



84th Year

TRAILWALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE... MAINTAINING OVER 1,600 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS

MARCH/APRIL 2004



ADDIE HAAS

Larry Braun, West Hudson North trails chair

COLOR HIS COLLAR GREEN

By Jonathan D. Beard

Many Trail Conference volunteers enjoy their adopted jobs because they get to go hiking, paint blazes, or build bridges – all pleasant alternatives to days spent in the office on the phone or in meetings. But not Larry Braun, the Trail Conference's West Hudson North trails chair. After a life spent outdoors, operating cranes and other heavy equipment, Larry has become an administrator. Instead of being told what to do, Larry now finds himself with a bit of authority and some big responsibilities.

He meets with agency officials, park superintendents, and museum directors, making lots of phone calls, and sending e-mail. He has become a manager, overseeing the four trail supervisors who monitor maintenance in the four areas that are his responsibility: Black Rock Forest, Storm King State Park, Schunemunk State Park, and Minnewaska State Park.

Even though he traded in his blue-collar job for white-collar duties, Larry was not wearing a suit or tie when he took a reporter on a quick walk through three of the dozen or so trails at Black Rock Forest (BRF) last fall. As he moved quickly along the Sackett and Short Cut Trails to reach the Compartment Trail, he bent down every few yards to pick up branches that a recent windstorm had dropped across the path.

On the Compartment Trail, he examined the big trees, which the forest crew had cut, using chainsaws, the week before. "They did a great job," he says, explaining that although the Trail Conference took over maintaining the trails at Black Rock Forest several years ago, to free the forest's own workers for other jobs, only BRF employees operate chainsaws here. Several

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HUGE CATSKILLS RESORT PROMPTS CONCERNS

By Neil Woodworth

The Slide Mountain Wilderness, Big Indian Wilderness, and the proposed Hunter-Westkill Wilderness are three areas in the central Catskills that may be affected by a massive development proposed at Belleayre Mountain.

In December 2003, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued a Notice of Acceptance of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Crossroad Ventures' massive Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park. With this decision, the public hearing and comment phase of the project review process commenced. The Crossroad's project consists of approximately 1,960 acres of private land located to the east and west of the state-run Belleayre Mountain Ski Center; 573 of the 1,960 acres are to be developed (331 acres on the east side and 242 acres on the west side).

The eastern portion of the site, located on the prominent Belleayre Ridge, is referred to as the Big Indian Plateau. The Big Indian Plateau would include a 154-acre 18-hole championship golf course, the Big Indian Resort and Spa, and Belleayre Highlands. The spa would include a 150-unit hotel building, 95 detached hotel lodging units in 55 structures, a golf clubhouse, golf maintenance buildings, and a wastewater treatment facility. Approximately 3.5 miles of roadway and 292 parking spaces are proposed. Belleayre Highlands would consist of 88 detached hotel lodging units in 22 structures, tennis courts, and a swimming pool. An additional 2.4 miles of road would be constructed to access the area.

The western portion of the site will be composed of the Wild Acres Resort, Highmount Estates, and a Wilderness Activities Center. The Wild Acres Resort would

include another 18-hole golf course as well as a 240-unit hotel, 168 detached housing units in 21 structures, a wastewater treatment facility, and golf course maintenance buildings. Approximately 2 miles of roadway and parking areas accommodating a couple of hundred parking spaces are to be constructed. Highmount Estates will be composed of a 21-lot residential subdivision with lots ranging from 2 to 16.8 acres. 2,400 feet of internal roads would be constructed. The Wilderness Activities Center will use existing buildings.

Development could impact Slide, Big Indian, and Hunter-Westkill wilderness areas.

According to the DEIS, approximately 85 acres of the project will be converted to impervious surfaces (roads, roofs, and parking areas) and a total of approximately 530 acres will be clearcut. This Big Indian component of the project will undoubtedly alter the character of these currently wild lands. The creation of this mountaintop and mountainside resort and golf complex

will involve extensive blasting, excavation, and earthmoving on a narrow mountain ridge. The project proposes to create and maintain a 154-acre 18-hole golf course on the top of this narrow ridge. On either side of this ridge are feeder streams flowing into the Esopus Creek, a critical source of drinking water for the New York City metropolitan area.

The trails and trailheads of the Slide Mountain Wilderness, which are already in danger of overuse, are just a short drive from the resort. In relatively close proximity to the project site are the very popular Big Indian Wilderness and the proposed Hunter-Westkill Wilderness area. The Trail Conference and ADK are urging DEC to require the project sponsors to address the impact of the resort complex and the very large number of potential guests on these Forest Preserve lands. Additionally, as DEC is the legally designated custodian of the Forest Preserve, we are asking the agency to complete its own careful evaluation of the impact of the project on the carrying capacity, long distance scenic views, and future management of these Forest Preserve units.

DEC is currently planning a significant expansion of the Belleayre Ski Center, which is located on the same mountain as the proposed resort. If construction of both projects takes place at the same time, the impact on the mountain and the watershed could be greatly increased. DEC must evaluate the combined impact of these two very large projects on the natural and water resources of this critical part of the NYC watershed and the Catskill State Park.

Neil Woodworth, counsel to the TC/ADK Partnership, delivered testimony for the partnership at public hearings in January.



COMPLETELY REVISED EDITION OF NJ WALK BOOK AVAILABLE IN APRIL

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is proud to announce the publication of a completely revised second edition of the *New Jersey Walk Book*. The only comprehensive guidebook to hiking throughout the Garden State, this book is a must for every hiker in New Jersey.

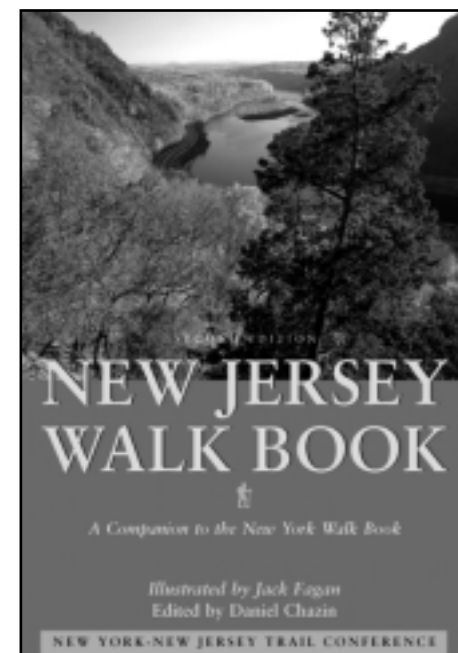
The *New Jersey Walk Book* contains detailed descriptions of hiking trails from the Ramapos to the Pinelands on federal, state, county, and municipal parklands. Directions to each trailhead are provided, and loop hikes are suggested, where appropriate. For those who wish to reach the hiking trails without using a car, information on public transportation is included.

The book is enhanced by the world-class

illustrations of Dr. Jack Fagan, who studied art at the Cooper Union. Dr. Fagan created over 100 illustrations of scenic vistas and historic sites throughout New Jersey specifically for this book. His illustrations provide the reader with a vivid depiction of what they will see when hiking the trails.

Dr. Fagan, a retired professor of geology, also wrote a chapter on the geology of New Jersey for this edition, in addition to geology sections in various chapters. Learning about the rocks underfoot adds interest to any hike, and the geology material is easily comprehended by those without any prior background in the subject.

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New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc.
 156 Ramapo Valley Road (Rt. 202)
 Mahwah, NJ 07430
 201-512-9348

e-mail: info@nynjtc.org

editorial e-mail: tw@nynjtc.org

World Wide Web: <http://www.nynjtc.org>



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 85 hiking and outdoor groups, and 10,000 individuals.

FROM THE CHAIR

Land Use Center

Each one of us wears several hats, and when we're lucky, the skills that those hats represent work together in surprisingly productive ways. I, for example, wear a Trail Conference hat. It may not always be on my head, but the skills and concerns I have as a hiker and chair of the Trail Conference board are always with me. I also wear the mantle of full-time head of reference at a public library in Mahopac, New York. Ordinarily, these two realms may not have a lot of overlap.

But it turns out that my association with a library is going to help people with concerns about land use and conservation, such as those of us who are members of the Trail Conference. The Mahopac Library is scheduled to move into a new 30,000-square-foot building in the middle of April. I have been closely involved with planning the new facility, including a lot of decisions about what will be in it. One of its features – and thought to be the first of its kind in a public library – will be a land use center. There are such resource centers in academic settings, such as the Pace University Land Use Center, but by and large they are not open to the public.

The idea of a land use center at the

Mahopac Library was the result of a question raised by my husband Walt, a hiker who is active in local and regional land and conservation planning activities: Why don't public libraries have resource materials available for people on local planning boards, conservation boards, etc.? Thinking his suggestion was more than just a good idea, I followed up and talked to Michelle Powers of the Putnam County Planning Department about helping me develop a small collection on land use issues. At first we thought a book budget of about \$1,000 might be sufficient. However, when others enthusiastically embraced the idea, a collection limited to 50-75 books suddenly appeared inadequate. With permission from the library director, Patricia Kaufman, a 20 x 20 foot room was made available in the new library to house the proposed collection. The proviso was that the whole project had to be independently funded: books, materials, and furnishings.

To date, thanks to the generosity of the Smart Family Foundation and the success of State Assemblyman Willis Stephens in finding some state money, the hardest items to be funded – such as furnishings – have been taken care of. Hudson River Valley Greenway, Putnam County Historical Preservation Advisory Commission, and

the Putnam County Lake Management Program have provided money for books. When the Mahopac Public Library opens in mid-April, its Land Use Center will be up and running.

So, if you want to learn about the environmental impact statement process, how to preserve cultural resources, plan land use, negotiate land agreements, or if you want a report on storm water runoff, a book on lakes, even a video on how to manage Canada geese, visit the Mahopac Library in Mahopac, NY. Anyone is welcome to use the collection during library hours (see www.mahopaclibrary.org). In addition, those people with library cards from the Mid Hudson Library System may borrow circulating materials. Others may request circulating materials on interlibrary loan.

It is my hope that other public libraries will provide a similar service, even if it is on a smaller scale. If you have questions or would like a tour, please contact me at the library, reference@mahopaclibrary.org. We need all the hats we can muster to preserve our trails and our land.

Happy Trails and Happy Land Conservation!

Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors

Learn Trail Building, Maintaining, & Monitoring at Annual Workshops

Inexperienced, novice, and seasoned trail maintainers are encouraged to attend one or two of three workshops to be presented by the Trail Conference April 17 and 18 in Cold Spring, New York (Maintenance 101 will be offered also in May in the Catskills). All will be taught by experienced trail builders who are members of the Trail Conference.

Registration for all workshops is required. Simply fill out the coupon below and send it to the Conference office by April 10, along with a \$4 registration fee for non-members (no fee for TC members). An information packet will be sent to all registrants by April 10. Sign up is first come, first served. Past workshops have been oversubscribed, so send in your registration early.

