



82nd Year


TRAILWALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE...MAINTAINING OVER 1500 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2002

NJ DEP Says Yes to ORV Enforcement

On October 2, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell announced a new policy regarding Off Road Vehicle (ORV) activities on DEP-administered lands that calls for strict enforcement of laws prohibiting ORV use on state property and seeks the maximum \$1,000 penalty for all potential violators.

The new policy also addresses the need for additional sanctions for ORV violators, including natural resource damage fines. Working with the state Department of Transportation, the DEP will make recommendations for a comprehensive licensing, registration and training program for all ORV operators. It also sets a goal of developing two facilities in the state where ORVs can be lawfully used. No current state park, wildlife management area or other environmentally sensitive area will be considered in this review and selection process.

"This is a big victory for passive recreation users in New Jersey," said Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell. "The commissioner seems to be taking a big step in the right direction. Many thanks go to all the organizations and individuals who participated in the Trail Conference's ORV symposium last spring and went on to press for improved enforcement. We will scrutinize the details of this policy change and the creation of ORV parks vigilantly." 

New: SF Map, AT Guide, Cards

■ New Edition of Sterling Forest Trails Map Available Dec. 1

The Trail Conference is nearing completion of the next edition of the Sterling Forest Trails map set as this issue goes to press. This map set (the first edition was a second-place winner in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection cartography competition in 2001) is the Trail Conference's first map produced mostly

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A Transition for Rock-meister Bob Marshall

Alumni of what might be called the Bob Marshall School of Trail Maintenance are legion among the ranks of Trail Conference members. "Bob really set a style and nurtured many of our leaders," says Larry Wheelock, Trails Director for the Conference. "I started with him, working on his crew. Almost all of our crew leaders have worked with Bob's crew."

What many call "Bob's crew" is officially known as the West Hudson Crew. The crew's busy schedules and achievements have long made substantial contributions to the quality of our region's hiking. In a report for this issue (see page 4), Bob sends word of an important transition: he is retiring as crew chief and henceforth will be just one of the crew. Longtime West Hudson crew leader Chris Ezzo is stepping into Bob's well-blazed leader-

ship role.

Bob has been working on trails since 1984, when he got his start helping to relocate a section of the Appalachian Trail in Dutchess and Putnam Counties. In 1986, he initiated the relocation of the Timp-Torne Trail onto the abandoned bed of the Dunderberg Spiral Railway. It's been up- and down-hill ever since. Harriman-Bear Mountain, Storm King, Schunemunk, Sterling Forest, Minnewaska: the trails that have fallen into the jurisdiction of Bob Marshall's West



Hudson crew are among the most beautiful and popular in the New York-New Jersey region.

A life-long resident of Peekskill, New York, Bob's Trail Conference work has been complemented with related activities, chairing the Mohegan chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, for example. He retired from Metro-North in 1996 after 40 years with the railroad.

His contributions to hikers will extend beyond this second retirement. Says Trail Conference president Jane Daniels, "In the almost 20 years I have known Bob, he has been a dedicated builder of trails. His expertise is legendary, and the crews he managed are awesome. His construction projects give testament to his work."

Adds his colleague and friend Larry Wheelock: "He knows how to build a sense of family. He knows that it takes time and patience to recruit volunteers. One thing that is most remarkable about him is, he is very difficult to say no to."

To paraphrase Bob's signature sign-off: "He Rocks!" 

Never a Dull Night on Friday Mountain

By Bob "Grey Dog" McElroy

Early February, 1998. As I snuggle deep into my sleeping bag, a sharp bang breaks the evening silence—as if a bowling ball had been slammed with a wooden mallet. "A falling branch must have bounced off a rock" is the unsatisfactory but only explanation I can muster. Twenty minutes later it happens again. Then again, and again—and I finally realize that the beech trees here on Friday Mountain's east ridge are splitting open in the bitter cold.

Later that month, on another secluded corner of the mountain, my sleep is interrupted by the distant sound of squealing tires on a truck careening downhill through sharp curves. I think: "How weird is that? And it's coming closer." As the din grows louder and clearer, I realize I'm listening not to protesting tires but to the high-pitched cries of a pack of coyotes headed right toward me. Closer and louder until the clamor stops

in mid-cry—the result, I assume, of the pack suddenly sensing my presence. In the morning I find their tracks in the snow, 200 feet from my bivouac.

Early May the same year. With my friend Chris Adams, I'm camped in a small meadow a quarter-mile north of Friday's summit. To the east, far down in the lowlands, lights are twinkling. As one of the benefits of not burning a campfire or sleeping in a tent, we enjoy an overhead star show that dazzles us in a sky surprisingly dark for being this close to the lights of Megalopolis. We spot a moving satellite, high enough that it still reflects sunlight, and twice, the fiery trajectories of meteorites draw our plaudits. In the morning there are new bear pawprints in the adjacent remnant snowdrift.

Late April, 1999. Sleeping alone a quar-



ter-mile west of the peak, I'm assaulted by fierce barking from just below my ledge—a coyote is taking umbrage at my night intrusion on his turf. I didn't know coyotes barked. A coy dog perhaps? Locals tell me scary stories about these big, half-dog, half-coyote beasts. But after a few minutes, his point made, he leaves and I go back to sleep. I could regale you further, but more tales would merely belabor the point that clearly, when darkness falls, Friday stirs.

The Catskill 3500 Club used to tally new members' preferences for the 35 mountains they had climbed to qualify for membership. Friday, one of the 12 trail-less Catskill peaks higher than 3500 feet, would often be voted the least favorite. But I have always felt a certain attachment to this mountain. Its lonely crest has lured me up by more than a dozen routes. And all four seasons have provided enjoyable, though often lively, evenings high on its slopes.

After logging into its summit register 26 times, I find that Friday's secrets still tantalize me. As often as I explore its ridges, cliffs, and hollows, I still can't say I know it well. But I recently solved one puzzle. A few years ago in the *New York State Conservationist*, a writer told of recoiling in terror when, as he wandered near Friday's summit late on a rainy afternoon,

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The TRAIL WALKER (USPS Permit #970-100) (ISSN 0749-1352) is published bi-monthly by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference as a benefit of membership. Of membership dues, \$4 is allocated to a one-year subscription. Subscriptions are available to libraries only at \$15.00 a year. Periodical postage paid at Mahwah, N.J., and additional offices. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to the address below. Opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily represent the policy or position of the Conference. Contributions of typed manuscripts, photos, and drawings are welcome. Manuscripts may be edited for style and length. Send SASE for writers' guidelines. Submission deadlines for the TRAIL WALKER are January 26 (Mar./Apr. Issue), March 25 (May/June issue), May 25 (July/Aug. Issue), July 26 (Sept./Oct. Issue), September 25 (Nov./Dec. Issue), November 26 (Jan./Feb. Issue). Unsolicited contributions cannot be acknowledged unless accompanied by SASE. For information on advertising rates, please write or call.

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

from the president's notepad...

In Our Back Yard

Those of us who love to travel spend time poring over travel guides deciding where to go and what to see or hike when we get there. All too often we miss similar opportunities in our backyard, down the street, or around the corner. Ten years ago when I worked for the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, I began to learn about the nooks and crannies that abound in the valley, discovering things I never knew existed. It was not just the hiking opportunities, but the historic sites, museums, and wonderful scenery that make the Hudson Valley an interesting place to live and visit. Once I stopped working for the Greenway, I stopped these excursions—either I felt pressed for time or I just did not think of doing them.

But three years ago, I once again began exploring. This time I was introducing someone new to the area to the treasures that abound here; some of the destinations I had never before visited. Our excursions included hiking up Bull Hill in

the height of the fall foliage season, the Tenement House Museum in New York City, Olana, and the Ossining Urban Cultural Park. Even after my friend left the area, I knew I wanted to continue my forays and looked for excuses to do so.

One emerged this past August—the Hudson River Valley Greenway's End to End event. I am now on the board of the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, and so I participated in part of the event. The Greenway route extends from Battery Park in New York City to Battery Park in Waterford, near Albany. For three days in August this year, I was sometimes tourist—spending the night in hotels and eating at restaurants—and sometimes hike leader—showing off trails the Trail Conference has built and maintained. In both cases, I truly felt I was a visitor in the valley, seeing it through new eyes. As part of the event, I rode my bike up Route 218 around Storm King, a personal high point on the trip, as I am not a confident enough cyclist to do it on my

own. This event was more than just a good time. It showcased what the valley is all about and made me realize how much I love it.

Then in September, while planning a family event, I saw another chance to visit treasures in my backyard. With guests coming from England and the West Coast, this was an opportunity to show off an area that few would think of as a tourist destination. For the guests so inclined, the weekend included a hike up Bear Mountain with a picnic lunch on top. Some who lived in New York City had not realized that they could hike in this area. They were delighted to learn of the availability of public transportation to trailheads and of publications that would tell them more. Others knew they would return for a longer vacation to visit the Revolutionary War sites. With two family members staying extra time in the area, we visited places in New Jersey, the Hudson Valley, and then the Adirondacks.

Take time to see something you see or pass every day or even better, share the experience. You will come away with an appreciation of what is around you and in the latter case, a chance to see the area in a new light.

—Jane Daniels

L · E · T · T · E · R · S

Let's Make the Whole World Safe for Walking

It's most encouraging to read (*Trail Walker*, Sept./Oct. 2002) that two-thirds of Storm King is now clear of the killing toys of 60 to 160 years ago. And much more, that the Conference is trying to get us to put pressure on congresspersons to get the military to cough up \$5 million to \$7 million to clear the remaining third of this deadly, and apparently long-lasting residue of the distant past.

Storm King and Butter Hill do seem uniquely beautiful. I've enjoyed them in all seasons. But the hopes and lives of people are not unique.

If we're contacting congresspersons, might not this be a good time to consider also that other hearts in other lands are beating? And other eyes would like to see beauty. And other feet would like to walk among it. And many of these are endangered by about 100 million land mines left lying around from more recent conflicts and practice.

