



83rd Year

TRAILWALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE...MAINTAINING OVER 1500 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2003

A Bounty of Land Preservation Successes



EDWARD GOODELL

Looking south along the Shawangunk Ridge toward High Point in New Jersey from the firetower on land recently preserved in Wurtsboro by a Trail Conference purchase. (Imagine six to eight floors of the proposed Shawanga Lodge in the picture!) Wurtsboro airport is in middle ground right and Bashkill wetlands background right.

In the Shawangunks

The protection of an additional 700 acres on the Shawangunk Ridge was achieved this summer with the purchase of two parcels, one by the Trail Conference (TC) and the other by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

• On July 24, the TC closed on a 151-acre parcel owned by John Stutzman in the Town of Wurtsboro. The ridgetop property offers 360-degree views, is primarily forested, includes several acres of dwarf pitch pine on bedrock, and features white cliffs that face southwest. It also sports one of only two firetowers on the ridge. The Shawangunk Ridge Trail crosses the parcel and is now permanently protected at this location.

"This is a crucial acquisition in our ongoing efforts to protect the ridgetop," said John Myers, land acquisitions director for the Trail Conference. The parcel is an important piece in connecting two existing state forests—Shawangunk S.F. and Wurtsboro S.F. "Mr. Stutzman had generously given permission for the Shawangunk Ridge Trail to cross his property for many years, and we are grateful to him for selling it to us for preservation."

The DEC has indicated an interest in purchasing the land from the Trail Conference and adding it to its other holdings in the area. The \$151,000 purchase was

made possible by the TC's Outdoor Fund, which is dedicated to conservation projects. (See column by Executive Director Edward Goodell on page 3.)

• Also in July, New York State announced it had bought 510 acres of undeveloped forest located on the Shawangunk Ridge in the towns of Greenville and Deerpark, Orange County. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) transferred their option to DEC, which purchased the land from the Fini Brothers Partnership for \$826,000, funded by the Environmental Protection Fund. DEC will manage the property as a reforestation area, which can be utilized for hunting, hiking, bird watching, nature study, and sustainable forestry. The state will pay local taxes on the property.

The Trail Conference had identified the Fini land as a critical piece for acquisition, and had worked with TPL as well as with DEC to preserve it through acquisition. "This is the first time the state has purchased land in the southern part of the Shawangunks," Myers noted. "We're very pleased and plan to continue to work with our partners on additional acquisitions."

While the land includes a portion of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail, Myers noted that the trail also currently runs on private land adjacent to the newly protected parcel; plans are to relocate the trail onto the new state-owned land for permanent protection.

These acquisitions advance the NY-NJ Trail Conference's strategic goal of a pro-

ected natural corridor that links the Catskills in the north to the Delaware Water Gap in the south. Partners in the effort include DEC, the Trust for Public Land, and the Open Space Institute.

Fahnstock

In June, 699 acres adjacent to Fahnstock State Park in Putnam County were acquired by the Open Space Institute from the Fresh Air Fund. The property is near one of the park's highest elevations and, says OSI, is an important water source. Wiccoppee Creek courses through the property, flowing north toward the Fishkill Creek Aquifer. The site is described as heavily wooded with hundreds of acres of wetlands.

This buy follows a February purchase by OSI of 500 acres known as Gleneyre, also adjacent to Fahnstock, specifically, next to the Hubbard-Perkins Conservation Area in the park's northwest corner. Both parcels are expected to be added to Clarence Fahnstock Memorial State Park.

Storm King

Nearly 125 acres adjacent to Storm King Mountain have been preserved as open space thanks to a recent purchase by the Scenic Hudson Land Trust. The trust purchased 81.25 acres from the Storm King School that include the 1,350-foot peak known as Butter Hill (crossed by the Highlands Trail); the parcel is bordered on three sides by the 1,900-acre Storm King Mountain State Park. Scenic Hudson hopes to transfer the land to the state.

continued on page 5

Volunteer of the Year Prefers Pen To "Pick Axe"

By Josh Erdsneker

How does one earn the American Hiking Society's 2003 Volunteer of the Year



Award for the State of New Jersey? Some might say you are a worthy candidate if you have built a few dozen waterbars or maybe managed an entire trail network in

a heavily utilized state park. This year's honoree, however, did not touch a field tool or oversee a single maintainer. What did Daniel Chazin do to earn this AHS distinction? The real question is, aside from trail maintenance, is there anything Daniel has not done on behalf of trails and hiking?

For 20 years Daniel has served on the Trail Conference Board of Directors (currently as secretary). He is an active member of the publications committee and has edited such TC classics as the *New York Walk Book*, *Harriman Trails: A Guide and History*, *Hiking the Catskills*, the *NY-NJ Appalachian Trail Guide*, the *Long*

continued on page 7

New East Hudson Map Set Now Available

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has published the Fifth Edition of its East Hudson Trails map set. Trails in the East Hudson area offer some of the most outstanding hiking in the New York metropolitan area. With trails ranging from easy to challenging, there are paths for all abilities; many are within reach of the Metro-North Railroad.

The three-map set includes many changes since the 1997 edition. The map set covers the trails from Annsville Circle (Routes 9 and 6/202) to Beacon along the Hudson River to a little east of the Taconic Parkway, all of Hudson Highlands State Park, Fahnstock State Park, Hubbard-

Perkins Conservation Area, Hudson Highlands Gateway Park, plus properties owned by the Audubon Society and Scenic Hudson. Additionally, almost 2,000 acres of publicly accessible open space that has been purchased by the Open Space Institute since the last edition (including those reported in this issue; see page 5) is included on the maps.

Each trail track is the result of the latest GPS and digital technology and printed on Tyvek for durability.

To order directly from the Trail Conference, turn to Hikers' Marketplace on page 8 or visit www.nynjtc.org. Discount available to members.

Georgette Weir *Editor*
Nora Porter *Managing Editor*

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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 support and advocacy.
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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John Myers	<i>Land Acquisition Director</i>
Neil Woodworth	<i>Counsel, Trail Conference/ADK Partnership</i>

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is a federation of 85 hiking and outdoor groups, and 10,000 individuals.

Coming to Our Region in '07: The AT Conference

At the end of July, I attended the Appalachian Trail (AT) Conference biennial meeting in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. Hosted this time by the Appalachian Mountain Club, the event gave hikers an opportunity to take workshops, hike, go on excursions, attend concerts, and talk with fellow hikers.

My husband Walt and I have been going to the AT conferences since 1981, when it was held in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Two years later, the NY-NJ Trail Conference hosted the conference at New Paltz. Held every other year, the location for the conference rotates geographically through the three AT regions so that a region hosts it every six years. Another rotation occurs within each region such that a maintaining club or clubs has the responsibility for the conference every 12-24 years. Thus no group is overburdened with a major event. Hosting clubs recognize the conference as a way to show off their sections of AT, other local hiking trails, and the local recreational opportunities. (In similar fash-

ion, we rotate our trail maintenance workshops among areas within our region.)

Twenty-two years ago, the hosts did everything in a two-year time frame; the 1983 conference was the first time computers were used for registration. Now the lead time is longer, partially because it is necessary to find a site that can house 600 hikers, provide camping for 250, have nearby off-site lodging facilities for 100-200, and accommodate 1,000 hikers at various events. College campuses are ideal for summer conferences, but they need to be booked well ahead.

In 2007, the Trail Conference will again host the event and I have agreed to chair it. Now, what I need is people willing to help, particularly folks interested in the start-up phase. Some jobs will be short term while others require more involvement. They range from event treasurer, committee chair, hike leader, registration desk staff, envelope stuffers, to traffic director. Committee chairs will be responsible for running their own committees.

For example, the hiking chair, with a group of trusted advisers, needs to schedule hikes and find leaders, or visa versa.

Fortunately a great deal of information is passed along from conference to conference, including a set of signposts to use in parking lots. In Waterville Valley, I had opportunity to talk not only to the current conference chair, but also to the immediate past and upcoming chairs. I came home with notes, suggestions, and copies of materials used. The 2001 conference chair handed out excellent documentation on how she ran the conference, complete with lessons learned.

Since Walt and I were in charge of registration in 1983, one might ask, "Why are you getting involved again?" My answer is simple: it's fun. (Just consider how some people don't care for trail maintenance, while others thrive on it.) Helping to organize the conference is an opportunity to try something different. The AT Conference comes more frequently than Halley's Comet, but in my opinion, both events are not to be missed.

If you have questions or are interested in helping, please contact me at jdhiker@optonline.net.

—Jane Daniels
Chair, Board of Directors

LETTERS

Begs to Differ

(Re "Favorite Hike: Kaaterskill Falls" in May/June 2003 *TW*): When you do get to the bottom of the falls, please do NOT climb up to the amphitheater. It is dangerous, eroded, and slippery. I am not sure if it is even permitted. If you do risk it, do NOT walk along the dangerous, eroded, slippery trail under the falls.

In olden times there was a wooden stairway to the amphitheater. Victorian ladies and gentlemen could get there in style. There appeared in *Harper's Magazine* a nice print by Winslow Homer of well-dressed tourists sauntering the now dangerous, eroded, slippery trail.

David Mack
Valley Cottage, New York

Correction

The Favorite Hike article in the July/August 2003 issue of *Trail Walker*, describing a hike up Alander Mountain, was written by Edward Hayes (not Harris). Ed Hayes is also maintainer of that stretch of trail in the Taconic Mountains. We sincerely regret this misattribution.

Crews Get Rock-work Training On-the-Job at Twin Forts

Trail Conference crews have been hard at work on an ambitious project to improve the Twin Forts Trail in Bear Mountain State Park. A portion of this trail required rock construction that has served as training for some of our crew members. Under the tutelage of Eddie Walsh, 15 crew members had the opportunity to advance their knowledge in rock step building. Funding for this project has been provided by the Fort Montgomery Battlesite Association.

A temporary connecting trail (Twin Forts Trail) between Forts Clinton and Montgomery was built in September of 2002.

