



83rd Year

TRAIL WALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE...MAINTAINING OVER 1500 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2003

Pochuck: A Small Name for a Huge Accomplishment



The Trail Conference's biggest project is finished at last.



After 24 years of planning and heroic volunteer effort—engaging an estimated 500 volunteers who gave nearly 9,000 hours of time, talent and sweat labor—the Pochuck Trail section on the Appalachian Trail in Vernon Township, New Jersey, was officially opened and dedicated on October 20, 2002. The Pochuck Trail is one of the biggest volunteer projects ever accomplished on the AT, and is a significant feather in the cap of the NY-NJ Trail Conference, which was one of the key organizers of the trail's creation. The Conference, along with Vernon Township, hosted the dedication ceremony.

Some 300 people—and one uninjured bear—attended the dedication, which celebrated an extraordinary example of cooperation among very disparate entities in both private and public sectors. The trail's creation was sanctioned by every New Jersey governor since the project was launched in 1982. Co-sponsors included the Appalachian Trail Conference, National Park Service, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and

New Jersey Office of Travel & Tourism.

The Pochuck Trail comprises a mile-long boardwalk, with a 110-foot long wooden suspension bridge, between the Pochuck and Wawayanda Mountains. It was built to provide hikers of all ages and abilities with a safe, off-road alternative to the 2.1-mile stretch of narrow, winding local Route 517, formerly the only connection between two sections of the AT.

The area over which it extends is classified by the National Park Service as an "Exceptional Resource Value Wetland," comprising 240 acres and a 3,000-foot wide floodplain crisscrossed by tributaries and a quagmire into which a hiker can sink waist-deep, even in dry summer months.

Meandering through wetland is Pochuck Creek, a non-delineated river with a 60-foot wide stream channel that can be up to eight feet deep. During extreme rains, the creek may rise six feet or more and be fast-flowing, carrying trees and other debris downstream.

In flood conditions, the entire area resembles the prehistoric lake it once was. More often, it is a beautiful, marshy bog of tall grasses, bushes, and wild flowers surrounded by hardwood and evergreen forest. It is habitat for a variety of threatened and endangered species and offers an extraordinary hiking experience unlike any other on the Appalachian Trail.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference coordinated the Pochuck project. An extraordinary number of dedicated organizations and individuals volunteered time, materials, and manual labor to construct the crossing. Among these were the Appalachian Trail Conference, the National Park Service, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection-Division of Parks & Forests, Vernon Township Municipal Authorities, Purcell Associates Consulting Engineers, Builders Association of North New Jersey, Jersey Central Power & Light, General Public Utilities, Vernon Public Schools, St. Benedicts Prep School, and NY-NJ Trail Conference members.

"Seeing this crossing completed, knowing all the sweat equity that went into it, is one of the most satisfying endeavors of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference," says Ed Goodell, executive director. "It never could have been accom-



plished without a whole lot of goodwill from people with many different interests in the project—and some who definitely did not have interest. Ultimately, everyone pulled together to make it a reality. Now, we take pleasure in hearing the kudos of hikers from all over the world who say they've never had an experience such as this provides."

Oh, about that bear: The day before the Pochuck dedication, the bear ransacked the camping area of the Appalachian Trail Conference's Mid-Atlantic crew, which was wrapping up work at the site. It returned for celebration goodies and was shoed off the boardwalk. 🍃

Stony Kill Falls Access Trail May Be Ready for Spring

Almost two years after the Trail Conference teamed up with the Open Space Institute (OSI) to purchase property with access to Stony Kill Falls on the western edge of Minnewaska State Park, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is poised to give its approval for the building of a trail that will provide the actual access. Until now, visitors could not visit Stony Kill Falls without trespassing on Napanoch Sand & Gravel Co. land.

If work on this trail can begin in early spring, it could be finished during the hiking season. When complete, the trail will include a small parking area near the first gate at the end of Shaft 2A Road. From there the trail will descend to a seasonal stream crossing of the Stony Kill. At certain times of the year, this may be a wet crossing and, at times (after severe rains), impassable.

Once across the Stony Kill, the trail will follow an old road leading upstream for a few hundred yards until it crosses bridgework over a small creek. The trail then climbs onto a plateau that gradually

pulls back and away from the Stony Kill while affording views towards the Falls. Then the trail will ascend a side valley, where there is a beautiful 30-foot cascade near the top. Above the cascade, the stream levels out and emerges from the valley at an elevation of approximately 1550 feet. Here the trail crosses a stream and heads due west to connect with the Stony Kill carriageway that continues on to the top of Stony Kill Falls.

Owing to the foresight and generosity of the many Trail Conference supporters who contributed more than \$115,000, enabling OSI to purchase the property, hikers will soon have legal access to Stony Kill Falls as well as the relatively inaccessible western edge of Minnewaska State Park. Additional thanks go to Trail Conference volunteers Neil Zimmerman, Malcolm Specter, Jan Hesbon, and Larry Braun, and Bob Anderberg of OSI for making this dream come true.

For additional news on the Conference's Shawangunk Ridge preservation work, please turn to Advocacy & Conservation on page 3. 🍃

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NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

Mission Statement

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, founded in 1920, 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 protection and advocacy.
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is a federation of 88 hiking and outdoor groups, and 10,000 individuals.

from the president's notepad...

The Trail Conference as Inspiring Teacher

Educating the public about the responsible use of trails and the natural environment is as much a part of our organization as preserving open space and maintaining trails. Hiking is not just a matter of putting one foot in front of the other. Hikers recognize that they need to know about equipment, trail marking, destinations, weather, and fitness. To insure that there is a place to hike, they also need to be aware that trail lands need protecting and that trails need to be maintained. At the same time, hikers need to know that in some places, their footsteps can cause irreparable harm, by creating erosive conditions, for example, or by trampling on rare and endangered species of plants.

Educating the public and even our own members takes many forms, and the Trail Conference takes advantage of as many of them as possible in order to promote hiking. We publish books, maps, a website, and this newspaper; it is why we have an outreach program in Harriman, are present at corporate health fairs, and present curriculum ideas for science teachers at a teachers convention. Sometimes this education work is as simple as answering trail questions that come into the office via email or telephone; other times it is members talking to folks on the trail about what

they see and what they are doing.

Our publishing activities, on the other hand, amount to a full-fledged business, one that generates significant financial support for our organization. Currently we publish 11 map sets and 10 books including the 7th edition of the *New York Walk Book*, which was first published in 1923. For an organization as small as ours, our efforts, as a small press, in the past 12 months are remarkable—we published one new book and three new editions. Our publications offer great hike destinations, how to get to those places (including public transportation information), and what to see. These books and maps are a very important component of our education program and have helped generate interest in and expand the accessibility of many of our area's most beautiful hiking areas. Many have been introduced to the outdoors, and of course the Trail Conference, through our publications.

Outreach events such as our guided, introductory summer hikes at Harriman Park or promotional booths at corporate health fairs expand our sphere of influence to portions of the population not usually seen on trails and to others interested in improving their lifestyle. Volunteers

who have led the hikes report back enthusiastically about how much they enjoyed sharing the woods with others. Additionally, board member Daniel Chazin began writing a weekly "Hike of the Week" article for the *Bergen Record* under Trail Conference auspices.

Our science initiatives are just beginning. This past year there have been articles in the *Trail Walker* detailing the natural history and ecological context of our region's trails. We also began a new program of natural heritage monitoring, in which volunteers conduct field research to track the status of endangered or threatened species of plants over time.

What else can we do to promote hiking and its benefits? Think about your life, your work, and how it connects or might connect to hiking. As an example, this fall Art Lebofsky, an educator and board member, had an idea for promoting hiking to science teachers. At a booth at both the New York and the New Jersey science teachers conferences, Art gave away materials and talked with teachers about using trails as teaching venues. The Trail Conference board would like to hear other creative ideas. Please contact us with your thoughts at: info@NYNJTC.org.

—Jane Daniels

L · E · T · T · E · R · S

The Trail Walker welcomes letters to the editor. They may be edited for style and length. Send to tw@nynjtc.org or to Trail Walker, NYNJTC, 156 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430.

Familiarity Breeds Pride of Place

The Nov/Dec 2002 *Trail Walker*, took me from a feeling of adventure, back to the everyday reality of what it is like to be a volunteer.

As I read "Never a Dull Night on Friday Mountain," I could feel the adventure and excitement of being on that mountain, but what I felt most was a sense of ownership and love that the author felt for his favorite place. I share that sense of ownership and love because I am a trail steward. In my volunteer work I have come to feel ownership for the piece of trail and the section of mountain that I care for every season. I have also seen the splitting trees, the bear tracks, and the special rock formations. And I can also say "don't sell my section short," because sometimes I feel that hiking anywhere else is dull in comparison to the familiarity and sense of pride I enjoy from volunteer work.

When I read "Putting a Value on Your

Time," I came back to the practical reality of volunteering. My first reaction to the title was: "you couldn't pay enough for the time I have given to the trail." I work for a living like everybody else, and although I'd like to believe that everything is so peaceful and "nice" when you volunteer, I didn't find it to be any better or worse than my paying job. I just found some opportunities and rewards that weren't in the description for my regular job. As much as I enjoy the trail work, I still have to commute to work every week.

I don't think it is easy for anyone (working or retired) to find time to get out on the trail or write a report. I really do feel that our time is worth every penny that was quoted. I am glad to see recognition for the actual monetary value of what we give to the trails. I also applaud efforts to recruit more volunteers. Thank you.

Michael Rea,
Bellvale, New York
Volunteer, AT, West Hudson

Additional Hoeflerlin Award Winner

The list of William Hoeflerlin Award winners in the last issue was minus one: John Magerlein, supervisor for the trails

in Fahnstock State Park and Hubbard Perkins Conservation Area. The awards are made annually by the TC board and recognize extraordinary dedication to the cause of trail preservation.

John has been supervisor for the trails in Fahnstock State Park since 1991 and has had responsibility added for the trails in Hubbard Perkins and more recently for Teatown Lake Reservation.

