



Peakbagging NJ

A member brings summit fever to the Garden State.

READ MORE ON PAGE 7 ▶



Family Hiking 101

Families discover trails and nature at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Cornwall, NY.

READ MORE ON PAGE 7 ▶



TRAIL WALKER

May/June 2010

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

www.nynjtc.org

800 Steps for Trail Builders, One Giant Leap for the Trail Conference

The grand opening of the newly rebuilt Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain is just around the corner—June 5, National Trails Day. Five years of hard work by hundreds of Trail Conference volunteers alongside a crew of professional trail builders is about to be tested by the first of millions of feet.

The trail up the steep slope of Bear Mountain includes more hardscaping than any other Trail Conference-built trail and is designed to endure a century or more of heavy use by the public and prevent the need for future relocations.

But it's not finished yet!

Help is still needed to complete the first 800-step section in time for the public opening. And throughout May, the crew will be constructing sections that will link the work of the past five years with the existing Appalachian Trail.

The remaining work will involve splitting, crushing and moving stone as well as finishing work.

This is where we have the biggest need. Finishing involves moving and spreading

trail surfacing into place with the aid of tracked carriers and hand tools. Drill marks must also be diminished and old unofficial trails and work areas must be restored so that the forest can reclaim them.

This restoration will be a major new theme for this 2010 work season. It involves naturalizing work zones (our quarries and associated access routes) as well as obliterating old trail segments. **This is the "light-duty" task that many of you have been waiting for!**



Crew leader Chris Ingui and volunteer Mary Grimmig fly a stone with a highline.

We will selectively move downed and rotting logs and branches from the surrounding forest along with leaf and organic duff to hide, disguise, and create the optimal environment for ecological reclamation of the impacted areas by the native forests. We need as many hands as we can get for this instantly rewarding work.

By late May, crews will be "sweeping" the completed trail, looking for last-minute details to correct, and finally... blazing.

In June, crews will move tools to the south side of the mountain, where we will start a new era in the project and a new trail segment.

This project would not be where it is today if it were not for the help of hundreds of volunteers and the tens of thousands of hours they have donated. Likewise, we are not going to be able to make it through this last push without the help of volunteers. **Don't miss out on the opportunity to be able to point to this impressive trail segment and say, "I helped build that!"**



Crew leader Tom Kindling installing some of the first steps during year one.

Learn more about the project and the requirements for volunteering by visiting www.nynjtc.org/bmp/bear-mountain-trails-project or by emailing the crew leaders at bearmountaintrails@gmail.com.

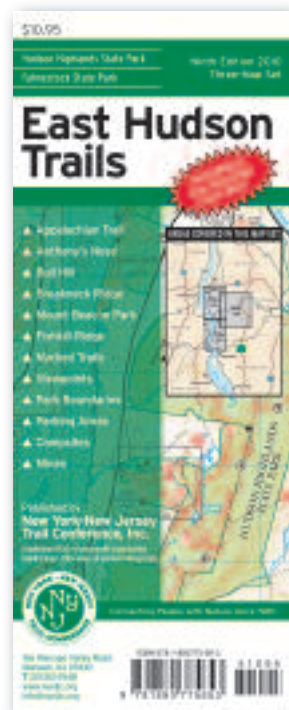
Revised 9th Edition of East Hudson Trails Map Set Available

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is pleased to announce the new revised ninth edition of our digitally-produced East Hudson Trails map set. This three-map set shows trails throughout Hudson Highlands State Park and Fahnestock State Park, including the Appalachian Trail, as well as other parklands along the Hudson River between Peekskill and Beacon.

The revised ninth edition includes enlarged inset maps for Manitou Point Preserve and Manotoga to provide a more accurate depiction of their dense trail networks. Other minor changes and corrections to the previous edition have been incorporated into this edition as well.

At a cost of \$10.95 (\$8.21 for members), this map set is a must-have for outdoor enthusiasts interested in exploring the Hudson Highlands region. To obtain the revised map set, see the Hikers' Marketplace on page 12, shop online at www.nynjtc.org, call 201-512-9348, or stop in at the Trail Conference office.

East Hudson Trails was produced with support from Clearwater, a nonprofit organization engaged in preserving and protecting the Hudson River.



Volunteer Profile The Volunteer Logging the Most Hours on the Mountain Is ...

...Catherine Kelleher. And she is not your usual New York-New Jersey Trail Conference volunteer. For starters, Catherine is from Bethesda, Maryland. Yet since a get-away weekend to New York in March 2007, when she attended an orientation session on the Bear Mountain Trails Project, Catherine has logged more hours on the project than any other volunteer.

"She's accumulated well over 400 work hours on the mountain, not including travel time, since 2007," says volunteer manager Chris Ingui. "Every time she shows up she camps out in her tent, works two solid days rain or shine, and is back in Maryland, all within 50-some-odd hours, he reports, clearly astounded. "She's even bought her own masonry hammers, which aren't cheap."

Catherine, an information technology manager for a telecommunications company, expresses surprise at the direction her weekends have taken these past three years. "I didn't expect to spend more than a weekend there," she says in a phone interview.

A member and volunteer with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), Catherine heard about the Bear Mountain project at a PATC meeting. Having already had her interest in stone work piqued while watching someone at the PATC Blackburn Trail Center build a stone wall, she enrolled in the 2007 Bear Mountain Trail Project orientation to learn more. She says "the quality of the workshops and the opportunity to practice rock work" kept enticing her back.

Catherine lists a series of trail building skills she has learned, including how to move rocks with high-line and grip-hoist rigging, and how to use tools to split and shape rocks. Experiencing the project management side of the endeavor over several years has also been educational, she says. "It does take some effort to work with people of different skills and interest levels—they're pretty conscious of that on the project—they want to make sure they're using people's time productively."

continued on page 5



Long-distance volunteer Catherine Kelleher helps build a crib wall.

TRAIL WALKER

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GEORGETTE WEIR
LOUIS LEONARDISEDITOR
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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Mission Statement

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a federation of member clubs and individuals dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community. The Conference is a volunteer-directed public service organization committed to:

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

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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is a federation of 103 hiking and outdoor groups, and 10,000 individuals.

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www.NYNJTC.org



Letters to the Editor

Send Us a Letter

Email it to tw@nynjtc.org; in the subject line, put "letter to TW editor"; or send it to Trail Walker Letters, NY-NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430.

Correction

We made a wrong choice of frog photo to accompany the article "Frozen Frogs Underfoot" in the January/February issue. Our photo is actually of a green frog (*Rana clamitans*) rather than a wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*). Our apologies to the author, Rick Lathrop.

Wonder Lake Trail Team Wants Park to Stay Open

Especially after the closure of Wonder Lake State Park was proposed by Governor Paterson on February 19th, I can't tell you how uplifting it was for each volunteer of the Wonder Lake Design and Build team to see our two-year effort to open up the Wonder Lake trail network appear as the second bullet item in the FY09 Accomplishments in the March/April 2010 *Trail Walker*!

We were so busy getting the trails completed last year that we never did get the chance to thank each of the more than 50 Trail Conference volunteers, and especially the three trail crews, who took time out of their busy schedules to build the three separate flights of rock stairs on the Highlands Trail portion of the trail system, or the six additional miles of trails that were dedicated on June 6, 2009.



Volunteers with the Wonder Lake trails team take a break.

More than 500 Wonder Lake Hiking Trail Map brochures have been distributed at the kiosk in the Wonder Lake parking lot since the trails dedication, proving how popular the new trails have become. (The brochure is also available online at nynjtc.org by clicking on "Find a Park" and then "Wonder Lake State Park.")

Many of the hikers we have seen at Wonder Lake are local residents of the Towns of Kent and Patterson. We hope they will join Trail Conference members in campaigning members of the New York State Legislature to keep all New York State Parks, including Wonder Lake, open.

—Dave Dvorsky, Holmes, NY
Wonder Lake Design and Build team

Trail Conference Should Be A Stronger Advocate for Parks

As a lifelong Westchester resident and a current member of the Trail Conference, I am disappointed by how ineffectively the Trail Conference is handling the threat of park closures. The report in [the March/April] issue of *Trail Walker* frames this acute threat as part of a larger struggle, overwhelming the reader and giving little clue as to what action to take. The pictures with that report are not of the places that face certain closure with the current budget.

The only mention of the threat on the main page of the organization's website is a few words of small print. The Trail Conference has not sent a mass-mailing to its members, leaving some of those who would be concerned in the dark. Nor has the Trail Conference made any specific mention of the parks to be closed—Arden Point, Wonder Lake, Schunemunk, and even part of Harriman, not just a little-used historic site in Yonkers.

I am deeply worried about the future of the park system in New York and I think the Trail Conference should take a much more proactive role in this struggle. This organization could have a great influence if only it communicated more effectively.

—Steven Dworkin, Mount Kisco, NY

Editor's Response:

Members who do not get Trail Conference emails or who do not visit the website may have missed our engagement with this issue. The Trail Conference has been very active in protecting New York parks, both before and since the list of parks targeted for closure was announced on February 19. The March/April issue of *Trail Walker* was already at the printer by that date. The focus in that edition on the "larger struggle" was our attempt to set the context for what we knew was to come in New York—and what we expected to come in New Jersey. But at that point, we had no specifics to report.

Email is our primary way of communicating on advocacy issues, both for reasons of timeliness as well as constraints imposed by our very limited resources. Anyone who is not receiving such emails and would like to, should contact our membership manager, Hedy Abad at abad@nynjtc.org and ask to be added to the list.

Stone Steps Don't Disturb MacKaye's Sleep

While I sympathize with Eileen West's desire for our trails to remain as natural and

continued on page 11

Nominations - We Want Your Voice To Be Heard

The Trail Conference Nominating Committee is seeking Delegates-at-Large and nominations for membership on the Board of Directors. The qualification for both is current membership in the Trail Conference. Please email your nomination to nominations@nynjtc.org. Self-nominations for Delegate-at-Large, trail maintenance and committee service positions are appropriate and welcome.

Call for Nominations for Awards

Members may nominate individuals for Trail Conference awards. Award winners are honored and recognized at our Annual Meeting. **Cut-off date for recommendations is July 1, 2010.** Please send nominations (with supporting statements) to the Volunteer Committee at awards@nynjtc.org.

View the list of past award recipients at: www.nynjtc.org/content/award-winners

The Volunteer Committee comprises Dan Van Engel, Chair, and Jane Daniels, Catherine Gemmell (staff), Bob Jonas, Ken Malkin, Chris Connolly, and Estelle Anderson.

AWARDS

Honorary Life Membership

Conveys life member status and the right to vote at Delegates meetings. Usually given after long years of service to the Conference.

Raymond H. Torrey Award

The Conference's most prestigious award, given for significant and lasting contributions that protect hiking trails and the land upon which they rest.

William Hoeflerlin Award

Recognizes Trail Conference volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.

Leo Rothschild Conservation Award

Presented to a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to the protection of our trails and/or the natural lands that surround them.

Corporate Partner Award

Given to businesses or their employees for outstanding service to the hiking community.

Major William A. Welch Trail Partner Award

Presented to those outside the Trail Conference—for example, state, federal, or local agency partner officials—who have given long and/or significant assistance to the local hiking community.

Next Generation Award

Given to those under age 21 who are making significant contributions of time and energy to trail building or protection.

Ken Lloyd Award

Recognizes members of Trail Conference member clubs or member clubs who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.

Paul Leikin Extra Mile Award

Recognizes those volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to projects such as a book, map or advocacy.