The trail links the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and Fort Clinton to Fort Montgomery and the 1777-1779 Trails. It has proven to be immensely popular, particularly with inexperienced hikers, due to its relatively short length and connections with the Trailside Museum (Fort Clinton) to the south and the newly completed pedestrian suspension bridge to Fort

Montgomery to the north. Though the trail is currently in service, the new bridge will allow pedestrians to cross the seasonal stream in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

In the process of completing the work, Trail Conference volunteers are being trained in valuable technical rock-working skills by Ed Walsh, TC member and



Twin Forts Highline (L to R), Roland Breault and Eddie Walsh

formerly on the paid staffs of ADK, AMC, GMS, and Maine ATC. The group will comprise a long-term skilled cohort available to make additional improvements and maintenance to the Twin Forts Trail and other trails in Bear Mountain and

Fort Montgomery State Parks.

When completed, the work will "provide a dramatic, long-lasting entrance to the Twin Forts Trail—from the Trailside Museum en route to Fort Montgomery," says Trail Conference Executive Director Edward Goodell, and the trail will provide a "a wonderful connection between these two very popular parks."



from the Executive Director

Road Walk or Woodland Trail?

In the last issue of *Trail Walker*, I wrote about our efforts to fulfill one of the strategic goals of the Trail Conference—permanent protection of long-distance trail corridors. In this issue, I want to talk about how we can build on those successes to accelerate our efforts to permanently protect all of our trails that are still on roads or private lands.

Long-distance trail corridors connect public open spaces. The need to protect these corridors is growing ever more urgent as available open space becomes more scarce, fragmented, and expensive. Fortunately, there are many partners in this protection endeavor as state and local governments are increasingly taking steps to set aside as much as possible of what is left.

Trail Conference efforts have consisted of two types of protection: 1) protection of the actual pathway itself when it lies on private land; and 2) buffer protection to widen the trail corridor where the pathway is already protected, such as along the Appalachian Trail.

We have used a variety of approaches in protecting land—always seeking to minimize both our use of capital and of risk. In order of preference, our main alternatives have been the following:

Public Agency or Land Trust Purchase: In cases where the landowner does not urgently need to sell and where public agency has expressed a willingness to purchase, we appeal to them to negotiate and purchase the lands directly. If negotiations fail, we seek other alternatives.

Acquiring an Option to Purchase: For a fee, we can often secure a purchase option, which gives us the right, but not the obligation, to buy the land for a certain price within a time frame that is typically 12 to 18 months. If a public agency or land trust is not prepared to purchase the property when the option expires, we can attempt to extend the option for an additional fee.

Purchase Using Seller Financing: If we cannot acquire or extend an option, we can seek seller financing by offering a down payment and assuming a two- to five-year mortgage from the seller with a balloon payment for the balance. During the mortgage period, we can work to arrange a sale to a public agency or land trust.

Direct Purchase: Often we exhaust all of the previous alternatives and are faced with seeing a critical parcel sold for development. In these cases, we may purchase the property outright with the intention of holding it until the public agency

has funding available to purchase it from us.

The Outdoor Fund has been the primary vehicle enabling us to finance this work. Our goal is not to be long-term owners of land, but rather to transfer land as soon as possible into public ownership. Likewise, our goal is not to tie up Outdoor Funds for lengthy periods of time, but rather to roll the money over on a short-term basis and use it again for future acquisition costs.

Because the last and most capital intensive scenario—Direct Purchase—is presenting itself ever more frequently, our needs are exceeding the capacity of the Outdoor Fund. Our challenge in the future is both to find ways to expand the size of this fund and to develop innovative means to stretch the available dollars as far as possible. The consequences are nothing short of the difference between a woodland trail and a road walk.

For example, a frequent scenario involves a segment of a long-distance trail that is on a road through a rapidly developing area of once rural lands. Typically there will be parcels of land that have both road frontage and bulk acreage suitable for a trail corridor and desirable for public open space. With a minimal down payment and short-term mortgage, the Trail Conference may be able to acquire the land for a later transfer to a public entity. This would be the preferred strategy; but if no public entity were available, we could still finance the acquisition of the bulk acreage for a trail corridor by selling the road frontage as a buildable lot.

This technique is called a “limited development” and is used by other land trusts to work with “conservation buyers.” Conservation buyers are people who are interested in owning land that has a conservation easement on it or is adjacent to protected conservation lands. In the past, the Trail Conference has worked with the Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust to find conservation buyers for parcels along the AT. One of the problems we have faced is that most conservation buyers do not have the resources to buy large tracts of land that often come available. The limited development scenario would allow these conservation buyers to acquire smaller developable lots adjacent to larger conservation lands.

Another approach used by other land trusts is to work with individuals sympathetic to our goals, who are willing to “land-bank” key trail properties. The idea behind this “conservation investor” ap-

proach is that individuals can put their money to work helping protect important trail corridors and at the same time have the potential for modest return on their investment.

Land-banking by conservation investors accomplishes several important objectives. A key property is taken off the market and made safe from development for two to five years, generally providing us enough time to arrange a sale to a public agency. The investors’ money is safely secured by the value of property. (The value of ridge lands, where most of our trails are located, continues to rise, as developers increasingly target these lands for building expensive “mountain homes with a view.”) Land-banking allows us to secure more critical properties than possible with the Outdoor Funds alone.

The Trail Conference will be exploring and experimenting with these and other approaches over the coming years, as well as raising money to finance them! Ours is the hard work of assembling the many small parcels that connect the large open spaces. Few others are willing to do it and the opportunity to assemble unbroken corridors is dwindling. We feel we must explore every avenue to protect and connect open space. Our success will depend on collaborating with many public and private partners but, most importantly, it will depend on the support of members like you.

TC WINS MAJOR GRANT FOR POPOLOPEN BRIDGE

The Trail Conference has received a grant of \$67,000 for improvements to the 1777/1779 Trails in Bear Mountain State Park, including a new 110-foot pedestrian bridge over the western end of the Popolopen Gorge. The previous Popolopen bridge was destroyed by Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

The award was one of 22 trail-related projects funded across the state by the federal Recreational Trails Program. The New York awards were announced by Lt. Gov. Mary Donahue in June.

Trail Conference board member Peter Heckler helped prepare the proposal for this grant. He noted that Susan Smith of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission was very helpful in formulating the proposal. In addition to the new bridge, the project calls for the placement of historical signs along the trails.

Trails Director Larry Wheelock reports that bridge assembly is scheduled for Sept. 27 and 28 and Oct. 4 and 5.

If you are interested in becoming a conservation buyer or investor or in any other aspect of our land acquisition program, please contact me, or John Myers, our land acquisition director, at jsmyers@warwick.net.

—Ed Goodell

Camp Glen Gray to Welcome TC Annual Meeting Oct. 18

Come with your family and friends to Camp Glen Gray in New Jersey for a memorable day of guided and unguided hiking, and viewing the beautiful colors of the Highlands at the peak of the leaf season.

The meeting is open to all Trail Conference members, club delegates, their immediate families, and invited guests.

The day will begin with a pancake breakfast (the famous pancake chef, Larry Wheelock, will return for the event) and coffee at 9 am. The business/annual meeting, including awards ceremony, will begin at 9:30 am (see page 6 for slate of

candidates for the board). From noon to 4 pm hike the trails of Camp Glen Gray (formerly a Boy Scout camp, now a county park) and the adjacent Ramapo Valley County Reservation and Ramapo State Forest. Those of you staying for the hikes, please bring your own lunch. The day’s events will conclude with a refreshment reception from 4 to 5:00 pm.

Please complete the reservation form below and return it to the TC by September 30. Driving and parking directions will be sent to registrants and also posted on the TC website. Early registration is appreciated.

Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: Day (____) _____ Eve (____) _____

_____ adults @ \$4.00 each

Please enclose payment and make checks payable to the NY-NJ Trail Conference. Please return the registration form by September 30 to: Ramon McMillan, NY-NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

You can pay via credit card by registering online at www.nynjtc.org or by phone, 201-512-9348.



TRAIL NEWS

TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES



For the latest schedules, check <http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trvolop.html#crew>
TBA = To be announced

For all trips bring work gloves, water, lunch, insect repellent. In some cases, tools are provided. Contact leaders in advance for meeting times and places. Volunteers must become members of the Conference to participate in these projects. A one-time "guest" participation is allowed, so bring your friends.

WEST JERSEY

All meeting times: 9 am; call for meeting location; heavy rain cancels.
Leaders: David Day and Monica Resor
Phone: 732-937-9098

Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com

Sept. 13 (Saturday)
Dunnfield Creek Trail, Worthington State Park

Build a step-stone stream crossing across Dunnfield Creek; with the North Jersey Trail Crew.

Sept. 20 & 21 (Saturday & Sunday)
Appalachian Trail, High Point S.P.

Place stepping stones in a very wet and boggy area of the AT, near the Iris Trail.

Oct. 11 (Saturday)

at East Village Road, just north of the existing railroad station lot. It is available to non-town residents for a daily weekday fee of \$1.50; free parking on weekends and national holidays. The Tuxedo police station has also relocated from their old headquarters at the railroad station to a renovated school building further north on the south bound side of Route 17, just beyond the Old Orange Turnpike.

Terrace Pond North Trail, Wawayanda S.P.

Replace a series of old puncheon (bog bridges) with new puncheon and stepping stones.

Oct. 25 (Saturday)

Terrace Pond North Trail, Wawayanda S.P.

Replace old puncheon (bog bridges) with new puncheon and stepping stones.

Nov. 8 (Saturday)

Appalachian Trail, Worthington S.P.

Ongoing erosion control and tread repair on this heavily used section between Rte. 80 and Sunfish Pond.

Nov. 22 (Saturday)

Rain date makeup or TBA.

NORTH JERSEY

Leaders: Sandy Parr, 732-469-5109

Dick Warner, 201-327-4945

Second Sunday of each month. Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in northern New Jersey.