John's commitment to trails is evident in a number of ways. He takes maintainers out to train them and introduce them to their section before he lets them maintain. He is a certified chain sawyer and has been an instructor in Maintenance 101. Supervising the trails is a family project with his wife Karen officially helping and his six-year-old son Tom, helping unofficially.

Off trail, John has helped with the 6th and the 7th editions of the *Walk Book*. He rewrote two chapters and oversaw the work for two others for the 6th Edition and did the revisions for the 7th. In the latter case, he and his wife researched new material for inclusion.

Joshua Erdsneker
Volunteer Projects Director
NY-NJ Trail Conference



from the Executive Director

Blazing Trails to Our Future

Conservation and advocacy, trails development, education: Trail Conference volunteers accomplished prodigious work in our mission areas in 2002 with assistance from staff. Some highlights of the year's achievements remind us of the breadth and depth of activities we embrace in our pursuit of trails development, even as we consider new initiatives for the future.

Conservation and Advocacy

• The year began when we presented expert testimony regarding the proposed development for Sterling Forge—the hole in the donut of Sterling Forest State Park.

• Our work on the Shawangunk Ridge continued unabated, fueled by the generous outpouring of support from Trail Conference members. By the end of the year, the Trail Conference had 1,300 acres under option, another 3,000 acres with willing sellers, and had presented several workshops to town officials.

• In late spring the Trail Conference hosted a symposium on off-road vehicle (ORV) use on state lands, which produced an ORV position paper that was submitted to the State of New Jersey. Just this fall, the state released a revised ORV policy that contained many of the enforcement provisions we sought. Along the way, the proposal for the Extreme Habitat ORV Park in West Milford went into deep hibernation.

• In the summer, hundreds of Trail Conference members attended a public meeting demanding to know when Storm King State Park could be reopened. As a result, 70 percent of the park is now reopened and we are working on the remaining 30 percent (see page 10).

Trail Development

• The biggest trails event was the opening of the one-mile boardwalk and suspension bridge crossing of the Pochuck Creek wetland (see story on page 1).

• Earlier, in spring, the Trail Conference cooperated with Scenic Hudson to build a 35-foot bridge over Mombasha Creek at the Southfields' Furnace in Sterling Forest State Park.

• In September, our volunteer trail crews quickly constructed the Twin Forts Trail connecting Bear Mountain's Trailside Museum with the recently renovated Fort Montgomery Bridge.

• The trail crew then moved to rehabilitating the trails on Storm King Mountain.

• In November, trail and chainsaw crews went further west, assisting High Point State Park in New Jersey and Minnewaska State Park in New York to clear downed trees resulting from an early-season ice storm (see page 4).

• Finally, the Trail Conference cooperated with Palisades Interstate Park Commission to submit a proposal to reconstruct the bridge over Popolopen Creek in Bear Mountain State Park.

Education

Trail Conference President Jane Daniels talks about our organization's education work in her column, including several new projects initiated in 2002 and our ambitious publications agenda (see opposite page).

What do we do for an encore?

First, we keep doing what we do so well. What more? Let me sketch out a few ideas that have been bouncing around my

mind lately. I break these ideas into five general categories: protection, access, stewardship, education, and tools.

Trail lands protection

• Enlarge and strengthen the Outdoor Fund—our revolving land acquisition fund used for land purchases and protection.

• Create an advocacy partnership in New Jersey similar to our successful one with ADK in New York.

• Integrate our professional advocacy more seamlessly with grassroots advocacy by working with our member clubs more closely.

Access

• Increase the number of trail crews in the field to help state, municipal, and private landowners.

continued on page 8



MAHWAH OFFICE METAMORPHOSIS

You've played in the mud on the trails...now come play indoors. The Conference is redesigning its office to increase meeting space, create a more pleasant working area for volunteers, and allow room for additional staff.

Four types of volunteers will be essential to the transformation:

Crew leader

A general contractor to take charge of the entire project; you've cut down trees, built bridges...please help take down a few walls!

Crewmember

Crew members will work with the leader on the demolition and re-construction of our office space. They will help remove walls, build new ones, rearrange the current office furniture configuration, and more. Be sure to wear sturdy boots; we will provide the water.

Trail Designer

We need someone who can help design and coordinate the layout of our office furniture to maximize space and increase efficiency.

File Rescue Leader

We need your help to rescue our filing system! There are nine essential cabinets that need to be downsized and reorganized. You are needed to lead the staff in designing a filing structure that is well organized and documented.

Call or email Josh Erdsnecker (josh@nynjtc.org) today to sign up for this Trail Conference adventure.

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

SHAWANGUNK RIDGE

❖ Development Proposals

Details are not yet available, but spokespeople for the owner of a 2700-acre parcel known as the Awosting Reserve, nestled below and adjacent to both Minnewaska State Park and Sam's Point Preserve, have made known that John Bradley plans to develop high-end housing and a golf course on the land.

Those with an interest in protecting the natural environment of the ridge are preparing for what many expect to be a large and protracted effort to prevent the development from degrading the environment. Neil Zimmerman, chair of the TC Conservation and Advocacy Committee, notes: "The NY-NJ Trail Conference is very concerned about newspaper accounts of a major development on the lands of the Awosting Reserve. This large property borders the backcountry areas of Minnewaska State Park Preserve and their boundary runs right up against Gertrude's Nose. However, it is important to note that the owner/developer has not yet revealed any specific plans. They have not yet requested any permits or zoning exceptions. Until something is presented to local and

state agencies, there is nothing for NY-NJ Trail Conference to comment on or react to.

"In the meantime, however, we can educate ourselves on the relevant issues. Plans are in the works for a coalition of various interest groups to follow this issue closely and work to ensure an outcome that protects the valuable environmental and cultural resources of the northern Shawangunk ridge."

Bradley's development partner is Chaffin Light Associates.

The following websites are relevant to those following this issue:

- www.shawangunkridge.org: Shawangunk Ridge Coalition
- www.nynjtc.org/clubpages/fos.html for Friends of the Shawangunks
- www.savethegunks.com: created by a resident of Gardiner
- www.chaffinlight.com: John Bradley's development partner

❖ View 3-D Gunks Maps Online

New three-dimensional GIS (Geographic Information System) maps of the Shawangunk Region commissioned by the Trail Conference can now be viewed at

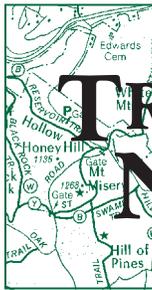
www.shawangunkridge.org. These maps, as well as a very informative viewshed map showing all the surrounding locations that would be able to see the proposed eight-story casino at Route 17 on top of the ridge, are excellent resources for those interested in ridge preservation issues. The maps were produced by former TC intern Bernd Kuchar.

❖ Ridge Coalition

Members of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition began in November to take the steps necessary to make the confederation a self-sustaining entity. The Coalition is a group of some 25 organizations, both national and local, created and thus far sustained by the Trail Conference to coordinate strategies that aim to protect the ridge environment. Members divided into three action groups at their third meeting, held at the Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center: Communication, Funding, and Grassroots Organizing.

For updates on Shawangunk Ridge news, visit www.shawangunkridge.org.

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TRAIL NEWS



Volunteers clear Blueberry Run at Minnewaska State Park

Ice Storm Devastates Area Parks; TC Crews Out in Force

Trail Conference volunteers were out in force in November and December, helping to clear trails throughout the region after a mid-November storm devastated several area parks. The November 16-17 storm deposited several inches of freezing rain and snow in the higher elevation forests of the Shawangunk Ridge, and broken limbs, toppled trees, and downed power lines blocked trails, roads, and carriageways in state parks and private preserves.

Trails Director Larry Wheelock noted that TC Supervisors Larry Braun, for Minnewaska, and Shawn Viggiano, for High Point, "have done a wonderful job coordinating the volunteers to help in these parks."

Minnewaska State Park was closed for several days as crews worked to clear the main access road, parking lots, and the carriageway around the lake. And, with electric lines still down, the park staff spent Thanksgiving weekend moving its offices from its mountaintop facilities to the small but still powered building at the Peters Kill Area adjacent to Route 44/55. It may be months, staff reported, before power is restored to facilities around Lake Minnewaska. A warming hut made available to the park's cross-country skiers during the winter season is likely to be an-

Maintainer's Toolkit



If you have created an efficient gizmo to move heavy objects (see below), an easy *whadayacallit* to carry paint, or can list the pros and cons you have encountered in using relevant handtools—either old reliables or those new to the market—please send your thoughts along to tw@nynjtc.org and share them with other maintainers. A photo or illustration of the object of your affection (or detestation) will be helpful. We will run this as an occasional feature—more often if we get enough submissions.

We begin with

David Day's ROCK NET

After countless time spent re-wrapping a loosened chain around a rock we were moving, I decided there had to be something better. Nylon webbing was certainly a good approach—if you were not dragging the rock over the ground. What made the webbing great was that it cinched up on the rock and held it, no matter how it was shaped; but dragging it over rocks and ledges would ruin a nylon web in a heartbeat.

I toyed with the idea of using a more durable material in a manner similar to the web. Nothing much came to mind that didn't take major work to construct and/or cost a fortune. So, back to chain—it's cheap, durable, and easy to work with. By making a kind of net bag out of chain, I got what I was after. The cross pieces of the net make the whole thing hold onto the rock, conforming to whatever shape the rock presents; while the flying ends make enclosure quite flexible and easy.

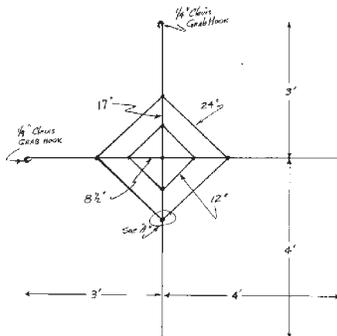
I used 1/4-inch proof coil chain, which has a load rating of 1800# per strand. Since there will always be at least two strands holding the rock at any given time (and most rocks I plan to move are in the sub 900# class), that seems like good tradeoff between strength and weight. If you expect to move bigger stuff, just scale up the chain and fittings! (You

may also want to make the legs of the "X" longer.)