Trail Conference Delegates Meeting Tuesday, June 22 at Ross Dock in Fort Lee, NJ

All Members Are Invited

Schedule

- Board of Directors meeting: 5pm-6pm
- Socializing and Networking: 6pm-7pm
- Delegates Meeting: 7pm-8pm
- Speakers: 8pm-9pm

Enjoy a pre-meeting hike led by John Moran, North Jersey Trails Chair, on Carpenter's Trail/Dyckman Hill Trail Loop from Englewood boat basin. Start time: 2:30pm.

RSVP to abad@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 26.

Find updates and details at www.nynjtc.org/content/delegates

From the Executive Director



Trail Magic Depends on You

Do you remember the Grimm brothers' tale of the shoemaker and his wife? They were very honest and hard working but only had enough leather to make a single pair of shoes. So, the shoemaker cut the leather and put it on his workbench with the intention to make his last pair of shoes the next day. To his surprise and delight, the most exquisitely stitched shoes were sitting on his workbench the next morning.

The shoes sold quickly at more than the asking price. The shoemaker used the

income to buy even more leather which was miraculously transformed into perfectly stitched and highly sought after shoes. Word spread and soon the shoemaker and his wife were thriving again.

The shoemaker couple was curious about their good fortune so, one night, they decided to hide in view of the workbench to witness this miracle. Round about midnight, two elves appeared, naked and shivering, but rapidly began to stitch the leather together into a perfect set of shoes before disappearing in a twinkle of the eye.

The shoemaker's wife was appalled. The elves had made her and her husband well-off while they had no clothes to protect them from the elements. She decided to sew them a full set of clothes and leave them out on the workbench. In the morning the clothes were gone and, although the elves never returned, the shoemaker's shoes

continued to be in high demand and the couple lived happily ever after.

And now for the allegorical interpretation...

Like the shoemaker couple setting out leather to be turned into shoes, the public in the metropolitan region has been protecting open space and making it available for public recreation. Like the elves who made shoes from the leather, park staff and volunteers have been making that open space accessible via trails, turning raw open space into outdoor experiences for millions—and none more so than the long-serving and unselfishly dedicated Trail Conference volunteers.

And like the elves, the Trail Conference is a bit naked financially. Every year, we struggle to raise the funds needed to support our core programs of volunteer trail

building and maintenance, training, cartography, publications and advocacy.

So, please, if you haven't noticed what Trail Conference volunteers have done for the public outdoors, take a look at the map below. This is just a sampling of the trail magic that happens year in and year out, making the region a much better place to live and recreate.

If you like what you see, follow the lead of the shoemaker's wife and make a donation to help the Trail Conference cover its basic financial commitments. We won't disappear like the elves in the fable, but will continue to reward your generosity many times over.

— Edward Goodell
Executive Director

NEW YORK

- 1 Catskills**
Revised Catskill Trails map set published; all trails newly GPSed and coverage area increased.
- 2 Southern Taconics**
Planning initiated for Taconic Ridge Trail extension south to Rudd Pond.
- 3 Dutchess County**
Wappingers Falls Greenway Trail adopted.
- 4 Shawangunk Ridge**
Downloadable edition of Shawangunk Ridge Trail map produced.
- 5 Sterling Forest**
Allis Trail relocated off the gas pipeline. Revised edition of Sterling Forest Trails map published.
- 6 Schunemunk Mountain**
Hundreds of downed trees cleared to re-open trails after February 2009 ice storm.
- 7 Storm King and Black Rock Forest**
Stillman Trail rebuilt in two locations and a bridge replaced on Storm King Mountain.
- 8 East Hudson Highlands**
Volunteers created a new trail network at Wonder Lake State Park.
- 9 Fahnestock**
Bridge replaced on the Fahnestock Trail, giving access to other bridges needing repair.
- 10 Harriman-Bear Mountain**
Chain saw crews clear 496 fallen trees in 48 work trips.
- 11 Rockland County**
Three trails on West Hook Mountain in Clarkstown adopted.
- 12 Westchester County**
Walkable Westchester book, highlighting almost 600 miles of trails, published.
- 13 New York City**
Trail assessment and rehabilitation plan prepared for Van Cortlandt Park.
- 14 Long Island**
Revised 3rd edition of *Hiking Long Island* book published.

NEW JERSEY

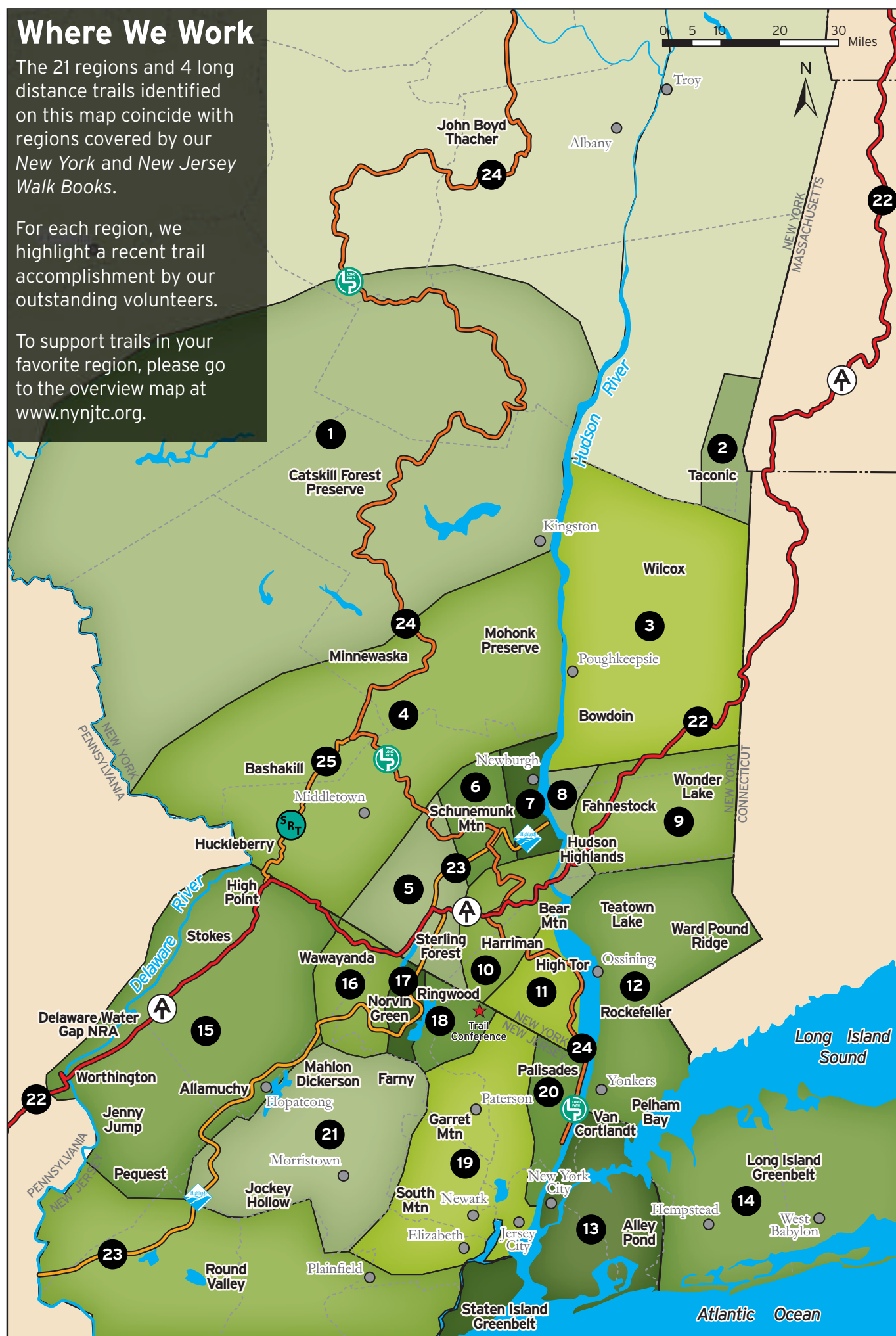
- 15 Kittatinies**
A completely new and updated Kittatinny Trails map set published. New Warren Trail work planned and built in Jenny Jump State Forest.
- 16 Bearfort Ridge and Wawayanda**
Scouting and approvals for 26 miles of new Iron Mine Trail completed.
- 17 Wyanokies**
Several miles of new trails, including Overlook Rock Trail, created in Norvin Green State Forest.
- 18 Ramapo Mountains**
New Wanaque Ridge Trail completed. Revised edition of North Jersey Trails map set published.
- 19 Watchung Mountains**
Trail Conference assists in reblazing the 32-mile Lenape Trail in Essex County.

Where We Work

The 21 regions and 4 long distance trails identified on this map coincide with regions covered by our *New York and New Jersey Walk Books*.

For each region, we highlight a recent trail accomplishment by our outstanding volunteers.

To support trails in your favorite region, please go to the overview map at www.nynjtc.org.



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LONG DISTANCE TRAILS

- 20 Palisades**
Revised edition of Hudson Palisades Trails map set published.
- 21 Morris County**
Production of brand new Central Jersey Highlands map set initiated.
- 22 Appalachian Trail**
AT on Bear Mountain's east face rebuilt to carry tens of thousands of visitors for decades to come. Opening: June 5, 2010.
- 23 Highlands Trail**
Links identified and secured that nearly complete the Highlands Trail to the Delaware River.
- 24 Long Path**
A missing piece of the Long Path is filled in the Catskills (section 26) and for the first time in decades, the route is unbroken.
- 25 Shawangunk Ridge Trail**
4.5 miles of the trail moved off of roads and onto protected lands.

Building Bridges

Anyone who hikes or walks on School Mountain Road in Fahnestock State Park knows about Bridge #3, which was devastated by Tropical Storm Floyd in 1999. Subsequent rain storms furthered its demise. Thanks to a group of volunteers recruited from several organizations and led by Walt Daniels and John Magerlein of the Trail Conference and Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks, the bridge has been repaired.

The project started as a discussion on a hike when John and Walt realized repairing the bridge would be an interesting project. The fact they had never built a bridge of the magnitude required was not a problem to Bill Bauman, park manager. He accepted their offer because the two had conducted numerous trail building projects in the region over the last 15 years.

Funding for materials was already in place through a grant written by the state to obtain FEMA money. Volunteers recruited from Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks, the Trail Conference, Fats in the Cats (a mountain bike group), and the Putnam Horse Council would provide the labor, with assistance from park staff to move materials.

Work commenced in August 2009 when a small group first made a temporary stream crossing and began dismantling the existing, battered bridge. Using a grip hoist and rigging, they moved three 3,000-pound steel plates and four 900-pound steel beams and then previous bridges hidden below. The rocks supporting the now disassembled bridge had to be moved, the banks dug out, and rock stockpiled for future use.

Gabions (cages filled with soil or rocks) were assembled and put into place. Volunteers harvested 12 cubic yards of rocks—about 20 tons—from the stream bed and adjacent woods, leaving nearby stone walls intact. The gabions were laced together and closed. Custom frames for the concrete were built. Park staff used a gator™ to move 50 60-pound bags of concrete mix to the site. There were concerns about pouring the cement caps, but the process went smoothly on the only really rainy day of the project.

A week later, steel beams were lifted into place; the following week the steel plates

were lifted into place and the bridge was once again usable. With the work site cleaned up, there is no evidence of the efforts of 22 volunteers who came to 16 work trips from August 1 through November 7.

Walt Daniels pointed out that the project



son Highlands State Park has done a great job with this hefty project. It was a huge step in user group relations."