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS

Sept. 14 (Sunday)

Sept. 28 (Sunday)

Oct. 12 (Sunday)

Oct. 26 (Sunday)

Nov. 9 (Sunday)

WEST HUDSON

Leaders:

Crew Chief: Chris Ezzo 516-431-1148

Robert Marshall 914-737-4792, email

rmarshall@webtv.net

Brian Buchbinder 718-218-7563, email

brian@grandrenovation.com

Claudia Ganz 212-633-1324, email

clganz@earthlink.net

Monica Resor 732-937-9098, email

adamant@trailstobuild.com

Sept. 18. (Thursday) TBA

Leader: Robert Marshall

Sept. 20. & 21 (Saturday & Sunday)

Nurian Trail Relo, Harriman State Park

Leader: Robert Marshall

Sept. 27. (Saturday)

1777 Trail Bridge, Bear Mountain S. P.

Leader: Brian Buchbinder

Sept. 28. (Sunday)

1777 Trail Bridge, Bear Mountain S. P.

Leader: Chris Ezzo

Oct. 4. (Saturday)

1777 Trail Bridge, Bear Mountain S. P.

Leader: Claudia Ganz

Oct. 5. (Sunday)

1777 Trail Bridge, Bear Mountain S. P.

Leader: Chris Ezzo

Oct. 9. (Thursday) TBA

Leader: Robert Marshall

Oct. 11. (Saturday)

Stillman Trail, Storm King S. P.

Leader: Claudia Ganz

Oct. 12 (Sunday)

Stillman Trail, Storm King S. P.

Leader: Chris Ezzo

Oct. 23 (Thursday) TBA

Leader: Robert Marshall

Oct. 25 (Saturday)

R. D. at the Timp, Harriman S. P.

Leader: Brian Buchbinder

Nov. 1 (Saturday)

Southfields Loop, Sterling Forest S. P.

Leader: Monica Resor

Nov. 2 (Sunday)

Southfields Loop, Sterling Forest S. P.

Leader: Chris Ezzo

Nov. 6 (Thursday) TBA

Leader: Robert Marshall

Nov. 15 (Saturday) TBA

Leader: Monica Resor

EAST HUDSON

See our website for crew schedule.

■ All Storm King Trails Now Open

Tim Sullivan, chief ranger for the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, announced in July that all trails in Storm King State Park have been reopened.

A reminder: Hikers must stay on the trails or within a corridor of 25 feet on either side for safety reasons. Areas outside these corridors may not be certified as being clear of unexploded ordnance.

■ The Nurian Trail

Tread on the Nurian Trail bridge over the Ramapo River in Bear Mountain State Park was replaced in July by PIPC staff working with men owing community service. Thanks go to Chief Ranger Tim Sullivan and his crew for completing this weekend-long project.

■ Reeves Brook Visitors Center Closed

In July, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission confirmed that the Harriman State Park visitors center at Reeves Brook in Sloatsburg is closed. Neither water nor restrooms are available, though parking continues to be permitted. No other details were available as of the deadline for this issue.

■ New Parking in Tuxedo

Metro North and the Town of Tuxedo have opened a new 100-space parking lot

North Jersey Trail Updates

John Moran, co-chair of the North Jersey trails committee, sends this summary of recent and not-too-long-ago changes in the trail networks at Ramapo Valley County Reservation, Camp Glen Gray, and nearby Campgaw Mountain County Reservations. All items below pertain to TC Map 22 (North Jersey Trails):

CAMPGAW

• The entire eight-mile trail system was recently adopted by the Trail Conference, although already shown on maps. It has been entirely reblazed, with significant trail improvements, although much work remains.

CAMP GLEN GRAY

• Millstone Trail: This 1.8 mile-trail featuring real millstone quarry samples along its route, was recently adopted by the Trail Conference and reblazed white. This was an Eagle Scout project, includ-

ing trail maintenance, one of four such projects in progress.

• **Schuber Trail:** Created in 2002 (after publication of the 2002 map set; see May/June 2003 *Trail Walker*, p. 4 for description), this seven-mile long trail (orange blazes) connecting Ramapo Valley County Reservation in Mahwah with Ramapo Mountain State Forest in Oakland has since been relocated approximately one-half mile in the Glen Gray area. The new route is through a more woodsy area with less walking on gravel road, and extends from the Tindall Lodge area to beyond the archery range.

• **Matapan Rock Trail:** Not yet adopted, just under a mile long; refurbished in a Boy Scout project, reblazed red/ white, and extended into Camp Glen Gray to connect with the Schuber Trail (orange).

• **Yellow Trail:** South of Midvale Mountain Road, a quarter-mile relo com-

"Maintenance 101" & Construction Workshops

Saturday, October 25

Once again the Trail Conference will be offering an opportunity to take courses that will provide training in basic techniques for trail maintenance, or trail re-

habilitation and construction. The maintenance course will cover such areas as patrolling, clearing the trail, proper blazing techniques, and reporting trail problems. The construction course will tackle some simple trail rehabilitation and structure-building such as waterbars and stepping.

The day will begin with coffee, tea, and donuts; continue with some classroom review; and, for the majority of the day, be spent working in the field. If you are considering adopting a trail for maintenance or joining one of our trail crews these are the workshops for you.

Location: Pyramid Mountain Natural Historical Area in Morris County, NJ.

Reservations are required for these courses. Reservation deadline is October 17, 2003.

Contact the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference office during weekdays at 201-512-9348 or send a postcard with your name, address, phone number, email address (if you have one), to: NY-NJ Trail Conference Courses, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430-1199

Flatbrook Job Gets Added Horsepower

The West Jersey crew's project of replacing the Flatbrook Bridge in High Point State Park benefited from a little advance, extra horsepower. Harry Bohlman and Helen Riggins, owners of the 4-H Timber Harvesters Co., arrived at the Steam Mill



Percherons Tom and Toby and their handler Harry were part of the bridge-building crew.



Old and soon-to-be-new bridge, side by side over the Flatbrook.

campground in Stokes State Forest on Wednesday before the scheduled work weekend with their experienced logging team, horses Tom and Toby. Their mission: to deliver three 2,500-pound utility poles to a bridge-building project over the Flatbrook on the Howell Trail in High Point State Park. The route was decided upon, and small blow-downs and such were cleared out by Harry and the park's staff.

After a day commuting in their trailer and then being tied up all night, the horses were ready to GO! A pole was chained to the drawbar, and Helen began driving the horses up the road to where they would enter the woods along the Parker Trail. Considering they were working with "only" two horsepower, the team moved easily through the woods, taking off with that 2,500-pound pole like they were out for a buggy ride. Nevertheless, there was an amazingly small amount of impact from the entire process. The horses left very little evidence of their passing through the forest in spite of the wet conditions, and were able to complete the task with seemingly little effort.

On June 28 and 29, the regular members of the West Jersey crew turned out to build the new bridge and take down the old.

Visit www.trailstobuild.com for a more detailed photo-essay on the project.

—David Day,
West Jersey Crew leader,
and Larry Wheelock, Trails Director

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

continued from page 1

Partnering with the Town of Cornwall, the trust also bought a conservation easement protecting 40 acres adjacent to Kenridge Farm, a 178-acre site near Black Rock Forest with trails, meadows, and wetlands that Scenic Hudson owns and leases to the Museum of the Hudson Highlands. The Cornwall town and school district bought the new property and plan to create a park and nature preserve.

Both purchases were made possible through a grant from the Marvin and Donna Schwartz Family Foundation.

Schunemunk

The Open Space Institute added 298 acres at the base of Schunemunk Mountain to its preserve there as the result of a purchase in June. OSI now owns more than 2,700 acres at Schunemunk, which Governor George Pataki announced in March of 2001 is destined to become a state park. (Transfer of the land is pending.) The latest acquisitions include farm fields at the base of the mountain and conservation easements off Taylor and Otterkill Roads, where trailheads are now located.

Nonprofit Land Tax Exemptions Targeted in New York

The Trail Conference-ADK Partnership vigorously opposed legislation introduced in New York that aimed to restrict real property tax (RPT) exemptions for nonprofits that own open space and trail corridors. TC-ADK argued that the proposed legislation clearly violated Article XVI of the New York State Constitution, a section that confers unqualified real property tax exemption for lands used by charitable and educational organizations.

The legislation would potentially harm organizations that hold properties for the state for conservation purposes by mandating that nonprofits prove that unimproved land will be used for its intended purpose within two years. ADK and the Trail Conference argued that it would be unfair to tax these organizations if the state does not purchase the land within two years. These organizations are assisting the state by holding land until the state is able to purchase it. Open space requires little or no municipal services and will provide New Yorkers with additional recreational resources. Instituting such limitations on these organizations will deter nonprofits from assisting the state in land acquisition projects.

Fortunately, this type of legislation did not pass the Senate or the Assembly. We expect this legislation to be re-introduced next year and we will continue our strong opposition in the 2004 legislative session.

Awosting Reserve

The proposed plan for a large housing development and golf course on the 2000-acre Awosting Reserve property has been withdrawn from consideration by local officials. The property, which borders Minnewaska State Park, Sam's Point Preserve, and Mohonk Preserve, is still set to be developed. The original proposal called for 349 luxury homes to be built right up to the cliffs at Gertrude's Nose and Hamilton Point and around Mud Pond.

The plans were withdrawn in a large part because they required a central sewage system and cluster housing, neither of which is permitted in the Town of Gardiner, site for most of the property.

The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, a project of the Trail Conference, continues to examine the impacts of developing this land and is preparing for the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) that will study the developers' formal proposal, once it is submitted. There are several categories of impacts that the coalition is identifying that the state recognizes as potentially harmful to the public interest. These include impacts to water and hydrogeology, biology, air, noise and light pollution, viewsheds, public health, traffic, historical/archeological sites, recreation, and economic and community impacts, to name a few.

The towns of Gardiner and Shawangunk are in the process of revising their master plans and zoning laws. If you live in one of these towns you can voice your concern and urge your town officials to do everything they can to protect the ridge. If you live elsewhere in New York, you can write to Governor Pataki and urge him to support protection of the Shawangunk Ridge. The State of New York should take a strong interest in protecting these lands since they neighbor state-owned parklands.

Go to www.shawangunkridge.org for the latest news on Shawangunk developments.

ATV Legislation

The All Terrain Vehicle Trail Development and Maintenance Fund discussed in the last issue of *Trail Walker* did not pass the NY Assembly or the Senate in 2003's final legislative session. The ATV interest groups were unwilling to accept bill language that prohibited the creation of new ATV trails in the Forest Preserve. Additionally, the ATV ban bill, which would have prohibited all-terrain vehicle use in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve, did not pass the state Assembly or Senate. We anticipate that legislation regulating the use of all-terrain vehicles on public and private lands will be major focus of the 2004 New York legislative session. Stay tuned.