Please feel free to tinker with this design idea. I have made a couple of them like this for our crews and they are a huge success. If you have suggestions, ideas, whatever—just pass the word back along.

Using the rock net is simplicity itself.

Spread the net out on the ground alongside the intended rock so that it is lined up



with the rock, and far enough away to allow you to roll the rock onto it and have the rock land on the "X" made by the two cross chains.

Roll the rock onto the net, keeping the chain as flat as possible.

Pull the cross chains up and use the grab hook to connect the diagonal corners to each other. (Sometimes a big rock won't permit them to reach. In that case, connect the two same-side corners and use a short web "choker" to link the two loops.)

Place a shackle around the crossed chains (or on the web choker between them) and attach your lifting hook and

haul away.

MATERIALS

- (2) 7 feet of 1/4-inch proof chain
- (1) 4 feet of 1/4-inch proof chain
- (1) 8 feet of 1/4-inch proof chain
- (2) 1/4-inch grab hooks, clevis style
- (11) 3/8 inch hex bolts (grade 3+)
- (22) 3/8 inch flat washers
- (22) 3/8 inch hex nuts

ASSEMBLY

To make all chain fastenings:

- place a flat washer on the bolt
- place the two chain links on the bolt
- place another flat washer on top
- tighten the first nut down firmly
- tighten a second nut down hard, jamming the two nuts together.

- Cross the two 7-foot chains so that they cross at 3 feet, leaving a 4-foot tail. Fasten the crossed chains, making an "X".

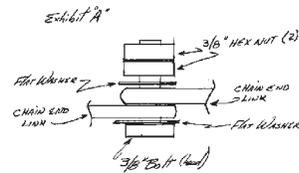
- The inner net ring should have 12-inch long sections fastened to the cross chains 8.5 inches from the center. It is made from the 4-foot piece of chain. Don't overlap the ends, just fasten them on adjoining links.

- The outer net ring should have 24-inch long sections fastened to the cross chains 17 inches from the center. Don't overlap the ends, just fasten them on adjoining links.

- Attach the two grab hooks, via their clevis, to the 3-foot (shorter) ends of the two cross chains.

Voila! You have a chain basket, aka, rock net.

—David H. Day
pinerock@trailstobuild.com



other casualty of the storm.

According to a news report in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, about 400 acres at Black Rock Forest were also damaged, although other Hudson Highlands parks and Schunemunk Mountain were thought to have been spared. Hemlocks, pines, and oaks were especially hard hit.

Officials at Minnewaska, neighboring Mohonk Preserve, and at High Point State Park in New Jersey expected all roads and trails would be open by the time of publication of this newsletter. However, damage was still being assessed at deadline, and it is recommended that those planning outings in these areas call ahead to confirm that your planned route is open. Contact Minnewaska S. P. at: 845-255-0752, High Point S. P. at: 973-875-4800, and Mohonk Preserve at 845-255-0919.

A spokesperson for the Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 3 office in New Paltz, reported that the Catskills seemed to have escaped the storm's worst effects. There was more snow than rain in the more northern areas, and the fact that virtually all trees in the Catskills had lost their leaves—unlike many of the trees in the Shawangunks—left them less susceptible to damage from ice and snow. As work progressed on clearing roads and pathways in the Gunks and elsewhere, concerns turned to the possible future impact of the damage on the health of the forest. The large amount of debris may increase the potential for fire, and damage to still-standing trees may leave them more vulnerable to pests and disease. There are also concerns that conditions may have been created that will fa-

vor the spread of exotic and invasive plant species.

More Trail News on page 10.

Thank You!

Deep appreciation for their work in helping park staff clear trails following the November ice storm goes to the following TC volunteers:

In New Jersey (High Point)

Bob Boyle, Jim and Debbie Cowell, Jim Gilmore, Robert Haemmerle, Peter Kohlberger, Robert Sickley III, Mike Rosenthal, Shawn Viggiano, Steve Weissman, Larry Wheelock

In New York (Minnewaska and Sam's Point)

Steve Banyascki, Larry Braun, Roland Breault, Bill Consiglio, Jean-Claude Fouere, Colleen Kelly, Eric Meyer, George Muller, Chris Reyling, Rob Segal, Mike Selender, Rob Sklar, Stuart Shakman, Lorraine Valentini, Dave Webber, Georgette Weir



Volunteers Joe Gardner, Clark Galloway, Paul Praus, and Jennifer Thorne help clean up the new Long Path northern terminus.

New Long Path North Terminus Announced

The Long Path North Hiking Club reports that the off-road northern terminus of the Long Path has a new look, thanks to the Open Space Institute, the County of Albany, Selkirk-Cogen, and many volunteer workers. The trail now ends at an old limestone quarry, a 13-acre tract previously owned by the county, which recently sold it to the Open Space Institute.

The site had become an unofficial community dump, and volunteers from the LPNHC worked over the summer and fall to clean up the mess. Hundreds of hours of labor, and the filling of several trucks and a large dumpster, resulted in an almost pristine area—the remaining eyesore, an abandoned bus, is to be cut up and disposed of. The pot-holed access road to the site was gravelled by work crews from Thacher Park.

The Selkirk-Cogen firm provided funds for the clean-up and will pay to have an interpretive kiosk placed at the site. OSI plans to turn the property over to the State of New York as a further extension of John Boyd Thacher State Park.

—Fred Schroeder,
Long Path North Hiking Club

Catskill Women Re-Roof and Rejuvenate McKenley Hollow Lean-to

The Catskills' McKenley Hollow lean-to has a new cedar-shingle roof in place of the old asphalt-shingles-over-tar-paper, a new sunken fire pit in place of the old bonfire-generating ring, new landscaping, and



no graffiti—all thanks to a local group called Celebrating Catskill Mountain Women. The group was formed in response to an international effort—part of the UN-designated International Year of the Mountain—to bring recognition to

Friends of the Shawangunks is one of 80 member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference and is a frequent collaborator with the TC on Shawangunk issues. Friends, as it is popularly called, will likely lead any challenge that may be made to an expected development proposal for the Awosting Reserve, a privately held 2700-acre forest adjacent to Mimmewaska State Park and Sam's Point Preserve (see story on page 3). The following profile of the group was prepared by one of its current board members.

Forty years ago the beauty and serenity of the Shawangunks was in tact, surviving as much from disinterest as anything else. But then developers started proposing major projects—beginning with a ridgetop highway in 1963—and individuals committed to preserving the ridgeline's natural beauty organized. Friends of the Shawangunks was born out of the successful fight to stop that highway, and during the four decades since, has been first to the front lines to combat every attack on the natural integrity of the mountains.

The Friends of the Shawangunks is an advocacy organization dedicated to preserving the natural beauty and environment of the Shawangunk Ridge for the benefit of everyone. Its sister organization, The Shawangunk Conservancy, buys and protects land for public use in this area. Many groups are dedicated to the enjoy-



ment and protection of the Shawangunks; among them, Friends stands out for its aggressively activist mission.

Friends of the Shawangunks is not reluctant to take legal actions where they are meaningful, and the organization has proved its mettle time and again in confronting land developers, loggers, and speculators on the ridge. Perhaps its biggest effort was leading the opposition to the Marriott Corporation's proposal to construct a 400-room hotel and 300 condominium units at Lake Minnewaska in the 1980s. The success of this fight finally resulted in the state acquiring the property and establishing Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

Friends is an independent, watchdog group of volunteers who believe it is necessary that our organization be able to act quickly—especially given the problems that this unique natural resource, located only 70 miles from New York City, faces today. The issues tell the tale: casinos and cell phone towers are proposed for the top of the ridge, second homes blossom on the

slopes, and new, sometimes inappropriate, recreational demands all need the vigilant attention that Friends of the Shawangunks can provide.

With fewer than 700 members, Friends is a small group as environmental organizations go, but through 39 years its impact has been great. Our activities range from the mundane road cleanups we regularly do along routes 44/55 through The Trapps, to a festive annual members meeting with organized hikes to newly protected or endangered areas that the average hiker might not normally visit. Our newsletter, *Shawangunk Watch*, regularly includes articles on the history of the ridge, trail descriptions, and ecological information while primarily keeping our community up-to-date on current threats to the Shawangunks and strategies for dealing with them.

For a sample issue of *Shawangunk Watch*, and information about joining Friends of the Shawangunks, you can write to us at PO Box 270, Accord, NY 12404; or send an email to gunks@hotmail.com.

—Thomas Nozkowski

Thomas Nozkowski is a member of the board of The Friends of the Shawangunks.

West Jersey Crew Report

The West Jersey Crew completed its third successful year—finishing its founding project at Worthington State Park and participating in the final chapters of the Pochuck AT boardwalk.

The start of the 2002 season found the crew at Pochuck in April and May, though work was delayed a week owing to a wildfire at the site. Truckloads of material were hauled in by the crew, which followed up with a full weekend of construction work on the boardwalk—driving piers and hanging joists, to driving screws into the deck boards.

The crew then turned its attention to the Mt. Tammany Trail in Worthington. This time the focus was on a new connector trail to link the two previously constructed trailheads, one in each parking lot. Working with railroad ties and power tools provided by the park, the crew installed timber steps and timber-edged tread, to withstand the trail's amazingly heavy use.

Starting at the end of June and continuing throughout the summer, many unscheduled work trips were added for the Pochuck project. West Jersey Crew members worked alongside those from the North Jersey crew, folks from the ATC, and others.

In September, the final push for Pochuck completion was on; two back-to-back full weekends were scheduled. The core crew turned out, and were again joined by the many others who had been working on Pochuck. The work progressed marvelously well, and on September 14—one day ahead of plan—the final piece of the boardwalk

was put in place. A grateful shout was heard!

Returning to Worthington in October, the crew completed the connector link between the two lots—the last of the trailhead work for the Mt. Tammany Trail. All totaled, there were well over 150 timbers cut, carried, placed, and spiked in, forming terraced steps, curved staircases, and hundreds of feet of reinforced side-hill tread. Finally, in November, the crew rounded up the fall season on Mt. Tammany, with a day of rock steps, terraces, and waterbars.