A big thank you goes to all the volunteers: Walt Daniels and John Magerlein (project leaders), Jane Daniels (volunteer coordinator), Jean Arledge, John Bisson, Chris Chappell, Warren Egerter, Bob Flavin, Chrissy Guarino, Susan Hall, Tim Keegler, Noel Kropf, Mark Linehan, Bruce



New bridge on School Mountain Road in Fahnestock, clockwise from top left: admiring the gabion; standing on steel beams; the finished bridge.

provided challenges at every turn: Volunteers had to be recruited for every work trip. Monster rocks had to be carefully moved, sometimes just at the limit of the grip hoist.

A core group of seven anchored the project with many others assisting three to five times. As the seasons changed, the skill level of the regular participants increased. John Magerlein said, "We learned a lot. It was fun, but hard work."

The project built a bridge both physically and literally. It gave different park user groups an opportunity to meet and work together. Jill Sprance of Fats in the Cats said "The Friends of Fahnestock and Hud-

Lucas, Karen Magerlein, Tom Magerlein, John Maasik, Freidel Muller-Landau, Jean Ruda, David Small, Jill Sprance, Christine Torino, Larry Wheelock, Kenny Zadeck (rigging specialist).

Thanks are also due to Bill Bauman, Amy Knapp and Frank Mami, park staff, and Jolynne Tullis and John Blair from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Trail Conference supplied all the heavy equipment.

A celebration of completion of the project was held on site on Saturday, December 5.

—Jane Daniels



Trail News

LP Builders Celebrate a "Gapless" Trail

A missing piece of the Long Path has been filled in the northern Catskills, Huntersfield Mountain area (section 26) and for the first time in decades, the trail is without gaps. The trail section is depicted on the new, fully revised, 2010 edition of the Catskill Trails map set.

Beavers Win: HT Relocated In Pequannock Watershed

Due to beaver activity on Buckabear Pond in the Pequannock Watershed, the route of the Bearfort Waters-Clinton Trail along the western shore of the pond, as well as the route of the Clinton Waters Trail over the dam across the southern end of the pond, have been flooded. As a result, the Highlands Trail (shown on North Jersey Trails Map #116) is being relocated.

From Parking Area P4 on Clinton Road, the Highlands Trail heads west, but instead of turning south and running concurrently with the Clinton West Trail, it will continue west to the Bearfort Waters-Clinton Trail and head south along the new route of that trail, which follows a ridge overlooking Buckabear Pond.

At the southern end of the pond, the Highlands Trail continues south along the route of the Clinton West Trail. The route of the Clinton West Trail along the east side of Buckabear Pond will remain, with the possibility of a loop utilizing the Buckabear Pond Trail.

German Hollow Lean-to Crushed in Catskills

Some time over the winter (likely in the January rain/wind storm) not just one but six trees came down and crushed the German Hollow Lean-to and it has been completely destroyed. The lean-to is dangerous to go around due to all the splintered wood and metal from the roof. It should be avoided.

Conservation & Advocacy News Notes

Online: www.nynjtc.org/view/issues

Make sure you get Action Alerts from the Trail Conference so that you can help support our region's trails, parks, and open spaces. Set your email program to accept mail from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference!

Advocacy & Conservation Update

The past two months have presented a broad array of serious trail protection issues in the New York-New Jersey region. They include:

- government threats to close parks in New York;
- reductions in park staff in New Jersey;
- a proposal by the New York governor to end all land acquisition in the state, which would disrupt pending land transfers, including of parcels held by the Trail Conference;
- hearings on a utility company proposal to disrupt two units of the National Park system in New Jersey—the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail—with power lines that many deem to be unneeded;
- and a hearing on a development plan for large second homes in the Shawangunks that threatens to impact the Shawangunk Ridge Trail.

Despite the fact that the Trail Conference no longer has staff dedicated to protecting

and promoting trails in the political arena (a consequence of reduced budget), existing staff and interested volunteers and members have been active in all of these issues. You can find background and updates on most of these issues on our website. Go to www.nynjtc.org/view/issues and select the issue you are interested in.

New York Park Closures

A constantly updated web page on this issue and a series of email alerts have provided members and others with the information needed to stay informed on the issue and contact their political representatives. Trail Conference members are among the tens of thousands of citizens who have rallied for parks. As this issue went to press, both the state senate and assembly had indicated their intentions to keep parks and historic sites open for the public. Negotiations were ongoing.

New Jersey Parks

We were pleasantly surprised when Governor Christie, in his March budget message, indicated no plans to close any parks this year. Once released, his detailed budget proposals are expected to include reductions, but at the deadline for this

publication, supporters of the state's parks and trails were cautiously optimistic.

An End to New York Land Protection?

The Trail Conference joined with hundreds of environmental organizations across the state to support New York's Environmental Protection Fund. This fund pays for a broad array of environmental projects in the state, from infrastructure for clean water to protecting open space. As of the deadline for this issue, the state senate and assembly had both voted to increase funding for the EPF above the governor's proposals, but they were far apart on the amount and the purposes. The Assembly, for example, had voted to eliminate \$30 million in stewardship funds from the EPF—\$15 million each for NYS DEC and State Parks. Go to our website for background and updates.

PSE&G Powerline through Parks and across North Jersey

National Park Service hearings in February on PSE&G's proposal to run powerlines through the Delaware Water Gap NRA and across the Appalachian Trail were packed with hundreds of citi-

zens concerned by the plans. Trail Conference members and representatives were among them. The Trail Conference submitted official comments to the park service's Environmental Impact Statement planning team, outlining the potential impact of various planned routes on existing trails and scenic viewsheds and suggesting additional alternatives to be studied. Our comments can be found and read on our website (see directions above).

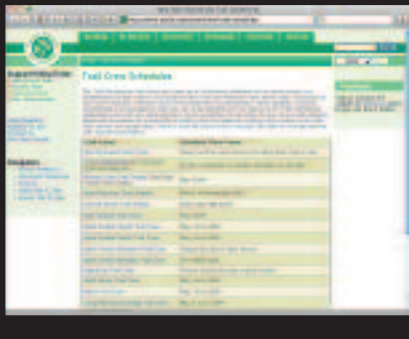
Seven Peaks Development on the Shawangunk Ridge

A draft environmental impact statement was the subject of a March public hearing on this project slated for the Shawangunk corridor in the town of Mamakating. The Trail Conference signed onto comments submitted by the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, which focused on the many shortcomings of the DEIS, and independently submitted our own comments, which focused on issues relating to the Shawangunk Ridge Trail. Go to our website to find and read both sets of comments, along with those by DEC, and to find other links relating to this project

Trail Crew Schedules

May – June 2010

Check our website for possible additions or changes to schedules. Go to www.nynjtc.org and click on Trail Crews in the Get Involved tab.



TBD = To Be Determined

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.

CENTRAL JERSEY CREW

Leaders: Bob Jonas & Estelle Anderson
Phone: 973-697-5326 **Cell:** 908-803-3883
Email: CNJTrails@optonline.net

Please check the Trail Crew Schedules on www.nynjtc.org for work trips, or feel free to call us for more information.

NORTH JERSEY WEEKEND CREW

Leader: Sandy Parr, 732-469-5109

Second Sunday of each month

Trips start at 9:30 am; call for location and details during the week before the scheduled trip day. Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in northern New Jersey.

WEST JERSEY CREW

Leaders: Monica and David Day
Phone: 732-937-9098 **Cell:** 908-307-5049
Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
Website: www.trailstobuild.com

Beginners are welcomed on all work trips.

All events begin at 9am. Please phone/email the leaders for meeting location and driving directions. There is usually a walk to the work site, so please be there on time (call the leaders' cell phone if you are coming to an event and are running late). Rain cancels – if in doubt, call the leaders between 6:00 and 6:30 that morning.

Carpooling: if anyone is interested in carpooling (offering a ride or riding), please let leaders know and we will try to arrange a shared ride. (Passengers please be prepared to contribute for gas.)

Saturday, May 1

Warren Trail
 We will clear the next section of this new trail.

Saturday, May 8

Red Dot (Mt. Tammany) Trail, Worthington S.F.
 We will be refurbishing water bars and rock steps that were installed years ago, and installing additional water bars and check dams.

Saturday, May 15

Terrace Pond North Trail, Wawayanda State Park
 We will install stepping stones in a wet area of the Terrace Pond North Trail.

Saturday, June 5

Warren Trail
 We will continue work, building stone steps and side-hilling on a section of this new trail.

Saturday, June 19

Terrace Pond North Trail, Wawayanda State Park
 We will continue our work installing stepping stones in a wet area.

Saturday, June 26

TBD
 This will be either a make-up day for a trip canceled due to rain, or an additional work day.

HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW

Leaders: Adam Rosenberg, HT Co-Supervisor:
 dobsonian@verizon.net or 973-570-0853

We generally get together the first Sunday of every month to tackle various jobs building new sections or reworking existing sections of the Highlands Trail throughout New Jersey as well as in New York west of the Hudson River. We also schedule other work dates. All are welcome, experience is not necessary. Contact leader for details of the current trip and what tools to bring.

METRO TRAIL CREW

Leaders: Joe Gindoff, 718-614-2219,
 joeghiker@nynjtc.org; Linda Sullivan, crew chief,
 347-721-6123, marmilinda@yahoo.com;
 Liz Gonzalez, lz.gonzalez@verizon.net

We work in various parks throughout New York City, generally the third Saturday of each month, May through October, with additional work dates as needed.

Please contact Linda Sullivan, in order to receive email notices of work outings, or check the Metro Trail Crew page at www.nynjtc.org.

Saturday, May 8

Pelham Bay Park
Contact: Liz Gonzalez. Please RSVP.
 Lagoon clean-up: Collect, bag, and haul shoreline debris on foot and with canoes. The Friends of Pelham Bay Park trail crew will lead this work trip. All are welcome.

Saturday, May 15

Alley Pond Park
 Pruning and repairing trails on "It's My Park Day"
Meet: 9am at the upper parking lot, enter at Winchester Blvd., Queens, under the highway
Leader: Joe Gindoff. Please RSVP.

Saturday, June 5

Bear Mountain State Park
 Metro Trails Crew will help celebrate the opening of the first new section of the AT.
 Crew Carpools, Crew Camping
Leader: Joe Gindoff. Please RSVP.

Saturday, June 19

Pelham Bay Park
 Metro Trails Crew will assist the Friends of Pelham Bay Park on Hunter Island. Work details TBD.
Meet: 10am at the far left corner of the Orchard Beach parking lot.
Leader: Joe Gindoff. Please RSVP.

EAST HUDSON CREWS

Dutchess-Putnam Appalachian Trail

Most Saturdays
 Join RPH Crew Volunteers (TC member club) on AT maintenance outings.
Contact: Tim Messerich,
 bascomgrillmaster@yahoo.com or 845-297-9573

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation

Weekly Trail Maintenance Trips
Contact: wprtrailmaintainer@gmail.com
 Contact WPRR at the email address above or view the East Hudson Trail Crew webpage at www.nynjtc.org for more information and the schedule.

EAST HUDSON COMMUNITY TRAILS PROJECTS

Work is planned at one or more of the following projects most Saturdays in May and June.
Contact: Leigh Draper, at draper@nynjtc.org for more information or check the East Hudson Trail Crews page at www.nynjtc.org.

Wonder Lake State Park Trail Project

With Fahnestock State Park
 In Putnam County

Teatown to Kitchawan Trail Project

With Teatown Lake Reservation
 Westchester County
 Saturday, May 8 and other dates TBD.