No use trying to get the military to cough up funds to remove these. The cost would be enormous. Land mines cost as little as \$6 each to plant and as much as \$10,000 each to remove. And almost all of them are in other lands. Waiting patiently for victims.

But there just might be some use in pressing for our nation to sign the international treaty banning land mines. Almost all other countries of the world have signed that

treaty, and without reservations that would make it meaningless. Why the disgrace, that ours has refused?

Let's tell our congresspersons we want the rest of Storm King cleared of the toys of the 1840s through 1940s, and now. And let's tell them that 100 million land mines desecrating the world and its people are enough. And that we want our nation to join most of the civilized world in banning them, and now.

No, we can't demand for the rest of the world what we're demanding for Storm King. But let's at least try to demand that this particular outrage stop now. We all have a basic human right to walk without risk of instant maiming.

*The Rev. Lloyd A. Berg
Staten Island, New York*

Thoughts of a Superannuated Hiker

The years accrued while peaks were bagged, and near and distant climes and climbs were pleasurably experienced. Now the ineluctable ravages of time no longer permit me to hike, in comfort and good grace, with groups intent on devouring time and distance.

Yet reasonably mobile, endowed with an inexorable drive to walk in the woods, I now walk alone—as walk I must!

This obsessive drive was undoubtedly engendered at a very early age on family outings in a nearby forest; the visual embrace of the lone tree on my city block each day on my way to P.S. 19; a passion

for Harriman Park awakened by the Settlement House summer camp on Lake Tiorati I attended in my teens.

I now feel beholden as I walk the glorious Hudson River path in the shadow of the magnificent Palisades, saved from destruction. I apply the term "hagiography" advisedly as I worshipfully read of the "saintly" people who made it all possible, in the recently published *Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years* by Robert O. Binnewies, former head of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

Yes, people made it happen. Let us remember and be grateful.

*Paul Leikin
Nanuet, New York*

Take One to Stay Alert

In the Sept./Oct. issue is a letter, "Driving While Sleepy," which discusses this problem, particularly with respect to returning from a hike. We have found a solution to this with a product called Enerjets. These are flavored lozenges that contain 75 mg. of caffeine, about the amount in a cup of regular coffee. We take them at the first sign of drowsiness and have found that they give us enough of a jolt to keep us alert. We order them by the dozen boxes of 10 lozenges each for \$24, or 20 cents per lozenge. Order from Enerjet Distribution, P.O. Box 1052, W. Caldwell, NJ 07007-1052 or 800-829-5036.

*Malcolm White
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania*



from the Executive Director

Putting a Value on Your Time

"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer"

—Lt. Colonel James Doolittle
Accounting for Your Time

Volunteers are the heart of the Trail Conference, and the Trail Conference is only as strong as its volunteers.

This is highlighted in the Trail Conference's 2001 audited financials. For the first time the contributed services of volunteers were formally accounted for and valued using comparable wage rates from the U.S. Department of Labor.

This was an eye-opening exercise! The auditors found 33,682 hours of recorded volunteer effort equating a cash value of \$566,489. Almost \$400,000 of this amount could be attributed to trail building and maintenance, with significant amounts donated toward publications, technology management, and office assistance. Together, these huge contributions demonstrate once again that the essential core of the Trail Conference is its volunteers.

Further evidence of the degree to which the Trail Conference's work is based on volunteer effort can be found in our newly completed 2003 Plan and Budget. From trail crew work to new publications to grassroots advocacy and even fundraising, the committees of the Trail Conference are getting the work done primarily with volunteers.

The strategic importance of volunteers to our organization was the rationale for hiring a staff person devoted exclusively to enhancing our volunteer capacity. Josh Erdsneker, our Volunteer Projects Director, has used the summer to review and overhaul our internal systems for coordinating and serving our all-important volunteers. He found that we were not collecting all the information we needed from prospective volunteers and we weren't adequately recording and using all the information we did collect.

For example, for jobs other than trail maintenance we collected very little detail that was needed to match people to

volunteer opportunities. Furthermore, we did not have a complete set of job descriptions or volunteer opportunities that exist throughout the organization. Josh has worked hard to correct this and beginning in October all renewal notices will include new surveys of volunteer interest.

Once this system is implemented with new members and renewals we will contact all other members to make sure we have accurate information about their volunteer interests. Working to provide better service once you have volunteered is another top priority for Josh.

Josh has formed a Volunteer Committee to assist him in improving the experience of volunteers and increasing our effectiveness as an organization committed to serving hikers. The Volunteer Committee seeks additional members who can help build our volunteer capacity. The Volunteer Committee is planning to host new-member receptions and/or hikes bi-monthly to help introduce and integrate new members into our volunteers' services.

Among our most pressing volunteer needs at the moment are the following:

Project managers for publications, including books, maps, note cards, calendars, etc.

Supervisory positions in the Trail Council such as chairs, supervisors, and trail crew leaders and chiefs.

Please check in this and every *Trail Walker* for Volunteer Classifieds (see page 7) about the current volunteer needs. Or just call Josh Erdsneker for the most up-

Volunteering Opportunities

Don't underestimate the range and variety of volunteer positions you could fill at the Trail Conference; just a few are noted below.

Trails

- Lead a trail crew
- Adopt a lean-to
- Fight forest fires

Conservation and Advocacy

- Contact public officials
- Collect petition signatures
- Speak at public hearings

Publication and Education

- Speak to groups
- Collect field research for natural history of a trail area
- Coordinate the logistics of publishing a book or map

Office

- Update a database
- Oversee bulk mailings
- Take and fulfill orders

Communications and Fund Raising

- Write press releases
- Solicit corporate sponsorships
- Organize and coordinate event logistics

to-date information at 201-512-9348 or josh@nynjtc.org. Josh is also working with Walt Daniels to get this information on our website.

If you have volunteered previously and haven't heard from us, please contact us again—you may have been lost in the shuffle. We need your assistance and enthusiasm in our efforts to optimize public access to excellent hiking opportunities in our region.

—Edward Goodell

BOARD NAMES AWARD WINNERS

Each year, the board of directors honors those who have shown extraordinary dedication to the cause of trail preservation. This year, the list of such individuals is uncommonly long.

The **William Hoferlin Award**, given annually to volunteers who demonstrate exemplary service to trail maintenance and management, this year goes to two members: **Claudia Ganz**, a long-time and devoted member of the West Hudson crew and frequent crew leader, and the late **Hal Cohen**, who long served conscientiously as trails supervisor in Harriman State Park.

The **Major Welch Award**, named for an early manager of Palisades Interstate Park, was given to **Wes Powers**, Maintenance Coordinator for the Northern Region of the N. J. DEP, Division of Parks and Forests. In the words of TC Trails Director Larry Wheelock, Powers is the person "perhaps more than any other, who has been responsible for the work plans and on-the-ground construction of the Pochuck wetland crossing. His exemplary work and patience with the volunteer workers, various planners and his own state agency have resulted in the relatively smooth completion of this massive project."

Three awards were given to honor "work and dedication to the Sterling Forest project": **The Leo Rothschild Conservation Award** to former **Senator Frank Lautenberg**, and the **Major Welch Trail Partner Award** to **Marge Roukema** and **Congressman Ben Gilman**.

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

Victory in the Torne Valley: Plan for Power Plant Abandoned

On September 3, the Trail Conference and Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) got the good news that American National Power Company (ANP) had decided to abandon its plan to site a large 1,100-megawatt electrical generating plant in the Ramapo Torne Valley adjacent to Harriman State Park. Nine months ago, Sithe Energies, Inc., abandoned plans to construct a smaller generating facility in the Torne Valley.

The organizations opposed the power plant, with joint counsel Neil Woodworth arguing at a public hearing and in the governor's office that the 35 acres should be purchased by the state and added to surrounding Harriman State Park. The New York State Open Space Plan and Palisades Interstate Park Commission have identified Torne Valley as a critical priority for acquisition as an addition to Harriman.

The Trail Conference and ADK believe that all of the currently undeveloped property in the Torne Valley should now be acquired and added to Harriman State

Park to protect the sole source aquifer and the Ramapo River watershed, to preserve habitat of timber rattlesnakes (a protected species), and to ensure that the scenic beauty and viewshed of the Torne Mountains is forever protected. The groups plan to continue lobbying for this protection.

2002 New York State Open Space Plan Released

On September 17, Governor George Pataki released the 2002 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan, a blueprint for preserving Adirondack and Catskill wilderness and protecting New York's open space and expanding its park system. Trail Conference and ADK staff and members serve on six of nine committees that helped produce the plan.

The 139 listed priority projects, eligible for land conservation from the State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), include the Southern Shawangunks Greenway (30-mile Shawangunk Ridge Trail), the Peekamoose Gorge parcel, and support for the Long Path extension from the Catskills to the Adirondacks.

The Plan also recommends additional

monies for the stewardship of State lands. In the past few years this funding has supported trail crews work in the Catskills and Adirondacks. Since 1995, the state has invested more than \$378 million to preserve more than 394,000 acres across New York.

The 2002 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan is available on DEC's website at: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/opensp/index.html. Copies of the plan also are available at regional DEC and OPRHP offices.

New Trail View State Park Protects Long Island Greenbelt Trail

In September, New York State announced the creation of Trail View State Park. The new park is a 400-acre linear trail corridor, which spans 7.4 miles, running north from Bethpage State Park to Cold Spring Harbor State Park. It offers multi-use trails for hiking, cycling, birding, and other trail-related activities.