Thanks to all who participated in one or more work trips with the West Jersey Crew: Jack Baccaglino, Lou Baldanza, Mary-Nell Bockman, Bob Boysen, Roland Breault, Ian Burndell, Gordon Campbell, Jackie Corrieri, Ellen Cronan, Dan DeMatteo, Garth Fisher, Andrea Grier, Don Griffin, Bob Hagon, Alan Herschenfeld, Ben Herschenfeld, John Hitchcock, Bob Jonas, Bob Kirk, Ester Kirk, Karen Kirk, Sarah Kirk, Rich Rosencrans Jr., Rich Rosencrans Sr., Karen Rosencrans, Jonathan Sauer, Roger Sauer, David Schmitz, Arch Seamans, Rob Shaver, Bob Sickley, Margrethe Siem, Patrick Thompson, Denise Vitale, Maureen Walsh, Peter Weckesser, and Larry Wheelock.

We'll be back out there in the spring!

—David Day and Monica Resor,
Crew leaders

continued on page 8

HIKER'S MARKETPLACE

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Catskill Trails: A Ranger's Guide to the High Peaks Book One: The Northern Catskills (2000)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$2.00	_____
Book Two: The Central Catskills (2000)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$2.00	_____
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Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years (2001)	\$27.50	\$22.00	+\$3.00	_____
Combo-Packs				
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NY & NJ Walk Books	\$32.35	\$25.85	+\$3.50	_____
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From the Trail Conference ARCHIVES

Robert Latou Dickinson: Walk Book Illustrator



The big three: Dickinson, Place, and Torrey

Although Robert Latou Dickinson (1861-1950) is frequently cast as an icon of hiking (he is the one at left in this often published illustration of three hikers), his obituary in the *New York Times* made little mention of his work in and for the hiking community. We are told he was a gynecologist and a past president of the American Gynecological Society, the New York Obstetrical Society, and other medical groups. Dr. Dickinson was made Assistant Chief of the Medical Section of the National Council of Defense during the First World War, and also served with the rank of lieutenant colonel as medical adviser to the General Staff. In 1919 and 1926 he headed missions to China for the Public Health Service. With fellow sculptor Abram Belskie, he developed the "Birth Series" exhibit for the New York World's Fair in 1939-40. He was the first important medical figure to align with Margaret Sanger and the Planned Parenthood movement.

Clearly a record that is more than distinguished. In the hiking community, however, Dickinson is probably best known as the original illustrator of the *New York Walk Book*. That book was apparently his second foray into publishing about hiking.

On October 28, 1921, in the outings page of the *New York Evening Post*, we learn that "the AGS [American Geographical Society] has just issued a booklet on the Palisades Interstate Park by Dr. Rob-

ert Latou Dickinson, a physician practicing in New York. Dr. Dickinson, whose hobby is mapping and sketching, has long explored every nook of the Palisades."

In 1923 the first edition of the *New York Walk Book* was published by the AGS. The book is designated as the American Geographical Society Outing Series No. 2 with Raymond Torrey, Frank Place, and Dickinson listed as authors and pen sketches by Dickinson. The three men collaborated splendidly; "We have brought out a book and the authors are still good friends,"

marveled Dickinson. (In the hardcover edition of the book, which is designated "Special Edition," Dr. Dickinson's booklet on the Palisades is bound in at the rear and designated as first of the outing series.)

In the April 1952 issue of *Reader's Digest*, author David Loth wrote an article entitled "The Most Unforgettable Character I've Met" about his acquaintance with Dickinson. Loth was living in a house overlooking the Hudson from the Palisades when his friend Dr. Dickinson came to visit on a hot summer day; Dickinson was then 89 years old and had walked 12 miles to see him and to sketch new drawings for a revised edition of the *Walk Book*. Loth recalled that many times over the years Dickinson had said, "What you do for yourself in this world doesn't matter. It's what you do for others."

By either measure Dr. Dickinson was a man who mattered. His illustrations continue to be used in updated editions of the *New York Walk Book*.

—Jules Orkin
Trail Conference Archivist

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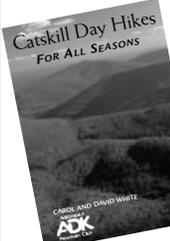
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Elizabeth Levels Memorial Fund Supports Eagle Scout AT Project

Tom DeGregorio, of Ossining, NY, completed a very ambitious Eagle Scout project this past summer—replacing the walk over a wet area on a stretch of the Appalachian Trail in Putnam County. The area lies next to the intersection of Routes 403 and 9 in Garrison, NY, and the existing boardwalk was frequently under water. Tom's project was the largest ever undertaken by a youth group for the Trail Conference.

To support his work, the Trail Conference named Tom the recipient of the first grant from the Elizabeth Levers Memorial Fund for Youth Projects. He demonstrated his fund-raising skills by matching



Tom DeGregorio stands in front of the rebuilt AT walkway in Putnam.

the dollars of the grant almost ten to one (not counting the volunteer labor—nine youth, eight adults for a total of 285 hours).

The quality of the construction matches or exceeds that of any of our local volunteer crews. Even in a dry year like this, the old puncheon was frequently under water for part of its length. The new one is the Conference's first experiment using Trex as a rot-proof support—part of the effort to find alternatives to toxic pressure-treated woods used for years in outdoor construction projects.

Walt Daniels, supervisor of the project for the Trail Conference, said: "Tom has set a standard that we hope other youth volunteers can come close to meeting."

Torrey Society Hikes in Storm King

The annual Torrey Society Hike recognizes those individuals who donate more than \$500 per year to the Trail Conference. This year's hike on October 5 was especially noteworthy. Thanks to Carol Ash, Executive Director of Palisades Interstate Park, the Conference was permitted to hike on Storm King prior to its being open to the public. Hikers enjoyed a beautiful day augmented with sharpshin hawks flying after prey and black vultures

circling on thermals.

Prior to the hike, Jane Daniels, President of the TC board, presented Bob Marshall, who is stepping down as West Hudson Trail Crew Chief, with an 1891 map of the Hudson River including Peekskill and Bear Mountain.

Special thanks go to John Bleninger, who repainted the blazes and made the trail ready for use.

Frank Bamberger Keeps an Eye on TC Sales

The Trail Conference earns 30 percent of its revenue from the sale of its books and maps. A large portion of that revenue comes from sales to retail stores, which requires tracking inventory, sales, and payments.

How do we make sure we get paid for those sales? We find an incredible volunteer

like Frank Bamberger, whose charm and persistence has managed to keep our accounts receivable at half the amount they use to be, which means more money in our bank account and available to support the Trail Conference's many projects.

Frank believes in treating people with respect, and it shows in how our customers love him. Administrative Director Maureen Walsh recalls a client who "was sad when they had no more outstanding invoices, because they enjoyed talking to him."

Frank first joined the Trail Conference in 1975. He credits his mother for his love



of the outdoors. "She grew up in the Black Forest in Germany," he reports. "I have pictures of her mountain climbing, wearing a skirt."

In 1940 his family fled from Nuremberg, Germany, to Queens, New York, where Frank still lives. He has traveled extensively, cross country skiing in the Alps, hiking in Italy with Greenways of

England, joining an outdoor excursion in Thailand with a British group, the Ramblers. He most recently returned from a visit to China. Frank keeps in touch with people he meets on all of these trips and shows visitors around New York as a Big Apple Greeter.

Frank, who is retired from his work as a credit manager for a distributor of packing materials, starts his day at 6 am, listening to BBC and perhaps to some classical music throughout the day, "especially choral music," he says. "There's a serenity, something spiritual that's similar to enjoying nature." 

About Our Members

❖ Alexander G. Gonzalez recently received the Finger Lakes Trail Conference's Clar-Willis Award for design, construction, maintenance, and sponsorship of his section of the Finger Lakes Trail in southwestern Cortland County.

❖ TC board member Brian Goodman was the subject of an admiring profile in the November 17 issue of *The Journal News* in Westchester. Goodman is a former banker who, in 1992, took on the job of site manager of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail. His loving stewardship of the 26-mile linear trail is credited with increasing its popularity over the years, to the point that it now boasts 600,000 visitors annually. Goodman stepped down from the post at the end of 2002.

❖ Member club Rip Van Winkle Hikers was the subject of a November 18 story in the *Kingston Freeman* in Ulster County. The club organized a special outing to celebrate Halloween and hiked up Overlook Mountain in costume. The club has some 125 members from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

IN MEMORIAM

The Trail Conference mourns the loss of two dedicated volunteers: Palmer Langdon, who regularly gave his time in the office when the Trail Conference was headquartered in New York City; and Peter Howell, of New Paltz, who was a long-time maintainer and volunteer at Sam's Point.

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS

The Trail Conference is powered by volunteers. Without the dedication of its members, we cannot be successful in accomplishing our mission. The Conference offers the following new and interesting opportunities for members to get involved. If you want to volunteer with the TC and don't see an opportunity that suits you, please contact Volunteer Projects Director Joshua Erdsneker at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

Marketing Committee Members

The Marketing Committee is looking for additional members. This highly motivated committee is growing and could use additional assistance. Opportunities include: creating a Conference brand statement, working with the press, marketing our guide books and maps, and many more activities. Join this great group of dedicated volunteers.

Digital Photo Archivist

The Trail Conference is digitizing its photographic archives and seeks volunteers who can help scan images and organize their filing. Experience using a scanner and CD burner technology is required.

General Office Help

Are you looking for something to do during the week? Grab a friend and come over to the office. We have a wide variety of tasks to engage you, from organizing mailings, answering and making phone calls,

to working on special projects, and many more exciting challenges. Don't hesitate, call Josh now!

Trail Walker Advertising Manager

Contribute to the Trail Walker! We need a volunteer to coordinate the sale of advertisements for the newsletter. This person will manage the communication between TW staff and our current advertisers and solicit new advertisers. Interested volunteers should be comfortable working with deadlines, be outgoing, and familiar with desktop publishing. Previous advertising and sales experience is not necessary, but helpful.