Community Preservation Fund

The Trail Conference advocated for the passage of legislation in New York State that would create a community preservation fund to be used for acquiring open space in the towns of Montgomery, Goshen, Hamptonburgh, Crawford, and Warwick. The above-mentioned towns requested this legislation authorizing them to create a tax on real estate transfers for the purpose of raising revenue to purchase and retain the remaining number of dwindling operating farms and other open spaces within their respective localities.

The legislation did not pass the Assembly or the Senate. We will advocate for the passage of similar legislation in 2004.

Neil Woodworth, counsel to the NY-NJTC-ADK Partnership, contributed to this report.

Work Begins on Stony

Kill Falls Trail

It has been said that building a new trail involves equal parts sweat, skill, and intuition. At the Stony Kill Falls property on the northwest border of Minnewaska State Park, acquired in 2001, this age-old process is being informed by an additional factor—conservation science.

The Stony Kill property was a high priority for acquisition by the Trail Conference and partner Open Space Institute owing to its strategic position for linkage with park trails, an impending threat of private development, and of course, the spectacular falls. Another important attribute of the property—habitat for rare plants and animals—requires that the new trail merge with the landscape in a way that minimizes possible negative impacts on these resources.

On June 21, nine Trail Conference volunteers and Trails Director Larry Wheelock cleared the first half of the new trail from the parking area on Shaft 2A Road to a terminus some 300 meters short of the falls. Work planned for June 22 was canceled in the face of steady rains. The completed section, lacking sensitive habitat parameters, was easily routed through a hemlock glade and mountain laurel thickets, mostly within sight of the meandering Stony Kill.

As environmental impacts are a concern for the remainder of the trail, deciding its path will require close work with state authorities in the coming months. Through cooperation and careful planning, the Stony Kill Trail will meet our mutual goals of providing for access and enjoyment of this beautiful property while protecting its significant natural features.

—Ed McGowan
TC Science Director

Our Members

Oct. 14: Party For TC Author

Bill Myles, celebrated author of *Harriman Trails: A Guide and History*, is turning 90 years old! Come join Bill's friends and admirers at a PARTY to celebrate this grand event.

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2003.

Place: Perkin's Tower, summit of Bear Mt. Plenty of parking is available.

Time: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Bring something to share, something to drink and a folding chair. Rain or shine: Tent, tables, and birthday cake provided. Bill's book is the only comprehensive guidebook ever written for the 52,000-acre Harriman/Bear Mountain State Parks. Everyone is invited to attend the party. Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Oct. 26: Torrey Memorial Hike

The 66th Annual Torrey Memorial hike will be held Sunday, October 26, 2003. It honors the Trail Conference's first president and co-founder, Raymond H. Torrey. We will meet at 11:30 am at the Long Mountain parking lot on Route 6 in Harriman State Park. Long-time event coordinator Meyer Kukle will say a few words on the early days of Mr. Torrey and the Trail Conference. We will proceed to the top of Long Mountain for a brief ceremony at 12:15 pm.

There will be other, longer hikes from different areas of the park, all scheduled to meet at the Torrey marker at 12:15. The details on these hikes will be available on the Conference website after October 10 or by calling the office.

Note: Daylight savings time ends earlier that same day. Clocks go back one hour.

Sept. 13: Family Fun Day At Sterling Forest

The 16th annual Sterling Forest Conservation Day will happen Saturday, September 13, at the Sterling Forest State Park Visitor's Center. Most events begin at 10:00 am (the long hike begins at 9:00).

Nature walks will be led by some of the most perceptive naturalists of our area. Experienced hikers will lead us along forest pathways with exquisite views. There will be a bike tour of Sterling Forest's roadways, an orienteering skills program, and a wildlife education program (with real animals). Adults will be fascinated, children delighted.

And of course there will be music and a big picnic lunch. All events are free, except there is no free lunch (the picnic will cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for children). Please call Tom for information and preregistration, 201-327-8712 or 201-848-1080.

Sept. 20-21: Hudson River Valley Rambles

The Fourth Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble features nearly 140 outdoor explorations and events that highlight the scenic and natural landscapes, and historic and cultural riches of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Hudson River Estuary. Nearly 125 guided walking, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, and biking events led by environmental, historic preservation, land conservation and trail organizations, take place on the weekend of September 20-21 throughout the 10-county region of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area from Westchester and Rockland Counties to the Capital Region.

For a free program booklet, call 800-453-6665 or 845-334-9574, or email ramble@highlandflings.com. The program may also be viewed and printed at www.hudsonvalleyramble.com.

The Ramble is sponsored by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Hudson River Valley Greenway with assistance from the Hudson River Estuary Program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Leaders from the Trail Conference are guiding two of the outings.

Sept. 20 - PALISADES LONG PATH TREK. Hike New York's Long Path along the crest of the Palisades featuring stunning views of the basaltic cliffs, the Hudson River, and Westchester County. Led by Long Path South Chair Jakob Franke, the trek includes a bushwack down to Skunk Hollow, an historic 19th-century black settlement, and a shore walk along the Hudson River and over the Giant Stairs to Peanut Leap Falls and the remnants of Lawrence Gardens. Difficult 6 miles. Sat. 11 am; Sun. rain date. From Palisades Interstate Pkwy., take Exit 4; go north on Rt. 9W to Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Meet at entrance. Public: from George Washington Bus Terminal at 178th St. Red and Tan bus 9A, or from 41st St. Terminal, 9W bus to starting point at Lamont-Doherty. 201-768-3612.

Sept. 21 - CAMP SMITH TRAIL. Running parallel to the Hudson River, the trail's spectacular views make this strenuous hike, with its many elevation gains and losses, worth the work. The view from Anthony's Nose is as famous as its name. At each viewpoint, you'll also learn about the history of the Hudson Highlands from leaders Walt and Jane Daniels. Bring lunch/water/windbreaker in daypack. Difficult 3.7 miles. Sun. 9:30-3:00. From east side of Bear Mt. Bridge, park on river side of Rt. 9D just north of bridge.

Board Candidates Nominated

The following are nominated for three-year terms ending in September 2006:

Board of directors: Jane Daniels, Mary Vance Duggan*, Thomas Humbach, Robert Jonas, Anne Osborn.

Delegates at large: Bob Berlin, Eric Calder, Russ Cannizzaro, Jim Conlin, Harvey Fishman*, Cliff Gerenz, Denis Halliwell, Jill Hamell, John Jurasek, Hal Kaplan, Jane Levenson, Phyllis Key*, John Mack*, Paul Makus*, Karen Rose, Trudy Schneider, Naomi Sutter.

(* new to board or new delegate at large)
Thanks to Robert Cherdack, Jane Daniels, Phyllis Stewart, and Robert Ward for serving on the nominating committee.

—Anne Osborn,

Nominating Committee Chair

WANTED:
Graphic Designer for Trail Walker
Watch for details online @
www.nynjtc.org.

IF YOU LOVE THE SHAWANGUNKS YOU'LL WANT TO VISIT

www.shawangunkridge.org

This website of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition has been redesigned and should be your one-stop source for up-to-date news about the Shawangunks.

Features

- Regular News Updates on Development Threats
- Action Alerts
- Recreation Resources (Please help us keep these items up-to-date.)
- Environmental Information
- Media Links
- Maps
- Planning Tools
- Links to a host of Coalition members and partners

Add it to your list of Web favorites.

The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition is a project of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS

GET INVOLVED

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Trail Conference and getting involved is a great way to become part of an active, extended family. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and do not see an opportunity that suits you, contact the Volunteer Projects Director, Joshua Erdsneker, either by email, josh@nynjtc.org, or telephone, 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

Appalachian Trail Leadership Needed

A wide variety of challenges are being faced on the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey. The most daunting: finding leaders to administer and supervise the Trail Conference's activities on the AT's behalf in the state, both on and off the trail. As the AT faces increasing threats and challenges, the need for additional volunteers increases too. Help shape the future of the AT in New Jersey by getting involved now. Please contact Larry Wheelock at 201-512-9348 or wheelock@nynjtc.org for more information.

The Great Connector, the Shawangunk Ridge Trail

The scenic SRT is in need of a few maintainers. This marvelous trail connects the AT in High Point State Park to the Long Path along the Shawangunk Ridge. Join our family of maintainers and adopt a section trail. No experience is necessary and training is available. Please contact Josh Erdsneker at 201-512-9348 or josh@nynjtc.org for more information.

Special Assistant to the Executive Director
Support the Trail Conference by assisting our Executive Director. We are looking for volunteers to work with Edward Goodell for two or three hours a week to assist him with a variety of tasks. Interested persons

should have strong organizational skills, be comfortable making phone calls, and work well with others. This is an excellent way to make a difference! To find out more about this exciting and rewarding opportunity, please contact Edward Goodell at goodell@nynjtc.org or call 201-512-9348 for more details.

Do you like to Party???

Have you ever organized a Super Bowl party or birthday party? If you answered YES, then this is the perfect opportunity for you. Coordinators are needed to organize the Trail Conference's annual meeting, delegates' meetings, training workshops, outreach events, and other special events. Coordinators are responsible for reserving meeting locations, coordinating food and snacks, invitations, and other activities related to individual events. If you have an extra 15 hours this fall, why not help plan one of our upcoming events. You can work from home or the Trail Conference office. Please contact Josh Erdsneker at 201-512-9348 or josh@nynjtc.org for more information.

Book Review Coordinator and Librarian

Volunteers are needed to coordinate book reviews. Responsibilities include identifying suitable books for review in the *Trail Walker*, assigning books to be reviewed by fellow volunteers, seeking additional reviewers, and sending reviews to the *Trail Walker* editor when received. Subsequently, all reviewed books will be cataloged and entered into the Hoeflerin Library at the office. If you possess good organizational skills, are comfortable working with deadlines, and like books related to the outdoors, then this is the perfect opportunity for you. Please contact Josh Erdsneker at 201-512-9348 or josh@nynjtc.org for more information.