Cold Spring Harbor State Park was dedicated in 2000 and comprises 40 acres of hilly terrain that offer scenic vistas of

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TRAIL NEWS

Storm King Mountain

We anticipate that the trails in two-thirds of Storm King State Park will be open to the public by the time you read this. Trail Conference maintainers have been allowed in to repair, clean, and reblaze trails, and found that they were in remarkably good condition considering that they've been closed for three years.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area Trails

The Pioneer Trail is back but shortened to avoid a Bald Eagle nesting area. This trail will run from the Hamilton Ridge Road back to the same road, with the northernmost section remaining off limits. Parking for this loop is at the Millbrook Historical Village. Access to the trail requires a short hike on the beautiful Orchard Trail to the Hamilton Ridge Road.

The Crater Lake Loop Trail is a new path; it circles Crater Lake and has incorporated the old Hemlock Trail as a northern leg extending down to Hemlock Pond. The Crater Lake circuit is very suitable for all levels of hikers and offers a great place to swim at the trailhead. Parking is available at the trailhead at the end of Skyline Drive (closed during snow season).

West Hudson Crew Report, and a Change at the Top

In the spring we began our work with inspections, scouting trips, and some flagging for relocations of various trails in Harriman State Park, Schunemunk Mountain, and Sterling Forest State Park. Actual trail work began in early April and continued through June.

In Harriman State Park, we cleared brush, reopened staircases, and removed trash from the walls and foundations of historical Doodletown. On the Pine Meadow Trail, waterbars and check dams were put in place to reduce erosion and stabilize the tread. On the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail, near the Timp, rock steps were added to improve the path. A small relocation with stepping stones was established around a wet area on the Red Cross Trail. Work was completed on the 1777 West Trail by placing stepping stones over a stream and marshy areas and by building up tread with rock and dirt fill. Finally, on the Popolopen Gorge Trail, a steep rock staircase was completed, including a rock sluice for water drainage. A grand staircase indeed.

At Schunemunk, a section of the Long Path was stabilized with a small relocation and a combination of waterbars and rock steps. In Sterling Forest State Park, the approach to the new Mombasha Creek Bridge was improved as was a section on the Southfields Furnace Trail.

We wish to thank the following volunteers for their professional work on our trails: Roz Barnes, Mary Nell Bockman, Roland Breault, Gail Brown, Jim Brown,

Brian Buchbinder, George Cartamil, Kevin Cwalina, Davis Day, Colin Doolittle, Tom Dunn, Chris Ezzo, Joyce Gallagher, Claudia Ganz, Nick Halkias, Mary Hilley, Joan James, Joselin Jelley, Mark Jelley, Mark Kamischke, Frank Keech, David Klopfenstein, Brian Krall, Richard Lynch, Gay Mayer, Douglas McBride, John McCullough, Carol Nestor, Patty Parmalee, Trudy Pojman, Bob Reardon, Norm Reicher, Monica Resor, Trudy Schneider, Melissa Shumer, Harry Smith, Mike Sterwick, Donna Beth Stewart, Ros Thalmann, and Hanson Wong.

A new crew chief

After 12 rewarding years, I am stepping down as West Hudson Trail Crew Chief. Please welcome Chris Ezzo, who will be taking on this position starting in January 2003. Chris has been a crew leader with us for several years and has amply demonstrated his trail construction abilities as well as fine leadership skills.

I would like to thank each and every crew member, past and present, for your hard work and dedication. Your combined efforts and individual contributions guaranteed the success of the crew. I look forward to many more years of productive trail work with the West Hudson Trail Crew.

We Rock!

Bob Marshall, crew chief
Trudy Schneider, crew assistant



PIPC Executive Director Carol Ash joined a TC crew at work on the Twin Forts Trail.

New Twin Forts Trail Connects AT to Historical Sites

In another "cavalry to the rescue" operation, the West Hudson trail crew was called in to assist the Palisades Interstate Park Commission with the brand-new Twin Forts Trail in Bear Mountain State Park. The Twin Forts Trail (unofficial name) links the Revolutionary-era Forts Clinton and Montgomery on either side of the mouth of Popolopen Creek. When complete, the trail will traverse from the river edge of the Trailside Museum property, under the Bear Mountain Bridge, across a steep bedrock outcropping to a new pedestrian bridge over the mouth of Popolopen Creek and the recently renovated site of the former Fort Montgomery. The Twin Forts Trail, the pedestrian bridge, and the renovated Fort Montgomery were dedicated on October 6, 2002, the 225th anniversary of the British army's storming of these two forts during the Revolutionary War.

Bob Marshall, his trail crew leaders Chris Ezzo, Monica Resor, Claudia Ganz, and David Day, and crew volunteers were called in during the last two weekends of September to provide the critical expertise needed to get a safe trail around and down the bedrock shelf to the elevation of the creek. The Trail Conference crew worked around the nose of the promontory that connects the PIPC-installed trail underneath the Bear Mountain Bridge to the Trail Side Museum entrance. After museum closing hours, a sign will direct hikers up an "after hours" trail along the north side of the Bear Mountain Bridge.



UNDERCLIFF TRAIL EXTENSION IN HUDSON HIGHLANDS

Trail opening of the extension of the Undercliff Trail from the ridge on Bull Hill down to Nelsonville. Left to right: Jane Daniels (TC President, and Greenway board member), Emma Garshagen, Walter Garshagen (Nelsonville Greenway Committee), Bob Bondi (Putnam County Executive), Barbara Kendall (Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Executive Director), Vincent Tamagna (Putnam County Legislature).

TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES



For the latest schedules, check <http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trvolog.html#crew>

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 CREW

Leaders: David Day and Monica Resor
Phone: 732-937-9098
Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
If possible, please notify the leaders that you are coming, so they will know how many people to plan work for.

Nov. 9 (Saturday), Mt. Tammany Trail, Worthington SP. We will be continuing trail reconstruction/rehabilitation work on the Mt. Tammany (Red Dot) Trail in Worthington State Forest. Meet 9:00 a.m. in the Dunnfield Creek parking lot (the second parking lot).

NJ HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW

Contact the leader for details, no more than one week before the scheduled work date.
Leader: Bob Moss, 973-743-5203
Nov. 10 (Sunday)

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.

EAST HUDSON CREW

Contact the leader for details. Train pickups can be arranged.
Leader: Walt Daniels, 914-245-1250, wdaniels@bestweb.net

WEST HUDSON

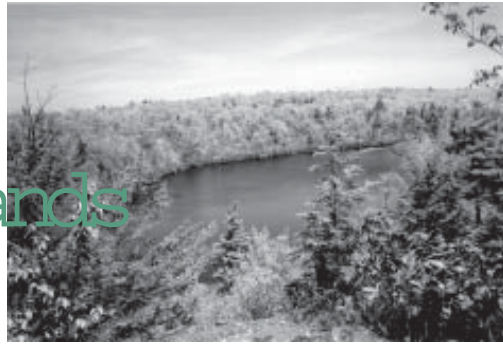
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Chris Ezzo: 516-431-1148
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Monica Resor: 732-937-9098, e-mail adamant@trailstobuild.com
Nov. 10 (Sunday), TBA, Harriman SP; Brian Buchbinder
Nov. 14 (Thursday), TBA, Harriman SP; Bob Marshall
Nov. 17 (Sunday), TBA, Harriman SP; Brian Buchbinder
Nov. 24 (Sunday), TBA, Harriman SP; Bob Marshall

IS YOUR TRAIL WALKER ARRIVING LATE?

Reports of late delivery of this newsletter seem to be coming more frequently. We'd like to track ZIP codes to see if the problem can be redressed. If your TW arrives after the first weekend of the month, please send an email with your ZIP code and date of Trail Walker delivery to Administrative Director Maureen Walsh, maureen@nynjtc.org. Thank you.

Checking the Pulse of The Highlands

The NY-NJ Highlands Regional Study Update



Conference Science Advisory Committee, is Director of the Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis at Cook College, Rutgers University.

By Richard Lathrop

The New York-New Jersey Highlands are near and dear to Trail Conference members as the locale for some of the best hiking in the New York City metro area. In addition to its great outdoor recreation and open space values, the Highlands also serve to protect critical watersheds, a rich diversity of plants and animals, and productive forest land.

As sprawling urban growth threatens the natural resources of the Highlands region, information regarding those resources becomes critical to decision-makers. Late in 2000, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service was given the responsibility by the U.S. Congress to undertake a comprehensive study of the Highlands region and the implications of changing land use patterns. The study team consisted of representatives of the USDA Forest Service, Rutgers University, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Regional Plan Association, and state forestry departments of New York and New Jersey.

After a series of public listening sessions during the Spring of 2001, the study kicked into high gear and culminated in a draft report released in March 2002. The final report is slated for release in November 2002. This present study serves to update a previous study conducted by the Forest Service in the early 1990s and to expand the resource assessment and analysis portions of Highlands resources based on the greater availability of spatial data and improved analytical techniques.

The Walton Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis of Rutgers University took the lead in assembling and analyzing the large amount of data needed to carry out the study. We assembled data sets and information from numerous sources to inventory and assess the status of water quality, watershed and forest integrity, biodiversity, outdoor recreation, agriculture, and timber production. Mapped information on Highlands resources were compiled and integrated into a geographic information system (GIS). Land use trends were investigated and several future land use change scenarios were developed.

These studies suggest that if existing development trends continue unchanged there will be profound effects on the Highlands environment. Faced with this ongoing development pressure, there has been an increasing push to purchase and pro-

tect open space. A Conservation Values Assessment (CVA) model was developed to provide a coherent picture of relative resource conservation value across the region, highlighting those areas that have the highest natural resource values. Recognizing that not all the Highlands can or should be preserved as public open space, the CVA model can help federal, state, and local groups better prioritize lands for conservation management and potential open space purchase.

Of particular interest to Trail Conference members will be the efforts undertaken to map and characterize outdoor recreation opportunities across the Highlands. The Trail Conference provided its hiking maps so that trail data could be digitized, and these were supplemented with additional maps for other local trails. The trail corridors, including adjacent lands, which serve as buffers, were delineated, and a viewshed analysis was conducted. All mapped viewpoints and observation tower locations were digitized and, using a digital terrain model, the land-

scape area visible from each of these locations was determined. All the individual viewshed maps were then combined to create a composite scenic sensitivity map. Canoeable waters and fishable lakes and streams along with appropriate buffers were identified and mapped. Locations of historical sites and federal, state, and local parkland were also included to provide a synoptic view of the Highlands and the critical areas for outdoor recreation. The GIS-based CVA model then integrated the other important resource components to map the coincidence of multiple resource values.