Trail Maintenance 101 will be offered on Saturday, April 17, in Cold Spring and in May (15 or 22, date to be determined) in the North Lake area of the Catskills. This training session teaches techniques, maintenance standards, and what problems to expect on the trails and how to solve them.

You should take this class if you are interested in becoming a maintainer or enhancing your skills. (By the time of this publication, a definite date should be confirmed for the Catskills training, which is intended primarily for those people interested in maintaining trails in that region; please call the office, 201-512-9348, to verify which day. The information packet will be sent one week prior to the workshop date.)

Trail Construction and Restoration will be offered on Sunday, April 18. If you have wanted to help on a trail crew or do some heavy repairs on a trail, this is the workshop for you. Workshop participants will restore a section of a trail by constructing steps, waterbars, and side hills, basic elements of many hiking trails and techniques often used to restore eroded trails.

Monitoring Trail Lands will be offered on Sunday, April 18. Monitors are the "eyes and ears" of our trail system, people who walk trails looking for evidence of misuse or encroachment. This workshop draws heavily on Trail Conference experience in

managing the Appalachian Trail on National Park Service property. Participants will learn how to check boundaries and what problems to look for. Take this course if you are interested in helping trails in a different way. You need to feel comfortable in off-trail situations.

All three April workshops will take place at the Hubbard Lodge on Route 9 near Cold Spring, New York, and are open to Conference members, members of Conference clubs, and people from nearby communities. Attending a class is a good way to determine whether you would like to be a maintainer, monitor, or member of a trail crew.

Each day will begin with bagels and coffee at 9 am. Workshops are slated to begin at 9:30 and will include classroom lecture and discussion, field work, and material to take home. At 3:30 all participants will regroup for socializing and sharing their experiences. Sessions will be held rain or shine.

Registration can also be done online at www.nynjtc.org/workshops/index.html.

Registration Form

Trail Maintenance Workshops

Please check the session(s) you want to attend:

- Maintenance 101
 April 17, Cold Spring May TBD, North Lake
 Construction and Restoration (April 18, Cold Spring)
 Monitoring Trail Lands (April 18, Cold Spring)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Eve. Phone: _____

Do you currently maintain a trail? Yes No

If yes, do you work as an individual or with a club?

Name of club, if applicable: _____

Name of trail you maintain: _____

Check here if you have questions and would like someone to call you.

Return by April 10. One form per person. If a non-member, include a check for \$4 per person made payable to:

**NY-NJ Trail Conference, Trail Maintenance Workshop,
 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430**



From the Executive Director

An Idea for the Bear Mountain Trails

It was New York-New Jersey Trail Conference volunteers who first got to work on Benton MacKaye's idea for an Appalachian Trail (AT). Shortly after his 1921 article calling for an East Coast greenway from Maine to Georgia, Trail Conference volunteers met with MacKaye and began scouting a 160-mile AT route from Kent, Connecticut, to the Delaware River. By the end of 1923 the first 20-mile section across Bear Mountain/Harriman Parks was open. In 1925, the Trail Conference helped create the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) and the Trail Conference chair, William Welch, became the first ATC chairman. Part of this original section of the AT, from the Bear Mountain Inn to Perkins Tower atop Bear Mountain, is considered to be the most heavily used section of the entire AT. Park officials report 1.67 million visitors to Bear Mountain annually, including 500,000 visitors to Perkins Tower.

All of this traffic has taken a heavy toll on the Appalachian Trail over Bear Mountain. A major and permanent reconstruction of this historic trail is overdue. The magnitude of this construction, which will include rerouting the trail to a permanent and sustainable location on the east side of the mountain, and eliminating the road walk on the western slope and replacing it with a dramatic, new route, will require offsite materials, external expertise, and a coordinated volunteer effort for several years to come.

In addition to the engineering and construction of a safe and permanent trail route to handle the volume of visitors, I believe the Trail Conference should take the opportunity to create a testament to the idea of accessible open space, volunteer trail-building, and the birth of the national

Announcing New Evening Hours for the Mahwah Office

The Trail Conference Office will now be open late on Mondays and Wednesdays! You can now stop by the office to purchase books and maps or volunteer in the evenings. If you are interested in volunteering, but can't make it in during the day, now's your chance to come in during the evening.

Monday: 9:00 am – 8:30 pm
Tuesday: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am – 8:30 pm
Friday: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

Our new hours are subject to change, so please call, 201-512-9348 before you come to ensure we're here.

and state park movements that was fostered here at the turn of the last century.

To accomplish this, we should bring together expert trail builders, historians, landscape architects, writers, and artists to design a trail that not only takes the visitor up the mountain but that offers interpretive exhibits and signage. For many who hike on Bear Mountain, it is among the few times they are ever on a primitive trail and perhaps the only time they will hike the Appalachian Trail. Many are tourists, immigrants, and members of other groups underrepresented among outdoor enthusiasts who are experiencing the North American backcountry for the first time. Bear Mountain presents an outstanding opportunity for us to foster public appreciation of the role of trails in providing access to open space, the importance of parks and volunteer organizations such as the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission, the National Park Service, the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and the Appalachian Trail Conference.

I think a collaborative design workshop integrating local and professional opinions is a good way to produce a trail design and interpretive system that will help the hundreds of thousands of visitors to understand the importance of trails and open space. How the design might manifest itself on the ground cannot be pre-determined, but it is easy to imagine some of the possibilities.

Interpretive signage along the three Bear Mountain trails (Appalachian, Major Welch, and Suffern-Bear Mountain) and at the base of the mountain could introduce new hikers to trails and the volunteer organizations that build and maintain them.

Key concepts about trail building and responsible hiking could be demonstrated along the AT as it makes its way up the mountain.

At the top of Bear Mountain, where there is automobile access, a handicapped-accessible trail could encircle the summit, disperse the heavy foot traffic, and include displays interpreting the development of the Appalachian Trail, the Palisades Interstate Park system, and the state and national park movements of a century ago.

Indoor exhibits, or even a museum of the Appalachian Trail, could be located in the restored Hiker's Lounge of the Bear Mountain Inn and seasonally within Perkins Tower at the top of Bear Mountain.

In addition to the AT and interpretive exhibits, which will provide an enduring way to promote and pay tribute to trails and trail volunteers, the construction of the AT itself would provide a high profile opportunity to recruit and train a whole new generation of Trail Conference volunteers. The project would demand the best design and construction techniques available and would be accomplished entirely with volunteers under professional guidance. The entire project would proceed as a series of clinics and training exercises. These volunteers could then be recruited for trail maintenance and trail crews throughout the region.

In this way, the trails over Bear Mountain will not only raise the awareness of the general public about open space and trails, but will also increase the volunteer capacity of the Trail Conference to maintain its existing trail network as well as expand into new areas.

— Ed Goodell

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

Last Private Parcel Bought At Stony Kill Falls

With a January purchase by the Open Space Institute (OSI), the last of three privately owned parcels of land at the foot of Stony Kill Falls in Minnewaska State Park Preserve have now been acquired for public ownership – forever protecting one of the most magnificent falls in the New York State park system, and ensuring public access to this timeless resource.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and its members played a crucial role in the protection of Stony Kill Falls by providing key funding that made protection possible. "None of this would have happened if it were not for the vision (and dollars) of the Trail Conference," said Robert Anderberg, OSI vice president and general counsel. In a special fundraising effort headed by former Trail Conference President Neil Zimmerman, our members contributed \$115,000 to fund OSI's acquisition of two parcels totaling 94 acres in 2001. Those parcels already have been conveyed to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

The final piece of the preservation puzzle was put into place this year, on January 9, when OSI acquired an 18-acre property from Napanoch Sand & Gravel. The former mining site will provide hikers with direct access to the base of the 87-foot falls and offer space for a modest parking area.

According to PIPC's executive director, Carol Ash, the parcel will be integrated into the Minnewaska State Park Preserve. "We've had our eye on this property for a long time," she said. "It provides a wonderful opportunity to protect one of the most scenic spots in the park."

Trail Corridor at Risk In West Milford

The protection of 420 acres of open space that are currently part of a West Milford, NJ, redevelopment property continues to hang in the balance. Even though both the township, which owns the land, and the state, through the Green Acres program, have signed a contract of sale, the closing has been stayed by a court injunction, pending resolution of a lawsuit filed against the sale by three residents of West Milford.

The redevelopment property is important to open space advocates as an undeveloped connector between Norvin Green State Forest and the Newark Watershed, both prime hiking areas; the Highlands Trail traverses the property, connecting the two. On TC Map #21, the area is seen in grid 5 D and E, roughly defined as bounded by Indian Trail Lake to the north, Gordon Lakes to the east, and, to the west, that part of the Pequannock Watershed that includes Echo Lake.

Open space, trail corridor protection, and water protection are key issues for this property. It serves as a major water recharge area, habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species, and contains high quality wetlands, steep slopes, rock outcroppings, and dense, contiguous forest. Numerous wells also surround the property.

State Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bradley Campbell has vowed to enforce the purchase agreement in court, if necessary.

Phone calls urging Governor McGreevey (609-292-6000) and the DEP commissioner (609-292-2885) to "stay the course" by vigorously defending the sale in court, could be helpful.

Orange County Developing Open Space Plan

Over the course of the last six months, a technical advisory committee has been meeting in Orange County, NY, to develop strategies for the county to work with other organizations and government entities to preserve open space in this time of seemingly unchecked sprawl. Formed at the request of the Orange County Planning Department, its members include many Trail Conference partners, among them the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Scenic Hudson, and the Orange County Land Trust. The goal is to produce an Open Space Plan that will become part of the recently adopted Orange County Comprehensive Plan.

The value of our hiking trail network in the county is well recognized. TC's land conservation efforts on the Shawangunk Ridge have included county-owned parcels, and hikers have a true friend in the county's planning commissioner, David Church. Since parts of all of our long-distance trails – the Appalachian Trail, the Long Path, the Highlands Trail, and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail – cross Orange County, the Trail Conference has been advocating for protecting these existing hiking trail corridors and developing local trails connecting the parklands, protected private lands open to the public, and newly protected open space as recommended by this committee, and linking these with the municipalities in the county. As these are times of tight budgets, this important work will require the creative collaboration of many groups, and the Trail Conference is pleased to be among them.

Golf Course Proposed Near HT in Chester

A large development proposal, including a golf course and housing, is seeking approvals to start construction in Chester, NY. The Trail Conference has a stake in the outcome of this plan because of its proximity to the Highlands Trail (HT). The land is situated in Orange County between Bellvale Mountain, not far from where the HT co-aligns with the Appalachian Trail, and Goose Pond Mountain State Park, which is completely traversed by the HT.

The proposal encompasses 400 acres, with different types of housing including high-density planned adult communities and condos in addition to the golf course. There are those who see significant degradation of water quality, increased erosion, fragmenting of natural corridors, and disregard of archaeological importance in the plan as laid out. If a significant portion of this land were to be preserved, it could provide a new off-road location for hikers on the HT, while also opening up recreational opportunities for current and future residents. The Trail Conference will continue working with and supporting interested parties as the review process continues.