Angle Fly Preserve Trail Project

With Somers Land Trust
 Westchester County
 Sunday, May 16 and other dates TBD

WEST HUDSON SOUTH

Leaders: Chris Ezzo (crew chief): 516-431-1148,
 musicbynumbers59@yahoo.com
 Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563,
 brian@grandrenovation.com
 Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324, clganz@earthlink.net
 Bob Marshall: 914-737-4792, rmarshall@webtv.net
 Monica Day: 732-937-9098, Cell: 908-307-5049,
 westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com

Thursday, May 13

TBD
Leader: Bob Marshall

Saturday, May 15

TBD
Leader: Brian Buchbinder

Saturday, May 22

TBD
Leader: Chris Ezzo

Thursday, May 27

Cornell Mine Trail, Harriman State Park
Leader: Bob Marshall

Saturday, June 12

AT at Fitzgerald Falls, near Sterling Forest S.P.
Leader: Monica Day

Saturday, June 19

AT at Fitzgerald Falls, near Sterling Forest S.P.
Leader: Claudia Ganz

WEST HUDSON NORTH CREW

Leaders: Denise Vitale, Crew Chief: 845-738-2126,
 WHNTrails@aol.com
 Dave Webber, H: 845-452-7238,
 webberd1@yahoo.com

Peters Kill Red Loop Trail

Minnewaska State Park Preserve
 We continue with the relocation of the Peters Kill Red Loop Trail in Minnewaska State Park. Each work trip will include education for the novice and plenty of challenges for the more experienced. This is a great opportunity to learn the basics of trail building and more advanced rock-on-rock construction of crib walls and stairs.

In addition to the relocation project, we will be replacing one of the wooden bridges over the Peters Kill.

Saturday, May 15

Leader: Denise Vitale

Saturday, May 22

Leader: Denise Vitale

SHAWANGUNK RIDGE TRAIL CREW

Leaders: Andy Garrison, srtmaintainer@gmail.com
 or 845-888-0602
 Jakob Franke, jf31@columbia.edu or 201-768-3612

Please check the Trail Crew Schedules on www.nynjtc.org for work trips.

BEAR MOUNTAIN TRAILS PROJECT

Through November 28
Thursday-Monday
8:30am-4:30pm

Work trips involve a variety of tasks, such as: corridor clearing, prepping work sites, restoration, quarrying stone, using an overhead highline to transport stone, creating crushed stone (with mash and sledge hammers), building crib walls, setting rock steps, and splitting stone.

While training is provided every day, individuals who have no trail building experience are REQUIRED to attend one Trail U course on Bear Mountain or a Trail Building 101 course at another location. If you cannot meet these requirements but still wish to volunteer, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at bearmountaintrails@gmail.com.

TRAIL U

Teaching Practical Skills to Trails Volunteers at Locations Throughout the NY-NJ Area

May/June 2010

Register for Trail U classes online at www.nynjtc.org/view/workshops. Once registered, you will receive additional details one week prior to the actual workshop date. Please pay attention to any prerequisites that may apply to certain courses. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Ingui at cingu@nynjtc.org.

Trail Maintenance 101

Saturday, May 1
Location: Merestead, Westchester County, NY
 This one-day training session covers the skills necessary to maintain a hiking trail so it is easily passable and harmonious with its surroundings. Students will learn assessment of trail conditions, clearing, blazing, proper use of tools, and how to report any trail problems. No previous experience is necessary and beginners are welcome. Students will spend the morning in a classroom environment and then head out into woods for hands-on instruction.

Shelter Caretaker Training

Saturday, May 15, 10am-4pm
Location: Elm Ridge Lean-to, Maplecrest, NY (Catskills)

This one-day training session will cover the skills necessary to maintain a shelter (lean-to) so that it is ready for use by campers and is harmonious with its surroundings. Students will learn how to do an assessment of the overall shelter condition, cleaning and clearing the area, the proper use of tools, and how to report the shelter's condition. No previous experience is necessary and beginners are welcome.

Trail Removal and Restoration

Saturday, April 24
Location: Bear Mountain, Harriman State Park, NY

This workshop will cover how to remove obsolete or unofficial trails so that they can be reclaimed by their native environments. Topics covered will include why trails have to be relocated or removed and the methods of obscuring these trails from public view so that they have the best chance of getting reintegrated with the forest. Participants will be working on an obsolete section of the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain transplanting native plant species and transporting organic matter.

GPS/GIS Training

Saturday, June 26
Location: Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, Englewood, NJ

This one-day workshop provides a basic level of skills for using Global Position Systems and Geographic Information Systems to aid in trail layout, design, and inventory keeping. This is a great workshop for all you "techies" who love to hike.

Trail Tool Inventory in Progress

The Trail Conference is in the process of locating and inventorying all tools in our region that are owned by the Trail Conference or Appalachian Trail Conservancy. This includes all manual or gas-powered tools such as picks, loppers, pry-bars, come-alongs, generators, saws, etc.; chaps and hard-hats are also being inventoried.

If you have any of these tools owned by the Trail Conference or the ATC, please list the tool type (be as descriptive as possible) and its location and condition. (Please include the Date Code of the hard-hats, which can be found under the brim.)

We will be repairing or refurbishing any old tools to bring them back to usable condition.

Please send the info to the Quartermaster, Bob Jonas, at ynoke@aol.com.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

continued from page 1

Catherine reports putting her newly learned skills to work back home on several PATC projects—stair-building at Harper's Ferry, building a small retaining wall on a section of the AT, expanded a parking area by splitting and dragging away a boulder with a grip-hoist, moving large stepping stones. "Now the idea of moving a rock several times bigger than myself is no longer completely intimidating," she laughs.

In March, Catherine began her fourth season at Bear Mountain. "It's a great project, a great opportunity, and anybody who might be thinking about it shouldn't let it pass them by," she says.

"The organization should be proud, its members should be proud, that they are part of a group that was willing to take a risk on such a huge effort."



Trail Conference members can take advantage of exclusive discounts and benefits with participating retailers and businesses!

You can recoup the cost of your membership in one visit!



NY-NJ Trail Conference BENEFITS

The Trail Conference is proud to offer a Membership Benefit Program, which was created to provide our members with money-saving discounts at area retailers and service providers – **benefits only available to Trail Conference members.**

As part of your Trail Conference membership, you are issued a card identifying you as a Trail Conference member, making you eligible for all program discounts. To receive your member discounts, you must present your valid membership card at the time of purchase. Some stores offer the discount only on select items, so be sure to ask.

We encourage our members to take advantage of this incredible opportunity that comes with a Trail Conference membership. New discounts and offers are continually being added so be sure to visit our website's membership benefits area at www.nynjtc.org/content/retail-partners for current offers.

25% Discount on Trail Conference publications and clothing when purchased directly from the Trail Conference.

FREE Subscription to the *Trail Walker*, the Trail Conference's bi-monthly newsletter filled with timely articles and columns that will enhance your hiking experiences.

Money-Saving Discounts at participating retailers and businesses.

Workshops and Seminars on trail maintenance and construction, leadership training, wilderness first aid, chainsaw operation, environmental monitoring and GPS operation.

Volunteer Opportunities to "learn by doing" in areas as varied as trail maintenance, construction, publications, environmental monitoring, and cartography.

Access to the Hoeflerlin Library at the Trail Conference office that includes more than 1,000 books on hiking worldwide, along with maps, guides and a historical archive.



Some of Our Discount Partners



VISIT WWW.NYNJTC.ORG/CONTENT/RETAIL-PARTNERS FOR COMPLETE LIST OF MONEY-SAVING DISCOUNTS!

Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

To indicate your interest, or for more information about these or other volunteer opportunities, go to www.nynjtc.org/volunteer; or contact us at volunteers@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 ext. 22

HERE ARE SOME EXCITING AND UNIQUE OFF-TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES!

Communications/Editorial Assistant

Help the Trail Conference Communications Manager keep up with and get out all the news that's fit to print, email, or put on our website! Training will be provided. Work from the office or from home.

Hike Writers for Long Island, NJ Pinelands, and Jersey Shore

We want to add hikes from these regions to our website and need contributors who enjoy hiking, are willing to carefully document routes, and take photos. Work doesn't get more fun than this!

Copyright and Intellectual Property Lawyer

The Trail Conference produces a wide variety of material both in print and on the web. If you are a lawyer with at least 5 years experience in copyright and intellectual property law and would like to provide the Trail Conference with pro bono services to help write and review contracts in these areas, we'd love to hear from you!

General Counsel

Trail Conference receives and creates contracts ranging from hiring contractors and service providers to work-for-hire and trail building proposals. We're looking for a lawyer with 5 or more years in general law, who can provide pro bono services to help write and review these contracts and also to advise the organization on some best practices to protect itself.

Insurance Expert

The Trail Conference is looking to bolster our newly formed Operations Committee and needs your insurance expertise. We have a complex set of insurance policies and need a professional to review our policies on an annual basis and assist with our renewals.

Prospect Caller

Do you want to put that clear and friendly voice of yours to good use? Do you have sales experience? We have a new volunteer position in our sales department, calling stores and asking them if they want to receive our new, free, full-color catalogue of our high-quality books and maps. Managers are very busy, but people like you can get right to the point and highlight aspects of the Trail Conference that we know will catch their interest. We hope to see you soon in our office, on the phone, sharing the word about the Trail Conference and its indispensable hiking books and maps we all love so well!

CRM Database Lead

If you have experience using a CRM database, particularly in migration to CRM software, and want to keep your skills up to date and help the Trail Conference at the same time, then take advantage of this unique opportunity by working with our volunteers and staff in developing and executing a CRM migration.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AND GET OUT ON THE TRAILS THIS SUMMER: WANTED-Regional Trail Coordinator

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference is looking for an ambitious trail manager to oversee the maintenance of the Finger Lakes Trail system from NY 206 in Delaware County through the Catskills to the eastern terminus of the FLT at the Long Path in Ulster County. Your responsibilities would include: enjoying the outdoors, managing the trail sponsors already in place and securing others for this area, assisting with trail maintenance and construction projects, working with public agencies and private landowners to preserve and protect the trail, and attending one or two trail maintainers' meetings and training sessions each year. If you are interested, please contact: Steve Catherman, FLTC Director of Trail Maintenance at stevec@roadrunner.com.

Become a Trail Maintainer!*

Adopt a section of a trail and help to keep our region's footpaths accessible, pristine, and protected by keeping them clear and adequately blazed on two or more visits a year. We have vacancies in almost all regions our trail network covers. Check out our website at: www.nynjtc.org/vol-trail-vacancies or email: volunteers@nynjtc.org to see if there is a vacancy in the area of your choice.

*This position is available to Trail Conference members only.

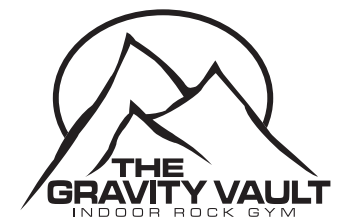
New to Trail Work? Join a Trail Crew...

...and learn on the job! Our Trail Crews welcome both new and experienced volunteers. Participation is flexible; most crews spend from 3 to 8 hours—weekdays or weekends—working at a specific site. Trail crews perform a wide variety of tasks ranging from painting blazes, heavy-duty maintenance to trail building and restoration. We have crews working on trails in West Hudson, East Hudson, Northern New Jersey, and Western New Jersey.



Retail Partner News: Gravity Vault Opens Second Rock Gym

The Gravity Vault Indoor Rock Gyms, a retail partner of the Trail Conference, announces the opening of a second state-of-the-art climbing facility, in Chatham, NJ (40 Watchung Ave.). Its first gym, in Saddle River (107 Pleasant Ave at Rt. 17 N), continues operations. Trail Conference members can enjoy 10% discounts on day passes at both locations when they show their current membership card.