Expansion of 'Citizen Scientist' Program Is Newest Trail Conference Initiative

By Ed McGowan

By a fortuitous accident of geologic history, the New York-New Jersey region is blessed with vast rocky uplands—now known as the Highlands, Ramapos, Palisades, Kittatinny, Shawangunks, and Catskills. Abundant surface rock and steep terrain made these formations resistant to dense settlement during historic times and as a result provided opportunity over the past century for protection of a relatively unpeopled and forested landscape in close proximity to major urban centers. As conservationists and developers play out a veritable “arms race” to claim what remains of these uplands, attention has now

The Trail Conference is well positioned to play a vital role in documenting the ecology of our region's trail corridors and other natural areas. The data will support better trail stewardship.

turned to how best to protect and manage their remarkable biodiversity.

As a first step, ecologists in New York and New Jersey have begun the difficult task of documenting the region's rare plants, animals, and ecological communities. What has emerged from these efforts is a portrait of a region rich in species diversity and community types, where northern and southern forms meld together. But talk to a state heritage ecologist and they will be the first to admit that we know only part of the story. For most rare species, occurrences have been mapped in state databases, but prospects for their long-term persistence are poorly understood. This is true for species groups as divergent as sedges and dragonflies. Changing conditions—whether from competition with new invasive species, habitat loss, excessive deer browsing, climate change, or a host of other threats—require that status assessments be constantly updated. This task greatly outstrips the capacity of understaffed and underfunded state natural heritage programs. Meanwhile, many plant and animal species have simply been labeled “Special Concern” or “Status Undetermined,” reflecting current uncertainty about their true standing.

The pressing need for greater insight into the status of local biodiversity provides an exciting opportunity for the Trail Conference, and one that is wholly consistent with its tradition and mission (see “Why Science?” Sept.-Oct. '02 issue). The Trail Conference already contributes importantly to biodiversity protection through the acquisition of open space and

advocacy for contiguous trail corridors. Our ongoing commitment to expert trail construction and maintenance helps minimize hiker impacts on the environment by concentrating public use where most appropriate. With an existing corps of trail maintainers and a long tradition of volunteerism, the Trail Conference is poised to play an important role in ecological stewardship as well.

Inaugurating a Volunteer Science Program

Ecological stewardship takes many forms, but often starts with grass roots efforts by “citizen scientists.” The notion of a citizen science program, in which trained volunteers take to the field to experience, interpret, and record ecological data, is at the core of the new Volunteer Science Program at the Trail Conference. A current pilot program, administered by the National Park Service and coordinated locally by the Trail Conference, does just this along New York and New Jersey sections of the Appalachian Trail.

Under the program, now in its second year and guided by botanist Ted Elliman,

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

continued from page 1

Path Guide, Scenes and Walks in the Northern Shawangunks, Iron Mine Trails, and Circuit Hikes in Northern New Jersey. Currently, he is putting the finishing touches on a completely revised second edition of the *New Jersey Walk Book*. He has served as the map coordinator for the Harriman/Bear Mountain Trails, North Jersey Trails, and, again this year, the Catskill Trails map sets. This past year he helped field check the East Hudson Map set; in years past he has done similar work for the Kittatinny Trails, Sterling Forest Trails, and Shawangunk Trails map sets.

Daniel is an active member of the TC administrative and volunteer committees (he chairs the latter), an office volunteer, and inventory manager for the Trail Conference's book and map stock. In one of his latest endeavors, Daniel has assumed the role of author, writing a “Hike of the Week” column for each Thursday's edition of *The Record* in Bergen County, NJ. This outreach effort provides readers with the necessary information for hikes all over the metropolitan area, including length, difficulty, approximate time, corresponding trail maps, directions to the trailhead,

Become a Citizen Scientist

Are you interested in natural history? Do you have an inordinate fondness for a particular life form, say wildflowers, butterflies, or frogs? Or do you just want to contribute toward preserving our natural heritage on trail lands through volunteerism?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, the Volunteer Science Program is for you. With a wide range of initiatives on trail lands throughout the region, the program will be able to accommodate volunteers of all stripes, from those with only a few hours to give per year to more regular participants. In addition to conducting original research on trail corridor ecology, the Volunteer Science Program will organize volunteers to assist existing programs, including state sponsored bird, reptile, and amphibian atlas projects, vernal pool surveys, as well as targeted research and species inventories sponsored by local institutions. To participate in this new program, please contact Ed McGowan, TC Science Director, at 201-512-9348 or email info@www.nynjtc.org and request a Natural Heritage Monitoring Program application.

some 20 volunteers diligently visit small colonies of rare plants, “element occurrences (EOs)” in the language of natural heritage programs, to track their status. The volunteers note the number and condition of the plants, as well as any immediate (e.g., trampling) or future (e.g. expansion of invasive plants) threats. These efforts provide important information that would otherwise be unavailable to resource managers. At the same time, volunteers, many with no previous field research experience, engage in a rewarding activity that contributes to our natural heritage.

and a detailed description of the hike. This project has led him to explore some fascinating hikes in his home state of New Jersey (the Black River Trail in Chester is a new favorite).

Daniel's broad experience serves him well as a member of Palisades Interstate Park Commission's Citizens' Advisory Council and the Trail Conference's Sterling Forest Trails Working Group (which is assisting in the design of the park's trail network), and makes him an ideal representative of the Trail Conference at educational outreach events.

All told, last year Daniel contributed more than 850 hours of volunteer work in these various capacities.

Daniel Chazin first joined the Trail Conference in 1975. His involvement as a volunteer began in the early '80s when he attended a delegates' meeting and was introduced to then Conference Chairman Donald Derr, who asked him to serve as a member of the board of directors. The fact that Daniel was a lawyer and an excellent writer made him an ideal candidate to be board secretary.

Daniel's dedication to hiking and trails extends even beyond his incredible commitment to the Trail Conference. He is, in addition, active with Boy Scout Troop 226

(As an added benefit, they can impress their friends during hikes by providing obscure Latin names of plants!)

The Volunteer Science Program aims to extend the AT pilot study to other trail lands and other “EOs,” including animals and ecological communities. Doing this will require close cooperation with state heritage programs and careful discretion in choosing appropriate species and proper methods for monitoring. And stewardship efforts need not be restricted to rare species and communities. Research opportunities are as varied as our local forests and wetlands (see sidebar). For example, invasive plants and foreign insect pests are currently reshaping our wild lands at an alarming rate, yet basic data on their distribution and spread are lacking in many cases. The Trail Conference, perhaps more than any other local outdoor constituency, has the infrastructure, membership, and collective backwoods experience to tackle large-scale mapping of invasive species and similar projects.

The Volunteer Science Program will also facilitate collaborative research projects, such as a current study with Columbia University that examines effects of trails on avian and arthropod biodiversity (funded by the Black Rock Forest Consortium). Whether by designing and implementing research or acting as a conduit for volunteer participants, the Volunteer Science Program will engage citizen scientists in studies of trail land ecology. With the help of volunteers, the Trail Conference will play an even larger role in the stewardship of our trail lands.

Ed McGowan is the new Science Director for the Trail Conference.

(Teaneck, NJ), serving as their scoutmaster. He serves on the National Jewish Committee on Scouting and the Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting, for which he is also secretary. He has been a member of the Appalachian Trail Conference's publications committee for 20 years and recently edited the 15th edition of the *NY-NJ AT Guide* and *2003 AT Data Book*.

Somehow, Daniel has time for another passion—trains. He boasts of having traveled every long-distance Amtrak route in the United States. He is even considering combining his zeal for writing and hiking with his affection for trains into—what else?—a book detailing trails that are accessible by train.

With all that he has done and will continue to do, Daniel is an irreplaceable part of the Trail Conference. His hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated and have not gone unnoticed. On behalf of all the volunteers and staff who work with him, congratulations go to Daniel on being named the AHS 2003 Volunteer of the Year for the State of New Jersey. It's been a long time coming. 🌿

Josh Erdsneker is Volunteer Projects Director for the Trail Conference.

HIKERS' MARKETPLACE

You can also order at our web site: www.nynjtc.org

NY-NJ TC member? YES NO JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price

	Retail	Member	P/H	Total
Official Conference Maps				
Sterling Forest Trails (2003)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.80	_____
North Jersey Trails (2002)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.95	_____
Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails (2002)	\$8.95	\$6.75	+.95	_____
NEW!! East Hudson Trails (2003)	\$9.95	\$7.50	+.95	_____
West Hudson Trails (2000)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.95	_____
Catskill Trails (2003) & see combo	\$13.95	\$10.45	+\$1.10	_____
Kittatinny Trails (2000)	\$12.95	\$9.75	+\$1.10	_____
Shawangunk Trails (2000) & see combo	\$9.95	\$7.50	+.95	_____
South Taconic Trails (1988, rev. 1998)	\$4.95	\$3.75	+.65	_____
Hudson Palisades (available Oct. 2003)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.80	_____

Books

A.T. Guide for NY & NJ (2002) w/6 maps	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.00	_____
Long Path Guide to NY/NJ (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.00	_____
Day Walker (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
Hiking Long Island (2002)	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.50	_____
Circuit Hikes in Northern New Jersey (2003)	\$11.95	\$9.55	+\$2.00	_____
New York Walk Book (2001) & see combo	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.50	_____
New Jersey Walk Book (1998) & see combo	\$15.95	\$12.75	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman Trails Guide (1999) & see combo	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
Iron Mine Trails: NY-NJ Highlands (1996, rev. 1999)	\$8.95	\$7.15	+\$2.00	_____
Health Hints for Hikers (1994)	\$5.95	\$4.75	+\$2.00	_____
Doodletown-Hiking Through History in a Vanishing Hamlet on the Hudson (1996)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.00	_____
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	_____
Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) & see combo	\$10.95	\$8.75	+\$2.00	_____
Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) Hardcover	\$11.45	\$9.25	+\$2.00	_____
NEW!! Shawangunks Trail Companion	\$18.95	\$15.15	+\$2.50	_____
Nature Walks in New Jersey (1998)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.50	_____
50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
50 Hikes in New Jersey (1997, rev. 1999)	\$15.95	\$12.95	+\$2.00	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills & Hudson River Valley (2002)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$2.00	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in New Jersey (1992)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.00	_____
ADK Guide to Catskill Trails (1994, repr. 1998)	\$17.95	\$14.40	+\$2.00	_____
Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years (2001)	\$27.50	\$22.00	+\$3.00	_____