Database Clean up

Have you worked with a database before? If so, then we could use your expertise. Volunteers are sought to help update and maintain our FileMaker-based database. Previous experience with FileMaker is not necessary.

Delegates' and Membership Meeting February 13

All Trail Conference members invited

All Trail Conference members are invited to attend the next meeting of hiking club delegates on Thursday, February 13, 2003, at the Seafarers and International House, 123 East 15th Street, in Manhattan (corner of 15th Street and Irving Place, one block east of Union Square).

The meeting starts at 7 pm. Please join us for a social hour, beginning at 6 pm., for a chance to share refreshments and chat with hiking club representatives.

The agenda includes a vote on the By-laws (see website at www.nynjtc.org/by-laws/index.html for full versions or call the office to have one sent to you; 201-512-9348). Club delegates are also encouraged to bring general and specific issues of concern to the meeting.

Public transportation to the Seafarers House: subway lines 4, 5, 6, N, R and L to 14th Street/Union Square. Or bus lines 6 and 7 (Broadway); lines 1, 2 and 3 (Park Avenue); and lines 102 and 103 (Third Avenue).

www.nynjtc.org

Your link to the latest news and action alerts of interest to hikers.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

continued from page 3

vate entities to build trails and expand the connections between local open spaces and long-distance trail networks.

- Improve the accuracy and coverage of our already excellent maps and work with local and state parks to increase their distribution.

Stewardship

- Expand our Natural Heritage Monitoring effort, now concentrated on the AT, to include all 1,500 miles of our trails. Items of interest would include rare, threatened, and endangered species; vernal pools; invasive exotic species; motorized vehicle damage; dumping, etc.

Education

- Expand the areas covered by our maps and include more information, such as environmental and cultural features along the trails.

- Reach out to grades K-12 and assist teachers and students to use trails as out-

door classrooms and involve them in environmental monitoring projects.

- Expand our collaborative research with area universities on important recreational ecology issues, particularly as they relate to the impact of hiking trails on the environment.

Tools

- Develop a computerized geographic information system that displays our trails and trail lands on realistic and scaleable maps. This would be helpful in mapping trail problems and trail work, depicting trail segments for each of our trail maintainers, creating and updating our hiking maps, mapping priority land parcels for land acquisition and advocacy, and portraying the biological inventory along trails for environmental monitoring and stewardship efforts.

This is a big agenda. We can't realize it all or, at least, all at once. But to protect and provide access to the best trail network possible, we must adapt to new roles in this new century, and at the same time remain true to our roots. Your comments and input will be essential to shape and implement any of these initiatives. 

LEAN-TO RE-ROOFING

continued from page 5

Celebrating Catskill Mountain Women.

Structural soundness wasn't the only thing the Catskill Women were after. "Aesthetically," says Rudge, "we wanted to make the lean-to more harmonious with its wilderness setting." That meant replacing the asphalt shingles with real wood, getting rid of the graffiti, re-thinking the very concept of a fire ring, and cleaning up the area around the lean-to.

Saturday, May 4, was the kick-off day for the project. Some 14 women gathered at the trailhead and began conveying the needed materials up the trail: 17 bundles of cedar shingles, two ladders, six wooden sheathing planks, 30 empty boxes, shovels, saws, hammers and other hand tools, nails, linseed oil, drinking water, and a surprise birthday cake for one of the workers. The women packed the stuff in on pack frames on their backs, pushed it up in wagons, carried it in their hands, even dragged it on the Stokes litter usually used to ferry injured hikers out of the woods. In

addition, champion mountain biker Heather Roberts hitched a trailer to her fat-tire bike and made repeated trips back and forth from trailhead to lean-to all day long, hauling supplies in and refuse out. Two separate crossings over a stream swollen by recent rain complicated but did not halt the proceedings.

Patti Rudge oversaw the creation of a sunken fire pit in place of the upright stone structure "that can house a massive flame," in Rudge's words. The sunken pit makes less of an impact on the wilderness and is safer as well. With the raising of multicolored Tibetan prayer flags—to show solidarity with the women who live among the world's highest mountains—the crews polished off the job June 1, leaving a virtually reborn lean-to in McKenley Hollow.

For more information about the group, log on to www.catskillcenter.org and click on Celebrate Catskill Mountain Women.

—*Susanna Margolis*

Ms. Margolis and several other members of Celebrating Catskill Mountain Women are members of the Trail Conference.



Where there's a Will, there's a Trail

When we build them, you hike them. We've been building and protecting trails for at least four generations of hikers since 1920. That's 1,500 miles in New York and New Jersey to date. Help us keep building for the next generation by naming the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in your will. A bequest makes a wonderful gift, and it lasts beyond one lifetime.

For confidential information and legal language, contact the Trail Conference at 201-512-9348, or by email: info@nynjtc.org.



After the Annual Meeting hikers joined the Torrey Memorial hike and enjoyed this view from the memorial site on Long Mountain.

Annual Meeting Results

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Newton (*returning after a break*)
John Kolp (*full term after filling a partial term*)
John Gunzler (*reelected*)
Paul Bell (*reelected*)
Malcolm Spector (*reelected*)

NEW DELEGATES-AT-LARGE

Eric Calder
Russ Cannizzaro
Cliff Gerenz
Dennis Halliwell
Jill Hamell
John Jurasek
Hal Kaplan
Jane Levenson
Trudy Schneider
Naomi Sutter
Karen Rose
Bob Berlin
Jim Conlon

NEW CLUBS

East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
Ramapo Mountain Ski Club
Morris Trails Conservancy

Become a Life Member

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Member: **Robert Trent**.

A Life Membership in the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a wonderful gift to yourself or a loved one, and to the Trail Conference. An individual life membership is just \$500; a joint life membership (two adults at the same address) is \$750. The next time you renew, please consider becoming a Trail Conference "lifer."

CONTRIBUTIONS

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Sphagnum on My Mind

By Eric F. Karlin

New Jersey, global hotspot for biodiversity? With close to 50 species of *Sphagnum* (peat moss), the state qualifies. The natural landscapes of the Garden State—and adjacent portions of New York—support one of the most diverse assortments of *Sphagnum* in the world. Costa Rica, in comparison, boasts less than half the number of *Sphagnum* species found in New Jersey.

The living *Sphagnum* plant is a dominant component of peatlands. Its ecological influence continues long after death, as the peat that occurs in these special wetlands is primarily composed of dead *Sphagnum*. Peat stores a significant percentage of our biosphere's carbon, and therefore plays an important role in modeling global warming. Economically noteworthy, peat is used extensively in horticulture. It is used as a source of fuel. Furthermore, *Sphagnum* has antibacterial properties; this—along with its great absorbency—led to the use of sterilized *Sphagnum* for wound dressings in World War I, when cotton was in short supply.

Identifying Sphagnum

Sphagna are large mosses, with a dense, crowded mass of tiny young branches (the capitulum) at the top of the plant. Branches occur in clusters (fascicles) of three or more, a unique arrangement



Sphagnum girgensohnii

among mosses. It is easy to observe the fascicles below the capitulum, where stem elongation causes maturing branches to spread.

Although *Sphagnum* can be easily identified at the genus level (is this plant a *Sphagnum* or a *Bryum*?), it is one of the most difficult groups of plants to identify at the species level (is this plant *S. henryense* or *S. palustre*?). Indeed, microscopic analysis is often needed to make an accurate identification. This is a major reason why there are no common names for the different species of *Sphagnum*; for most folks, "peat moss" is sufficient.

A few *Sphagnum* species grow submerged in shallow pools (*S. cuspidatum*, *S. macrophyllum*, *S. portoricense*, *S.*

torreyanum). Several form dense carpets at, or just above, the water surface (*S. pulchrum*, *S. rubellum*, *S. recurvum*, *S. fallax*). Others grow in dense hummocks, which rise well above water level (*S. fuscum*, *S. magellanicum*, *S. flavicomans*, *S. palustre*, *S. fimbriatum*).

Because they display a wide spectrum of colors, walking through ecosystems where *Sphagnum* occurs in abundance provides a unique visual experience. Some species are green (*S. fimbriatum*, *S. girgensohnii*, *S. recurvum*), some vivid red (*S. bartlettianum*, *S. magellanicum*, *S. rubellum*, *S. warnstorffii*), and others rich brown (*S. austinii*, *S. flavicomans*, and *S. fuscum*).

For pictures, descriptions, and keys,



Sphagnum wulfianum in an Atlantic white cedar swamp near Pine Island, Orange County, New York.

you'll find *Field Guide to the Peat Mosses of Boreal North America*, by Cyrus B. McQueen, a useful reference. You may also want to take a look on the Web at <http://phobos.ramapo.edu/~ekarlin/mosses/moss/moss.htm> (click on *Sphagnum* in the menu.)

Finding Sphagnum in New Jersey and Adjacent New York

When looking for *Sphagnum*, focus on wet spots in the landscape. Typical habitats in the Ridge & Valley as well as the Highlands (both partially glaciated in the past) include kettle-hole bogs, highbush blueberry thicket swamps, and rich fens. In the Coastal Plain, you'll find *Sphagnum* in Atlantic white cedar swamps and



Sphagnum magellanicum in the Kuser Cedar Swamp (High Point State Park).

streamside savannahs.

A convenient place to view *Sphagnum* on the Coastal Plain in southern New Jersey is at Webb's Mill, about five miles south of Route 70 and on the east side of Route 539. In the Ridge & Valley physi-



A loose carpet of *Sphagnum* growing with water-arum and sedges in a pool of water in Kuser Cedar Swamp (High Point State Park).

ographic region, you'll find *Sphagnum* in the cedar swamp in the Kuser Natural Area, in High Point State Park. In the Highlands, it is abundant along the Cedar Swamp Trail in Wawayanda State Park.

In these locations you probably won't

need hip-waders. But eager moss seekers might get their feet wet! 

Eric Karlin is Dean and Professor of Plant Ecology, at the School of Theoretical and Applied Science, Ramapo College.