The new gym in Chatham offers 14,000 square feet of rock climbing, 58 top rope stations, extensive bouldering and lead climbing, a huge retail shop, locker rooms, a fitness studio, a private party room, and much more. This facility, one of the two largest rock gyms in New Jersey, is great for beginners, seasoned climbers, or anyone looking for a new way to stay in shape. One can get involved in indoor rock climbing at The Gravity Vault through more than a dozen avenues including memberships, classes (for both adults and children), scout programs, group events, private events and birthday parties.

For more information on The Gravity Vault visit www.gravityvault.com or contact the Chatham facility at 973.701.ROCK (7625).

Science & Ecology

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum Is a Family-friendly Outdoor Discover Center

If the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum (HHNM) in Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY, has anything to do about it, there will be no local epidemic of “nature-deficit disorder,” a health and environmental concern raised by author Richard Louv in his influential 2005 book, *Last Child in the Woods*.

Louv wrote that a growing body of research “reveals the necessity of contact with nature for healthy child—and adult—development.” But, he asserted, too often our society scares people “straight out of the woods and fields.” Their resulting “nature deficit,” he says, is a threat to their well-being and, if sufficiently widespread, a danger to the health of the planet.

HHNM addresses these challenges in a very direct way: with a program they call Quest Discovery Hikes. These are a series of four self-guided walks on the nearly six miles of trails that explore the 177-acre historic farm that comprises its Outdoor Discovery Center. (A second campus, the Wildlife Education Center, is a short drive away.) These Quests are designed to introduce beginner hikers of all ages to nature and the pleasures and protocols of hiking.

The trails are color-coded and meticulously blazed; traditional blazes are reinforced with colored flags on the easiest trails. “We’re a kind of bunny slope for hiking,” says Jackie Grant, HHNM executive director, referring to the gentle slopes where most beginning skiers learn the basics of the sport. Published guides available on site explain the basics of reading trail blazes.

There are four designed Discovery Quest hikes: Pond Quest, Field Quest, Woodland Quest, and Hiking Quest. Each features 12 learning stations, Ms. Grant explains. Vis-



Visitors enjoy ponds, meadows, and woods as they explore a 6-mile trail network at the Outdoor Discovery Center in Cornwall, NY.

itors can purchase a guide to each Quest’s stations for \$5 (there is no fee to access the grounds) and follow the field notes about the natural and human history visible along the trail and do suggested interactive, hands-on activities that aim to promote observation and learning.

The guide books, says Ms. Grant, are



The center is not for kids only.

designed to be of interest to multiple generations. “They are intended to be something that families can do and enjoy and learn together without being totally oriented to kids. People can use these to learn no matter what their age.”

Says Education Director Judy Onufer: “We’re focusing on ways to forge the bonds between people and nature that we now know are at the heart of conservation and environmental ethics. Our goal is to cultivate respect for the rich natural resources of our region in the hope that people will fall in love with the Hudson Valley. You’re not going to care about protecting something unless you love it.”

Families, school groups, an on-site preschool program, and independent walkers all explore the trails and grounds at the center.

The HHNM Outdoor Discovery Center is located at 100 Muser Drive, across from 174 Angola Road in Cornwall (off of Route 9W). Quests are open weekends April 24- November 15. The Quest Visitor Center is open from 9am until 4pm, Saturday and Sunday. Trails are open all year and there is no admission charge; there is a \$5

The mission of the Museum is to create responsible caretakers of our environment. Through quality educational programs for the public that focus on the unique ecology of the Hudson Highlands, the Museum promotes knowledge and appreciation of our natural world and the dynamic role of human interaction in its well-being.

fee for a Quest guidebook. Additional programs offered by HHNM include lectures, demonstrations, and exhibits. The museum is member supported. Learn more at www.hhnaturemuseum.org.

Hudson Highlands Nature Museum is a sponsor of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.



Grandfather and grandson take a Quest Hike.

Peakbagging Comes to New Jersey!

By Eric Koppel with Jeffrey Bennett

Trail Conference member and maintainer Eric Koppel and his hiking buddy, Jeffrey Bennett, have founded a group they call the New Jersey 1K Club, dedicated to identifying and climbing New Jersey’s “high peaks”—52 mountains (and hills) that rise at least 1,000 feet above sea level. Check their website at www.nj1k.org.

“It’s not always about the destination—it’s about the journey.”

Those words echoed through my head as Jeff and I set off from Ghost Lake to bag two New Jersey high peaks in Jenny Jump State Forest one early spring. Using trekking poles for support, we carefully edged across the steep and rugged shoreline of the lake before stumbling upon our first surprise of the day: a cave rumored to have been occupied by Indians once upon a time. We poked around the interior of the cave for a moment, hoping to find something of interest. Perhaps there were pottery shards on the floor. Unfortunately, only its modern counterpart was present: a lonely old beer can.

The cave was an interesting find, but we felt compelled to head on to the top of the mountain, for summit fever had gotten the best of us. With a map, a compass, and some guesswork we negotiated our way through desolate leafless forest toward an unfamiliar summit.

After trekking uphill for a while, following gullies carved by rain and snow-melt, we found ourselves high on a ridge covered by low-lying shrubs and windswept evergreens. So this was the unknown mountaintop we had identified months ago on a topographic map. If you closed your eyes it was *almost* like a slice of alpine tundra. The scene changed again a few minutes later when we arrived at the true summit; bloodthirsty pricker bushes capped the summit flat, like sentinels guarding the secrets of the mountaintop. After a brief struggle with the briars, we made it to the top, with sweat and blood to show for it.

Ah, peakbagging: that odyssey, mad quest, obsession, psychiatric condition found in the Adirondacks, Catskills, White Mountains, Colorado Rockies, New Zealand Alps, and more. The Marshall brothers of Adirondack 46er fame may have been the first peakbaggers, but nearly 100 years later the disease had finally

spread to New Jersey. I, Eric Koppel of Rutherford, and my collaborator, Jeffrey S. Bennett of South Orange, were the agents of contagion.

Two years ago we were Catskill 3500 Club and ADK 46er aspirants who just decided to do some county high pointing closer to home. We hadn’t even made it to the southern New Jersey county high points when I said to myself, what the heck, why can’t New Jersey have a peakbagging club of its own? So after doing a bit of research, Jeff and I came up with a preliminary list of New Jersey’s 1,000-foot mountains with 200 feet of prominence. Over the next several months, the list changed but at least it was a start.

We soon lost count of how many mountains we had climbed for this local peakbagging quest of ours. We also lost count of how many more we had to go. Thanks to USGS topographic maps, our list was constantly growing; yet thanks to our own reconnaissance missions we were continually discovering which of our identified “high peaks” were actually accessible.

About two years after we had started researching New Jersey’s high peaks, we finally reached the end of the beginning. We had settled on a list of 52 high peaks and had climbed every single one of them. Interestingly, the very first person to complete our list, William Maurer, is from Reading, Pennsylvania. Jeff and I were 3rd and 2nd to finish respectively.

We’ll admit that the mountain described above on the Jenny Jump range wasn’t the most awe-inspiring summit to be found. Yet, there’s something special about peak-

bagging, even if it takes you to treed-in summits and fields of pricker bushes. Peakbagging gets you to mountains you’d never think of climbing otherwise.

There’s also something liberating about peakbagging when you don’t have the benefit of trails to guide you up. And there’s the thrill of discovery. Is the stream’s ravine scenic? Does the forest have magic to it? Are there interesting rock formations? Is there a view from the top?

We had settled on a list of 52 high peaks...

But most important, this list helped us, both life-long residents, to get to know New Jersey better. In a state better known for traffic-clogged interstates, corrupt politicians, post-industrial cities, and sprawling suburbs, over the course of two years we discovered an impressive patchwork of public open space—state forests, parks, wildlife management areas, county reservations, and more—that allow us all to enjoy the outdoors.

And yes, there are views on a lot of these mountains too, some of which, like the trailless Hamburg Mountain High Point, Hasenclever Hill, Green Pond Mountain, and Buck Mountain (Kinnelon), are pretty incredible, yet relatively unknown destinations.



Eric Koppel and Jeffrey Bennett, founders of the New Jersey 1K Club.

Highlights:

Best View:	Hasenclever Hill and Bowling Green Mountain
Most Interesting Forests:	Bearfort Mountain North
Weirdest Mountain:	Bald Mountain
Easiest Climb:	Guerin Benchmark
Hardest Climb:	Hasenclever Hill
Worst Pricker Bushes:	The Tornfell and Upper Pohatcong Mountain



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

May

Saturday, May 1

AMC. Taurus Twice for Beginners, Hudson Highlands State Park, NY. Leader: Art Almeida, 914-271-8659 or arta@croton10520.com. Meet: contact leader for details. If you've wanted to climb a mountain, here's your chance to do it twice. We'll climb Mount Taurus from two different sides. Steep initial climb, but well worth it for the great views. Moderate pace. Look at some interesting ruins along the way. Remember, "beginner" doesn't necessarily mean easy! Great intro to Hudson River area hiking. Limited to 15 people.

ADK-MH. Woods and Meadows, Fahnstock State Park, NY. Leader: Georgette Weir, gweir@optonline.net, 845-462-0142. Meet: contact leader for details (carpool from Poughkeepsie/Wappingers). 7 miles through woods and meadows, along a stream and past several ponds. Possible stop after hike at Stonecrop Gardens (modest fee).

WTA. Castle Rock, Hudson Highlands State Park, NY. Leader: George O'Leary, 914-631-8441. Meet: 9:30am at North White Plains train station for carpool to trailhead (\$5 contribution), or call leader for alternate meeting place. Moderate 7 miles at a brisk pace. Climb Sugarloaf Hill for Hudson River views, then hike on the Appalachian Trail and return via carriage roads. Bad weather cancels.

UCHC. Hawkwatch Hike, Rockaway Twp., NJ. Leader: Al Verdi, 973-263-8569. Meet: 10am at Wildcat Ridge parking on Upper Hibernia Rd. Moderate 3 miles with some hills.

Sunday, May 2

IHC. Ringwood State Park to Mahwah, NJ. Leader: Steve Rikon, 973-962-4149 or rikon4@optonline.net. Meet: 9am at Skylands parking lot A, Skylands Manor, Ringwood. Moderately strenuous. We'll hike from Skylands, over the ridge to Macmillan Reservoir in Ramapo Valley County Reservation, then return to Ringwood using another scenic route. Rain cancels.

ADK-MH. Schaghticoke Mountain, Dutchess County, NY. Leader: Ollie Simpson, olliesimpson2005@yahoo.com, 845-298-8379 (no machine). Meet: 9:15am at Starr 22 Diner, intersection of NY 22 and County 21, to caravan to ending point on East Mountain Rd., then carpool to start at Schaghticoke Rd. Moderate 5.5 miles. Call at 7:15am day of hike if questions about weather.

NYR. Walkway over the Hudson State Park, Poughkeepsie, NY. Leader: Ludwig Hendel, 718-626-3983. Meet: 7:30am at Grand Central for 7:47 Hudson Line train to Poughkeepsie (RT; check time). We'll take the Mid-Hudson Bridge to Highland Landing, loop up to newly opened rail-trail bridge and return over it to Poughkeepsie. We'll take the Duchess rail-trail past Morgan Lake, through various parks, to a rural cemetery and historic Springside.

PM. Butler Reservoir, Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, NJ. Leader: for more information or to register (required), call Pyramid Mountain in Boonton at 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 9:30am. Strenuous 10 miles around Butler Reservoir and Fayson Lakes. For experienced hikers; ages 16 and up. No fee; out by 2pm.