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TRAIL NEWS



Expect Trail Closings at Storm King State Park

Some of the trails in Storm King S. P. may be closed again from August through the end of 2004 for the final sweep for unexploded ordnance. Sector "B", which reopened July 4, 2003, will be the only area affected by this work that had been planned some time ago and has now been financed. This closing will affect portions of the Stillman Spring, Howell, and the Bobcat Trails. The exact dates have not been determined. This work will be done by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Palisades Interstate Park Commission staff will see that appropriate signs warning hikers will be put up when work begins.

New Connection to LP in Rockland County

A new trail now connects the Long Path (LP) with Buttermilk Falls County Park in Clarkstown (Rockland County), NY. The white-blazed side trail of the LP starts 0.1 mile south of Towt Road in Nyack, and heads west for 0.3 mile. At the junction with an orange trail, the white trail turns south along an old woods road that is the extension of West Broadway. Open fields are to the left, and a steep slope to the right. In 0.4 mile, the trail climbs up the steep slope, and after another 0.2 mile, it crosses Schuyler Road into Buttermilk Falls County Park. 0.3 mile from the road crossing, the white trail passes a blue trail on the right, which leads to Buttermilk Falls (0.65 mi). After another 0.3 miles, the white trail reaches a parking lot on Greenbush Road. Buttermilk Falls is 0.2 mile from the parking lot on the blue trail, which runs from the parking lot to the white trail. There are some fine views to the west from the blue trail; 0.3 mile from the falls, an orange trail starts east, reaching the white trail in 0.35 mile.

Eagles Galore for TC Bird Counters

Nine TC volunteers spotted approximately 25 bald eagles at the inaugural Winter Bald Eagle survey along the lower Hudson River January 11. At one point, seven eagles were seen giving chase to one of their own that had snatched a fish from the icy waters.

A month later, 18 survey participants conducted a synchronized count of eagles at eight different night roosts – the first count of its kind in New York. By counting night-roosting eagles, we could be sure each bird was counted just once. The result was a whopping 134 eagles counted, a record for the lower Hudson.

The goal of the survey project is to gather data on eagle use of day perches and night roosts in areas with potential for human disturbance, including six sites with hiking trails.

NJ WALK BOOK... continued from page 1

Another special feature of this edition is a new chapter on ecology written by Dr. Joan Ehrenfeld, professor of ecology at Rutgers University and a member of the Trail Conference science advisory committee. Dr. Ehrenfeld details the various biomes through which the trails pass and explains interesting features that the hiker will encounter along the way.

This edition was edited by longtime Trail

North Jersey Trails Updates

Camp Glen Gray Old Guard Trail: Adopted by Trail Conference in October 2003, this former Scout trail has been renovated and extensively relocated along its approximately 4-mile route. The trail connects the core of Camp Glen Gray with Schubert/Yellow trails near Northeast Lookout. Also connects with Cannonball, Hoeflerlin Memorial, Millstone, and Ringwood-Ramapo Trails. Blazed with rectangular 2" x 3" tags, green tulip-tree leaf on white.

Millstone Trail: Extended for 0.2 mile north of Midvale Mountain Road to avoid roadwalk; now totals 2 miles.

Schuber Trail: New footbridge over North Brook near Tindall Cabin (combined operation, Ringwood Eagle Scout, Bergen County Parks); about 0.5 mile of trail moved from Cannonball Road north of Tindall Cabin to avoid roadwalk; mostly coaligned with Old Guard Trail on new footpath along North Brook.

Yellow Trail: North of Midvale Mountain Road, this trail has been moved westward into woods for 1 mile and is partly coaligned with the Millstone Trail to avoid a roadwalk.

Yellow-Silver Trail: The southern trailhead has been extended west for 0.5 mile to end at the Schuber Trail, while maintaining its connection with relocated Yellow Trail.

Ramapo Reservation

White Trail: The western trailhead has been extended about 300 yards north to connect with the Halifax Trail.

Conference member Daniel Chazin of Teaneck, NJ, who has been hiking in New Jersey for over 30 years. The author of the popular Hike of the Week series in *The Record* and a member of the board of the Trail Conference, Daniel rehiked most of the trails in the book, carefully reviewing and revising descriptions prepared by other volunteers.

To obtain your copy of this exciting new book, contact the Trail Conference, 201-512-9348 or www.nynjtc.org, or visit your favorite outdoor store or book store.

IT'S BEEN A WET YEAR; EXPECT MUD AND FLOODING

The year 2003 was unusually wet in our region. The consequences have been apparent on many trails and are likely to be more evident during the spring melt season. Water tables are very high and even trails that are normally dry may be underwater this spring.

Keeping in mind that this will likely be a very muddy spring, Trails Director Larry Wheelock offers a few precautions:

1. If you're planning a hike, think in terms of higher, drier areas; try to avoid the low-lying marshes and wet areas. Trails such as the Appalachian Trail are designed to stay up on the ridges, although the AT through northern New Jersey goes through low-lying farmlands and marshes in many places. The Ramapo-Dunderberg and the Sufferen/Bear Mountain Trails stay mostly on higher elevations, as does the Sterling Ridge Trail in Sterling Forest.
2. Limit your group size to 15 or less. (Officially designated Wilderness areas usually have lower limits; Leave No Trace principles call for group limits of 10 in any season.)

3. Stay in the treadway, even if it is muddy. Walking around wet areas widens the trail, impacts wildlife, and makes an ugly sore on the land.

4. Be sure to wear gaiters and footwear that can handle the mud, and bring an extra pair of street shoes to change into when you finish hiking.

5. If at all possible, try to avoid hiking right after heavy rainfall and during the muddiest periods of the spring.



Water surrounds a bridge on the AT in NJ.

Trail Crew Schedules

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

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

WEST JERSEY CREW

Leaders: David Day and Monica Resor
Phone: 732-937-9098

Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
Call or email leaders for meeting place details and times. Heavy rain in the morning will cancel; if in doubt, call leaders that morning.

April 17 (Saturday)

Blue Dot Trail, Worthington State Park
We will begin an extensive repair and relocation project on this very popular trail, at its trailhead junction with the Dunnfield Creek Trail.

May 1 (Saturday)

Blue Dot Trail, Worthington State Park
We will continue the work of repair and relocation of this very popular trail, at its trailhead junction with the Dunnfield Creek Trail.

NORTH JERSEY CREW

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.

WEST HUDSON CREW

Leaders: Chris Ezzo: 516-431-1148
Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563,

brian@grandrenovation.com

Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324,
clganz@earthlink.net

Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792,
rmarshall@webtv.net

Monica Resor: 732-937-9098,
adamant@trailstobuild.com

April 15 (Thursday)

Stony Brook Trail, Bob Marshall

April 17/18 (Saturday & Sunday)

T.B.A., Chris Ezzo

April 24 (Saturday)

Menomine Trail, Claudia Ganz

May 15 & 16, Special Project

1777/79 Trails Bridge across the Popolopen Gorge to be replaced.

Leaders: Chris Ezzo or TC Trails Director Larry Wheelock (201-512-9348).

Ever since Tropical Storm Floyd washed away the bridge across the Popolopen Creek in Harriman/Bear Mt. State Park, we have been waiting patiently for the replacement to be built. Finally it is about to happen. During the week of May 10 (exact date to be announced later), the parts will arrive and on the weekend of May 15 and 16 we will be installing it.

EAST HUDSON CREW

April 10 (Saturday)

Place TBA

Check website for additional work trips.

ECOLOGY FOR HIKERS

Frogs take hikes too!

By Victor Lamoureux, Ph.D.

With the approach of spring, overwintering frogs will respond to various cues to end their dormancy and undergo a migration back to breeding ponds. Many people are surprised that frogs migrate at all, but frogs do need specific conditions in order to survive our harsh northern winters. Finding suitable sites in the fall, and returning from them in the spring, are the causes of many amphibian journeys.

In northern climates, frogs might need to overwinter for up to six months. They survive this period by building fat reserves through the summer and fall and then finding a sheltered site where they can maintain moisture, keep contact with oxygen, and avoid freezing temperatures. Most people erroneously believe that frogs simply go to the mud at the bottom of their local pond to spend the winter, but the actual adaptations frogs have for surviv-

ing the winter can be much more complex.

The green frog is one of the most common frogs in the northeast and is highly aquatic. The ponds where they spend the summer are typically poor locations for overwintering because they become highly anoxic (oxygen poor) during the winter. A recent radiotelemetry study, where miniature radio transmitters were surgically implanted into the frogs, found that green frogs undertake extensive migrations away from their breeding ponds. These migrations can be up to 600m (1/3 of a mile) and take the frogs to seeps, springs, or flowing streams where the oxygen content remains higher. It is not known how the frogs navigate to such sites and whether they use them year after year.

Many frogs do not need to worry about anoxic conditions. Frogs such as wood frogs, spring peepers, gray treefrogs,

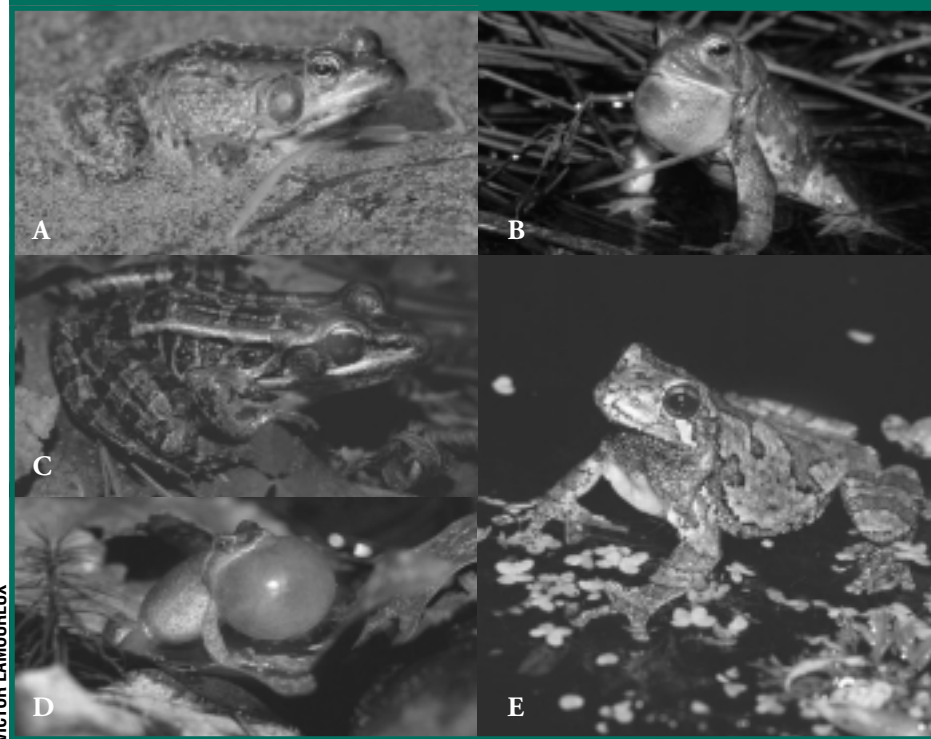
American toads, and pickerel frogs overwinter terrestrially or semi-terrestrially where oxygen is readily available. However, freezing becomes a bigger issue. Toads are known to burrow or follow existing holes below the frost line where they can remain safe and "warm" for the winter. Many frogs (especially pickerel frogs) have been found in caves, lounging about near subterranean streams. Frogs want to avoid freezing temperatures, but some frogs that overwinter terrestrially can freeze without harm. The wood frog, spring peeper, chorus frog, and gray treefrog are not capable of deep burrowing, so they frequently shelter only inches below the surface under logs or in thick leaf mould where they are occasionally subjected to freezing temperatures. To avoid freeze damage, they evacuate their intracellular water (which would expand during freezing and burst the cells) and

replace it with natural antifreezes. They then allow the external cellular spaces to freeze while maintaining the inside of the cells. After several weeks in this frozen state, the frogs can thaw without damage.