Combo-Packs

Catskill (5-map set & ADK book)	\$27.80	\$21.60	+\$2.00	_____
Harriman (2-map set & book)	\$22.40	\$17.55	+\$2.50	_____
NY & NJ Walk Books	\$32.35	\$25.85	+\$3.50	_____
Shawangunk Combo (4-map set & book)	\$17.90	\$13.95	+\$2.00	_____

The Personal Touch

Note Cards: TC Collection	\$12.00	\$9.60	+\$2.00	_____
Hiking Cap	\$12.90	\$10.50	+\$1.75	_____
Long-sleeve Denim Shirt Circle: S M L XL	\$29.90	\$22.90	+\$4.00	_____
Polo Shirt (Forest Green) Circle: S M L XL	\$19.90	\$15.50	+\$4.00	_____
NY-NJTC T-Shirt Circle: L XL	\$13.95	\$13.95	+\$3.50	_____
Harriman Map Bandanna	\$6.95	\$5.95	+\$1.50	_____
Conference Logo Patch	\$2.50	\$2.50	postpaid	_____
Long Path Logo Patch	\$2.75	\$2.75	postpaid	_____
Conference Logo Decal	\$.85	\$.85	postpaid	_____
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Make check or money order payable to NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. For a full descriptive catalog, please write or call 201-512-9348. *Tax must be paid by NJ residents on books, maps, misc., but not on clothing. Thank you!

CONTRIBUTIONS

GIFTS

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MATCHING GIFTS

The J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation
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BEQUEST

Estate of David Middleton Jr.

SPECIAL GIFTS

To Trail Conference/ADK Partnership
Catskill 3500 Club*

To Shawangunk Ridge Coalition
Ed L. Brody
James Brown III
John Pagliarulo

To Friends of the
Palisades Interstate Park Commission
Daniel D. Chazin
Jane Daniels & Walt Daniels*
Edward Goodell
John Gunzler & Marianne Gunzler*

To ORV Action Fund
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Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society
Ellen B. Terry
Michael S. Williams
Richard Wolff & Nancy Wolff

To Sillman Tool Fund
Lydia Jack Zakim & Noah Zakim

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Rob Moss and Ken Lloyd
Peter Heckler & Rita Heckler

In memory of Harry Zakim and Mildred Silverman and in honor of Gina Waldo
Lydia Jack Zakim & Noah Zakim

In memory of Marlies Wu
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NEW LIFE MEMBER

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Member: Frank W. Keane.

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."



GEORGETTE WEIR

View from Ashokan High Point, where blueberry bushes turn an overlook red in fall.

Try These Favorite Fall Hikes

For many, fall is the favorite season for hiking. Temperatures moderate, trails are generally free of spring's mud, and of course, the forests turn from green to red-yellow-orange. Trail Walker asked a few volunteers to name their favorite fall hikes.

David Day, co-chief of the West Jersey Crew, cites a hike in his home section of northern New Jersey. "One of my favorite 'view' hikes in this area is the stretch between Mt. Peter and Surprise Lake, thence on over into Waywayanda State Park. This is the Appalachian Trail, . . . as you hike along you move in and out of a wide range of micro-environments. One moment you are in a magical hemlock forest; then around the next bend, you discover that you are in a centuries-old farm site, filled with fruit trees and grape vines. . . . On the many open ridge edges, you can see for miles to the east. During the autumnal color season, with the weather permitting, you get quite an eyeful."

Stella Green, former TC vice president and co-author of *50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley* (2002), had time while traveling to cast a quick vote via email for a hike in the southern Catskills. "I probably would vote for Ashokan High Peak. The blueberry bushes are usually wonderful."

Larry Braun, West Hudson North trails chair, picks the Gertrude's Nose circular in Minnewaska State Park. "This is a six-mile loop that begins at the Upper Minnewaska carpark." Larry suggests hiking counterclockwise around Lake Minnewaska to the Millbrook Mountain Carriageway (CW) near the eastern end of the lake. "At 0.4 miles beyond Patterson's Pellet the Gertrude's Nose Path enters on the right." At the Nose, he says look for "spectacular views into the Shawangunk and Wallkill valleys close by, and Breakneck Ridge and Storm King where the Hudson River cuts through the Highlands." Continue north on the red trail to Millbrook Mountain, where, at the end of the Millbrook Mountain CW, you will find another red-blazed trail that will take you back to Lake Minnewaska. "Plan to take three to four hours for the hike and more time to enjoy the terrific views."

Finally, Gary Haugland, former TC president, current board member, and Trails Council chair, reminds us that there is more to autumn than magnificent tree color enjoyed from grand vistas. "When people plan a fall hike it is to take in the maximum amount of color in the most dramatic settings. As fall is a transition season, it has other charms as well, and all that color can be a distraction. I rec-

OPINIONS WANTED

Attention Walkers, Hikers, Book & Map Users

The Trail Conference wants your opinion on our maps and books.

What do you like about them? What do you dislike?

What kinds of maps & books would you like to see?

Map & book sales comprise one-third of the TC's revenue; it is extremely important that we understand our users and potential users.

Please go to the Trail Conference website, www.nynjtc.org, and give us your opinions.

Thanks so much for your help.

commend the following hike on the Shawangunk Ridge Trail where it follows the shore of the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area, one of the largest wetlands in southern New York State. The trail follows an abandoned railbed, the remnants of its wooden ties stretching for seven miles, tracing the undulating contours of the shoreline. Here nature is busy preparing for winter.

"I like to go just after the leaves have fallen, when there is that flurry of activity as small mammals and large birds prepare for the winter. Some scurry for food to store, others assemble for their collective flights to ports south. The magnificent blue herons loom large against the bare trees along the shore, while other lesser creatures dot the skies and the waters and the woods. In the distance are the ridges of the southern Gunks, mountaintops that we are striving to protect from the invasion of casinos and massive residential developments. Enjoy them, and treasure them, in the solitude of a late fall afternoon." 



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IN MEMORIAM

Frances Stevens Reese, the influential and well known Hudson Valley environmental activist and land preservationist, died July 2, 2003, the result of a car accident. Mrs. Reese, a founder of Scenic Hudson and a key participant in stopping the industrialization of Storm King Mountain in the 1960s and '70s, was a Trail Conference member since 1985. Anyone who hikes or enjoys Storm King State Park or any of countless other parks and open spaces in the Hudson Valley is a beneficiary of Mrs. Reese's legendary vision, courage, energy, and hard work.

Though not a member of the Trail Conference, Richard Pough is a name to be remembered by lovers of the outdoors everywhere. Mr. Pough was a founder of the Nature Conservancy and of the Open Space Institute, two organizations that have made significant contributions to saving and preserving open space in our region. Mr. Pough, whose long career included work for Audubon and the American Museum of Natural History, died at age 99 at his home in Chilmark, Mass.

Hunting Schedules

New York and New Jersey have announced their hunting schedules for large game and times when firearms are permitted. Hikers are strongly urged to wear safety orange clothing during these times. Dates listed are inclusive.

NEW YORK

Southern Zone (including Catskills)

Deer Season

Regular: Nov. 17–Dec. 9
 Archery: Oct. 15–Nov. 16;
 Dec. 10–14
 Archery (Westchester Co. only):
 Nov. 1–Dec. 31
 Muzzleloader: Dec. 10–16

Special regulations apply on Long Island. For details, go to: dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/guide/bgseasons.html

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park. However, it is allowed in parts of Minnewaska, Sterling Forest and Storm King State Parks. Call 845-786-2701 for more details about hunting in these parks.

Black Rock Forest closes to all hikers from Nov. 17 to Dec. 9, inclusive. For details, call 845-534-4517.

More information about New York's hunting schedules is available from the Department of Environmental Conservation at www.dec.state.ny.us.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey has very complicated hunting seasons that vary depending on location and kind of weapon permit. It is recommended that hikers verify the dates for the location in which they are interested. Call 609-292-2965 or visit www.njfishandwildlife.com. The following dates for deer season apply in many zones.

Deer Season

Firearms: Dec. 8-13
 Archery: Sept. 27–Oct. 24, excluding Sundays

Treasure of the Kittatinny: *The Crater Lake Trail*

by Bob and Rose Marie Boysen

Bob and Rose Marie Boysen of Hope Township, NJ, are hard at work on a new edition of a guide to the Kittatinny Mountains (target publication date by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is in 2004). The book will cover the entire Kittatinny Range from the Delaware Water Gap to High Point (Pennsylvania to New York). Fifty-seven trails and 42 miles of the Appalachian Trail will be covered. Included will be this little gem of a walk, which takes in two lakes in addition to other ridgetop attractions. The trail is appropriate for people looking for an easy walk, or can be a scenic addition to a more ambitious trek on the AT. The description that follows has been adapted for Trail Walker.

The scenic Crater Lake Trail (CLT) in the Kittatinny Mountains is short (just 1.65 miles long, one-way), easily accessible, but relatively unknown. It deserves more attention.

The trail wraps around a small, beautiful, crescent shaped, high-mountain lake (Crater Lake) that features high bluffs on its northwest side. There are rumors the lake was created by a meteorite sometime during the 19th century, but it seems more likely to be another high glacial lake such as the more familiar Sunfish and Catfish Ponds to the south. At two points the CLT crosses the Appalachian Trail (which can be added to the route to make a loop walk), and it extends to a second body of water, Hemlock Pond.

General Description: The terminus of the orange-blazed Crater Lake Trail is at the Appalachian Trail (AT) just southwest of Crater Lake. The CLT, a wide, smooth, woods road, gradually descends from this point in a loop, crossing the AT to the



View of Hemlock Pond from Crater Lake Trail.

south at 0.4 miles. (An excellent view of Crater Lake is available from the AT just south of this junction.) The woods road then takes a pleasant path along the lake until you reach a lakeside picnic area (at 0.9 miles) with benches, portable toilets, and a large parking area. (See below for directions to this parking lot, which is a convenient place from which to access the trail.)