WTA. Popolopen Gorge, Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park, NY. Leader: Mike Doehring, 914-761-7225 or clover7med@aol.com. Meet: 9:30am at North White Plains train station for carpool to trailhead (\$6 contribution), or call leader for alternate meeting place. Moderate 3-6 miles, depending on consensus of the group. Hike above the rushing waters of the gorge, along a section of trail maintained by the hike leader.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown National Historic Park, NJ. Leader: Pat Curley, 908-868-7510. Meet: 10am at visitor center. Moderate 4-5 miles. Rain cancels.

Monday, May 3

RVW. Sam's Point Preserve, NY. Leader: call 845-338-8772. Meet: 8am; call for location. Moderate 4 miles, 3 hours. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

Tuesday, May 4

GS. Baby and Me Hike, Kay Environmental Center, Chester Township, NJ. Leader: Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center naturalist; to register call 973-635-6629 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 9:30am. Put your infant in a pack and join us out on the trail. Out by 11am. Fee \$1. Repeated each Tuesday in various Morris County locations.

Wednesday, May 5

RVW. Cinco de Mayo Day Celebration Maintenance Hike, Catskills, NY. Leader: for more information call 845-246-8616 or 845-626-4104. Meet: call for time and location. Help us maintain a section of the Long Path, from Platte Clove Rd. to Palenville. No experience needed. Participants receive appreciation gifts at end of hike!

Saturday, May 8

AMC. Bear Mtn. Inn to Long Mtn., Bear Mountain State Park, NJ. Leader: Susan Pollak, 914-698-1838, call before 10pm, or pollaksusan@yahoo.com. Meet: Contact Leader for meet time & location. Short visit to the zoo, plus Popolopen Torne, Walt Whitman, and a surprise treat. Relaxed pace with stops to enjoy the views, but be prepared for a couple of good climbs and a tricky, scrambly descent. Bad weather may cancel or modify.

WEC. Wildflower Hike with Author George Petty, Weis Ecology Center, NJ. Leader: George Petty, associate naturalist and author of *Hiking the Jersey Highlands*; to register call the center at 973-835-2160. Meet: 10am for car shuttle or 10:30 at the trailhead; details available upon registration. High Point-Iron Mines Loop is 3.3 miles, with moderate/strenuous climb to High Point summit and a ramble past Roomy Mine in search of pink lady's slippers, pinkster, anemones, columbine, wild geranium and other spring wildflowers. Heavy, soaking rain postpones the hike until the next day. Non-members \$8.

AFW. Kakiat County Park/Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: for info and to register, call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 9am; out by 4pm. Strenuous, all-day hike at moderate pace. We'll do the entire Kakiat Trail.

GS. Tyke Hike at Great Swamp, Chatham, NJ. Leader: Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center naturalist; to register call 973-635-6629 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 10am. Kids take to the trails to discover unique animals and plants found at the Great Swamp. Appropriate for ages 2-5 with an adult. Fee \$2 per person.

PM. Tyke Hike, Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, NJ. Leader: for more information or to register (required), call Pyramid Mountain in Boonton, NJ at 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 10am. Discover the animals and plants found on Pyramid Mountain on a relaxing guided hike; for ages 2-5 with an adult. \$2 per person.

WTA. Timp Torne Trail, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Mike Kaplan, kaplanm2001@yahoo.com. Meet: 9:30am at North White Plains train station for carpool to trailhead (\$6 contribution), or call leader for alternate meeting place. Moderate 5 miles, with some rock scrambling. We'll hike from Anthony Wayne parking, on the Fawn, Timp Torne, and SBM trails, with multiple views from the ridge.

UOC. Merrill Creek Reservoir, Warren County, NJ. Leader: Jane Faulkner, 908-874-8376; please call to register. Meet: call leader for carpooling instructions and other details. Hike the trails at this environmental preserve.

Sunday, May 9

WEC. Mother's Day Family Hike, Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: WEC naturalist; to register call the center at 973-835-2160. Meet: noon. Take your mom to lunch...at the top of a mountain! Moderately paced 3-mile hike up Wyanokie High Point, with 360-degree view of spring's return to Norvin Green S.F. Recommended for families with elementary-aged kids and above. Limit: 20; out by 3pm. Non-member individuals \$8/families (parents and their children) \$24; moms hike free.

GS. Mother's Day Stroll at Great Swamp, Chatham, NJ. Leader: Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center naturalist; to register call 973-635-6629 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 2pm. Bring your mom out for a stroll and enjoy the natural world together. Great for all ages. No fee.

NYR. Timp-Torne Trail, Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park, NY. Leader: Shizuko Okumura, 718-997-6186. Meet: 8:30am at Port Authority Bus Terminal for 8:45 Short Line bus to Jones Point (one-way). Moderately strenuous hike on entire TT, from Jones Point to Ft. Montgomery, including climbs to the Timp, West Mtn., and Popolopen Torne. Return by bus or by train from Manitou.

AFW. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, NJ. Leader: for info and to register, call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am; out by 2pm. Easy hike at leisurely pace.

IHC. Delaware Water Gap, PA. Leader: Roy Williams, 570-828-6207 or Royhiker1@aol.com. Meet: 9am at Augusta park & ride, Rtes. 206 & 15. Moderately strenuous 8 miles on some new trails, including the Conashaugh View trail. Shuttle required/double toll on Dingman's Ferry bridge. Rain cancels.

PM. Animal Babies Hike, Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, NJ. Leader: for more information or to register (required), call Pyramid Mountain in Boonton, NJ at 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 10am. Easy walk with naturalist to learn about animal babies and the moms who help them grow; for ages 5 and up with an adult. \$1 per person.

ADK-MH. Mohonk Pavilion and Guyot Hill, Mohonk Preserve, NY. Leader: Brian Sullivan, 845-594-9545; call before 9pm. Meet: 9am at Spring Farm parking area, New Paltz, NY. 10 difficult miles at a moderate pace.

WTA. West Mombasha Rd. to Rt. 17, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: must register; contact Carol Harting at 845-669-6731. Meet: at Harriman train station on Rt. 17. 7 miles, moderate with some rock scrambling. We'll shuttle to West Mombasha Rd., take the AT up to Agony Grind, then out on the easy and beautiful Sapphire Trail.

Saturday, May 15

WEC. Wildflower Hike with Author George Petty, Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: George Petty, associate naturalist and author of *Hiking the Jersey Highlands*; to register call the center at 973-835-2160. Meet: 10am for car shuttle or 10:30 at the trailhead; details available upon registration. This Carris Hill hike is 4.1 miles, with a long, moderate climb toward the end that will test your muscles. Steep ascent with excellent views from the summit; later views of beautiful Chikahoki Falls. Expected spring wildflowers include pink lady's slippers, pinkster, anemones, fringed polygala, and spring beauties. Waterproof footwear is required. Heavy, soaking rain postpones the hike until the next day. Non-members \$8.



GEORGETTE WEIR

Mountain laurel at Lake Awosting, Minnewaska State Park Preserve

ADK-MH. Pawling Nature Preserve, Pawling, NY. Leaders: Bill Beehler and Ellen Zelig, 845-473-5557. Meet: 10am at Prudential Real Estate office, Rt. 55, west of Arlington H.S.; carpool to trailhead. Easy 3 miles on the Appalachian Trail. Bring water and chocolate brownies for hike leaders; back by lunchtime. Call if weather is questionable.

AFW. Point Mountain, Musconetcong River Reservation, NJ. Leader: for info and to register, call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am; out by 2pm. Easy to moderate hike at leisurely pace.

UCHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10am; call for directions. Moderate hike with hills. To the top of the Tourne, past wildflowers, a stream, and a lake. Steady rain cancels.

Sunday, May 16

AMC. Southern Harriman Trails, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Steve Galla, 914-953-2222 or steve@stevegalla.com. Meet: Contact leader for meet time & location. Enjoy springtime in southern Harriman. Hike is suitable for beginners, but all hikers should be in good aerobic condition. Explore Ramapo Torne, Russian Bear, and hike on a variety of trails, some of which require rock scrambling. Must have at least one quart of water.

IHC. Clifton and Paterson Industrial Walk/Historical Hike, NJ. Leader: Al MacLennan, 973-451-1435, ajmaclellan@verizon.net. Meet: 9am at Walgreens, 1138 Main Ave., Clifton, NJ. Moderate 8 miles. Mostly urban/suburban experience with long interlude in Garret Mtn. Reservation. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

FOCA. Croton Dam to Crotonville on the Old Croton Aqueduct, NY. Leader: Led by a member of the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct; for info call 914-862-4207 or tom.tarnowsky@gmail.com. Meet: 10am at Croton Gorge Park on Rt. 129, one-half mile north of Croton-on-Hudson. We'll tour the 105 year-old stone dam, then step back in time to walk on the aqueduct along rustic Croton Gorge; about 4 miles.

WTA. Mount Taurus, Hudson Highlands State Park, NY. Leader: Peter Hibbard, 914-285-9211. Meet: 9am at North White Plains train station for carpool to trailhead (\$6 contribution), or call leader for alternate meeting place. 6 moderate miles. We'll take the gradual way up on Notch Trail, then enjoy outstanding views at summit and all the way down.

Monday, May 17
RVW. Shaupeneak Ridge, Esopus, NY. Leader: for more information call 845-246-4590. Meet: 8am; call for location. Moderate hike of 3.5 miles, in 2.5 hours. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

Saturday, May 22

AMC. Old 210 Circ., Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Larry Spinner, 845-548-3194, call before 9:30pm, or lspinner@optonline.net. Meet: Contact leader for meet time and location. North on the White Bar, then who knows? Wanderings on various trails, some well-known, others may not be known at all. Hike not suited for stragglers. Registration not necessary but email the leader prior to Friday to see if hike is still on. Rain cancels.

AFW. Hacklebarney State Park, NJ. Leader: for info and to register, call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am; out by 2pm. Easy to moderate hike at leisurely pace.

ADK-MH. Locust Grove Walk, Poughkeepsie, NY. Leader: Nancy Keenan-Rich, 845-452-1727. Meet: 10am at estate parking lot. Easy 2-3 miles on carriage roads, viewing emerging spring, site of an old sawmill, and Hudson River views. Rain cancels.

WEC. Weis Women's Hikes, Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: Weis' Sanctuary Director Karla Risdon and others; to register call the center at 973-835-2160. Meet: 8am; details available upon registration. Moderate 2-3 miles. Enjoy some time outdoors, get some exercise, and get home in time to do your day's work; out by 10am. Non-members \$5.

GS. Forest Flora at Great Swamp, Chatham, NJ. Leader: Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center naturalist; to register call 973-635-6629 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 9am. Learn to identify trees, shrubs, flowers and ferns on this easy, educational walk. Appropriate for ages 16 and up. \$5 fee per person. Out by 11am.

RVW. Panther Mountain (3720'), Catskills, NY. Leader: for more information call 845-246-7987. Meet: 8am; call for location. Strenuous 7 miles; estimated 7 hours.

Sunday, May 23

FOCA. Jerome Park Reservoir, Bronx, NY. Leader: Led by a member of the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct; for info call 718-430-4613 or spdevillo@earthlink.net. Meet: 11am at the park. Guided 2-mile walk in this 94-acre park where the Old and New Croton Aqueducts meet; learn about our water supply and local Revolutionary War history.

IHC. Greenwood Lake Ridge, Abram S. Hewitt State Forest, NJ to NY. Leader: Ursula Davis, 973-786-7087. Meet: 9am at A&P/Hewitt post office on Union Valley Rd. (Rt. 513). Strenuous 10 miles. Hike the length of Greenwood Lake, plus a little extra. Rewards are beautiful views and cookies; bring lots of water.

UOC. Round Valley, Hunterdon County, NJ. Leader: Sushma Sharma, 732-821-7135; please call to register. Meet: call leader for details. Moderate hike. Hear from a park tree expert and hike (before park fees kick in on May 30).