The result: more than 85,000 acres of the highest priority lands were identified as not in some form of permanent conservation ownership; these are the lands that should receive the highest consideration for future protection.

The draft report can be viewed at the Walton Center website: www.crssa.rutgers.edu/projects/highlands/.

Richard Lathrop, a member of the Trail

Key Points about the Highlands of New York and New Jersey

- Highlands watershed lands contain reservoirs and aquifers that provide and protect high-quality drinking water for more than 15 million Americans.
- The Highlands region hosts more than 14 million recreational visits annually, more than Yellowstone and many of our national treasures in the West.
- The U.S. Forest Service found that more than 5,000 acres of land are being developed a year in the New York-New Jersey Highlands alone, threatening the quantity and quality of water supplies, and other critical resources in the Highlands.
- 77% (294,000 acres) of high-value watershed lands in the Highlands are unprotected. 100,000 acres of high-value lands are immediately threatened.
- The Highlands Stewardship Act of 2002 (H.R. 5146 or S. 2749) would designate the Highlands as the nation's first "Stewardship Area" and authorize \$25 million annually over 10 years to help the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut protect the critical lands and waters of this nationally significant region.
- The Act provides a non-regulatory approach for preservation. Lands and interests in lands would be purchased by non-federal entities from willing sellers only.

Please urge your members of Congress to cosponsor the Highlands Stewardship Act.

For updates on this issue, visit www.nynjtc.org/issues/2002/higstew.html

Your Shawangunk Ridge Dollars at Work: A Report on a Productive Year

Time and time again, Trail Conference members have demonstrated their love and support for preservation of the Shawangunk Ridge. Less than a year ago, members went above and beyond a challenge grant, contributing \$65,000 to earn an additional \$25,000 from an anonymous donor for preservation work on the ridge. A lot has happened since we listed the names of the 600 contributors to that special drive in the March/April issue.

The following is a summary by TC Land Acquisitions Director John Myers of the projects undertaken and progress made to date in Trail Conference efforts to create a 50-mile long protected greenway corridor on the Shawangunk Ridge, joining the Catskills in New York to the Kittatinny Mountains in New Jersey.

1. Continued to negotiate purchase options and contracts with landowners along the ridge. In the past year we have signed options for nine properties totaling 1226 acres. We assisted the Trust for Public Land on two more totaling 685 acres. We also purchased two smaller parcels (13 acres) and are about to purchase 11 more from Orange County (150 acres).

2. Formed a new coalition called the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition with more than 20 environmental and recreation organizations. Held two meetings to discuss strategies to accomplish the goal of protecting the ridge environment.

3. Held the first Shawangunk Region Smart Growth Workshop, which more than 60 people attended, representing 10 of the 16 ridge towns.

4. Created a new website with information on the Shawangunks—www.shawangunkridge.org—containing maps, photos, and descriptions of the unique ridge resources and threats to it.

5. We designed and printed a full-color brochure on the importance of the ridge as a watershed, habitat, and recreational resource, and have distributed it to towns and groups in the Shawangunk region.

6. We hired a hydrologist to prepare a research report on the significance of the Shawangunk Ridge in supplying pure water to the aquifers in the valleys on both sides that are used by most of the local towns for drinking water supplies.

7. We prepared booklets with color maps and photos and made presentations

to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) executive staff and to the governor's office, encouraging them to provide more funding for acquisitions along the ridge.

8. We have submitted 12 parcels to the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), to be included in their new loan program to not-for-profits that buy land for watershed protection. We plan to submit another 37 parcels shortly. The loans provide interim financing until the state is ready to purchase the lands directly.

9. We have begun the process of seeking to designate the Shawangunk Ridge as a new U.S. Forest Legacy Area, enabling us to receive federal funding for land purchases along the ridge. The goal is to designate the entire 250-mile length of the ridge in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania as a new area.

10. We continue to work with local citizen groups and town officials to promote protection of the ridge environment, which is being threatened by a 2000-unit condo project and a hotel/gambling casino.

HIKER'S MARKETPLACE

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site: www.nynjtc.org

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West Hudson Trails (2000)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.95	_____
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South Taconic Trails (1988, rev. 1998)	\$4.95	\$3.75	+.65	_____
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New Jersey Walk Book (1998) & see combo	\$15.95	\$12.75	+\$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	_____
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Harriman Trails Guide (1999) & see combo	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
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	\$11.45	\$9.85	+\$2.00	_____
Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) Hardcover	\$17.95	\$14.50	+\$2.00	_____
Nature Walks in New Jersey (1998)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.50	_____
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Best Hikes w/ Children in New Jersey (1992)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.00	_____
ADK Guide to Catskill Trails (1994, repr. 1998)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$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

NEW!! Note Cards (2002)	\$12.00	\$9.60	+\$2.00	_____
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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	_____
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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!



View of the Catskills from a trail along Tivoli Bay in Columbia County. The trail is part of the Hudson Valley Greenway.

Hudson Valley Greenway Tour Highlights Trail Benefits

For 10 days in August, the first Hudson Greenway Trail Tour focused the valley's attention on opportunities—existing and potential—for recreation and open space protection along 150 miles of the Hudson River. The event started August 1 in Battery Park in New York City and ended 10 days and 150 miles later in Battery Park, Waterford (just north of Troy, New York). Sponsored by the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley and the National Park Service Rivers and Trails program, the event aimed to focus the efforts and attentions of organizations and communities toward completing a Greenway that will run on both sides of the Hudson River between New York City and Troy.

The Trail Conference is one of the stakeholders in this project and has built and maintains a number of sections of the Greenway. Participants in the event included TC members Rocky Bernstein, Jane and Walt Daniels, and Karl Beard (also from NPS Rivers and Trails), who covered large sections of the Greenway trail.

The Greenway is a mixture of hiking-only and multi-use sections, and only occasionally traverses low-trafficked roads. The TC participants walked some sections, and biked others.

Rocky Bernstein reports: "One of the highlights of the tour for me was what I call the NY-NJ Trail Conference effect. One day we started from the VA hospital


in Montrose and hiked into a bit of section that is planned to be part of the Greenway, but isn't yet. Although we had several seasoned hikers, including some who had been on this section before, we got lost several times. By noontime, the trail leader had a gash on his nose and most of us were pretty much scratched up, each taking turn being the first to bush-whack through sticker bushes. We were behind the schedule that the trail leaders had allotted for this small stretch.

"By contrast, in the afternoon after a short hike out of Peekskill, we started out from the Camp Smith Trail/Anthony's Nose trail. In about the same amount of time with the same people, we went over twice the distance with probably about 20 times the elevation change and we were able to make our destination, Bear Mountain Inn, on time!"

The tour included special events and trail section openings. One of these was the official opening of the extension of the Undercliff Trail from the ridge on Bull Hill (Mt. Taurus) to Nelsonville, built by the Nelsonville Greenway Committee and the East of Hudson Trail Crew (see page 4). It also highlighted some problems along the route. In one town, Congresswoman Sue Kelly participated in a walk along a section of waterfront trail that had received Greenway funds for a resurfacing project. She noted that sewage from a recently constructed waterfront housing project was being dumped on top of the trail.

Overall, this first Greenway tour brought various constituency groups together and highlighted the many benefits of the Hudson River Greenway Trail. As Karl Beard commented, "Good trails are good business." It was evident on this tour that many of the communities along the Hudson are coming to that realization too.

Rocky Bernstein and Jane and Walt Daniels contributed to this report.



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★ Remember These Great Benefits of Your Trail Conference Membership ★

★ As a member of the NY-NJ Trail Conference, you are entitled to receive a wide variety of benefits at participating local retailers and merchants. Our members are given **10%** discount from the fine stores listed below on a year-round basis. **To receive your discount, you must have your Conference membership card and other ID at the time of your purchase.** Discounts do not usually apply to sale items, services, repairs, specials, Internet or phone or mail orders. Some stores have other restrictions (i.e., exclude watercraft).

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN SPORTS: Madison, NJ
CAMPNOR: Paramus, NJ

CATSKILL HIKING SHACK: Wurtsboro, NY

DOVER SPORTS CENTER: Dover, NJ

EMS: Paramus, NJ

HEMPSTEAD OUTDOOR STORE/TENT CITY:
Hempstead, NY

JAGGER'S CAMP & TRAIL: Bedford Hills, NY

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RICH'S WORLD OF SPORTS: Blairstown, NJ

★ Additionally, all nine area EMS Stores offer a 20% discount to our members twice a year; usually the Thursdays of the first full week of May and the last full week of October. Call your local EMS to determine the actual dates.

★ Bear Mountain Inn 845-786-2731 offers a 10% dining and/or lodging discount

to members of the Trail Conference upon presentation of your current membership card. Available on buffet brunch, lunch, or dinner in the Cub dining room; excluding alcoholic beverages, tip, and taxes. Show your card when paying food bill or registering for room. Conference discount can't be combined with any other.

★ **Catskill Mountain Lodge**, a.k.a. County Line Inn 1 + 800-Mtn-Lodge or 518-678-3101 in Palenville. Be sure to mention your TC membership when making your reservation. (Discount NOT available holiday weekends.)

★ **Trails Illustrated** maps offers TC members a 20% discount on their line of waterproof and tear-resistant maps. The list includes every major National Park (Zion, Acadia, Yellowstone, Big Bend, Shenandoah, Great Smokies, etc.) and many national forests. Call Map Link (Santa Barbara, CA) at 805-965-4402 and ask for customer service. You must mention your NY-NJ Trail Conference membership to get the 20% discount! Credit cards accepted.