The cycle of a frog's life will see them migrating back to breeding ponds with the approach of spring, then a quiet summer feeding, followed by an autumn search for an appropriate overwintering site. While hiking for the scenic vistas this spring, don't forget to look closer to your feet. You may find yourself hiking right along with an amphibian companion.

Victor S. Lamoureux received his Ph.D. studying the overwintering behavior of the green frog. He currently teaches high school biology and pursues wildlife photography every chance he gets.

A Gallery of Common Frogs and Toads of the Northeast



A. Green frog (*Rana clamitans*)

General Habitat: Shores of small lakes, ponds, and marshes, where it breeds and spends the warmer months. Prior to overwintering will make forays into meadows and woods for food. Young green frogs can be found in many places as they search out new homes. **Overwintering Habitat:** Can make extensive migrations away from ponds, to woodland springs and streams that remain open and flowing. In the fall, one can often find migrating green frogs of all sizes in woodland streambeds.

B. American toad (*Bufo americanus*)

General Habitat: Can be found in a variety of habitats from suburban backyards to remote woodlands. Prefers to breed in shallow bodies of water from roadside ditches to river backwaters. **Overwintering Habitat:** Toads either burrow into soft soils or follow natural or animal holes into the ground below the frostline.

C. Pickerel frog (*Rana palustris*)

D. Spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

E. Gray treefrog (*Hyla versicolor* & *H. chrysoscelis*)

General Habitat: These four species use a variety of water sources including small vernal pools to larger ponds, as long as there is an abundance of standing vegetation including clumps of bushes. The choruses of peepers in the early spring are easily noted. After breeding, spring peepers and wood frogs retire to nearby woodlands, where they hide in leaf litter and feed on invertebrates. Gray treefrogs are thought to stay relatively close to standing bodies of water and are active climbers, feeding in small bushes and trees and spending the day well camouflaged against the tree bark. **Overwintering Habitat:** Wood frogs, peepers, and gray treefrogs hide under logs and woodland leaf litter for the winter. They include four of the five species of frogs that are freeze tolerant.

Volunteers Needed to Survey Reptiles and Amphibians

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is looking for dedicated volunteers to assist the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) in collecting important information on critical habitats for reptiles and amphibians throughout the state again this spring.

Throughout the winter and early spring, water collects in wetland depressions in forests and meadows forming temporary pools that remain through early summer. These seasonal wetlands, known as vernal pools, are critical habitats for several species of amphibians that rely upon them for breeding. Due to their temporary nature, vernal pools do not contain fish, which make them ideal locations for amphibians to lay their eggs since the larvae can grow and develop with a lower risk of predation. New Jersey has five species of salamanders and two species of frogs that breed only in vernal pools. Twenty-one other amphibian and reptile species will use vernal pools, but can also successfully reproduce in habitats that contain fish. In addition to serving as amphibian breeding habitat, vernal pools are a source of forage, refuge and water for a multitude of mammals, birds, insects and other wildlife.

The number of healthy, ecologically intact vernal pools has declined significantly over the past several decades in New Jersey as a result of the development of rural areas. The loss of this critical habitat has consequently put the species that depend on vernal pools for breeding habitat at risk. To prevent the destruction of vernal pools, the DEP recently adopted regulations that afford them protection under the State Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act. In short, all activities within a vernal pool that meet specific biological and physical criteria are now regulated. An effort to identify and certify all of the state's vernal pools is currently underway by the ENSP and a dedicated group of volunteers.

Anyone who would like to volunteer by conducting salamander and frog surveys at a vernal pool near them should attend one of the upcoming training seminars scheduled for the first two Saturdays in March. Seating is limited, so only serious individuals willing to devote at least 40 hours to surveying should sign up.

The seminars are scheduled for March 6, at Hackettstown Natural Resource Education Center (located within the Hackettstown Fish Hatchery), Hackettstown; 9 am–noon (lecture); 1–3 pm (field session) and March 13 at Lord Stirling Environmental Education Center, Basking Ridge, 9 am–noon (lecture), 1–3 pm (field session)

Participants may register via email at vernalpools@yahoo.com. Be sure to include the training seminar you wish to attend, name of attendee(s), your mailing address, and telephone number. An email containing registration confirmation and driving directions to the appropriate seminar will be sent back to you. Those without email capabilities can call 908-735-8975 to register. For more information, visit the Division of Fish and Wildlife's website at <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/vernalpool.htm>

The (No Longer) Missing Maintainers

The following individuals should have been included in the list of Trail Maintainers published in the January/February 2004 issue. Our thanks to them all and regret for the earlier omission: Chris Connolly, Martin Last, Geraldine Byrne, David Hibblan, Ruth Lu, Tom Prentzel, Todd Schreiber, Janet Steig, Gretchen Van de Walle, Karen Abramson, Diane Uhle, George Prokopiak, Phil McDonald. Donna Wamsley, Rip Van Winkle Trail Maintenance Coordinator, reports that 31 club members participated in trail maintenance.

Transitions

Two new faces joined the staff of the Trail Conference in January; the *Trail Walker* welcomes a new designer with this issue and bids fond farewell to its previous designer; and a quiet regime change has occurred in the Hoeflerin Library.



Land Protection Specialist

Richard J. Benning has joined the staff in the new position of Land Protection Specialist. Mr. Benning received his B.A. from Ramapo College and went on to obtain his J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law. In 2001, he was admitted to the New Jersey State Bar. Mr. Benning joined a general practice firm in central New Jersey where he gained experience in real estate, immigration, landlord/tenant, and other practice areas.

Mr. Benning is a lifelong resident of Bergen County. Having grown up in this area, he and his family have made frequent visits to Ramapo Reservation, Shepherd's Lake, and Harriman State Park. He was greatly inspired by his father, who instilled in him a love and respect for nature, and an appreciation of the area's state parks.

As a part of the NY-NJ Trail Conference team, he welcomes this opportunity to protect our hiking trails for the benefit of future generations.



Development Associate

Lisa Cargill has joined the staff as development specialist and will be working on the organization's capital campaign. Ms. Cargill received her J.D. from Albany Law School in 1998 and practiced family and matrimonial law for four years in New York City. Wanting a change of career and pace, she and her husband moved to New Jersey in May. She enjoys the outdoors and keeps active by teaching aerobics part time at the YMCA, biking through the region, and hiking in areas such as Pyramid Mountain.

Trail Walker Bids Goodbye to Nora Porter

In 1999, graphic designer Nora Porter was called upon by the Trail Conference to bring its newsletter the *Trail Walker* into modern times. "It was a very nice newsletter, for 1920," she recalls with a laugh. Nora had already worked with the Conference on the sixth edition of the *New York Walk Book* (1998) and had come to know the group's staff and volunteers to be "friendly, eager, enthused about their subject, and dedicated to putting out a good product." She stayed with the *Trail Walker* as managing editor for the next five years, designing each issue and managing it through "a killer production schedule." All the while she has maintained a full-time job as a designer with the Hastings Center and handled numerous other freelance

design projects – mostly books, including others on Trail Conference list.

At the end of the 2003, Nora decided to relax her schedule and turn the newsletter over to new hands, though she will continue to work with Conference's publications committee on book projects. The new edition of the *New Jersey Walk Book* is the latest of her design projects to be published; Bob Boysen's new guide to the Kittatinnies is next on her agenda. "She is a real professional, with outstanding skills both in layout and design and in editing", says frequent Conference book editor Daniel Chazin. "And it is also a pleasure to deal with her. I hope to continue working with her for many years to come."

Hello, Lou Leonardis

With this issue, graphic designer and Trail Conference member Lou Leonardis takes on the job of designing *Trail Walker*. Lou is a graduate of the duCret School of Art and Design in New Jersey and studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York. A resident of Chatham, NJ, he is currently senior graphic designer for Creative, Ink in Short Hills. Lou has been a serious hiker since 1995, a member of the Trail Conference since about 1998, and has volunteered his professional talents for several Trail Conference projects the past two years. He has hiked in the Alps, the Andes, and the Rockies, and notes, "tranquility, majesty, and friendly people are a sure bet while hiking in our area."

Meanwhile, in the Library

Stella Green has served in many roles for the Trail Conference over the years. One of the most recent was as Head Librarian for the Hoeflerin Library, housed in the TC headquarters. The library includes thousands of books related to hiking and outdoor recreation and experience, and the job of the volunteer librarian is to oversee

the collection – cataloging, shelving, and tracking loaned books – and, when appropriate, selecting books for review in the *Trail Walker*. As with her other TC jobs, Stella has done this one steadfastly and thoroughly; a backlog of reviews assigned by her will fill the pages of the next few issues of this publication.

As of this year, Stella is turning over the library to a new librarian, Bob Krumm. Thanks go to Stella for her many years of dedicated attention to this job, and to Bob for stepping up to it.

The Hoeflerin Library is available to all TC members and is open during regular business hours. Books are available for three-week loan, but must be checked out in person. Anyone interested in reviewing books received for the library is invited to contact tw@nynjtc.org.

New Books in the TC Library

In addition to the books reviewed in this issue (see page 10), books recently added to the Trail Conference Hoeflerin Library, located at TC offices, include the following:

- *Nature Walks in New Jersey AMC Guide to the Best Trails from the Highlands to Cape May* 2nd edition, Glenn Scherer Appalachian Mountain Club, 2003
- *Day Hiker's Handbook: Get Started with the Experts* Michael Lanza, The Mountaineers, 2003
- *A Guide to Green New Jersey Nature Walks in the Garden State* Lucy D. Rosenfeld and Marina Harrison, Rutgers University Press, 2003

New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members:

Robert J. Berlin
Dahlia L. Gottlieb
Lily Ann Gottlieb
Reggie D. Hahn
LaVonne Heydel
Bob and Florence Jennes
Ross B. Levinsky
Jennifer Lewin
John and Karen Magerlein
Malcolm J. Matthews
Jane Restani

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."



Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

Are you looking for new challenges and opportunities to get involved with Trail Conference activities? Please review the TC Volunteer Classifieds for exciting and interesting ways for members to become involved with the Conference's efforts. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization.