NYR. Peekskill to Croton along the Hudson River, NY. Leader: Clive Morrisk, 212-242-0931. Meet: 8:30am at Grand Central for 8:47 Hudson Line train to Peekskill (one-way; check time). We'll traverse riverside pathways, nature preserves, local parks to Croton-on-Hudson, exploring the Westchester Hudson RiverWalk (some short road sections).

WTA. Ringwood State Park-Ramapo State Forest, NJ. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@yahoo.com. Meet: at North White Plains train station for carpool to trailhead (\$5 contribution), call leader for time or for alternate meeting place. 8 moderate miles. Explore the ridges and valleys of these NJ woodlands, ending with stroll through Skylands gardens. Rain cancels.

Monday, May 24

RVW. Graham Mountain (3868'), Catskills, NY. Leader: for more information call 845-246-8074. Meet: 8am; call for location. Moderate to strenuous bushwhack of 7 miles; estimated 5 hours. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

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

More than 100 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers' Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Club Codes

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

ADK-MH	ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter	PM	Pyramid Mountain
AFW	Adventures for Women		Natural Historic Area
AMC NY-NJ	AMC New York-North Jersey Chapter	RVW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
FOCA	Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct	UCHC	Union County Hiking Club
GS	Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center	UOC	University Ofing Club
		WEC	Weis Ecology Center
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	WTA	Westchester Trails Association
NYR	New York Ramblers		

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 July/August issue is May 15.

Wednesday, May 26

AMC. Dog-Friendly Hike, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Susan Sterngold, 845-519-4890 or banjolady.susan@verizon.net. Meet: contact leader for meet time and location. Dog-friendly hike with some gorgeous views and challenging climbs over a rarely-done section of the SBM Trail. This hike has over 2,500 feet of elevation gain and is not for beginners or the faint of heart. Bring at least three quarts of water and lunch for you and your dog. Dogs must be under control of owner; park leash laws must be obeyed. Shuttle required.

Saturday, May 29

PM. May Flowers Hike, Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, NJ. Leader: for more information or to register (required), call Pyramid Mountain in Boonton, NJ at 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 10am. Moderate walk. Get to know native wildflowers; for ages 7 and up with an adult. \$1 per person.

WTA. Fishkill Ridge, Hudson Highlands, NY. Leader: Debbie Farrell, 914-282-9942, call before 9pm. Meet: at North White Plains train station for carpool to trailhead (\$6 contribution), call leader for time or for alternate meeting place. 5-6 miles, moderate to strenuous. Enjoy views from Overlook and Fishkill Ridge Trails, and from Bald and Lamb hills, on this less-traveled side of the ridge.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Jennifer Chen, 732-763-3531. Meet: 10am at Trailside Nature Center. Brisk 4-5 miles. Rain cancels.

Sunday, May 30

FOCA. Old Croton Aqueduct, Bronx, NY. Leader: member of Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct; for info call 914-478-3961 or cfzahn@yahoo.com. Meet: 9:30am at Bedford Park Blvd. and Goulden Ave. Guided 4-5 mile walk on the Old Croton Aqueduct, learning about aqueduct history, engineering, and nearby historic sites. Optional extension across Washington Bridge to view Manhattan end of Highbridge.

WTA. Westchester Wilderness Walk, NY. Leader: Marcia Cohen. Contact Eileen West at eileenw1000@yahoo.com for information. Meet: 9:30am at North White Plains train station for carpool to trailhead (\$3 contribution), or ask for alternate meeting place. 5-6 easy miles, dog friendly hike. Lovely preserve in Pound Ridge, NY, with shaded walks and varied terrain.

Monday, May 31

ADK-MH. Overlook Mountain with Sketch Pad/Camera, Catskills, NY. Leader: Barry Skura, bskura@optonline.net. Meet: contact leader for details. Moderate 5 miles; 1400-foot climb. Hike to a classic viewpoint that inspired the Hudson River Artists. Intro to sketching and photo composition at several great viewpoints; no artistic experience necessary. Bring camera or sketchpad with colored pencils or watercolors.

June

Tuesday, June 1

UHC. Appalachian Trail Maintenance, Wawayanda State Park, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10am at park office off Rt. 511 beyond Upper Greenwood Lake. Everyone does a little clipping, etc. and we hike about 6 miles. Bring tools if you have them, and remember gloves.

GS. Baby and Me Hike, Jockey Hollow, Morristown National Historic Site, NJ. Leader: Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center naturalist; to register call 973-635-6629 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 9:30am. Put your infant in a pack and join us out on the trail. Out by 11am. Fee \$1. Repeated each Tuesday in various Morris County locations.

Saturday, June 5

National Trails Day

Trail Conference. Celebrate Re-opening of the AT at Bear Mountain, NY. Contact: info@nynjtc.org. The Trail Conference will host day-long festivities to celebrate the re-routing of the original section of the Appalachian Trail. Opening ceremonies at 10am, with inaugural ascent of Bear Mtn. along 800+ hand-hewn rock steps. Family activities and live music will also be available - plan to spend the day. \$7 per vehicle parking fee.

UHC. National Trails Day at Watchung Reservation, NJ. Leader: call 908-527-4231 to register. Meet: 8:30am check in and continental breakfast. Join staff and volunteers working on maintenance projects along the trails, or take a guided nature walk.

ADK-MH. Conservation Tour & Hike, Black Rock Forest, NY. Leaders: conservation leader Sayi Nulu; hike leader Jean-Claude Fouere, jcfouere@optonline.net. Meet: 9:30am at 129 Continental Rd., Cornwall, NY. We'll start with guided tour of Black Rock Forest's Center for Science & Education and the Forest Lodge, which are designed using green technologies such as solar panels and geothermal heating and cooling. Then moderate 5-6 mile hike to Mount Misery, Black Rock, Hill of Pines, with some easy bushwhacking. We will discuss the geology of the area and of the Highlands.

AFW. Mount Tammany, Worthington State Forest, NJ. Leader: for info and to register, call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 9am; out by 5pm. Strenuous all-day hike at moderate pace.

Sunday, June 6

AMC. Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood Family Ramble, NJ. Leader: Andrew Joyce, 973-324-2657 or Amojoyce@aol.com. Meet: Contact leader for meet time and location. Drive to Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood for a hike with kids to ridges, then go to the visitors center.

AFW. Ramapo Mountain State Park, NJ. Leader: for info and to register, call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 9:30am; out by 12:30pm. Moderate hike at leisurely pace.

PM. Family Mountain Laurel Hike, Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, NJ. Leader: for more information or to register (required), call Pyramid Mountain in Boonton, NJ at 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 10am. Moderate walk. Join this quest to view laurels in bloom; for ages 7 and up with an adult. No fee.

WTA. Dater to Diamond, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@yahoo.com. Meet: at North White Plains train station for carpool to trailhead (\$6 contribution), contact leader for time or ask for alternate meeting place. 8-9 moderate miles. Hike past boulders and cool waters of the Cascade of Slid and climb to summit of Diamond Mountain for views all around. Short shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Saturday, June 12

AMC. Laurel in Fahnestock State Park, NY. Leader: Janice Bortree, 845-831-4430 or jcbortree@yahoo.com. Meet: contact leader for meet time and location. Enjoy the rolling hills and lakes of Fahnestock State Park and, hopefully, a spring laurel display. Rain cancels.

ADK-MH. Lost City Rock Scramble, Mohonk Preserve, NY. Leader: Skip Doyle, skipnewyork@yahoo.com. Meet: contact leader. Strenuous, all-day hike with lots of steep climbs, crevasses, caves and cliffs; expect to have your hands on the rock throughout the day. For strong, sure-footed, experienced hikers. \$8 access fee.

IHC. New York City Hike, NY. Leader: Al MacLennan, 973-451-1435, ajmacleannan@verizon.net. Meet: call leader to register. Moderately strenuous; wear shoes that are comfortable for many miles of city streets. Walk the High Line, downtown through Greenwich Village, around World Trade Center site, over Brooklyn Bridge and return on the Manhattan Bridge.

PM. Tyke Hike, Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, NJ. Leader: for more information or to register (required), call Pyramid Mountain in Boonton, NJ, at 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 10am. Discover the animals and plants found on Pyramid Mountain on a relaxing guided hike; for ages 2-5 with an adult. \$2 per person.

GS. Tyke Hike at Great Swamp, Chatham, NJ. Leader: Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center naturalist; to register call 973-635-6629 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 10am. Kids take to the trails to discover unique animals and plants found at the Great Swamp. Appropriate for ages 2-5 with an adult. Fee \$2 per person.

UOC. Delaware & Raritan Canal Towpath, NJ. Leader: Ed McSherry, 732-245-9438; please call to register. Meet: call leader for details. Moderate, level hike.

Sunday, June 13

AFW. Baileytown, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: for info and to register, call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 9:30am; out by 2:30pm. Moderate hike at moderate pace.

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

Saturday, June 19

ADK-MH. Sunset Rock, Fishkill Ridge, East Hudson Highlands, NY. Leaders: Al Poelzl, 845-677-9995, and Sue Mackson, susiem6@juno.com. Meet: 10am at McDonald's, Rt. 9 south of I-84. Moderate hike with 700-foot climb, great views of the Hudson Highlands Ridge north of Breakneck. No sneakers.

AFW. Mount Minsi and Beyond, Worthington State Forest, NJ. Leader: for info and to register, call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am; out by 4pm. Moderate hike at fast pace.

IHC. Ice Caves, Minnewaska State Park, NY. Leader: Chris Davis, 609-924-2563. Meet: 8:30am at Harriman RR station, Rt. 17, Arden, NY. Strenuous climb up Ice Caves Mountain in Sam's Point Preserve, with its dwarf pines (sorry, too early for blueberries). Shuttle required.

PM. Creepy Crawlies Hike, Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, NJ. Leader: for more information or to register (required), call Pyramid Mountain in Boonton, NJ at 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 10am. Easy walk. Learn to value the tiny creatures found along the trail; for ages 7 and up with an adult. \$1 per person.

Sunday, June 20

AMC. Island Pond Loop, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417 or eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. Meet: contact leader for meet time and location. Moderately paced loop hike from Lake Skannatati to Island Pond and back. Slight ups and downs. Group limited to 12 people. Hikers must pre-register. Rain cancels.

WEC. Father's Day Hike, Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: Weis naturalist; to register call the center at 973-835-2160. Meet: 9:30am; details available upon registration. Moderate 2-3 miles; recommended for families with elementary-aged kids and above. Appropriate footwear required. Spend some quality time together outdoors; out by 1:30pm. Non-members \$8.

GS. Father's Day Stroll at Great Swamp, Chatham, NJ. Leader: Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center naturalist; to register call 973-635-6629 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 2pm. Bring your dad out for a relaxing guided walk and enjoy the first days of summer. Great for all ages. No fee.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Gail Waimon, 973-467-4761. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove parking. Moderately brisk 4-5 miles with possible steep climb at start. Rain cancels.

Saturday, June 26

AMC. Sloatsburg Circle, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: John Bradley, 212-744-0589 or jakbradley@aol.com. Meet: contact leader for meet time and location. Leisurely hike. Bring water, lunch, and clothing suitable for the season and the weather. Beginners welcome.

PM. Tyke Hike, Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area, NJ. Leader: for more information or to register (required), call Pyramid Mountain in Boonton, NJ at 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 10am. Discover the animals and plants found on Pyramid Mountain on a relaxing guided hike; for ages 2-5 with an adult. \$2 per person.

