC's bow, regular, and muzzleloading seasons, but will be limited to 100 permits in total.

Regular and Archery Southern Zone (includes Catskills, Shawangunks, and most of Hudson Valley) – Deer

Bow: Oct. 1 – Nov. 16, Dec. 10 – Dec. 18
Regular: Nov. 17 – Dec. 9
Muzzleloading: Dec. 10 – Dec. 18

Westchester County – Deer Regular (bowhunting only):

Oct. 1 – Dec. 31

Suffolk County – Deer

Regular (bowhunting only):
Oct. 1 – Dec. 31

Special Firearms Season** (special permit, weekdays): Jan. 7 – Jan. 31, 2011

Bear

(most of our region, except Westchester)
Bow: Oct. 1 – Nov. 16, Dec. 10 – Dec. 18
Regular: Nov. 17 – Dec. 9
Muzzleloading: Dec. 10 – Dec. 18

Bear Mountain-Harriman and Sterling Forest State Parks: Hunting is allowed with a park permit in the area of Harriman west of Route 87 and into Sterling Forest State Park. Other areas of Harriman-Bear Mountain are not open to hunting. It is allowed in parts or all of other state parks. Call parks for details.

Black Rock Forest (845-534-4517) closes to all hikers from Nov. 17 through Dec. 9.

For more info about hunting seasons in New York, go to www.dec.ny.gov and follow links for hunting.

NEW JERSEY

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 license agents and at www.njfishandwildlife.com/dighnt.htm

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

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Featured Hike



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.

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.



A housing development abuts the cliff of a former quarry.

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 Nunn, Trail Conference area supervisor, and after securing permissions and approvals from Passaic County, Eagle Scout candidate Will Gentilello led Boy Scout Troop 8 of Montclair, NJ, in scouting, flagging, clearing, and blazing an extended Rifle Camp Trail (yellow blazes) that added 1.5 miles to the 2-mile trail. In addition, Trail Conference volunteers installed a new 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.

Turning 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 also are 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 snack handouts."

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 Nunn. 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 Marinello, 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.

Find a detailed description by 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



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

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