Become an active part of our family and get more involved. Volunteer Science opportunities are listed on the science pages of this edition. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and do not see an opportunity that suits you, contact the Volunteer Projects Director, Joshua Erdsneker, either by email josh@nynjtc.org or call the office 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

Appalachian Trail Leadership Needed

The New Jersey Appalachian Trail Management Committee needs a chairperson. This is a rare opportunity to get involved at a high level in the planning and protection of the nation's premier long distance hiking trail. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Larry Wheelock at Wheelock@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

TC Quartermaster

The Trail Conference is looking for a quartermaster to oversee the distribution and maintenance of our tool supply. If you have good organizational skills and would like to learn more about the upkeep and maintenance of grip hoists, rock bars, snatch blocks, generators, rock drills, and other tools used to maintain and rehabilitate the 1,600 miles of trails that the Conference volunteers work on, contact Larry Wheelock, Wheelock@nynjtc.org, for more details.

Workshop and Training Coordinator

We are looking for a person(s) to help coordinate our workshops. Interested person(s) will be responsible for planning an entire year's training agenda, have good communication skills, and be willing to work with Trail Conference staff and volunteers to maximize the impact of our workshops and training sessions. For information, please contact Josh Erdsneker, josh@nynjtc.org, at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348.

National Trails Day Coordinators

Help promote the Trail Conference by coordinating a Trail Conference National Trails Day Event June 5, 2004. Events will be held throughout New York and New Jersey. Plan a small event, such as a hike or trash cleanup along your favorite trail, or something bigger like a work trip or bridge dedication ceremony.

Other opportunities:

- Delegates Meeting Coordinator
- Minute Takers
- Assistant Web Master
- Network/Server administration
- Desktop computer support (hardware and software)
- Writers, to help with a new Hike-of-the-Week column being developed with the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in the Mid-Hudson Valley and/or to write profiles for *Trail Walker*
- Graphic Designers



CLUB DAY

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- Lake Grove, NY** – (631) 724-1933
Smith Haven Mall
- Manhattan, NY** – (212) 397-4860
20 W61st (at Broadway)
- Manhattan, NY** – (212) 966-8730
591 Broadway
- West Nyack, NY** – (845) 348-6486
Palisades Center

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

continued from page 3

Stewart Buffer Lands Get Highway Reprieve

New York State cannot ignore 30 years of recreation use of lands that buffer Stewart International Airport in Orange County, NY. That was the impact of a December decision by a federal appeals court. The court ruled that the state had improperly bypassed a requirement that it review the project's impact on recreation in its planning for a major new access road to the airport through open space that has served as recreational land for three decades. The decision was seen as a victory for open space advocates on the issue, especially the Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition (SPARC), which led the legal battle with help from a \$2,500 Trail Conference contribution. The ruling effectively blocks the road project until its sponsors either appeal the decision or conduct the mandated review.

Pataki Pledges More Parks, More Land Buys

In his 2004 State of the State address, New York Governor George Pataki stated that in the next two years, five state parks will be opening; he also pledged to open or expand 20 more state parks over the next five years.

In his budget presentation for 2004-2005, the governor again proposed to spend \$125 million from the Environmental Protection Fund. This year, unlike the last three years, there is no proposal to tap the EPF for staff salaries for either the Dept. of Environmental Conservation or the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, though he does propose to

fund various capital projects with EPF dollars that in the past have been paid from general operating funds.

The governor's budget also proposes to spend about \$30 million for land purchases, open space programs, and a new \$150,000 urban forestry initiative. Another \$8.5 million is available for farmland preservation projects. Last year the TC/ADK Partnership successfully lobbied for an increase in land stewardship monies from \$5 million to \$5,750,000. This year's budget proposes to spend a million more, a total of \$6,750,000. This is the key category that funds hiking trail maintenance programs, the Summit Stewards, and implementation of the Forest Preserve unit management plans.

A major initiative is a proposal to increase snowmobile (now \$25) and all terrain vehicle (\$10) registration fees to an annual fee of \$45. The governor proposes to use \$850,000 of the estimated \$7.5 million in ATV registration proceeds to fund an ATV Trail Maintenance and Enforcement Fund. The balance of the money would go to the General Fund. The governor's staff indicated that the money would only be available for ATV trail maintenance and construction projects on private lands and conservation easements. It would not be available for the creation and upkeep of ATV trails on any kind of state land, state park land or the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves.

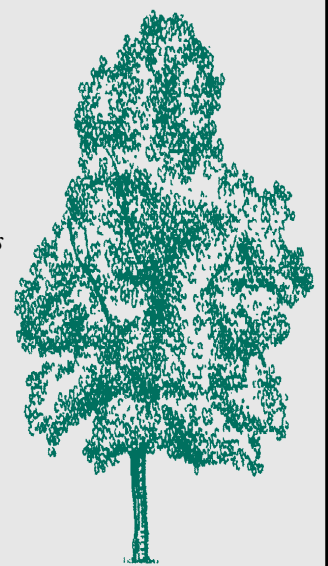
Bob Moss, Don Weiss, Gary Haugland, Neil Woodworth, Marisa Iannacito, and Neil Zimmerman contributed to this report.



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

When we build them, you hike them. We've been building and protecting trails for at least four generations of hikers since 1920. That's 1,600 miles in New York and New Jersey to date. Help us keep building for the next generation by naming the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in your will. A bequest makes a wonderful gift, and it lasts beyond one lifetime.

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



ADK Spring Outing

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e-mail: ralphpollard@att.net
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Official Conference Maps

	Retail	Member	P/H	Total
Sterling Forest Trails (2003)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.80	_____
North Jersey Trails (2002)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.95	_____
Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails (2003)	\$8.95	\$6.75	+.95	_____
NEW!! East Hudson Trails (2003)	\$9.95	\$7.50	+.95	_____
West Hudson Trails (2000)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.95	_____
Catskill Trails (2003) & see combo	\$13.95	\$10.45	+\$1.10	_____
Kittatinny Trails (2000)	\$12.95	\$9.75	+\$1.10	_____
Shawangunk Trails (2000) & see combo	\$9.95	\$7.50	+.95	_____
South Taconic Trails (1988, rev. 1998)	\$4.95	\$3.75	+.65	_____
Hudson Palisades Trails (available summer 2004)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.80	_____

Books

A.T. Guide for NY & NJ (2002) w/6 maps	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.00	_____
Long Path Guide to NY/NJ (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.00	_____
Day Walker (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
Hiking Long Island (2002)	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.50	_____
Circuit Hikes in Northern New Jersey (2003)	\$11.95	\$9.55	+\$2.00	_____
New York Walk Book (2001) & see combo	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.50	_____
NEW!! New Jersey Walk Book (available April 2004)	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman Trails Guide (1999) & see combo	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
Iron Mine Trails: NY-NJ Highlands (1996, rev. 1999)	\$8.95	\$7.15	+\$2.00	_____
Health Hints for Hikers (1994)	\$5.95	\$4.75	+\$2.00	_____
Doodletown: Hiking Through History in a Vanishing Hamlet on the Hudson (1996)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.00	_____
Catskill Trails: A Ranger's Guide to the High Peaks				
Book One: The Northern Catskills (2000)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$2.00	_____
Book Two: The Central Catskills (2000)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$2.00	_____
Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) (hardcover) & see combo	\$10.95	\$8.75	+\$2.00	_____
Shawangunks Trail Companion (2003)	\$18.95	\$15.15	+\$2.50	_____
Nature Walks in New Jersey (1998)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.50	_____
50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
50 Hikes in New Jersey (1997, rev. 1999)	\$15.95	\$12.95	+\$2.00	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills & Hudson River Valley (2002)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$2.00	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in New Jersey (1992)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.00	_____
AMC Catskill Mountain Guide (2002)	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.00	_____
ADK Guide to Catskill Trails (1994, repr. 1998)	\$17.95	\$14.40	+\$2.00	_____
Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years (2001)	\$27.50	\$22.00	+\$3.00	_____

Combo-Packs

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

The Personal Touch

Note Cards: TC Collection	\$12.00	\$9.60	+\$2.00	_____
Hiking Cap	\$12.90	\$10.50	+\$1.75	_____
Long-sleeve Denim Shirt Circle: S M L XL	\$29.90	\$22.90	+\$4.00	_____
Polo Shirt (Forest Green) Circle: S M L XL	\$19.90	\$15.50	+\$4.00	_____
NY-NJTC T-Shirt Circle: L XL	\$13.95	\$13.95	+\$3.50	_____
Harriman Map Bandanna	\$6.95	\$5.95	+\$1.50	_____
Conference Logo Patch	\$2.50	\$2.50	postpaid	_____
Long Path Logo Patch	\$2.75	\$2.75	postpaid	_____
Conference Logo Decal	\$.85	\$.85	postpaid	_____

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*Tax must be paid by NJ residents on books, maps, misc., but not on clothing. Thank you!

LARRY BRAUN

continued from page 1

blowdowns that had been blocking the trail had been cut into neat logs to open the path.

He points out blue plastic tape, which he and John Blenninger, the trail supervisor for BRF, tied on branches earlier to mark a new route for some sections of the trail. "Parts of the trail, which used to be a wood road, were eroded and wet all the time, so in a few places we are moving traffic a few feet to the side, to dry ground." At three spots, the trail crosses the creek. "We need to get a trail crew in here," he says, "to move some big rocks and create stepping-stone crossings for the wet years." This will mean more phone calls with Blenninger, who will work with other Trail Conference volunteers to organize and schedule the work.

The hour or two we spent in Black Rock Forest revealed the different levels at which Larry works to maintain and add trails in his neck of the woods. He meets with those who control the land – in the case of BRF, a consortium of universities, schools, museums, and the Trail Conference – to deal with questions related to trails. He is in frequent touch with his trail supervisors, planning the clearing and rerouting of the Compartment Trail, for example – but helping lay out new trails as well. And he gets his own hands dirty, too. We removed about 30 substantial branches from the trail that day, and he noted fading blazes and an upside-down sign. "I hike every trail in my region at least once a year," he adds.

Before descending from the ridge and returning to our cars parked at the trailhead, we stop to enjoy the beautiful view west, across the valley, with Storm King Art Center's outdoor sculptures gleaming in the sunlight, and the traffic on the New York State Thruway. The other side of the valley is bounded by Schunemunk Mountain, and Larry points out the Moodna Viaduct at its north end, where the Port Jervis line of Metro-North crosses some low ground before turning west toward Wallkill. Commuter trains run at the base of Schunemunk, and Larry sees an opportunity there for hikers. He is talking to people at Metro-North and New York State agencies about creating a station at the mountain for hikers.

On the plus side, a flag stop at Schunemunk would make it possible for hikers from the city to get to the mountain, starting and ending their treks from a platform on the mountain side of the tracks, at the Jessup Trail. On the other hand, funding will be needed to build the platform, and the state will have to okay the plan. But

Larry is hopeful: "There are flag stops for hikers at the bottom of Breakneck Ridge and on the Appalachian Trail, on the other side of the Hudson, and they have been a success for both hikers and the railroad."