Continue through the picnic area along the lake edge on a gravel road that undulates up and down. At 1.2 miles the road turns right toward a fire monitoring station while the CLT turns left back onto a grassy woods road that goes uphill away from the lake. You will note many former cabin sites and fireplaces—evidence of the camps that once were here. Cross two woods roads and continue to the crest of the small ridge where the Crater Lake Trail again crosses the AT. (A left turn here onto the AT will take you back to the CLT terminus in .3 mile for a total circuit of 1.35 miles.) Here, the trail, formerly known as the Hemlock Pond Trail, starts downhill on a stony path, crossing a rock face and descending through maple and oak and then laurel and hemlock. Near the bottom you'll cross one woods road and turn left briefly onto a second, then right to descend to Hemlock Pond. From the AT to Hemlock Pond is just under half a mile.

You can connect to the "Woods Road" trail northwest of Hemlock Pond by taking the last woods road (unmarked) around Hemlock Pond to the right or the left. Or you can reverse course back to the ridge above Crater Lake and either follow the AT or return to the parking lot via the Crater Lake Trail.

Access: The Crater Lake Trail can be accessed either from the AT (choose your trailhead) or from the Crater Lake area parking lot at the end of Skyline Drive.

(Take Old Mine Road to Blue Mountain Lake Road to the gravelled Skyline Drive. Total distance from Old Mine Road is 5.5 miles, the last 2.4 of which is on gravel. A large parking and picnic area mark the end of the road.)

Climbing: Most climbing on this trail is between Hemlock Pond and the AT crossing above it, about 250 feet. A small amount of climbing (80 feet) is also required between the parking lot and the same AT crossing.

Trail Surface: Most of the trail follows old woods roads, so the path is mostly smooth and broad. The exception is between the second AT crossing and Hemlock Pond, which is a typical steep and stony woods path.

Scenery/Points of Interest: Crater Lake is a beautiful, small, high-elevation Kittatinny lake. It has a small beach (swimming is permitted at your own risk) near the parking area and interesting bluffs above the lake on the west side. Views of the lake are available from several points on the trail.

Permitted Uses: Hiking and cross-country skiing. 



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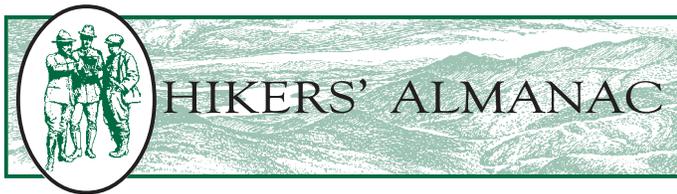
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continued from page 12

search for a lost mine (dry and 200 ft. long with an interesting history). Rain may cancel.

ADK-R. Ilgenstein Rock Loop, NJ. Leader: Call 845-362-8470 for information. Moderate 6-mile hike.

NYHC. Great Kills Park and Monarch Butterflies. Leader: Steve and Betty Soffer, 718-720-1593, call 7-9 pm only. Meet: take 10:30 am Staten Island Ferry from Manhattan, meet leaders at SIRT station in rear of ferry terminal to take bus; drivers call leaders. Easy 5-miles, all flat, in this Gateway National Park with woods, beaches, marinas.

WTA. Appalachian Trail, CT. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: call for details. 5 miles, moderate to strenuous, but leisurely pace. Entails ridge-walking portion of the Kent/Cornwall, CT, segment. Transportation contribution: \$6.

OCTOBER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

FVTW. Shawangunk Ridge Trail, NY. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 9:30 am at High Point monument for shuttle. Moderately strenuous 7.5 miles from High Point to Rt. 6. Steady rain cancels.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

PMNHA. Bear Rock Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mtn. NHA Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville, NJ. Moderate hike to one of New Jersey's largest glacial erratics.

MJOMC. South Taconic Trail - NY, CT, and MA. Leader: Lanny Wexler, 516-938-5721. Meet: call leader to register by Oct. 2; call 7:30-10 pm. Strenuous 10 miles; not for beginners. Spectacular vistas from the Taconic Ridge through three states - visit Mt. Frissell, highest point in CT, stand in 3 states at once at Tri-point, see fall colors and Bash Bish waterfall. Optional hearty dinner. One steep climb at start, but mostly glorious ridge walk. Rain cancels. Non-members \$10.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

WWW/WEC. Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: Don Weise. Meet: 9:30 am; call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for information and to register. Strenuous, fast paced 7 miles with steep climbs. Explore the seldom-seen side of lone Windbeam Mountain; reservoir views and side trip to an old cemetery. Rain or shine. Members of NJ Audubon \$5; non-members \$8.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Mary Dell Morrison, 908-684-5175. Meet: 10 am at Jockey Hollow Visitor Center. \$4 admission fee per person. Moderate, scenic 4-5 miles.

WTA. Bear Mountain/Popolopen Gorge, NY. Leader: Marie Gleason, 914-946-6673. Meet: call for details. Moderate hike on the Appalachian Trail. Transportation contribution: \$4.

FRIDAY - MONDAY, OCTOBER 10-13

MIR. Columbus Day Weekend with Miramar. Leaders: Rich Heeger and Pam Basch, rnheger@aatt.net. To register, check website (www.miramar.org) for info and coupon, or leave message at 212-978-9191. Istate whether you need or can offer a ride. Hike, bike, and enjoy our cozy lodge in Waitsfield Village, VT (6-7 hour drive from NYC).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

PMNHA. Fall Foliage Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mtn. NHA Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville, NJ. Moderate hike enjoying the splendor of fall colors.

AMC. Tuxedo, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Nancy Tollefson, 212-727-8961, 7-9:30 pm only. Meet: 9:10 am at police/RR station parking on Rt. 17, Tuxedo, NY (8:15 Shoreline bus from Port Authority to Tuxedo). Moderate pace, 7 miles with some hills. Good beginner's hike, but please call if this is your first AMC hike. Forecast of steady rain cancels; call eve before hike if in doubt.

OUT. Long Island Greenbelt. Leader: Salvatore Varbero, 718-420-9668, 8-10 pm only. Meet: 9:45 am at Penn. Station, NY (10:14 train to Bethpage). 5 level miles; beautiful scenes from Bethpage to Massapequa. Non-members \$3.

UHC. Eagle Rock Reservation, W. Orange, NJ. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Brisk 4-mile hike; hiking boots mandatory. Rain cancels.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

IHC. Windbeam, Bear and Board Mountains, NJ. Leader: Jane Egan, 201-689-0049. Meet: 9 am at Skyline Diner, Rt. 511, Ringwood, NJ. Moderately strenuous roller-coaster hike along part of the Stonetown Circular; delightful views of Wanaque Reservoir and Wyanokie Highlands. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

NYR. Dunderberg, Harriman/Bear Mountain State Park, NY. Leader: Phil Tates, 212-242-5384. Meet: Call leader. Strenuous hike on the RD, SBM, and AT trails.

GAHC. Hudson Highlands Park, NY. Leader: Manfred Janowski, 914-428-4573. Meet: 9:15 am at Castle Rock parking lot, approximately 4 miles north of Bear Mountain Bridge on Rt. 9D. Moderate hike to Anthony's Nose.

WEC. Fall Foliage Family Hike. Leader: Weis naturalist. Meet: 1 pm; call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for information and to register. Moderately easy (one steep up/down) 2-mile hike in Norvin Green State Forest; stop at abandoned mine. For families with pre-teens. Rain or shine. Members of NJ Audubon \$5; non-members \$8.

WTA. Hudson Highlands, NY. Leader: Barry Kaplan, 914-946-2869. Meet: call for details. 5-6 miles, strenuous. Wilkinson Trail, possibly as far as Sunset Point, then back on the Breakneck Ridge bypass. Silent hike until lunch. Transportation contribution: \$5.

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17-19

NYHC. Weekend at Belleayre Mountain, Pine Hill, NY. Leader: Bob Ward, 718-471-7036, call after 8 pm. Meet: Call leader for reservation at least one month in advance. Annual Catskills weekend to enjoy the fall colors.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

OUT. Scarborough to Tarrytown, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 10 am at Grand Central information booth. Moderate 10 miles on wooded areas of Aqueduct path, past Scarborough mansions, and in wide-open scenic areas in Rockwood Hall State Park along the Hudson River. Non-members \$3.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

IHC. Hudson Highlands High, NY. Leader: Ise Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am at Anthony Wayne parking, Harriman State Park, NY. Strenuous, challenging hike with grand views of the Hudson River and Storm King Mountain; Undercliff-Breakneck-Notch-Washburn trails. Rain cancels.

WWW/WEC. Mohonk Challenge, NY. Leader: Don Weise. Meet: 8 am; call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for information and to register (this hike does not meet at Weis). Very strenuous, fast paced 9-10 miles with steep climbs and scrambles. Visit Lake Mohonk, NY, and climb a high wooden ladder through a tight crevice to Sky Top. Members of NJ Audubon \$5; non-members \$8.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Carol McNichol, 201-795-2094, call before 8:30 pm. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Center parking lot, Coles Ave. at intersection of Providence Rd. Brisk 5 miles with many rough trails; steady rain cancels.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

PMNHA. Power Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville, NJ. Strenuous 3-hour hike.

WEC. Hikes with Tykes! Leader: Gina and Jefferson McLaughlin and a Weis naturalist. Meet: 10 am; call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for information and to register. Like a "play group" on the move; family hike. Moderate children's hike at Ramapo Reservation. Rain or shine. Members of NJ Audubon \$5; non-members \$8.

UHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate hike around the lake to the boiling springs. Steady rain cancels.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Daylight Savings Time Ends

IHC. Schunemunk Mountain Trail Maintenance, NY. Leader: Ise Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am at Red Apple Restaurant, Rt. 17, Southfields, NY (park in rear). Our club maintains this section of the Long Path and the Lower Jessup Trail. Please come help us maintain these trails. Bring lunch, water, work gloves, and large clippers (or use tools provided). Rain postpones to Saturday, November 1.

GAHC. Bear Mountain State Park, NY. Leader: Brian Kassenbrock, 718-748-0624. Meet: 9:45 am at Bear Mountain Inn. Strenuous and moderate hikes.