★ **English Lakeland Ramblers** offers \$50 discounts to TC members on seven- and eight-day walking tours of England and Scotland; also customized private trips year-round in Britain, 212-505-1020.

★ Don't forget, members receive a **20%-25%** discount on merchandise from our own Hikers' Marketplace, including TC publications and sportswear.

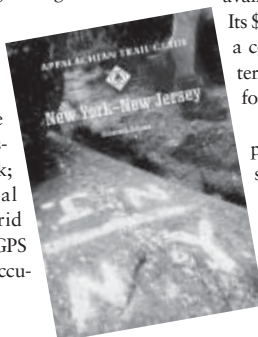
with computer technology, and contains many changes and improvements on the first edition.

The most important change is that most of the trails shown on the map have been captured with a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, improving map accuracy. Also, new and planned trails are shown on this edition, as are no-hunting zones in areas adjacent to but outside the park.

Other improvements: lightening the altitude-coded color shaded relief so that the contour lines are more visible inside the park; making the woods roads more clearly part of the road system in and through the park; making UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) grid lines more distinct so that GPS users can locate themselves accurately on the map.

■ New Edition of Guide to AT in NY-NJ Is Major Revision

A new edition of the official hiking guidebook to the Appalachian Trail in New York and New Jersey features the guide's first major overhaul in nearly two decades.



TC CLASSIFIEDS

CONTACT INFO

Maureen Walsh: 201-512-9348 or walsh@nynjtc.org
Joshua Erdsneker: 201-512-9348 or josh@nynjtc.org

Are you looking for new challenges and opportunities to support Trail Conference activities? The following **TC Volunteer Classifieds** offer exciting and interesting ways for members to get involved. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. Check out our website for more opportunities.

If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and don't see an opportunity here that suits you, contact the Volunteer Projects Director, Joshua Erdsneker and he will find a way to get you involved.

Office Redesign

Join the office staff and other volunteers as we redesign the Trail Conference office. Your expertise can help us to reorganize and use the space in our Mahwah office more efficiently. Contact: Maureen Walsh.

Trail Walker Advertising and Layout Design Manager

The *Trail Walker* staff is looking for a creative volunteer to help design and lay out the advertisements for our newsletter. If you are interested in managing the communication between *TW* staff and our current advertisers, soliciting new advertisers, and maintaining the commitment to excellence that the *Trail Walker* staff has established, then this opportunity is a perfect match for you. Interested volunteers should be comfortable working with deadlines, be outgoing, and familiar with desktop publishing. Previous advertising and sales experience is not necessary, but is helpful. Contact: Maureen Walsh.

Press Release Coordinator

Can't say enough good things about the Trail Conference? Then help spread the

word to the rest of our community. We are looking for a press release coordinator to write general press releases, press releases for our new publications, and establish working relationships with local media agencies. No previous experience is necessary and training is available. Strong writing skills are a must. Contact: Joshua Erdsneker.

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee has several exciting opportunities. If you are interested in any of the positions below, please contact Joshua Erdsneker.

Project Managers are wanted for several upcoming guidebooks and maps. The focus of this position is to produce a book on time and at budget. Responsibilities include setting a budget and a deadline for the project, training and managing volunteers for field-checking, providing research and artwork/photos, acting as the art manager, overseeing and providing support for the text editor, managing the cartographer, and overseeing the proofreader. Interested persons would benefit from previous related experience, but it is not a necessity.

Text Editors are needed for our upcoming guidebooks. Interested persons should be able to work in a team environment, provide constructive feedback for writers, have previous publication experience or be willing to learn on the job while editing a guidebook. Several projects are about to begin; now is your chance to get involved.

Proofreaders are another key ingredient in the Conference's recipe for successful guidebooks. If you would like to proofread a guidebook, then let us know. No experience is necessary.

Children's Illustrator

Do you like to draw? The Trail Conference is looking for individuals with an artistic flare. Share your skills with us and add some fun to our mailings and handouts.

Use your Holiday Purchases to Help the Trail Conference

Do you dislike shopping in crowded malls during the holiday season? Do you prefer to make your gift purchases from the quiet of your home? Would you like to shop at more than 100 major online retailers and help the Trail Conference as you click away? If the answer is yes, then take advantage of the Trail Conference's Affiliate Program.

How does it work?

When you are ready to shop, visit our web page at www.nynjtc.org/commerce/index.html. On this page, there is a link to a page titled greatergood.com. From this link, you can choose from more than 100 brand name retailers. You will have access to a variety of merchants such as LL Bean, Lands End, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Avon, J.Crew, The Gap, as well as home electronics and computer stores, home and bath stores, pet supply retailers, gourmet food shops, and dozens more. If you access these retailers via the Trail Conference's link, up to 15% of the price of everything you buy will benefit the Trail Conference!

Please pass this link along to everyone you know, especially with the holiday shopping season just around the corner. Your purchases can really help make a difference.

NEW: SF MAP, AT GUIDE, CARDS

continued from page 1

■ NEW ITEM! Color Note Cards



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The perfect holiday or house gift. Limited Edition (only 750). Hudson Valley Series (four photos of the Hudson Highlands taken from trails). Eight photo note cards by Herb Chong; \$12 nonmember; \$9.60 member (plus \$2 shipping, and tax for New Jersey residents). Only available at the NYNJTC.



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For information specific to you, contact Ed Goodell or Maureen Walsh at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348. Provide your name, address, phone, and date of birth. All inquiries are confidential.

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Minimum gift is \$5,000; minimum age is 65, limited to two income beneficiaries.

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85	10.4%
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**NEVER A DULL NIGHT ON
FRIDAY MOUNTAIN**

continued from page 1

he peered over the edge of “a cliff that plunged beneath me in a great sweeping arc, the length of three football fields placed end to end.” Since no cliff in the entire Catskill range is a quarter of that height, it seemed another case of the fallibility of eyewitness testimony. Then one afternoon, on another reconnaissance, I found myself at the rim of a sheer scarp and realized I was at the place he had described. The cliff bottom was only 50 feet below me, but by glancing obliquely left, I saw that the series of rock faces stepping steeply down the ridge to the northeast were visually aligned so that a hurried look gave the illusion of one great 900-foot precipice.

Hikers, don't sell Friday short. Sure, its dark, coniferous forest on top can be daunting to navigate, but that's a small price to pay to be up on this unique and, often as the hour grows late, boisterous mountain. It is a place of many moods. Which one will it effect this night? A benign but restless humor or, weather abetting, perhaps even a mysterious, almost gothic solemnity? Until night falls, one awaits with uncertainty.

Fellow backpackers and explorers: if sleeping in trail shelters is getting tiresome and you have the nerve, challenge yourself to a night on Friday Mountain under open skies. (Below 3500 feet of course, except in winter, according to Department of Environmental Conservation regulations.) Repress any inhibitions and experience the adventure, for as H. L. Mencken so deliciously put it: “Life is a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death.”

RAMBLE IN ENGLAND

June 2003. Rambling holiday in England on South Downs Way and in Wales along their newest national trail, Glyndwr's Way, and in Brecon Beacons. Average 12 miles per day with light pack while staying at bed and breakfasts, farms, and hostels. Non-commercial trip led by 16-year veteran UK walker for the Outdoor Club of New Jersey. Enjoy local history and culture. For details, send legal-size SASE to Richard Greve, 115 Dawn Drive, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060.

Attention Ladies!

Ramsey Outdoor Store in Paramus will be pioneering a **free** outdoors group for women of all ages and levels of experience. Take the initiative and join us to **Explore, Challenge, and Educate** ourselves through activities such as hiking, climbing, paddling, backpacking, etc.

For more information contact:
Jen or Candice @
(201) 261-5000
jsheeran@ramseyoutdoor.com



CONTRIBUTIONS

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Become a Life Member

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Member: Howard H. Newman.

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."

HIKERS' BOOKSHOP

Catskill Mountain Guide Hiking Trails in the Catskills

By Peter W. Kick
Appalachian Mountain Club, 2002

Reviewed by Edward Ripley-Duggan

Trail guides serve two major functions. The first is interpretive. What factors created the landscape through which we walk? What is its natural (and human) history? The second is navigational: how do we get to the trail, and are there any twists and turns in the path that we must watch for? Catskill guides published over the last 10 years or so generally excel in one or another of these areas, rarely both.

The newly published AMC Catskill Guide, with its companion map, is (as the

subtitle implies) strictly a guide to Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) marked trails. For these it provides both navigational and interpretive detail in some abundance. It does not discuss trailless peaks, and the introduction provides a rationale for this, one that is in line with AMC policies. The map reflects this decision, with a 1:100,000 scale and a 100-foot contour interval that make it of limited utility for off-trail use. It does have a feature that is a significant development in popular Catskill mapping. With Global Positioning System (GPS) users in mind, it is framed with a rule of 1000-meter UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) grid ticks.

DEC Wild Forest and Wilderness areas are shown in light and dark green re-

Lightning Strikes Staying Safe Under Stormy Skies

By Jeff Renner
The Mountaineers Books, 2002

Reviewed by Edward Ripley-Duggan

Hiking has fewer objective dangers (those hazards that are largely beyond the control of the individual) than the majority of outdoor endeavors. Still, no activity conducted in the wild is completely free from risks, of which storms rank highest. I know of few walkers—myself included—who have not rushed from a ridge line or peak at the approach of a tempest or, worse still, have been surrounded by its fury while completely exposed. Such a storm came down on me many years ago above the tree line in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and is an experience not quickly forgotten.

Jeff Renner is a well-regarded Seattle area meteorologist and an aviator, hiker, and climber. He is highly qualified to write about storm safety. Despite the limits implied by the title, this book addresses a number of storm-related dangers of which lightning is but one—high winds, flash floods, and wildfire are included. Early chapters discuss the medical effects of lightning (including a harrowing account of a fatal strike); the cultural history of storms; "Lightning 101," in which the mechanics of lightning are explained; and the meteorology of storms.