Larry may be exploring new ground for himself as a manager, but he has lots of experience in the outdoors. For many years he took advantage of his flexible work schedule – "there is not a lot of construction going on in the winter" – to go mountain climbing and hiking in America and other places around the world. Because he wanted to "give something back," he's led almost a thousand group trips, beginning with "day hikes, then moving on to multi-day backpacking and bus trips to the Adirondacks, then two-week snorkeling in the Virgin Islands, and mountain hiking trips to Ireland and Scotland." Now, though he is beginning to feel his age and is thinking of selling his rock climbing gear.

But his avocations can never be far from his mind. From the living room of his home in Gardiner, NY, Larry looks upon a great view of Millbrook Mountain in Minnewaska State Park. It's an inspiring scene, though it also reminds him of work. The park, he notes, "is expanding like crazy, which will probably mean more trails for us to maintain."

Jonathan Beard is a member of the Trail Conference and is a science writer and photo researcher in New York City.

IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Dombroski

The College Alumni Hiking Club regretfully announces the passing of its long time and very esteemed member Dorothy Dombroski in December 2003. She is survived by her son Andrew and husband Daniel.

Allan Levins

We are sad to announce the passing of long-time hiker Allan Levins. Allan was a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and Sierra Club. He led hikes for both organizations in the 1970s and 1980s. Allan was a serious and unusually strong and fast hiker. Friends remember him running up and down mountains with a heavy pack on his back. He was a passionate and inveterate traveler, proudly stating that he had visited every state in the U.S. and he had hiked in most of the U.S. national parks.

Allan died suddenly on November 15, 2003, from complications related to diabetes. He was 64 years old. He will be sorely missed by those close to him. A memorial hike and dinner is planned for the spring. For details, contact Marsha Lipshitz, 212-734-9004 or syoung5@juno.com.

James A. Robson, Nuclear Lake Ranger

James A. Robson, a dedicated VIP Park Ranger at Nuclear Lake in Dutchess County with the National Park Service for 24 years, died Dec. 24, 2003. Jim, a resident of Poughquag, NY, worked often with Trail Conference and Appalachian Trail volunteers in his region. Survivors include his wife of 29 years, Patricia Mollica Robson, at home; one daughter, Allison Carr of Albany, two sisters, Judith Ploof of Brasher Falls and Susan Keeley of Massena, NY.

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FAVORITE HIKE



Try a Puddingstone Walk in Mud Season

By Daniel Chazin



Where: Abram S. Hewitt State Forest, New Jersey

Features: This loop hike traverses the Bearfort Ridge, with its unusual puddingstone conglomerate rock and pitch pines growing out of bedrock, passes through a rhododendron tunnel, and comes out on the shore of Surprise Lake.

Length: 6.0 miles

Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous

Dogs: Permitted on leash

How to get there: Take Interstate Route 287 to Exit 57 and continue on Skyline Drive to its western end at Greenwood Lake Turnpike in Ringwood. Turn right and proceed for 8.4 miles to a Y intersection with Union Valley Road. Take the right fork and continue ahead for 0.3 mile on Warwick Turnpike. Just past a short concrete bridge, there is a turnout on the right side of the

road. Park here. (This turnout is a short distance east of the intersection of Warwick Turnpike with White Road.)

Map: NY-NJ Trail Conference North Jersey Trails Map #21

From the parking turnout, walk east on Warwick Turnpike, going back over the concrete road bridge. Just east of the bridge, you'll see three white blazes that mark the start of the Bearfort Ridge Trail. This will be your route for the first half of the hike. Follow the white blazes uphill through rhododendrons and hemlocks. In about 500 feet, the trail joins a woods road that comes in from the right. Just beyond, follow the white blazes as the trail turns left, leaving the road. (The orange-blazed Quail Trail, which continues ahead along the road, will be your return route.)

The white-blazed trail continues to ascend on a wide footpath. After crossing a stream, it levels off through mountain laurel. A little over half a mile from the start, the trail descends briefly to cross a wider stream and continues through a rhododendron grove. At the end of the rhododendrons, a blue-blazed trail that leads to Warwick Turnpike goes off to the left. Continue ahead on the white-blazed trail.

The Bearfort Ridge Trail now begins a steady, rather steep climb. About a mile from the start, it passes a large, lichen-covered outcrop to the right. It continues to climb until it reaches the crest of the ridge, marked by pitch pines. Here, a large conglomerate rock outcrop to the left offers an expansive view to the south. Upper Greenwood Lake is visible to the west and, on a clear day, the New York City skyline may be seen in the distance to the east.

After taking in the view and resting from the steep climb, continue ahead, following the Bearfort Ridge Trail north along the puddingstone conglomerate ridge, through pitch pines. You'll make a brief but steep climb, and the vegetation will change to hemlocks and laurels. The trail continues at an elevation of about 1,300 feet, having climbed about 600 feet from the trailhead. After about half a mile of walking along the ridge, the trail crosses an open rock outcrop, with several large glacial erratics, and passes more pitch pines. It descends to cross a wet area and then climbs to reach a rock ledge overlooking a swamp to the west. Here, a narrow wedge of the bedrock has split away from the main ledge, forming a deep crevice. You've now gone about two miles from the start, and this is a good place to take a break.

When you're ready to continue, proceed north along the trail, which climbs to a rock outcrop with a huge boulder. It continues along a whaleback rock, through pitch pines, and reaches a limited viewpoint to the east. The trail now descends steeply, through hemlocks and laurels. After crossing a stream amid jumbled rocks at the base of the descent, the trail climbs to an east-facing viewpoint from a rock outcrop with pitch pines. From the outcrop, the trail

descends gently, levels off, and then climbs to another rock outcrop – marked by several cedar trees – with a magnificent view to the north and east. Surprise Pond is visible to the north, and Sterling Forest and the Wyanokies may be seen to the east, with an arm of the Monksville Reservoir visible in the distance. You've now gone three miles from the start of the hike.

The white-blazed Bearfort Ridge Trail ends here, at a junction with the yellow-blazed Ernest Walter Trail. Turn right and follow the yellow-blazed trail as it heads downhill through a rocky area and soon crosses a stream. The trail continues through a dense rhododendron grove, with the thick rhododendrons forming a canopy over the trail in places. About half a mile from the end of the Bearfort Ridge Trail, you'll notice an orange-blazed trail coming in from the right. Continue ahead on the yellow trail for about 100 feet to an open area which overlooks Surprise Pond – a pristine, spring-fed lake. This is another good spot to take a break.

Now retrace your steps along the yellow trail, but when you come to the junction with the orange trail, bear left and follow the orange blazes. You're now on the Quail Trail, a woods road that will lead you back to the start of the hike. Follow the orange blazes as they climb gently for a short distance and then begin a steady descent. In three-quarters of a mile, you'll cross a stream on rocks. This crossing can be a little tricky if the water is high. In 500 feet, the trail crosses another stream and then climbs briefly, soon resuming its descent.

A third stream is crossed in another mile. A third of a mile beyond, be sure to bear right, as another woods road goes off to the left. When the orange-blazed trail ends at a junction with the white-blazed trail, continue ahead along the road and then bear right, following the white blazes downhill, back to the trailhead.

Daniel Chazin writes the Hike of the Week column for The Record, where this hike description first appeared, and is editor of the new edition of the New Jersey Walk Book (see page 1).

BOOKNOTES



Gunks Trails

A Ranger's Guide to the Shawangunk Mountains

Edward G. Henry
Black Dome Press, 2003

Reviewed by Malcolm Spector

Even the serious collector of Gunkiana should probably pass up this book. It describes 12 hikes in the Gunks, and gives some background – geological, geographical, and human ecological – to the ridge. But there are inaccuracies and errors. In addition, the book is out of date in many ways. For example, in the map for the Bonticou Crag hike, the blue trail seems to fall off the ridge and does not extend all the way to the Clearwater Road. How long ago was the day-use fee in the Mohonk Preserve five dollars?

The hike to Stony Kill Falls may serve as an example. The text fails to mention that the land below the falls was purchased more than two years ago by the Open

Space Institute. The hike description claims that Shaft 2A Road goes right up to the boundary of Minnewaska State Park Preserve. The author assures the reader that there is a "parking area" at the end of Shaft 2A Road. Really? The author recommends simply hiking up the stream bed, or advises the hiker to cross "an old rock lined clearing stripped of its vegetation and natural dignity." I guess he is referring to the shale pit formed when the aqueduct was constructed, still private property when the book was issued, though it was bought by the Open Space Institute in January (see story on page 3). The driving instructions to get to the trailhead have one turning right if coming on Route 44-55 from the east, and turning left if coming from the west. I don't think so.

The black and white maps are of extremely low quality and the trail narratives are full of florid language and long digressions, many of them repetitive in the extreme.

Weird Hikes

A Collection of Bizarre, Funny and Absolutely True Hiking Stories

Art Bernstein

Falcon (an imprint of the Globe Pequot Press), 2003

Reviewed by Edward Ripley-Duggan

The strangeness in Bernstein's book is mostly subjective (though if indeed "Absolutely True" as the title vouchsafes, some of the events are at very least intriguing). The author writes entertainingly, but this is really a work of autobiography masquerading as a travel book and hiking guide. Nothing wrong with that – travel as autobiography and self-exploration goes back at least as far as Doughty, Stevenson, and Kinglake. Still, by choosing this genre Bernstein is tacitly inviting comparison with some extraordinarily polished contemporary practitioners of this particular facet of the writer's art.

Despite his experience as an author (13 travel and nature guides to his credit), Bernstein's not a master of prose of the highest order, but he writes well enough, and one can't help but root for him in his struggles with drink (successful), marriage

(ultimately unsuccessful), and fatherhood (sounds like he did a pretty good job). More importantly, he is a hiker, which adds piquancy to his tales, at least for other hikers. He does come across as somewhat willful "My keep-going-at-all-costs attitude annoys many potential hiking partners..." ; a bit opinionated; but he is also self-deprecating and frequently funny.

The book contains brief trail descriptions to the locales (mostly in the western United States) where he had his bizarre experiences, together with photographs. The episodes are not the kind that would raise goose bumps in an aficionado of the *X-Files*, but they are entertaining (doubtless more so to read about than to experience). I was taken with his taxonomy of animals real, possible, and imagined, especially category 4: "Imaginary animals that have no existence in reality but that can, under certain circumstances, be very, very real." I don't give away too much when I mention that he had his (very) Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind after having been bitten by a rattlesnake while rather seriously dehydrated. This book makes engaging reading.

Adirondack Waterfall Guide
New York State's Cool Cascades
 Russell Dunn
 Black Dome Press, 2003

New England Waterfalls
A Guide to More Than 200 Cascades and Waterfalls
 Greg Parsons & Kate B. Watson
 The Countryman Press, 2003
Reviewed by Fred Schroeder

As I looked over my array of guidebooks detailing hikes, canoe routes, and places of interest, the last thing I needed, I thought, was one on a whole new subject. However, the publication in 2003 of not one, but two guidebooks to waterfalls indicate that there is a facet of the out-of-doors just waiting to be discovered in more depth. As I reviewed a few familiar site descriptions in *Adirondack Waterfall Guide: New York State's Cool Cascades* by Russell Dunn, I came to the conclusion that there's much more to waterfalls and cascades than simply the passing joy of seeing and photographing them. There's the adventure involved in finding them, some in remote locations or on the way to another destination; there's the historical story that is often connected to them; there's the intimation that one may have passed a charming water display many times without knowing it.