HIKERS' BOOKSHOP

100 Hikes in New Mexico, 2nd edition

by Craig Martin

The Mountaineers Books, 2002

Reviewed by Jonathan Beard

Many of these "100 Hikes in New Mexico" were off-limits for much of 2002, owing to the long-standing drought in the Southwest that turned the state's National Forests, Parks, and Monuments into tinderboxes. But it can be expected that with the return of rain, hiking in New Mexico's mountains, deserts, and lava fields will once again be a pleasure, especially for someone who lives in New York City.

Craig Martin, a professional outdoor writer who covers every sport from fly fishing to mountain biking, has done a professional job with *100 Hikes*: The hikes are arranged geographically, and there is a good locator map at the beginning. Each individual hike gets a small map—without topo lines—and about a page-and-a-half of text explaining how to get there and what the trail is like. Since I have hiked the Pine Tree Trail near Las Cruces more than 10 times, I was impressed to see that Martin shows a side trail that I had never heard about.

Martin has chosen well: He provides a good mix of short hikes, loops, shuttle hikes, and longer ones that could be backpacker trips. Most, though, are 5-10-mile hikes in the mountains around Santa Fe, or the Gila Wilderness in the Southwest, or the area around Ruidoso. Many take advantage of the mountains in each of these regions; while in the winter this may take hikers into snow, in the summer it is

a welcome source of relief to be in the cool air over 8,000 feet.

My only caveat for this book is the maps. You will need a good state highway map to reach the trailheads, and, whenever possible, get a large-scale map of each hike before putting on your pack.

Exploring Colorado's Wild Areas

by Scott S. Warren

Exploring Oregon's Wild Areas

by William L. Sullivan

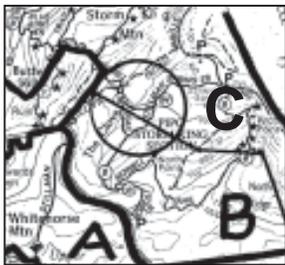
Exploring Washington's Wild Areas

by Marge and Ted Mueller

The Mountaineers Books, 2002

Reviewed by Stella Green

In 2002, Mountaineers Books published revised editions of their popular series titled *Exploring Wild Areas*. Current offerings are for the states of Colorado, Oregon, and Washington. Each book is between 300 and 400 pages and includes photographs and maps. Important information such as location, size, kind of terrain, and elevation of the area is given at the beginning of each named wild area, and is followed by details of the available activities, which include such adventures as climbing, cross-country skiing, and water exploration. Instructions for hiking are minimal. No detailed trail descriptions are given, but rather suggestions as to what routes might be of interest, so a good topographic map or trail map would be invaluable. For the adventurer visiting the above states these books could prove a good investment.



❖ Trails Reopen at Storm King

Hiking trails in two-thirds of Storm King State Park are open once again (sections A and C on the map), the first time since the discovery of unexploded ordnance (UXOs) in the park during a fire in 1999. A third section (B) remained closed as of early December. (Section A is west of Route 9W; B is south of the clove between Storm King and Crows Nest; C is north of the clove between Storm King and Crows Nest.)

Volunteers have been reblazing the trails in sector B with the assistance of park management to ready the trails for future use. Park staff will also be removing the standing dead trees along the burned sections of the trails. Until this is complete these trails will remain closed. Although trails in sector B will open, they may be closed again when the Army Corps of Engineers begins its final sweep of the area. That work is not yet scheduled.

In order to bypass the closed sector and connect the Stillman and Howell Trails, a new crossover trail has been completed in the clove area (see map detail). This connector allows for extended hikes within sector C.

All of the trails, and 25 feet on either side, have been swept for UXOs and any found have been removed. Essentially no UXOs were found in sectors A and C, and it is believed that only hot fires will cause the remaining ordnance to explode, so it should be safe to hike in the area if appropriate precautions are taken. Special conditions will remain in place indefinitely on Storm King.

Restrictions:

- Be especially careful of all fires, including smoking. Because of the possibility of remaining UXOs, firefighters will never be allowed into the area to fight any fires.
- If you should find any UXOs, DO NOT TOUCH. Please report them to: 845-786-2781.
- No hunting.
- Do not disturb any flagging tape or posts that you see in the area. These mark areas to help with future clearing efforts.

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This NJ Ski Tour Is Not for Novices or the Easily Disoriented

By Jill Arbuckle

It doesn't often snow heavily down here in New Jersey, but when it does—as it did in January 2001—there are some delightful ski outings nearby. My favorite is one of many possible loops in Wawayanda State Park; it's a loop that I recommend only when snow-covered, as otherwise too many mountain bikes and motorized vehicles tend to spoil the experience.

Upon arrival at Wawayanda, stop in at Park HQ to pick up a map (Trail Conference Map 21 can also be used), and to check on conditions. The trails in Wawayanda can be confusing; a map and at least one companion are essential.

From HQ, drive to the Wawayanda Lake parking area. From this lot, ski east, beside the lake, and turn left downhill past the old iron furnace. Bear left through the group campsite and pass a gate, to the start of the yellow-blazed Double Pond Trail. After a half-mile on the Double Pond Trail, turn right on the Red Dot Trail (closed to snowmobiles), which was recently blazed all the way through to Cherry Ridge Road (be sure to keep heading south when a branch of the trail loops back north). This is two miles of delightfully secluded skiing over rolling terrain.

When you reach Cherry Ridge Road, turn left (east) and pray that the snowmobilers have stayed home. When



the road reaches a gate, and a parking area, turn left on the yellow Banker Trail, and ski a scant half-mile north. Stay awake! Your route now forks left on the blue-blazed Cedar Swamp trail (also closed to snowmobiles). Don't miss the fork!

Wend your way north on the Cedar Swamp Trail. Here the skiing becomes a bit of a scramble; a narrow path twists through laurel bushes, and at one point crosses some bog bridges. Seeing the white cedar swamp dressed in winter whites is well worth the trouble. When you reach the Double Pond Trail again, after 1.3 miles on the Cedar Swamp Trail, turn left (west), and retrace your outbound route back to the lake.

The total trip length is about six miles.

To lengthen it, spot a car at Park HQ. At the Cedar Swamp/Double Pond junction, turn right and shortly left on the blue Hoeflerlin Trail. Either follow this north to Park HQ, or fork left on the Black Eagle, an all-too-short delight. Cross the park road, ski Wawayanda Road north to the Appalachian Trail, go right a short way on the AT, pass the side-trail to the shelter, and fork right on a blue-blazed trail to Park HQ.

This trip is not for off-track novices; nor for when the laurels are weighed down by snow, unless you are good at doing the limbo on skis. 🌿

■ To get to Wawayanda, take the Warwick Turnpike (Rt. 511) about two miles past Upper Greenwood Lake to the park entrance road on your left.

Coming Up

■ Winter Trails 2003: January 18

High Point State Park will again mark Winter Trails day with a celebration of winter activities for the family and demonstrations on the use of winter gear. For info, contact www.xcskihighpoint.com.

■ National Trails Day 2003: June 7

Now is the time for groups to plan National Trails Day events to celebrate Healthy Trails, Healthy People. Organize a maintenance trip, outreach hike, or other trail event.

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

continued from page 3

❖ Ridge Land Purchases

TC Land Acquisitions Director John Myers continues to negotiate options for land purchases along the Shawangunk ridge. A new 50-acre parcel has been optioned in Mount Hope and another 50-acre parcel in Greenville should be completed soon. Unfortunately, owing to the very difficult fiscal environment in New York State, the Trail Conference has not yet been able to get commitments from the Department of Environmental Conservation to purchase the parcels currently under option; these total more than 1200 acres. Myers has been working to extend these options into 2003 in order to gain more time. In the meantime, the Conference has been working with DEC on the necessary acquisition paperwork and lobbying for the funding required to complete protection of the optioned land.

❖ Aquifers and the Ridge

A geohydrologist hired by the Trail Conference has confirmed that the Shawangunk Ridge is an important recharge area to the drinking water aquifers for many of the towns along the ridge.

Kathy Bienkafner's report on the Shawangunk Region Watershed will be a critical information source in planned meetings between Trail Conference representatives and many local town officials to gain support for better protection of the ridge and its water resources.

ELSEWHERE

❖ EPA Weakens Clean Air Regs

Just before Thanksgiving, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced changes to key regulations that enforce the federal Clean Air Act. These changes modify the New Source Review law (NSR) and constitute a major weakening of the act. The NSR legislation was enacted by Congress in 1977 to ensure that older coal burning electrical generating plants operating without acid deposition emission controls would be required to install scrubbers or switch to clean fuels like natural gas if they were ever rebuilt. The Bush Administration's regulatory changes have the opposite effect, allowing these old plants to be reconstructed and operated well until mid-century without having to install modern pollution technology.

New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer immediately announced that he

and the attorney generals of seven other eastern states would file a federal lawsuit against the Bush Administration for endangering air quality by gutting this critical component of the Clean Air Act. The suit will allege that the EPA is exceeding its authority by enacting rules that greatly weaken the Clean Air Act. Spitzer contends that the NSR changes in the Clean Air Act announced by the EPA would exempt thousands of industrial air pollution sources from the New Source Review enforcement provisions of the Clean Air Act.

The basic tenet of the lawsuit is that only Congress can repeal this critical enforcement program, the President can not do so simply by having the EPA amend a regulation. Unless overturned by the courts, the EPA regulatory changes will further degrade air quality in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. 🌿



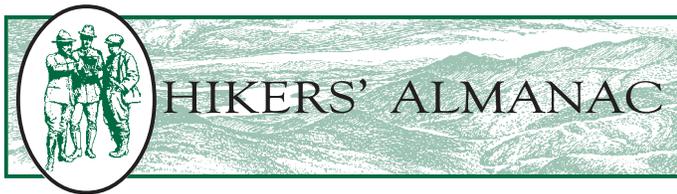
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continued from page 12

beautiful, abandoned bogs southeast of Atsion. Car shuttle required.
UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, N.J. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 AM at Jockey Hollow Visitor's Center; \$4 admission fee. Casual 4-mile hike in this historic National Park. Steady rain, snow or icy conditions cancel.
WTA. Old Croton Aqueduct. Leader: Marcia Cohen, 914-478-7074. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. Easy 4-mile walk from Dobbs Ferry to Tarrytown diner, for optional lunch.