The author has, for each hazard, provided anecdotes that illustrate the threat. More substantively, he has defined what he has termed the four A's (sic)—Anticipate, Assess, Act, and Aid. As a practical approach, this mnemonic has a great deal to commend it, for it provides an easily recognizable framework of priorities for

use in difficult and frightening circumstances. The instructions here are indispensable. As one example, he correctly notes that the care of lightning victims turns conventional triage on its head—the apparently dead must be treated first, with CPR, before dealing with damage to the conscious.

The book contains much information that was new to me, some with significant practical import. In the chapter "Strategies for Thunderstorm Safety," mention is made of studies that indicate considerable difference in frequency of lightning strikes among various species of trees, an observation that may have utility in selecting woodland shelter. I had known of this phenomenon previously only as folk belief, not as substantiated fact. Renner does debunk many of the popular misconceptions regarding lightning, a blessing given the amount of false information in circulation.

I do have a few minor cavils with *Lightning Strikes*: for example, though ground effect current (responsible for many injuries) is mentioned in passing, it is neither defined nor sufficiently emphasized. To give the author due credit he does state that shallow overhangs (including most rock shelters) do not provide significant protection from ground effect current, though so innate is the urge to get under cover that I would have liked to see a fuller discussion of the risks entailed. A brief consideration of devices intended to provide early warning of lightning—do they work?—would have been useful.

The Mountaineers are to be commended for issuing this attractively produced paperback. Anyone who is likely to encounter a storm (that is, all of us who spend time outside) will find valuable and potentially lifesaving information here. This is a book whose advice should be carefully read and memorized.

spectively. Trails, public campgrounds, lean-tos, and firetowers are all indicated with legends, though other features are missing such as parking, bus stops, viewpoints, springs, and waterfalls. Spot checks show the map to be quite accurate, and it is highly legible. One caution is that the paper used is rather fragile and not at all damp-resistant, though a waterproof and tear-resistant version is available from the AMC for separate purchase.

The guide is well written by Kick, a New York State licensed wilderness guide who lives in the Catskills. The trail entries are concise yet descriptive, frequently drawing on the work of Michael Kudish and others. In many instances GPS coordinates are provided as a navigational aid (the Vernoo Kill Falls—Bangle Hill section of the Long Path is a good example), although to his credit Kick stresses the need for good map and compass skills. In brief, this is a sound reference work for the beginning to intermediate hiker, and takes innovative account of the growing popularity of GPS units, but it contains little not otherwise addressed in previous guides.

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

continued from page 3


the harbor. The park serves as the northern trailhead of the Nassau Suffolk Greenbelt Trail that extends to Bethpage State Park and eventually the south shore of Nassau County. Bethpage State Park is a 1,475-acre recreation facility that offers hiking, biking and cross-county skiing trails.

The new trail park will now be cared for by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) in partnership with various Long Island trail organizations.

TC and ADK counsel Neil Woodworth and his colleague Meg Everett contributed to this report.

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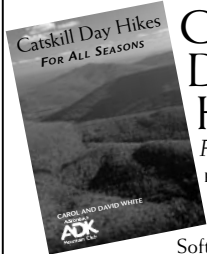
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FAVORITE HIKES



A Favorite Hike, Far Afield: A Walk in Southwestern Ireland

For some TC members, a favorite arm-chair activity during hunting season is planning next year's hiking vacation. Member Joan Ehrenfeld recommends a loop trail in Ireland.

By Joan Ehrenfeld

Ireland is called the "emerald isle" for good reason—the equable temperatures and frequent rain nurture a luxuriant blanket of green across the country. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the southwestern counties. Fortunately, marked walking paths—referred to as "waymarked ways"—allow walkers to experience the extraordinary beauty of this place.

My husband David and I spent 10 days this past summer walking the Kerry Way, a 120-mile loop trail that passes through and around the Iveragh Peninsula in County Kerry. The Way follows small country lanes, paved and unpaved, farm paths, the remains of an old coach road, and footpaths across pastures, with only a few short sections on major roads.

One frequently climbs ladder-like stiles over the fences that separate pastures. The lanes run between hedges of fuschias, blackberries, and wildflowers, past isolated farmhouses and innumerable sheep, and across meadows, moorland, and bog. The coach path varies from a well-defined grassy path to an obscure, barely discernible track lost in the bogland that coats this part of Ireland like a true wet blanket. In most stretches, the Way is clearly marked with signposts and markers; a few parts require careful observation to ensure that one is not lost among the gorse and heather. The footing varies from excellent to challenging, the latter a combination of very wet, rocky, and fairly steep. Although the boggy areas make for slow walking, the yellow bog-asphodel, purple heather, pink spotted orchids and white bog-cotton make the walk a visual feast.

The Way mostly stays in the lowlands, with periodic climbs over saddles and gaps in the mountains. The walk starts (and ends) in Killarney National Park, where the few remaining old-growth oak and yew forests in Ireland alternate with upland bog. The path then heads through the Black

Valley in the shadow of the MacGillicuddy Reeks, the highest mountain range in Ireland (a range that is geologically quite similar to the Catskill Mountains of New York). It emerges along the northern coast of the peninsula, giving views over Dingle Bay, heads west and then south, and then returns eastward along Kenmare Bay. Views from the high points over the Irish countryside, the bays, and the distant hills of the Dingle and Beara peninsulas are frequent. The greatest elevation gain in a day's walk is about 2,500 feet (usually the sum of several climbs over gaps or saddles).

Although camping areas are available in the small towns through which the Way passes, the land is all privately owned outside the national park, and most walkers travel between bed-and-breakfasts. Many of these establishments welcome

hikers—hot tea, biscuits, and scones are ready when you arrive, the host dries out wet boots, and a bag lunch will be prepared for you for the next day. One of the pleasures of the walk is

the variety of people one meets over meals at the B&Bs, as well as on the trail. We met people from all over Europe, but surprisingly few Americans. We walked between 9 and 15 miles each day (averaging about 11), but it is always possible to hitch a ride on the longer days, or arrange car transport at the B&B.

Resources

Our trip was arranged through a company, Go-Ireland (www.goactivities.com) which made the B&B reservations, transported our luggage and provided maps and interpretive walking notes for each day. However, the trip can be done independently, using the lists of B&Bs and country inns available from the Irish Tourist Board or guide books such as the *Lonely Planet* series, if you want to carry more than a daypack. The *Walk Guide—Southwest of Ireland* by Sean O' Suilleabhain, one of the founders of the Kerry Way, provides an excellent description of the walk.

Joan Ehrenfeld is a Trail Conference member and chair of the TC Science Advisory Committee.

Hunting Seasons

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

Archery: Oct. 15–Nov. 17; Dec. 11–15
Archery (Westchester Co. only): Nov. 1–Dec. 31
Firearms: Nov. 18–Dec. 10
Muzzleloader: Dec. 11–15

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park. However, it is allowed in parts of Minnewaska and Sterling Forest State Parks. Call 845-786-2701 for more details about hunting in these parks. (As of the deadline for this newsletter, Storm King State Park is closed to all public use. Hunting is permitted in portions of the park when it is open to the public; call the above number for the latest status.)

Black Rock Forest closes to all hikers from Nov. 18 to Dec. 10, 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 908-637-4125 (staffed seven days a week) or visit www.njfishandwildlife.com. The following dates for deer season were listed on the web site. There is no Sunday hunting.

Deer Season

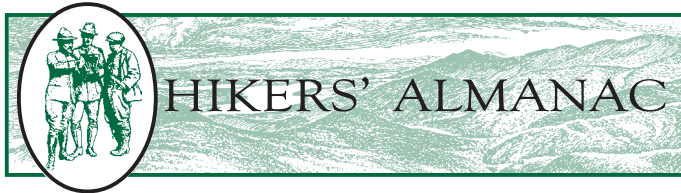
Firearms (all zones): Dec. 9-14
Shotgun (dates vary among zones, but may include the following): Nov. 25, 26, 27, and 29; Dec. 9-14; Dec. 18-20; Jan. 4-31, 2003; and Feb. 1-15, 2003.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

Trail Walker is a bi-monthly paper published by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahway, New Jersey 07430. The editor is Georgette Weir, at the same address; managing editor is Nora Porter, also at the above address. The annual subscription price is \$4; contact person is Maureen Walsh; telephone number is 201-512-9348. The tax status of the organization has not changed during the preceding 12 months.

As of the filing date of October 1, 2002, the average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months was 9,500; the actual number of copies of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 9,000. The paper has a total paid and/or requested circulation of 7,000 (average) and 6,988 (actual, most recent issue). The average free distribution for the 12 months preceding the filing date was 1,980 (average) and 1,980 (actual, most recent issue). The total average distribution was 8,980; the actual distribution of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 8,968.

This information is reported on U. S. Postal Service Form 3526 and here as required by 39 USC 3685.



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Short for information, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 3 moderate miles on a potpourri of trails, quite hilly.

TUESDAY, NOV. 19

FVTW. Silver Mine Circular, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Arnie Seymour Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 6-7 miles. Even Arnie doesn't know which trails he'll follow. But, as usual, a prime hike.

SATURDAY, NOV. 23

ADK-R. Pine Meadow Lake Wandering. Info: 845-354-0738. B hike; 6-7 miles.

RVW. Thatcher State Park. Leader: For information, call 845-246-6459. Meet: 9 AM at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Easy 6-mile hike. Inclement weather date is the following Saturday.

WTW. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 973-252-8122. Meet: Must call leader. Moderate loop hike on Blue Disc Trail to Claudius Smith Den with one climb; must wear hiking boots. Optional dinner afterwards. Inclement weather cancels.

UHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 AM at Tralside Nature Center parking lot on Coles Ave. (intersection with New Providence Rd.). Brisk ramble; steady rain cancels.