Dunn joins the host of guidebook writers who live up their descriptions with pithy, interesting, and historical information. This book is indeed a joy to read. Dunn easily draws us into his world with graceful, inspired writing, and provides the kind of insights that may prompt us to keep a copy permanently in our cars. The book does not cover all sections of the Adirondacks, but there certainly are enough waterfalls here to whet anyone's appetite.

Dunn's book is illustrated with understandable maps and old postcards that depict familiar waterfalls. Before directing you to particular falls, the author gives a good summary of steps to be taken to make the trip successful and safe. A Nathan Farb photo of Mossy Cascade Brook Falls graces the cover. This is the publisher's first venture into books written about the Adirondacks. They are noted for excellent tomes on the Catskills and Hudson River Valley.

New England Waterfalls, like *Adirondack Waterfall Guide*, is a descriptive, information-packed guide. Wonderful photographs accompany many of the descriptions in this book and one can only marvel at the diversity and number of waterfalls shown; there are three times as many waterfalls described in this book as in Dunn's book. The research needed to cover this many sites is indeed staggering.

I would have enjoyed some historical data, missing most likely because of space limitations. I do not understand why some publishers of guidebooks don't insist on including an index. I would think that it would be more helpful than some of the appendixes that are included. Another caveat has to do with the youthful exuberance of the authors, who revel in the sheer fun and adventure of the experience and are not as cautionary as they should be for a reading audience of all ages.

But that said, this is truly a wonderful guide and will be most helpful to anyone, particularly those with families.

Fred Schroeder is a Long Path North trail maintainer and veteran hike leader for the Albany Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

ADK-R. Ring Round Rosie, NY. Leader and info: call 201-816-9465. Moderate 6.7 miles.

IHC. Elk Pen Onward, NY. Leader: Patricia Wexler, 201-792-1979. Meet: 9 am at Elk Pen parking, Harriman State Park, NY. Moderately strenuous hike on the AT over Green Pond Mt. and through the Lemon Squeezer. Inclement weather cancels.

PMNHA. Vernal Equinox Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 4:30 pm; must call to pre-register. Day and night are equal length as we hike this time of year. \$3 fee.

UCHC. Eagle Rock Reservation, W. Orange, NJ. Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10 am at Eagle Rock parking. Brisk 4-mile; out by about noon. Rain or falling snow cancels; snow on ground okay.

WTW. Farny Highlands, NJ. Leader: Leslie McGlynn, 973-252-8122 or email LSL376@CS.com. Contact leader to confirm hike. Meet: 10 am at Hibernia diner (Rt. 80 to exit 37; turn left). Route of about 5 miles to be determined. Inclement weather cancels.

GAHC. Ward's Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River, NY. Leader: Wolfgang Hahn, 212-831-8254, call ahead requested. Meet: Museum parking lot at 10:00. Moderate and easy hikes.

MJO. Pine Meadow Lake, NY. Leader: Hanna Abolitz Benesch, 212-502-0820. Call leader to register and confirm; nonmembers \$10. Look for signs of spring on the first day of spring as we climb Diamond Mtn., with views of NYC, and hike on to Pine Meadow Lake, Lake Wanoksink, and Lake Sebago. Approx. 7 miles with some climbing at a not too fast pace. Bring lunch and liquids. No go in ice, rain, or snow.

MONDAY, MARCH 22

RVW. Shaupeneak Ridge, Town of Esopus, NY. Leader and info, call: 845-338-8772. Meet: 9 am, Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. Easy+ hike: 4.5 miles, 3.0 hours. Inclement weather date – following Monday.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

UOC. Delaware & Raritan Canal, NJ. Leader: Charlie Severn, 732-246-3387. Meet: call leader. Easy 3-4 mile hike along the D&R Canal, from Princeton to Kingston, NJ.

ADK-MH. Cornish Estate, East Hudson, NY. Leader: Sue Totten, 845-744-3648. Meet: call leader for details. Moderate 5-6 mile hike to check out the ruins of an old estate and dairy farm. Return by way of Undercliff Trail, with nice views and an old mine.

UCHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 am at Tourne Park parking lot. Moderate hike in beautiful park with a stream, lake, and other natural beauties. Some ups and downs; steady rain cancels.

ADK-MH. Thompson Pond, Pine Plains, NY. Leader: Lalita Malik, 845-724-5786. Meet: 10 am; call leader for details. Easy walk around this 44-acre glacial lake, a designated National Natural Landmark. Bog supports abundant wildlife; great way to welcome spring.

WTW. Palisades and Hudson Shore, NJ. Leader: Seymour Levine, 201-567-8967, before 8 pm. Meet: 10 am at Fleet Bank, corner of Hudson Terrace and Palisade Ave. in Englewood Cliffs. Easy 4 miles with good views of cliffs, river, and GW Bridge. Rain or snow cancels.

NYHC. Long Beach to Rockaway Park, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: at Penn Station, lower level near LIRR info window; call leader for time. Moderate hike of about 10 miles on boardwalk and beach areas of Long Beach. Atlantic Beach, and the Rockaway peninsula. Many drop-off points.

RVW. Esopus Conservancy, NY. Leader and info: call 845-247-0664. Meet: 10 am, Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties. Easy hike: 3 miles, 3 hours. Inclement weather date – following Saturday.

MJO. Bear Mountain, NY. Leader: Herb Gecht, 212-502-0820. Meet: call for info; nonmembers \$10. Climb the Perkins Memorial Tower. Spectacular views guaranteed. Bring lunch and at least 2 liters of water. The hike is accessible by public transportation. Rain cancels.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

IHC. Lake Skannatati. Leader: Ann Gilbert, 973-839-0292. Meet: 9 am at Lake Skannatati parking, Seven Lakes Dr., Harriman State Park, NY. Easy tour of woods roads in this early spring saunter. Inclement weather cancels.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Jay Krafchick, 973-992-4193. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl. across from Millburn RR station. Moderate to somewhat brisk 4-mile hike following the Rahway River past Diamond Mill Pond to Painters' Point and beyond. Rocky in some places, but suitable hike for everyone.

MONDAY, MARCH 29

RVW. Southwest Hunter (3740'), NY. Leader and info: call 845-679-2580. Meet: 8 am, Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. Strenuous bushwhack: 5.5 miles, 5.5 hours. Snowshoes and crampons may be necessary. Inclement weather date – following Monday.

APRIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Eck Khoon Dwyer, 908-790-0939. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Brisk 4-5 miles with some rocky trails. Rain cancels.

NYHC. Sandy Hook, NJ. Leader: Oliver Wayne, 201-840-4145. Meet: 7:40 am at the Port Authority Bus Terminal near The Commuters statue. Moderate hike of about 12 miles. We will walk the entire dune trail and visit the lighthouse and the museum. Joint with other clubs. Call leader very early on the morning of the hike if the weather is doubtful.

MJO. Hubbard-Perkins Conservation Area, NY. Leader: Lanny Wexler, 516-544-5867, from 7:30 – 10:00 pm or hight36@optonline.net. Meet: call for info; nonmembers \$10. A 10-mile moderate hike on hilly trails of the Hubbard-Perkins Conservation Area. Beginning at Canopus Lake, we'll follow the Fahnestock and Charcoal Burners Trail to Wiccoppee Pass. Several scenic viewpoints near the end of the hike.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

IHC. Trail Spring Cleanup, NY. Leader: Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9 am at south end of Sterling Ridge Trail, Rt. 511, Hewitt, NJ. Moderately strenuous day. We need your help for another spring cleanup of the Sterling Ridge Trail. Bring lunch, water, gloves, clippers (or use the club tools provided). Rain cancels; rain date is Saturday, April 17.

PMNHA. Wood Frog Slog, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 2:30 pm. Listen for this early spring emergent on this easy hike.

UCHC. Ramapo Lake, Oakland, NJ. Leader: Micky Siegel, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 am on Skyline Dr. at first parking lot at bottom of hill. Moderate, very scenic 5-6 miles at beautiful Ramapo Lake.

GAHC. Pyramid Mountain, Montville Township, NJ. Leader: Henry Loddigs, 718-899-1052 or Evelyn Hoyer, 718-457-8319. Meet: 9:30 am at visitors' center on Boonton Ave. (CR 511) at 9:30. Moderate and easy hikes.

MJO. Ward Pound Ridge, NY. Leaders: Peter Froyton, 212-502-0820, pete163@earthlink.net, and Glenn J. Wiener, 212-502-0820, gjw0721@optonline.net. Meet: call for info; nonmembers \$10. Enjoy the coming of spring with this scenic 5-mile hike. We will go at a steady pace with a few gentle rolling hills.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

IHC. Crater Lake to Buttermilk Falls, NJ. Leader: Guy and Jennifer Percival, 973-984-1005. Meet: 9 am at Blairstown Foot-bridge Park off Rt. 94, Blairstown, NJ. Moderately strenuous 8 miles. This section of the Kittatinny Ridge has good views and several waterfalls (in spring, Buttermilk Falls is quite impressive). AT and Buttermilk Falls trails, return on Woods Rd. Trail. Rain cancels.

PMNHA. Spring Stress Relief Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp., NJ. Unwind with us on this easy hike.

UCHC. Cooper Mill to Kay Environmental Center, Chester, NJ. Leader: Barbara Loke, 908-234-0486. Meet: 10 am at Cooper Mill. 4-5 miles along the Black River at a moderate pace suitable for beginners; flat trail. Rain cancels.

NYHC. Bronxville to Scarsdale on Bronx River Parkway Trails, NY. Leader: Helen Mangione-Yee. Meet: 11 am at info booth in Grand Central Terminal for train to Bronxville. Easy hike of 4-5 miles at a moderate, steady pace; some ups and downs. First we'll explore the hilly Lawrence Park community and then walk along the Bronx River. Joint with other clubs.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, W. Orange, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call 9 am-9 pm only. Meet: 10 am at Turtleback Rock parking area in W. Orange. Moderate 4-5 miles in nicely wooded area with some rough spots; see Turtle Rock.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

RVW. Graham Mountain (3868'), NY. Leader: call 845-246-4040. Meet: 8 am, Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. Moderate Bushwhack: 7 miles, 5 hours. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

PMNHA. Moderate Morning Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am. Hike at Silas Condict Park in Kinnelon, NJ; meet by picnic shelter at top of hill; call for directions.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Mimi Solomon, 973-379-3910. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Brisk hike; some trails are rocky.