OUT. Watchung Reservation, NJ. Leader: Joel Pomerantz, 212-691-3844. Meet: 9:40 am at commuter's statue, Port Authority Bus Terminal. Steady pace, hilly 10 miles from Cranford to Summit; go north following Rahway River. Non-members \$3.

NYHC. Rockland Lake to Nyack, NY. Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-9457, call 7-8 am. Meet: 10:15 am at George Washington Bridge bus terminal, upper level near ticket booths. Easy-moderate 6-mile hike.

WTA. Hook Mountain, NY. Leader: Lily Munford, 914-769-2353. Meet: call for details. 6 miles, moderate. Scenic circular with climb up to ridge for beautiful views of Hudson River, then return on shore path. Transportation contribution: \$3.

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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 85 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-MH	Adirondack Mountain Club - Mid-Hudson Chapter	NYHC	New York Hiking Club
ADK-R	Adirondack Mountain Club - Ramapo Chapter	NYR	New York Ramblers
AMC	Appalachian Mountain Club, New York-North Jersey Chapter	OUT	Outdoors Club
FVTW	Frost Valley Trailwalkers	PMNHA	Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	UCHC	Union County Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	WTA	Westchester Trails Association
MJOMC	Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Mountain Club	WTW	Woodland Trail Walkers
MIR	Miramar Ski Club	WWW/WEC	Weis Wyanokie Wanderers/Weis Ecology Center

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference office. The deadline for the November/December issue is September 15, 2003.

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

PMNHA. Family Fun Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mtn. NHA Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville, NJ. Easy hike for the whole family.

WTW. Jennings Hollow/Long Pond Iron Works. Leader: Bob Busha, 973-777-5016. Meet: 9:45 am in Hewitt, NJ; call leader to register. Moderately easy hike with lunch by the brook and tour of this historic site, including waterwheel and museum. Rain cancels.

OUT. Connecticut Shore Hike. Leader: Salvatore Varbero, 718-420-9569, 8-10 pm only. Meet: 8:30 am at Grand Central (9:07 train to Green Farms). 5 level miles enjoying the beautiful view along the shore, Green Farms to Fairfield. Non-members \$3.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

IHC. Seven Hills Circular, Harriman State Park. Leader: Jane Egan, 201-689-0049. Meet: 9 am at Reeves Meadow Visitor Center, Seven Lakes Drive, Staatsburg, NY. Moderately strenuous. Beautiful trail through hemlocks and past waterfalls as we head for Diamond Mountain; spectacular views from the top. Rain cancels.

AMC. West Mountain to Jones Point, Harriman/Bear Mountain State Park, NY. Leader: Bill Weisberg, 201-224-2857. Meet: 10 am at Jones Point on Rt. 9W, 3.5 miles south of Bear Mtn. Inn (8:45

International bus from Port Authority to Jones Point; stops only on request). Moderate pace, extremely hilly, 9-mile hike. Climb West Mt., the Timp and Bald, returning on Cornell Mine trail. Short shuttle required.

UCHC. Cooper Mill to Kay Environmental Center, Chester, NJ. Leader: John Gilris, 973-386-1168. Meet: 10 am at Cooper Mill, call for directions. Easy, flat 4 miles along the Black River at a moderate pace, suitable for beginners. Rain cancels.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

FVTW. Nyack Circular, NY. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 am at Nyack Beach State Park; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 11-mile hike; Long Path with ups and downs and good view of the Hudson in the morning, then return along the river in afternoon (all flat). Steady rain cancels.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

ADK-MH. Table Rocks, Mohonk Preserve, NY. Leader: Call 845-471-5712 before 10 pm. Meet: 10:30 am at New Paltz Plaza (between Plaza Diner and hardware store). Moderate hike up to a good view of Catskills; 3.5 miles and 350 ft. elevation gain. Some damp spots on trail. Rain cancels. Day use fee for non-members of Mohonk Preserve.

WTW. Tourné Hike to Birchwood Lake, NJ. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194. Meet: 9:15 am in Boonton; call leader to register. Nice easy hike to enjoy the woods. Rain cancels.

OUT. Garvies Point Preserve, Long Island. Leader: Alan Kaye, 718-998-3793. Meet: 9:45 am at Penn. Station, NY, LIRR ticket windows. Easy paced 6 miles along seashore, meadow, and woodlands; learn about prehistoric native American culture & geology. Non-members \$3.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-6360. Meet: 10 am at Jockey Hollow Visitor Center. \$4 admission fee per person. Brisk 5-6 miles; hiking boots mandatory; rain cancels.

MJOMC. Appalachian Trail, Delaware Water Gap. Leader: Herb Gecht, 718-743-5825. Meet: call leader 7-9:45 pm Monday-Thurs day week before hike. 7 miles; spectacular views from Mt. Minis. Public transportation available. Non-members \$10.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

IHC. Sebago Surprise, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Jim Hayes, 201-825-9506. Meet: 9 am at Lake Sebago parking, Seven Lakes Drive. Moderately strenuous hike to see if the blueberries and trees are starting to show their fall color. Rain cancels.

WWW/WEC. Shady Side of Schunemunk, NY. Leader: Don Weise. Meet: 9:30 am; call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for information and to register (this hike does not meet at Weis). Very strenuous, fast paced 8+ miles exploring the quieter side of beautiful, rugged Schunemunk Mountain. Visit multiple ridge tops and the Megaliths; views of Catskills, Gunks, Storm King, and Breakneck. Rain or shine. Members of NJ Audubon \$5; non-members \$8.

AMC. Beginner's Hike, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Stanley Lewin, 212-927-7012, call before 9:30 pm. Meet: 9:10 am at police/PRR station parking on Rt. 17, Tuxedo, NY (8:15 Shuttle bus from Port Authority to Tuxedo). Moderate pace, 8 miles with some hills. Explore various trails together in Harriman; boots, backpack and plenty of water required. Rain cancels; call morning of hike until 7:30 am if in doubt.

ADK-R. Grinding It Out. Leader: call 201-816-9465 for information. Moderate 6-mile hike.

WTA. Nelsonville Path. Leader: Audrey Sutton, 914-723-1214. Meet: call for details. 4 miles, moderate with uphill climb but leisurely pace. Hudson views among the finest. Transportation contribution: \$4.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

NYHC. Pocantico Hills, NY. Leader: Salvatore Varbero, 718-420-9569, 8-10 pm only. Meet: 10 am at Grand Central Station 10:20 train to Philips Manor. Moderate 7 miles on the hills of Pocantico; visit grave of Andrew Carnegie.

ADK-R. Camp Smith Trail, Hudson Highlands, NY. Leader: Call 201-836-3329 for information. Moderate 7-mile hike.

UCHC. Patriots' Path, Mendham, NJ. Leader: Martin Frahme, 973-539-4084. Meet: 10 am at Sunrise Lake parking lot, Lewis Morris Park (Rt. 24). Moderate, flat 5 miles, suitable for beginners; rain cancels.

MJOMC. Buchanan Mountain, NY. Leader: Herb Gecht, 718-743-5825. Meet: call leader 7-9:45 pm Monday-Thurs day week before hike. 8 miles; spectacular views along the AT. Public transportation available. Rain cancels. Non-members \$10.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

IHC. Popolopon Panorama, Bear Mountain State Park, NY.

Leader: Ilse Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am at Bear Mountain Inn (parking fee required). Moderately strenuous hike from the inn to Popolopon Gorge, past Roe Pond and churning waters of Hell Hole. Visit to historic Fort Montgomery. Rain cancels.

ADK-MH. Spring Farms to Bonticou Crag, NY. Leader: Call 845-256-9142 to register; hike size limited to 30 people. Meet: 10:30 am; call for location. Moderate 3-4 mile hike; suitable for children. Leader is the author of a new book on the Shawangunks. Day use fee for non-members of Mohonk Preserve.

WEC. Island Pond, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Charlie Toole. Meet: 9:30 am; call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for information and to register. Moderate 4.5 miles past the Lemon Squeezer, Green Pond, and Surebridge Mountain. Rain or shine. Members of NJ Audubon \$5; non-members \$8.

WTW. Storm King Mountain, NY. Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 973-252-8122. Meet: 9:30 am at Silvermine parking lot, Seven Lakes Dr., Harriman State Park. Hike 4 miles on the mountain; views of Hudson River and Breakneck Ridge; hiking boots required. Rain cancels.

WTA. Appalachian Trail. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: call for details. 5 miles, easy to moderate, along the Housatonic heading north from Kent, CT. Transportation contribution: \$6.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

PMNHA. Fall is Coming Hike. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mtn. NHA Visitor Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville, NJ. Easy hike.

IHC. Cattus Island Park, Ocean County, NJ. Leader: Ann Gilibert, 973-839-0292. Meet: 10 am at Cattus Island Park; call for directions. Easy walk along the shore at this gem of a county park; learn about native wildlife at the environmental center. Rain cancels.

ADK-MH. Smiley Carriage Trail, Minnewaska State Park, NY. Leader: Call 845-744-3648. Meet: call leader for information. Strenuous 12-mile hike; shuttle required. \$6 parking fee at Minnewaska. Lake Awosting across Fly Brook, then Smiley to Berne Road.

WEC. Hikes with Tykes! Leader: Gina and Jefferson McLaughlin and a Weis naturalist. Meet: 10 am; call Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ, at 973-835-2160 for information and to register. Like a "play group" on the move, family hike. 1.5 easy miles at Shepherd Lake. Rain or shine. Members of NJ Audubon \$5; non-members \$8.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Bob Laudati, 908-322-7762. Meet: Before 10 am at Trailside Center parking lot, intersection of Coles Ave. and New Providence Rd. All-day 8-mile hike; wear hiking boots. Option for early out, finish around 3:30 pm. Optional dinner afterwards. Steady rain cancels.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

NYR. Arden, NY, to Greenwood Lake, NJ. Leader: Clive Morruck, 212-242-0831. Meet: call leader. Strenuous hike via the Appalachian Trail and Mountain Spring Trail.

GAHC. Buttermilk Falls, NJ. Leader: Matthias Wuethrich, 908-253-9042. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader. Moderate hike on the Appalachian Trail.

WTW. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Larry Mishkind, 718-332-8999. Meet: call leader Sept. 25, 6-10 pm. Moderate hike, 6-10 miles;

continued on page 11

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