SUNDAY, NOV. 24

ADK-R. Dunning Circular. Info: 201-816-9465. B+ hike; 8.7 miles.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Lee Fanger, 973-376-3160. Meet: 10 AM at Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Moderate ramble of 4-5 miles in a nice wooded area; steady rain cancels.

IHC. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation. Leader: Charlie & Anita Kientzer, 973-835-1060. Meet: 9:00 AM, Burger King/Stop & Shop Super Market, Rt 23, Butler, NJ. Moderate. Saffin Pond, Weldon Mine, and Headly Point Overlook of Lake Hopatcong will be featured on this circular hike. Rain, ice, or poor driving condition cancels.

WTA. Appalachian Trail. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: call for details. Moderate 6 miles, from Taconic Parkway to I-84 crossing.

MONDAY, NOV. 25

RVW. Hunter Mt. Leader: For information, call 845-246-8756. Meet: 8 AM at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Moderate-strenuous 8.5 mile hike on ski trails. Inclement weather

date is the following Monday.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27

FVTW. Butler-Montville Trail, Kinnelon, NJ. Leader: Call Cheryl Short for information, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 5 miles on Turkey Hill and assorted trails.

SATURDAY, NOV. 30

UHC. Parlin, Sayreville, South Amboy Roundabout. Leader: Gary Petrie, 732-257-01137. Meet: 9:30 AM at Boston Chicken in Midstate Mall, Rt. 18, East Brunswick. 9-10 miles; stroll through wooded and urban areas, and on abandoned railroad bed (where we will rest, obviously). See a panorama of Raritan Bay and walk through the "hole in the wall."

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 AM at Jockey Hollow visitors center (\$4 entrance fee). Casual to moderate ramble of 4 miles in this historic park.

DECEMBER

SUNDAY, DEC. 1

ADK. Conklin Mountain Circular. Info: 845-359-2465. B hike; 6 miles.

WTW. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Sarah Collins, 973-744-5126. Meet: Must call leader. Explore the Kariat Trail on this 5-6 mile hike with some nice views. Rain cancels.

UHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 AM at Tralside Nature Center parking lot on Coles Ave. (intersection with New Providence Rd.). Enjoy a moderate ramble; steady rain cancels.

IHC. Major Welch Trail. Leader: Ilse Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9:00 AM, Anthony Wayne Recreation Area (North parking area), Harriman State Park. Moderately strenuous. It is not too late to walk off the extra portion of turkey and pie. Grab the chance while you can; great views will reward you. Rain, ice, or poor driving condition cancels.

TUESDAY, DEC. 3

FVTW. Mountain Way Park, Parsippany, NJ. Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. Moderate 6-mile hike in this new park, on marked trails and woods roads.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

UHC. Watchung Trail Maintenance. Leader: Must call to pre-register; Betty Ann Kelly, 908-527-4231. Meet: Tralside Nature Center parking lot on Coles Ave. (intersection with New Providence Rd.). No experience necessary; help prune vegetation, remove invasive species, clear blowdowns, etc. Have fun while giving something back to the trails. Meet new people and learn new skills while working outdoors.

UHC. Somerset Environmental Center. Leader: Mary Doyle, 908-580-1778. Meet: 10 AM at the center, in Basking Ridge, NJ. Moderate ramble on trails and boardwalks; steady rain cancels.

WTW. High Mountain, Wayne. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194. Meet: Call leader. Moderate 5-mile hike on the Red and White Trails.

ADK. Pine Meadow Lake Wandering. Info: 845-354-0738. C hike; 6 miles.

SUNDAY, DEC. 8

ADK-MH. Pawling Nature Preserve. Info: 845-236-4291. Meet:

10:30 AM at Pawling Nature Preserve. Call leader to register. Near the beginning of the hike, we will walk by a very lovely gorge. Hike is about 5 miles over moderate terrain in the woods along the Hammersly Ridge.

UHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10 AM at Tralside Nature Center on Coles Ave. (intersection with New Providence Rd.). Brisk ramble of 5-6 miles; steady rain or snow cancels.

IHC. Nurian Navigation. Leader: Pete Heckler, 201-261-4644. Meet: 9:00 AM, Red Apple Piest, Rt 17, Southfields, NY. Moderately strenuous. Hike on the Nurian, Dunning, White Bar, and P-D Trails, and by the Valley of Boulders, Green Pond, Black Rock Mtn., and over the highest (1382') point in Harriman State Park. Approx 8.25 miles. Joint with ADK. No phone calls on morning of the hike! Rain, snow, ice, or poor driving condition will definitely cancel this hike.

THURSDAY, DEC. 12

FVTW. Ramapo Mountain Circular. Leader: Al Leigh, 973-471-7528. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 7-10 miles. Bundle up for a romp through part of Ramapo Mountain State Forest; visit Camp Yaw Paw at Cannonball Lake.

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

ADK-R. Times Square Figure 8. Info: 201-816-9465. B+ hike; 8.6 miles.

WTW. Erskine Lookout, Ringwood State Park. Leader: Estelle Anderson, 973-492-9035. Meet: Must call leader. Moderate hike of 6-7 miles on east side of Skyline Dr.; many ridge views of both reservoirs. Inclement weather cancels.

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

UHC. Ramapo Lake. Leader: Mickey Siegel, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 AM on Skyline Dr., Oakland; call for directions. Very scenic, moderate 5-6 mile hike; call if in doubt due to inclement weather.

IHC. Paradise Rock. Leader: Pete Rigotti, 718-769-3814; call only between 9:00 PM and 9:30 PM; or peterlabor@yahoo.com. Meet: 9:00 AM, White Bar Parking Lot, Rt 106, Harriman State Park. Moderate. We will go to Paradise via the White Bar Trail and later stop at some of the old iron mines. Morning coffee break at 10:30 AM. Return route determined by conditions. Bring lots of water.

MONDAY, DEC. 16

RVW. Ashokan High Point (3080'). For information: 845-246-7987. Meet: 8:00 AM, Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties. Inclement weather date—following Monday. Moderate + hike: 7.5 miles, 6 hours. Note: Depending on snow conditions, snowshoes and crampons may be necessary.

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

FVTW. Wawayanda State Park. Leader: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. Moderate 6-7 mile hike on some favorite trails and new ones as we search for the Cherry Ridge Cemetery.

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

NYHC. Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights Holiday Lights. Leader: Helen Yee. Meet: 8:30 PM inside McDonald's, 430 86th St., Bay Ridge (between 4th and 5th Avenues; take the R train to 86th St.). About 3 easy miles along city streets, on the lookout for spectacular Christmas displays on these lit-up Brooklyn streets. Ice, snow or heavy rain cancels.

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

ADK-R. Three Lakes Circular. Info: 845-986-8645 or askus3@optonline.net. B+ hike; 8.6 miles.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 AM at Jockey Hollow visitors center (\$4 entrance fee). Casual to moderate ramble of 4 miles in this historic park.

RVW. Mt Everest (2692') and Guilder Pond Loop. Taconics in Berkshire County, MA. For more information: 845-246-4145. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Mod-

erate: 3.5 miles, 3.5 hours. Inclement weather date—following Saturday. Depending on snow conditions, snowshoes may be necessary.

SUNDAY, DEC. 22

ADK-R. Ilgenstein Rock. Info: 201-569-0244 or g.pretreasa@att.net. B hike; 6-7 miles.

WTW. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Cliff Harvey, 973-228-8647. Meet: Must call leader. Moderate 5-6 mile hike with one climb; Hemlock Falls and then Tulip Springs for lunch.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319. Meet: 10 AM at Turtleback Rock parking lot in West Orange. Enjoy a brisk ramble in this nicely wooded area and see turtle rock.

IHC. Norvin Green State Forest, Weis Ecology Center. Leader: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9:00 AM, Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood, NJ. Moderate. This circular hike will include a variety of trails and terrain. Depending upon snow and/or ice conditions we will enjoy the views from Buck Mtn., Carris Hill, and High Point. Rain, ice, or poor driving condition cancels.

MONDAY, DEC. 23

FVTW. Loantaka Brook Reservation, Morris Township, NJ. Leader: Call Cheryl Short for information, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 3 easy miles. Stroll where you can talk and not watch your feet; lunch at the lake.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25

IHC. Christmas @ Skannanati. Leader: Larry Spinner, 845-356-5219, 8:00PM-10:00PM only. Meet: 9:15 AM, commuter parking lot, Staatsburg, NY. Moderately strenuous. Join us as we celebrate the season, will it be white? Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes. Leader reserves the right to turn away hiker without proper gear. Rain or inclement weather cancels; call after 7:00 AM day of hike if in doubt. Joint with AMC.

SATURDAY, DEC. 28

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Mary Dell Morrison, 908-694-1173. Meet: 10 AM at Jockey Hollow visitors center (\$4 admission fee). Scenic 4-5 mile ramble at a moderate pace in this historic park.

WTW. Long Path to Haverstraw Beach State Park. Leader: George Thomas, 914-591-7102. Meet: Call leader. Moderately strenuous hike with challenging switchbacks; minimum hiking time expected is 4 hours. Car shuttle required.

SUNDAY, DEC. 29

ADK-R. Historic Palisades. Info: 201-569-0244 or g.pretreasa@att.net. Class C hike; 6 miles.

UHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Carol McNichol, 201-795-2094; no calls after 8:30 PM. Meet: 10 AM at Tralside Nature Center on Coles Ave. (intersection with New Providence Rd.). Brisk ramble of 4-5 miles; steady rain cancels. If snow or ice, bring crampons.

IHC. West Mountain. Leader: Joel & Elsie McKenzie, 973-694-3066. Meet: 9:00 AM, Anthony Wayne Recreation Area (North parking area), Harriman State Park. Moderately strenuous. West Mountain offers many views of the Harriman Park peaks. If the conditions are icy or there is heavy snow, we may car pool to Bear Mountain Inn and visit Doodletown. Rain, ice, or poor driving condition cancels.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1

ADK-MH. Giant Ledge and Panther Mountain. Info: 845-883-7853 or email geymossman@yahoo.com. Please call leader to register. Start out the New Year on the Right FOOT by hiking in the Catskills. This will be a moderately paced trail hike with great views.