NYHC. Allenhurst to Spring Lake, NJ. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 8:45 am at the New Jersey Transit windows at the 8th Ave. end of Penn Station. Easy hike of about 9 miles over flat terrain at a moderate, steady pace. We will walk mostly on boardwalks; views of ocean, beaches, south Jersey communities, and waterways. Joint with other clubs.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

IHC. High above Greenwood Lake, NY & NJ. Leader: Steve Rikon, 973-962-4149. Meet: 9 am at A&P/post office, shopping center on Warwick Tpk., Hewitt, NJ. Strenuous hike from Mt. Peter, NY, on the AT to New Jersey and Bearfort Mt. Trail; follows the ledge of pink and white pudding stone and great views abound. Rain cancels.

UCHC. Lewis Morris Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Lynn Gale, 973-763-7230. Meet: 10 am at park upper parking lot; call for directions. Moderate hike; some sections are rough with ups and downs.

National Trails Day

Saturday, June 5

Register your event at
www.americanhiking.org

PMNHA. Eight Mile Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 9:30 am. Seasoned hikers join us for this 5-hour outing.

NYHC. A Short Hike on the Long Path. Leader: David Konoson, 212-744-2282, before 10 pm. Meet: 10:15 am at GW Bridge Bus Terminal to take 10:40 bus. Easy 3-4 miles at a slow pace from Closter Dock Road to State Line Lookout. Overlooks the Hudson. Heavy rain cancels.

GAHC. Pine Meadow Lake, Sloatsburg, NY. Leader: Brian Kassenbrock, 718-748-0624. Meet: 9 am at Reeves Meadow Visitor Center (Seven Lakes Drive). Strenuous, moderate, and easy hikes.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

UCHC. Garret Mountain, Paterson, NJ. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0766. Meet: 10 am at Lambert Castle, Paterson. After a steep climb, walk along edge of the park at moderate pace, enjoying several views. Lunch afterwards at the castle veranda. Optional visit to castle or historic district. Rain cancels.

NYHC. Towards Breezy Point, NY. Leader: Halina Jensen, 212-568-6323; call between 8 pm and 10 pm. Meet: on the A-train platform at the Broad Channel station; call leader for time. Strenuous hike of about 9 miles or more, mostly on the beach at Rockaway. We will try to reach Breezy Point at the end. Joint with other clubs.

RVW. Vernoy Kill Falls, NY. Leader: call 914-246-9373. Meet: 9 am, Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. Moderate walk: 4 miles, 5 hours. Inclement weather date, following Saturday.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

IHC. Reeves Roundabout, NY. Leader: Marguerite La Corte, 973-625-4379. Meet: 9 am at Reeves Meadow Visitor Center, Seven Lakes Dr., Sloatsburg, NY. Moderately strenuous hike uphill to Diamond Mt. and ledges of Raccoon Brook Hills Trail, then down to Cascade of Slid and back along the Stony Brook Trail. Rain cancels.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, W. Orange, NJ. Leader: Jay Krafchick, 973-992-4193. Meet: 10 am at Bramhall Terrace parking lot on Crest Dr., near S. Orange Ave. entrance. Moderately brisk 5-mile hike past the deer paddock and out to Washington Rock. Some rocky/hilly areas and some flat; suitable for everyone.

NYHC. From State Line to Nyack, NY. Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-9457, between 7 am and 8 am. Meet: 10:15 am at the GW Bridge Bus Terminal, upper level near the ticket booths to take the 10:40 bus. Easy hike of 8 miles along the Long Path. Joint with other clubs.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

NYHC. GW Bridge to Englewood, NJ. Leaders: Jim Peborde, 718-352-0381, and Dina Tritsch, 212-718-8153. Meet: 10 am near the ticket windows on the upper level of the GW Bridge Bus Terminal. Moderate hike of 6-8 miles at a steady pace. Walk across the GW Bridge to Fort Lee Historic Park and down to and along the Hudson River from Edgewater to Englewood and back. Rain cancels. Joint hike with other clubs.

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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 a flashlight in a backpack. Leaders have the right and responsibility to refuse anyone whom they believe cannot complete the hike or is not adequately equipped. Easy, moderate, or strenuous hikes are relative terms; call leader if in doubt.

More than 85 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers' Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Club Codes

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

ADK-MH	ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter	PMNHA	Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area
ADK-R	ADK Ramapo Chapter	RVW	Rip Van Winkle
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	UCHC	Union County Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	UOC	University Outing Club
MJO	Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Mountain Club	WTW	Woodland Trail Walkers
NYHC	New York Hiking Club		

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 May/June issue is March 15, 2004.

MARCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

ADK-MH. AT on Connecticut/New York Border. Leader: Lalita Malik, 845-724-5786. Meet: 11 am; call leader for details. Easy 3-mile hike or snowshoe on the AT, starting at Bulls Bridge and walking along the Housatonic River. Beautiful views of gorges and rapids; learn about edible plants along the trail. Visit village of Kent after hike.

PMNHA. Highlands Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp., NJ. Moderate hike on our Highlands trails.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Lee Fanger, 973-376-3160. Meet: 10 am at Tulip Springs Parking lot, Brookside Ave., Millburn, just north of S. Orange Ave. Brisk hike of a little over two hours. Rain cancels.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

UCHC. Scherman-Hoffman Sanctuary, Bernardsville, NJ. Leader: Phyllis Brown, 908-753-8812; call before 9 pm. Meet: 10 am at the sanctuary; call for directions. Hike the moderate Dogwood Trail and Patriots' Path; full day ending at about 3 pm. Rain cancels.

IHC. Sebago-Panther Mts., NY. Leader: Ilse Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am at Lake Sebago, Seven Lakes Dr., Harriman State Park, NY. Moderately strenuous hike to Pine Meadow Lake, visit the Egg, climb Panther Mt. and along the Tuxedo Mt. Ivy Trail. Rain, heavy snow or poor driving conditions cancel.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Carol McNichol, 201-795-2094; call before 8:30 pm. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Brisk hike of 4-5 miles with many rough trails. Steady rain cancels.

WTW. Lewis Morris County Park, NJ. Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194. Meet: 10 am at LMCP at the parking area overlooking Sunrise Lake. Bus riders call leader. 4.2 miles on the Yellow Trail, followed by an option to hike the Green Trail (1.6 miles). Poor weather postpones.

GAHC. Appalachian Trail NY/NJ state line, Greenwood Lake, NJ. Leader: Mathias Wuethrich, 908-253-9042. Meet: 9:45 am at the shopping center 600 feet west of junction of Rts. 511 & 513. Moderate and easy hikes.

MONDAY, MARCH 8

RVW. Mt. Everett (2602') and Guilder Pond, Taconics, MA. Leader and info: call 845-246-5670. Meet: 8 am, Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. Moderate: 4.5 miles, 3.5 hours. Snowshoes and crampons may be necessary. Inclement weather date – following Monday.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

Banff Mountain Film Festival. 7 pm at Lafayette Theater in Suffern, NY. Tickets available at Campmor. For more information, visit: www.chestnutinproductions.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

UOC. Cooper Mill, Morristown, NJ. Leader: George Strauss, 732-469-2935. Meet: Call leader. Visit this environmentally friendly mill, still in operation, and the surrounding area.

ADK-MH. Housatonic River Walk, CT. Leader: Linda Sullivan, 845-462-1850. Meet: call leader for details. Easy 4.5-mile walk on the only flat section of the AT between Maine and Georgia. Shuttle hike; possible side trip to Kent Falls.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Joan Lepseter, 908-273-4188. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Brisk hike of 4-5 miles with some rocky trails, often muddy. Suitable for a strong beginner. Steady rain cancels.

NYHC. Tottenville to Huguenot Beach, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 10:15 am in the waiting room for the Staten Island Ferry at the Battery. About 7 miles of moderate beach walking with a little road walking in the middle. Hike along Raritan Bay and the Atlantic Ocean on Staten Island beaches. Views of the nearby Jersey coast and the distant Sandy Hook highlands. Joint with other clubs.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

ADK-R. Doodletown, NY. Leader and info: call 201-871-3531. Moderately strenuous 8.5 miles around remains of village in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park.

IHC. Tiorati Tramp, NY. Leader: Jim Hayes, 201-825-9506. Meet: 9 am at Tiorati Circle parking, Harriman State Park, NY. Moderately strenuous hike with many possible options. Inclement weather cancels.

ADK-MH. Strenuous Cross-Country Ski or Hike. Leader: Russ Faller, 845-297-5126, call before 9:30 pm. Meet: call leader for details. We'll ski wherever the snow is best. If no snow, we'll hike.

PMNHA. Hike with Neil, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp., NJ. Moderately strenuous 5-mile hike with one of our volunteers.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Mary Dell Morrison, 908-684-5175. Meet: 10 am at Jockey Hollow visitors center; call for directions. \$4 per person admission. Enjoy a scenic 4-5 mile hike in this historic national park.

NYHC. Greenbelt Hike, NY. Leaders: Bettye and Steve Soffer, 718-720-1593, between 7 and 9 pm. Meet: take 10:30 ferry to Staten Island and meet leaders at the train station in the rear of the St. George terminal. Moderate loop hike of 4-5 miles with some ups and downs. Views of the Richmond Town Restoration.

MJO. Westmoreland Bird Sanctuary, NY. Leader: Glenn J. Wiener, 212-502-0820, gjw0721@optonline.net. Register by Friday, March 12; non-members \$10. Enjoy a peaceful walk through the woods through this scenic trail. We will go at a moderate pace on a level trail with a few small hills. Four to five miles expected distance.

MONDAY, MARCH 15

RVW. Slide (4180'), NY. Leader and info, call: 845-246-7158. Meet: 8 am, Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. Moderate plus hike: 6.5 miles, 5 hours. Snowshoes and crampons required. Inclement weather date – following Monday.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

PMNHA. Moderate Morning Hike, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp., NJ. Drop off the kids at school and join us for this adults only hike at Pyramid Mt.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

ADK-MH. Lake Skannatati, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Alvin DeMaria, 845-255-1704. Meet: call leader for details. Moderate hike with minor ups and downs. Some old mines, views, lunch at a lean-to.

UCHC. Wyanokie Circular, Wanaque, NJ. Leader: Al Leigh, 973-471-7528; call 7-10 pm on Friday. Meet: 10 am at Weis Ecology Center. It's spring! Let's kick up our heels for 7-8 miles in a pleasant area. Hilly but nothing serious.

PMNHA. First Day of Spring, NJ. Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp., NJ. Celebrate the return of spring on this moderate hike.

UCHC. Pyramid Mountain, Montville, NJ. Leader: Micky Siegel, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain visitors center parking lot. Moderate 5-mile hike along the reservoir and then up to Tripod Rock.

NYHC. Signs of Spring in Nassau County, NY. Leader: Joanne Tow, jo_tow@hotmail.com. Meet: contact Seatuck Environmental Association, 631-581-6908 for details and to register. An easy hike of about 2 hours.

MJO. Walking Dunes, NY. Leader: Lanny Wexler, 516-644-5867, highpt36@optonline.net. Register by Thursday, March 18; nonmembers, \$10. Meet at Ronkonkoma LIRR station. We'll be hiking 11 miles on the Stephen Talkhouse and Paumonak Paths among the Walking Dunes. The trail snakes its way through pine-oak forest and shifting sand dunes. Dramatic views of Gardiners Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Bring lunch and 2 liters of water.

Continued on page 11

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