SUNDAY, JAN. 26

IHC. Ringwood State Park Ramble. Leader: Steve Rikon, 973-962-4149. Meet: 9 AM at upper parking lot, Ramapo Mt. State Forest, Oakland, N.J. Moderately strenuous hike from Ringwood Manor to the heights of Skyline Drive. Rain or ice cancels.
OCSJ. Buck Run. Leader: Dave & Julie, 856-235-8792. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 10-11 miles along the Oswego to the ruins of Nash cabin; sand roads.

UHC. South Mt. Reservation, Millburn. Leader: Ed Leibowitz, 201-332-1709. Meet: 10 AM at Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. 3-4 mile hike; suitable for beginners. Trail could be rocky or flat; pace will be casual or moderate, depending on the weather. Rain or snowstorm cancels.

WTA. Butler Preserve. Leader: Audrey Sutton, 914-723-1214. Meet: 9:30 AM; call leader for location. Easy 3 mile walk; since food is not allowed in the Nature Conservancy property, our lunch will follow our morning exertions. Transportation contribution \$2.
OUT. Tarrytown to Pleasantville. Leader: Joel Pomerantz, 212-691-3844. Meet: Grand Central Terminal, info kiosk at 9:40 AM. 9 miles, steady pace with some ups and downs. Two abandoned rail lines, then steep ascent to ridge on west side of Saw Mill River Valley. Follow ridge line north using Rockefeller Estate carriage roads. End at Pleasantville.

MONDAY, JAN. 27

OCSJ. Nescochague Hike. Leader: Norm, 609-654-5893. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 5 miles along the creek; walk the planks of the burned-out bridge. Rain or snow cancels.

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

OCSJ. Batsto NE Highlands. Leader: Bob, 609-268-0606. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 8-11 miles/5 hours exploring the highlands, using trails and fire cuts; some light bushwhacking.

UHC. Somerset Environmental Center, Basking Ridge, N.J. Leader: Mary Doyle, 908-580-1778. Meet: 10 AM at Somerset Environmental Center on Lord Sterling Rd. (off of S. Maple Ave.), Basking Ridge. Moderate ramble on trails and boardwalks. Steady rain cancels; X-C ski if snow.

WTA. Hudson West Shore. Leader: Ellie Carlen, 914-591-7038. Meet: 9:30 AM; call leader for location. Easy 5 miles of level walking north from Nyack, including some rare stretches of original, undeveloped riverbank. Possible shuttle to Rockland Lake.

LIGTW. Stillwell Stomp. Leader: Joe, 516-334-0076. Meet: 10 AM at the far east end of parking lot on South Woods Road. 4-5 miles, slow to moderate pace, varied terrain in Nassau County Preserve.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

GAHC. Ramapo Lake Circular (Bill Hoferlin Trail), Oakland, N.J. Leaders: Helga Nagy, 201-796-5578 & Evelyn Hoyer, 718-457-8319. Meet: 9:30 AM at parking lot opposite entrance to Camp Tamarac on Skyline Drive.

IHC. Wawayanda State Park. Leader: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9 AM at Wawayanda State Park, Vernon, N.J. Moderately strenuous hike in the winter wonderland of Wawayanda. If ground is frozen, venture along woods roads to swamps and islands usually inaccessible on foot. Snowshoes and crampons advisable. Rain or ice cancels.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 AM at Trailside Nature and Science Center on Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Brisk 4-5 mile hike; some easy walking and some elevation gain on rough, possibly muddy, terrain. Steady rain cancels; X-C ski if snow.

WTA. Sterling Forest. Leader: Herb Hochberg, 914-472-3525. Meet: 9:00 AM; call leader for location. 8 miles at moderate pace on Sterling Ridge trail to the Firetower. Transportation contribution \$4.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

FVTW. Ramapo Mountain State Forest. Leader: Mickey Siegel,

201-797-7054. Meet: call for time and directions. 5 miles, 2 hours, on varied terrain.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

OCSJ. Springers Brook. Leader: Dave & Julie, 856-235-8792. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 9-10 miles zig zagging up to the brook, possibly through it. Return along railroad.

UHC. South Mt. Reservation, Millburn. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832. Meet: 10 AM at Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 5 mile hike with steep up at beginning. Rocky ups and downs, wear hiking boots; not suitable for beginners. If icy, bring crampons. Steady rain cancels.

WTA. Jones Beach. Leader: Catharine Allen, 914-948-4061. Meet: 9:00 AM; call leader for location. Dress warmly for this moderate 5-mile winter walk on the beach; view harbor seals and wintering shore birds. Transportation contribution \$5.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

IHC. Rockhouse Mountain. Leader: Pete Rigotti, 718-769-3814; 9-9:30 PM only. Meet: 9 AM at Lake Skannatati parking area, Seven Lakes Dr., Harriman State Park, NY. Moderate hike on Long Path; possible visit to Barnes Mine. Rain or ice cancels.

OCSJ. Atsion Extended. Leader: Christine, 856-461-5379. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 5 miles along Atsion Lake and the Mullica River.

ADK-R. Storm King Ramble. Call leader for information: 914-337-6612. 7 miles.

WTA. Reeves Brook, Harriman State Park. Leader: Joe Mechin, 914-693-9417. Meet: 9:00 AM; call leader for location. 7 miles with some strenuous sections. Will also use some of Picoon Brook, Kakiat and Pine Meadow trails if conditions permit; views from Russian Bear or Ramapo Torne.

MONDAY, FEB. 10

OCSJ. Pasadena Tile Works. Leader: Norm, 609-654-5893. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 5 miles exploring the ruins of the tile works; rain or snow cancels.

RVW. Mt. Everett and Guilder Pond. Leader: 845-246-5670. Meet: 8 AM at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. 4.5 miles, moderate. Snowshoes may be necessary. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

MONDAY, FEB. 10

WTA. Bedford. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. Easy 4 mile walk on a network of bridle paths offering many possible routes, such as Pocantico Hills.

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

FVTW. Bear Mountain-Popoloen Gorge. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: call for time and directions. 7-8 miles; not for novices.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

ADK-R. Letterrock Mt., Owl Swamp, Black Mt. Circular. Call leader for information: 845-359-2465. 7-8 miles.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside. Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10 AM at Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Steady brisk pace of 5-6 miles; about 3 hours long; for advanced hikers only.

WTA. Byram Lake Circular. Leader: Marty Finnerty, 914-683-0895. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. Easy 4-mile walk around this picturesque lake north of Armonk; traverse the Agnes Meyer Sanctuary; some road walking.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

IHC. Hudson Highlands. Leader: Roy Williams, 973-283-9756. Meet: 8:30 AM at Anthony Wayne north parking area, Harriman State Park, NY. Moderately strenuous hike with views of the Hudson River and Valley. Osborne Loop trail will bring us back by a more sheltered route. Shuttle to trailhead; rain or ice cancels.

OCSJ. Batsto to Lower Forge. Leader: Torii & Bandit, 856-296-3996. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 12+ miles; rain or slippery roads cancel.

ADK-R. Long Path by Rockland Lake. Call leader for information: 201-569-0244. 6-7 miles.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, N.J. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10 AM at Jockey Hollow Visitor's Center; \$4 admission fee. Brisk 5-6 mile hike; hiking boots mandatory, bring water. Rain or falling snow cancels, snow on ground okay.

WTA. Appalachian Trail, Rt. 22 (Pawling) to Rt. 55 (CT). Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 9:00 AM; call leader for location. 7.5 miles at moderate pace; some ups and downs. Hike through Pawling Nature Reserve before finally passing the Connecticut state line. Transportation contribution \$6.

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

FVTW. Lake Skannatati Circular, Harriman. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0766. Meet: call for time and directions. 7-8 miles, many criss-crossing trails, iron mines, and the lemon squeezer.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

WTA. Marshlands Conservancy. Leader: Alice Maram, 914-528-8251; call Friday 5-8 PM ONLY. Meet: 9:30 AM; call leader for location. A few hours of walking the trails of this lovely spot. Rain/bad driving conditions cancels.

OUT. Byram River Gorge. Leader: Mayer Wiesen, 516-671-2095 up to 10:30 PM. Meet: 9:30 AM at Jerome and Bainbridge Aves. in the Bronx. 6 moderate miles. See a hemlock gorge in the Greenwich area along a bubbling river. Bring an extra pair of socks. Return around 4:30 PM.

RVW. Highland Rail Trail. Leader: 845-246-6208. Meet: 8 AM at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties. Easy 4 miles. Inclement weather date, following Saturday.

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

IHC. Cattus Island County Park. Leader: Ann Gilbert, 973-839-0292. Meet: 10 AM at Cattus Island County Park, Ocean County, N.J. Easy walk down the shore through this gem of a county park. Learn about wildlife native to the area and browse through the Environmental Center. Rain or ice cancels.

OCSJ. Tundra Swans. Leader: Dave & Julie, 856-235-8792. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 9 miles at Whitesbog, especially wonderful if Tundra swans are wintering here - bring binoculars.

UHC. South Mt. Reservation, West Orange. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319. Meet: 10 AM at Turtleback Rock parking in West Orange (Walker Rd. near Northfield Ave., near Turtleback Zoo). Brisk 4-mile hike in nicely wooded area with some rough spots. View Turtle Rock.

WWW/WEC. Harriman State Park: Cascades to Claudius. Leader: Don Weiss; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 for information.

UHC. South Mt. Reservation, West Orange. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319. Meet: 10 AM at Turtleback Rock parking in West Orange (Walker Rd. near Northfield Ave., near Turtleback Zoo). Brisk 4-mile hike in nicely wooded area with some rough spots. View Turtle Rock.

WWW/WEC. Harriman State Park: Cascades to Claudius. Leader: Don Weiss; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 for information.