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HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs

The activities listed are sponsored by member clubs of the NY-NJ Trail Conference. All hikers are welcome subject to club regulations and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Wear hiking boots or strong, low-heeled shoes. Bring food, water, rain gear, first aid kit, and flashlight in a backpack. Leaders have the right and responsibility to refuse anyone whom they believe cannot complete the hike or is not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are relative terms; call leader if in doubt.

More than 80 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers' Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our Web site or send an SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Club Codes

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

ADK-MH	Adirondack Mountain Club-Mid Hudson	RVW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
ADK-R	Adirondack Mountain Club-Ramapo	SCS	Sierra Club Singles
FVTW	Frost Valley Trailwalkers	TLR	Teatown Lake Reservation
GAC	German American Club	UHC	Union County Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	WTA	Westchester Trails Association
NYHC	New York Hiking Club	WTW	Woodland Trail Walkers

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 January/February issue is November 15, 2002.

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY, NOV. 2

UHC. Watchung Trail Maintenance. Leader: Betty Ann Kelly, 908-527-4231. Meet: 9:30 AM; call to pre-register. No experience necessary. Work ranges from pruning vegetation, installing steps & water bars, to clearing blow downs. Have fun while giving something back to the trails. Meet new people and learn new skills.

SCS. Social Hike/Clean-up in Harriman State Park. Leader: Joyce White at 908-272-4478 or email joyce00201@yahoo.com. Meet before 10:30 AM at the parking lot for Lake Skannatani and Lake Askoti on Seven Lakes Drive. This is a singles-oriented activity; however, anyone who is adequately prepared is welcome. We will hike 3-4 miles of somewhat rocky terrain in and around Lake Skannatani at a leisurely pace. Have fun and do a good deed as we make this scenic lake more scenic by getting rid of litter. Highlights include the rugged beauty of Harriman & Lake Skannatani. Work gloves will be provided. Hiking boots are recommended. Rain cancels.

SUNDAY, NOV. 3

WTW. AT Trail Maintenance Hike at Bear Mountain. Leader: Sarah Collins, 973-744-5126. Meet: Must call leader to pre-register. Help us maintain this original section of the Appalachian Trail, great hike for slower hikers. Bring work gloves and clippers, if you have them. No experience necessary. Rain cancels.

TLR. Fall Hiking Series-Sundays in November. Leader: Call

914-762-2912, ext. 10, for more information and to pre-register; hike size limited to 15 each hike. Meet: 10 AM at Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY. Join Teatown naturalists as we complete all 14 miles of trails at Teatown; each hike will include about 4 miles at a moderate pace, so that by the fourth visit you'll have walked all of our trails. Naturalist will share his or her knowledge about the habitats you visit during the walk.

FRIDAY, NOV. 8

RVW. Trail Maintenance on the Long Path. Leader: For information, call 845-246-8616. Meet: 8 AM at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. We'll be working on the Platte Clove section of the Long Path; optional hike to Kaaterskill High Peak. Inclement weather date is the following Friday.

SATURDAY, NOV. 9

ADK-MH. Fahnestock State Park. Info: 845-298-8379 between 7 PM and 8:30 PM. Meet: 9:00 AM, parking area on Dennytown Road by two stone buildings. Please call leader to register. Moderate loop hike on the Appalachian Trail from Dennytown Road to Canopus Lake. Return on the Three Lakes Trail: about 6 miles roundtrip.

ADKR. Wildcat Mt.-Indian Hill. Info: 201-836-3329. B hike; 8 miles.

NYHC. Canal Walk. Leader: Dan & Dorothy Dombroski, 609-585-6674, or call Bob Ward at 718-471-7036; call after 8 PM for meeting place and carpooling/train info. You must register 4 days in advance if you are taking the train. Easy 5 miles, all flat. Delaware Raritan Canal

from New Brunswick south to Bound Brook. Lovely walk; canal parallels Raritan River.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832, call before 9 PM. Meet: 10 AM at Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn, NY, train station. Brisk 5 miles with steep up; steady rain cancels.

WTA. Castle Rock. Leader: George O'Lear, 914-946-3940. Meet: 9 AM at the N. White Plains train station lot for carpool; \$4 transportation contribution. Moderate 7 miles. A brisk climb to Sugarloaf South Mountain with Hudson River views followed by a hike along carriage roads and AT. Bad weather cancels.

SUNDAY, NOV. 10

UHC. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Mimi Solomon, 973-379-3810. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. Brisk ramble in woodlands and over some fields.

IHC. High Point State Park Circular. Leader: Patricia Wexler, wexler.patricia@verizon.net. Meet: 8:30 AM at Burger King/Stop & Shop Super Market, Rt 23, Butler, NJ. Moderately strenuous. We will do a circular from the park ranger station using the Mashpacong, Old Trail, Monument and the AT to return to the ranger station (AT parking lot), going by the Cedar Swamp along the way. Rain, ice, or poor driving condition cancels.

MONDAY, NOV. 11

RVW. Westkill Mt. Leader: For information, call 845-246-7158. Meet: 8 AM at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Strenuous 8 mile hike. Inclement weather date is the following Monday.

NYHC. Garrison, NY, to Arden Spring and Sugar Loaf South. Leader: Hal Kaplan, kapko@mindspring.com. Meet: 11:10 AM at Garrison train parking lot (9:53 train from GCT). Moderate hike to a recent park addition and a climb to scenic Hudson River overlook. Inclement weather cancels.

FVTW. Mayapple Hill, South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Call Cheryl Short for information, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 3 easy miles with a view of the countryside from the crag.

TUESDAY, NOV. 12

FVTW. Abram Hewitt State Forest, NJ. Leader: Dave Hagenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 6-7 miles; ascend the fairly steep State Line Trail to the AT, then hike north to Grand View; Surprise Lake for lunch, then Bearfoot Ridge Trail.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13

FVTW. Pyramid Mt., Montville, NJ. Leader: Mickey Siegel, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. 5 miles; visit Bear Rock and Tripod Rock; explore the new Orange Trail.

THURSDAY, NOV. 14

FVTW. Garden of Arden (Harriman State Park, NY). Leader: Al Leigh, 973-471-7528. Meet: 10 AM at Elk Pen parking lot; call for location. 9 miles in an area we all enjoy; views abundant.

SATURDAY, NOV. 16

ADK-MH. Doodletown, Bear Mountain. Info: 845-236-4291. Meet: Bear Mountain S.P., 10:30 AM. Call leader to register. We will hike up the moderately strenuous Cornell Mine Trail to the top of Bald Mountain. Near the top, we will look at the remains of the 19th century Cornell Mine. We will eat lunch at the top, with stunning views all around, then hike down to the valley and Doodletown. We will walk by the ruins of this old hamlet and its two cemeteries. Hike leader will share some of the history and photos of Doodletown. This is a moderate 4 to 5-mile hike.

NYHC. Bear Mountain. Leader: Mike Puder, 718-743-0920. Meet: Grand Central info booth to take train to Manitou, NY. Call during week of hike for meeting time. Moderate-strenuous 5 miles at moderate pace uphill. Hike to top of Bear Mt. on the AT; spectacular views.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Bob Keller, 908-233-0699. Meet: 10 AM at visitor's center. Moderate ramble; steady rain cancels. Park fee of \$4.

WTW. Four Birds Trail, Farny Highlands. Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 973-252-8122. Meet: Call leader. Moderate 4-5 mile hike to Split Rock Reservoir.

IHC. Silvermine Circular. Leader: Jim Hayes, 201-625-9506. Meet: 9:00 AM, Silvermine Picnic Area, Seven Lakes Dr., Harriman State Park. Moderately strenuous; about 8.5 miles. Journey to Baileytown via Menomine, other trails. See George's and Devo's graves, then visit Hippo Rock on the Long Path. Another path will bring us to the AT, which leads to the R-D and back to Silvermine via another section of the Menomine.

WTA. "Old Put" South County Trail. Leader: Stewart Marville, 914-582-1237. Meet: Call for meeting place; \$2 transportation contribution. Easy 5 miles. Explore a section of the abandoned railway below Tuckahoe Road, at least as far as Dunwoodie (east Yonkers), to experience its original condition before the bicycle path crosses through. Wear long slacks and, if you have any, bring gear clippers.

SUNDAY, NOV. 17

UHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Carol McNichol, 201-795-2094. Meet: 10 AM at Trailside Nature Center parking lot on Coles Ave. (intersection with New Providence Rd.). Brisk ramble of 4-5 miles; steady rain cancels.

PVTC. Explorer Hike. Leader: Call 973-684-4820 to confirm meeting time and location. Meet: 10 AM; call for location. Hike Warbase Junction - Paulinskil Valley Trail.

WTW. Norvin Green State Forest. Leader: Estelle Anderson, 973-492-9035. Meet: Must call leader. Moderate 5 miles exploring an old mine, waterfalls, and Weis Ecology Audubon Center. Rain cancels.

GAC. Breakneck Ridge. From Underoff to Little Stony Point (about 6 miles). A, B, C hikes. Leader: Manfred Janowski, 914-428-4573. Meet: 9:30, parking lot on Route 9D, 400m N from tunnel on west side of road. 9:03 arrival of MetroNorth train from Grand Central (departs 7:43) at the "Breakneck Ridge" station. 60 miles from NYC.

WTA. Trail Clearing, Candlewood Hill Trail, Fahnestock. Leader: Herb Hochberg, 914-472-3525. Meet: Call for details. Moderate 2 miles. Bring tools and work gloves if you have them.

MONDAY, NOV. 18

FVTW. Old Short Hills Park, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Call Cheryl

continued on page 11

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TRAIL WALKER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

Volume XXIX, Number 6

ISSN 0749-1352

November/December 2002

Permit #970-100