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meets: 9:30 AM at Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, N.J. 7-9 miles at a strenuous, fast pace. Explore Harriman this winter, from Lake Sebago to Diamond Mountain, through a beautiful ravine, to outlaw Claudius Smith's den and down Almost Perpendicular. A fun, challenging end-to-end adventure. Distance and route adjusted according to weather conditions.

MONDAY, FEB. 24

OCSJ. Hermanstown. Leader: Norm, 609-654-5893. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 5 miles through the woods to ruins of Hermanstown. Rain or snow cancels.

RVW. North Lake. Leader: 845-246-4590. Meet: 8 AM at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties. Easy 6 miles. Snowshoes may be necessary.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

WTA. Bedford. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. Easy 4-mile walk on a different part of this elegant countryside.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

FVTW. Wondrous Wyanokies. Leaders: Al & Jane Leigh, 973-471-7528. Meet: call for time and directions. 7-8 miles of delightful trail and views. Buck Mountain and High Point included.

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HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs

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 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 80 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 Web site or send an 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-R	ADK Ramapo Chapter	OUT	Outdoors Club
FVTW	Frost Valley Trail Walkers	RVW	Rip Van Winkle Hikers
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	UHC	Union County Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	WTA	Westchester Trails Association
LIGTC	Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference	WWW/WEC	Weis Wynokkie Wanderers/Weis Ecology Center
OCSJ	Outdoor Club of South Jersey		

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 March/April issue is January 15, 2003.

JANUARY

SATURDAY, JAN. 4

OCSJ. Blueberry Monument. Leader: Dave & Julie, 856-235-6792. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 9-10 mile hike to the stone monument dedicated to the famous NJ blueberry.

UHC. Turkey Mt. Half-Day Hike; Kinnelon, NJ. Leader: Terry Kulmane, 908-665-2672. Meet: 10 AM at Pyramid Mt. Visitor's Center parking lot. 5-mile moderately brisk-paced hike; mostly flat with a few rolling hills; suitable for all hikers. Maybe we'll see some wild turkeys. Inclement weather cancels.

WTA. Pepsico Sculpture Garden. Leader: Marie Gleason, 914-946-6673. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. Take an easy winter stroll among world-famous sculptures. Followed by optional trip to SUNY. Purchase to visit Neuberger Museum (no museum admission fee on first Saturday of the month; holiday exhibits will be on display). Transportation contribution \$1.

SUNDAY, JAN. 5

IHC. Ramapo Smorgasbord. Leader: Jane Egan, 201-689-0049. Meet: 9 AM at Ramapo Valley County Reservation, Rt. 202, Mahwah, NJ. Moderate hike from shores of Scarlet Oak Pond up Halifax Trail to Hawk Rock and Bear Swamp Lake. Rain or ice cancels.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 AM at Trailside Nature and Science Cen-

ter on Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Brisk 4.5 mile hike; mixture of easy walking and some elevation gain on rough, possibly muddy terrain. Steady rain cancels; good snow may result in a X-C ski trip.

WTA. Long Mountain. Leader: George O'Leary, 914-946-3940. Meet: 9 AM at N. White Plains RR station (lot on southbound side). Brisk, moderately strenuous hike past Queensbury and Turkey Hill lakes to Long Mt. for nice views. Rain or snow cancels. Transportation contribution \$4.

WWW/WEC. Wild Turkey on the Rocks. Leader: Don Weisse; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 for information. Meet: 9:30 AM at Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ. 6.5-8.5 miles at a strenuous, fast pace. Visit Pyramid and Turkey Mountains when the crowds are small and the icicles are big. This circuit hike includes scenic views, a visit to perched boulder Tripod Rock, Whale Head, Bear Rock, 100 Steps, Valhalla Glen, and more. Distance adjusted to weather conditions.

OUT. Narrows Trail connecting with Brooklyn Greenbelt. Leader: Ray Krant: 718-435-4994. Meet: 1 PM outside Ft. Hamilton Park- way Station of N line (Take rear car if coming from Manhattan.). 7 miles, through Leaf Erikson Park and Owls Head Park, winding up on the Narrows Trail alongside New York Bay, to Bensonhurst Park. Drop-off points along the way.

TUESDAY, JAN. 7

WTA. Leatherstocking Trail. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 3-4 mile easy hike; possibly go all the way from New Rochelle to Saxon Woods Park, or perhaps a picnic at Sheldrake Lake. Transportation contribution \$1.

FVTW. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: Call leader for info. 6-7 miles with views, lake, hemlocks, and swamp.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8

OCSJ. Constable Bridge. Leader: Walt & Jean Stelmazyk, 856-429-9089. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 6 miles at an easy pace. Sand and nature trails to the bridge.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

UHC. South Mt. Reservation, Millburn. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10 AM at Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 5-6 mile hike; finishing around 1 PM. Hiking boots mandatory; bring water. Rain or falling snow cancels; snow on ground okay.

WTA. Fahnestock Park. Leader: Catharine Allen, 914-948-4061. Meet: 9 AM; call for location. 5 moderate miles enjoying the beauty of the winter woods. Transportation contribution \$4.

OUT. Connetquot River State Park. Leader: Paul Develt: 516-488-5232. Meet: Take 9:14 AM LIRR train from Penn Station to Great River; leaves Jamaica at 9:45. Leader will meet train at Great River Station. 8 miles, flat; moderate pace.

LIGTC. Caumsett State Park. Leader: Joe, 516-334-0076. Meet: 10 AM in parking lot. 4-5 miles, slow to moderate pace, varied terrain on the Sound.

RVW. Thompson Pond and Stissing Mountain. Leader: 845-246-4145. Meet: 8 AM at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. 5.5 miles, moderate. Inclement weather date is following Saturday. Depending on conditions, snowshoes may be necessary.

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

IHC. Skylands in Winter. Leader: Patricia Wexler, wexler.patricia@verizon.net or call 973-835-1060. Meet: 9 AM at parking lot A, Skylands Manor, Ringwood, NJ. Moderately strenuous; ice on Mt. Defiance plus the views from Pierson Ridge will be crisp and clear and worth photographing. Rain or ice cancels.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Mary Dell Morrison, 908-684-5175. Meet: 10 AM at Jockey Hollow Visitor's Center; \$4 admission fee. Scenic 4-5 mile hike at moderate pace in this historic National Park.

WTA. Cat's Elbow, Harriman State Park. Leader: Sam Acerbe, 914-939-2769. Meet: 9 AM; call for location. 6 moderately strenuous miles; rain or shine! Challenging climb to start, then up and down; lunch at West Mt. shelter. Excellent views. Transportation contribution \$4.

OUT. Ski or Hike Staten Island Greenbelt. Leaders: Bettye & Steve Soffer, 718-720-1593; call between 7 and 9 PM. You must have your own skis and be able to ski at least at the novice level.

MONDAY, JAN. 13

OCSJ. Whitesbog Swan Hike. Leader: Bill, 856-767-1838. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 5 miles around the cranberry bogs, looking for tundra swans. Rain or snow cancels.

THURSDAY, JAN. 16

FVTW. Sterling Forest-Wildcat Mountain and Indian Hill.

Leaders: Carolyn and Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: Call for time and location. 8-9 miles; actual route depends on snow and ice conditions.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

WTA. Westmoreland. Leader: Audrey Sutton, 914-723-1214. Meet: 9:30 AM; call leader for location. Moderate 5.5 miles. Steady rain/snow cancels. Transportation contribution \$2.

ADK-R. Letterrock, Goshen, Stevens Mt. Circular. Call leader for information: 845-359-2465. 6-7 miles.

SUNDAY, JAN. 19

GAHC. Hook Mountain State Park (Hudson River shoreline), Upper Nyack, NY. Leader: Helly de Liz, 201-532-6377 & Henry Loddiges, 718-899-1052. Meet: 9 AM at parking lot at northern end of North Broadway; approximately 5 miles north of NY Thruway Exit 10.

IHC. Mostly Mahwah Meander. Leader: Jim Hayes, 201-825-9506. Meet: 9 AM at Ramapo Valley County Reservation, Rt. 202, Mahwah, NJ. Moderately strenuous 9-mile hike in leader's own back yard. Visit MacMillan Reservoir, Bear Swamp Lake, Pierson Ridge. Rain or ice cancels.

OCSJ. Carranza to Lower Forge. Leader: Toni & Bandit, 856-296-3996. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 10+ miles; rain or slippery roads cancels.

UHC. South Mt. Reservation, West Orange, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4318. Meet: 10 AM at Turtleback Rock parking area in West Orange (Walker Rd. near corner of Northfield Ave., near Turtleback Zoo). Enjoy a brisk hike of 4+ miles in this nicely wooded area; some rough spots. View Turtle Rock.

WTA. Appalachian Trail, Rt. 55 to Rt. 22 (Pawling). Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 9:00 AM; call leader for location. Moderate 6 miles on relocated section near Nuclear Lake. Good view from West Mt. before we descend past the large "Dover Oak" and farmlands. Transportation contribution \$5.

OUT. Tod's Point. Leader: Karen Davis, 203-348-0487. Meet: Old Greenwich train station around 12:36 PM. 9 miles, moderate. Unique Long Island Sound beach and gardens, previously closed to nonresidents.

MONDAY, JAN. 20

RVW. Graham Mountain. Leader: 845-246-1823. Meet: 10:00 AM; call leader for location. Easy 3-4 mile walk. Transportation contribution \$1. Meet: 8 AM at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties. Strenuous bushwhack, 5.9 miles. Inclement weather date is following Monday. Snowshoes and crampons may be necessary.

THURSDAY, JAN. 23

FVTW. Anthony Wayne State Park. Leader: Arnold Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: call for time and directions. 7-8 miles in northern Harriman amidst mountains and lakes. We will use lower trails in the event of ice.

SATURDAY, JAN. 25

OCSJ. No Name Cranberry Bog. Leader: Bob, 609-268-0606. Meet: 10 AM; call for directions. 8-11 miles/5+ hours. Visit the rarely seen, but

continued on page 11

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