UOC. Historic Whitesbog Village, Pemberton, NJ. Leader: Jean Romsted, 732-247-0316; please call to register. Meet: call leader for details. We'll also walk the Old Bog Nature Trail and drop in on the annual Blueberry Festival. \$8 per car.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, NJ. Leader: John Jurasek, 845-365-3618. Meet: 10am at Trailside Nature Center. Moderate 5 miles. Explore the northern end of the park; appropriate for beginners. Steady rain cancels.

Sunday, June 27

AFW. Terrace Pond, Wawayanda State Park, NJ. Leader: for info and to register, call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am; out by 2pm. Moderate hike at moderate pace.

IHC. Anderson Bypass & Swim in Macs Lake, Roland May Eves Mountain Inlet Sanctuary, NJ. Leader: Mac McCaulley, 973-398-3002, macmccaulley@aol.com. Meet: 9am at Roland May Eves Mountain Inlet Sanctuary, Rt. 609, Hopatcong, NJ. Moderately strenuous. Views of Kittatinny Mountains. and Lake Hopatcong from a little used section of the Highland Trail. Visit to Bear Pond, a most beautiful little-known pond; bring bathing suit for swim after the hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Special Event Walks and Hikes

Manhattan at 3 MPH Saturday, May 1

On Saturday, May 1, Shorewalkers will sponsor its 25th annual Great Saunter, approximately 32 miles through more than 20 parks and promenades along Manhattan's rim. Starting time is 7am at South Street Seaport. Check www.shorewalkers.org for more information.

Earth Citizen Walk Saturday, May 1

Rockland Lake State Park
Celebrate the beauty of Rockland Lake State Park and enjoy a 3.5-mile walk around the lake. The walk starts at 10 am, rain or shine. There are 150 lakeside picnic tables if you want to make a day of it. For details of the First Annual Earth Citizens Walk, including registration fees, go to www.earthcitizenwalk.org. All proceeds will benefit UNICEF.

World Trade Center Perimeter Hike Saturday, May 8

Trail Conference member Peter Brown invites other members to join him for a guided tour of the World Trade Center Perimeter. He will talk about history, including his own experiences there on 9/11 as a NYC fire fighter, and the future of the site. Co-sponsored by TributeWTC.org, \$5 admission to museum. Meet 10am, walk 10:30. One mile, emotional. The tour is limited to 20 people, and you must contact the leader in advance: pbrown239@hotmail.com.

The Big Walk: NJ2NY50 Sunday, May 23

Online registration (free) is now open. This 50-mile walk will promote the East Coast Greenway, a 3,000-mile multiuse trail for walking, running and cycling that is envisioned to extend from the tip of Maine to Key West, Florida. (East Coast Greenway is a Trail Conference member group.)

The hike will start in Metropark in Iselin, NJ, and end at Penn Station, NYC. This will be an "urban hike" through a variety of places from streets to parks, residential areas to industrial parks.

It is expected that while some will walk the full 50 miles, many more will walk shorter distances, joining or leaving the group along the way. The pace will be moderate; walkers are asked to make their own distance goals, which can be done online.

Visit <http://nj2ny50.org> for details.

JOIN US...

and be among the first to climb 800+ hand-hewn rock steps on the way up the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain!

Presented by:
The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

Project Partners:
National Park Service (NPS)
Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC)
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)

Sponsored by:





Celebrate the reconstruction of the original section of the Appalachian Trail!

Kids' Learning Activities and LIVE MUSIC starting at 10am. Bring your family and friends, or make it a club outing! \$7 parking fee per car.

10am Keynote Speakers
Carol Ash, Commissioner, NYS OPRHP
Pamela Underhill, NPS Appalachian Trail Park Manager

Raymond H. Torrey Award
Presented to JoAnn and Paul Dolan for significant and lasting contributions that protect hiking trails and the land upon which they rest.

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Saturday, June 5, 2010, starting at 10am: National Trails Day

PHOTO: EDDIE WALSH

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TRIBUTES

In honor of Robert Boyajian's 20th anniversary as a member of the Trail Conference
Robert W. Boyajian

In honor of Lois De Conca's 15th anniversary as a member of the Trail Conference
Lois N. De Conca

In honor of Terry Hamacher & Greg Schumacher
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In honor of Dr. Joan Ehbrenfeld's birthday
Kate E. Gardoqui

In honor of Michael Rubashkin's enduring support of the great outdoors
Edward K. Goodell & Lynne S. Katzmann

In honor of Cleo & Shady Grove
These sweet, loving, loyal, beautiful, intelligent, humorous and courageous hiking dogs left us in 2009, Susan Stengold

In honor of Kevin Kilgallen's 25th anniversary as a member of the Trail Conference
Kevin P. Kilgallen

In honor of Winston Perry's 40th anniversary as a member of the Trail Conference
Winston C. & Betty P. Perry

In honor of Lynn Swanson's 10th anniversary as a member of the Trail Conference
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TRAILS FOR PEOPLE FUND

Edward K. Goodell, Jose Vincente Jr. & Anaeli Sandoval, Truist

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In memory of David Bennett
Patricia Bennett

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

Appalachian Trail Museum to open in June

After years of planning, the Appalachian Trail Museum Society, founded in 2001, plans to open The Appalachian Trail Museum at Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Pennsylvania on June 5, National Trails Day. Potomac Appalachian Trail Club volunteers will rehabilitate a 200-year-old grist mill to bring it up to code and install displays. New York-New Jersey Trail Conference member Larry Luxenberg is president of ATMS. Details about the museum and the opening are available at www.atmuseum.org.

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I N M E M O R I A M



Bob Busha; 1923-2010

Bob Busha, of Clifton, NJ, a long-time member and volunteer with the Trail Conference, died February 28, 2010. Bob spent many hours hiking with various organizations to which he belonged and on his own. His volunteer service included filling the role of Trail Conference supervisor in the Pyramid Mountain/Morris County Park System and Garret Mountain/Passaic County Park System.



In addition, he spent many hours volunteering at the Pyramid Mountain Visitor's Center, tirelessly answering questions from visitors. He probably knew its trails better than anyone else and would often be encountered "out there" refreshing trail markings or removing debris from the trails...often helping various organizations plan and construct new trails and bridges.

"One of the most tangible reminders of his work, were the impeccable blazes that he so carefully carved into the surface of the trees," recalls trails colleague Bob Jonas. "No matter where you go in our forests, you can instantly identify where Bob blazed the trail. He leaves behind many loyal and loving friends, and appreciative park officials."

Memorial contributions may be made to the Morris County Park Commission/Pyramid Mountain, c/o Pyramid Mountain Natural Historical Area, 472A Boonton Avenue Boonton, NJ 07005.

He was respected and loved by all those he worked with and will be missed by us all. Note your gift is designated for the Robert Busha Memorial.

—Hugh Merritt, Douglas Voroloeff, Ron Luna contributed to this memorial note.

Fred Schroeder; 1925-2010

Fred Schroeder, of Slingerlands, NY, a long-time member of the Trail Conference and a very active member of the Long Path North Hiking Club, died on March 18, 2010. He is credited with laying out the LP through the Capital region. Fred's obituary recalls that for 30 years, every week, year round, he led hikes throughout the northeast for the Albany Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. He was a member of the Adirondack 46ers, the Catskill 3500 Club, the New England 111 Club. He was active with the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Taconic Hiking Club, as well as with the Trail Conference. He designed and organized the development and maintenance of miles of hiking trails, particularly in the expanded sections of Thacher State Park. Those wishing to contribute in Fred's memory may do so through the Endowment Fund of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206, or the Friends of Thacher and Thompsons Lake State Parks, 87 Nature Center Way, Voorheesville, NY 12186, or a charity of their choice. Another way to honor Fred's memory and legacy is by joining in the effort to save Thacher Park.

Seth Lyon; 1961-2010

Seth Lyon, of Poughkeepsie, NY, died March 15 while hiking in the Catskills. Seth was an experienced hiker, hike leader, and active trail volunteer on the Appalachian Trail with the RPH Cabin Volunteers Club and with the Hyde Park trail program in Dutchess County.



He crafted a hiking and backpacking skills course for Dutchess Community College. He was 49 years old. He was found near the summit of Blackhead Mountain, in the Township of Windham on March 15. Seth and his climbing partner had spent Saturday night in a snow cave they had dug, after becoming engulfed in an unexpectedly serious wind and ice storm. On Sunday morning, Seth made a valiant attempt to hike out to get help and save his climbing partner, who could not move his legs. Weakened himself, Seth died in the attempt.

His daughter recalled him as "a compassionate, generous man who always had a smile and found peace in the mountains." Memorial donations can be made to: Winnakee Land Trust, P. O. Box 610, Rhinebeck, NY 12572 or RPH Cabin Volunteers Club for The Seth Lyon Fund, c/o Beth Habermann, 31 Country Club Rd., Hopewell Jct. NY 12533.

Art Schneier

Word has come of the passing in 2009 of Art Schneier, of Huntington, NY. Art was long active with the Trail Conference and, since the 1960s, with the Interstate Hiking Club, of which he and his wife, Lillian, were both past presidents. Art also served as trails chair for the club for many years as well as supervisor of the Appalachian Trail in Putnam County for the Trail Conference. He section-hiked the AT over the course of two decades, ultimately fulfilling his dream of becoming an End-to-End. An avid naturalist, Art wrote the "Nature's Notebook" column for *Trail Walker* for many years. Art will be missed by the many who knew him.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

continued from page 2

uncrowded as they were when I took my first hike in 1950, Chris Ingui's response was on the mark—we have to accommodate hikers in numbers that Benton MacKaye never imagined (“She Doesn't Like the Steps,” March/April 2010).

And Benton MacKaye is not spinning in his grave. Rather than envisioning a trail through unbroken wilderness, his vision included communities “on or near the trail...where people could live in private domiciles... These community camps...should not be allowed to become too populous and thereby defeat the very purpose for which they are created. Greater numbers should be accommodated by more communities, not larger ones. There is room, without crowding, in the Appalachian region for a very large camping population... These communities would be used for various kinds of non-industrial activity... Summer schools or seasonal field courses could be established and scientific travel courses organized and accommodated in the different communities along the trail...”

[From Benton MacKaye, “An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning,” *Journal of the American Institute of Architects* 9 (Oct. 1921)]

—Bob Moss, Bloomfield, NJ

Stone Steps Will Protect the Mountain

I read the letter critical of the stone steps work on the Bear Mountain Trail and the response from the Special Projects Manager (Chris Ingui). As a trail maintainer myself, I cannot help but respond and offer my encouragement for the project. Two years ago I “adopted” the 1,700-acre West Rock Ridge State Park in Hamden, CT, because the trails were sadly neglected. I have put in many hours fixing up the trails, including blazing, pruning, relocating eroded sections, hardening others, installing rock water bars, and building boardwalks through muddy areas.

Most people have been very positive and supportive of what I have done. The occasional hard core mountain biker thinks that some of my efforts are ruining the “fun” and “challenge” of riding the trails. I reply that my efforts focus on protecting the trails and the park, and not on the experience of one class of user. The hikers, dog walkers, and most bikers really appreciate how I am keeping them out of the mud.

From looking at the online pictures, I think the stone steps [at Bear Mountain] look fabulous. West Rock has a series of stone steps that were probably built by the CCC and I would love to see them reset, rehabilitated, and restored.

When people talk to me about relocating wet and eroded trails, I always educate them about the importance of doing it right, so the problem is not recreated elsewhere. I think the stone steps are the way to go and they look as natural as they can be made.

—Tom Ebersold, Milford, CT

Member Group News

Discover Wildflower Island at Teatown Lake Reservation

Wildflower Island is a unique, two-acre refuge within the greater Teatown Lake Reservation preserve that is home to over 230 native and endangered species of wildflowers. It is “managed” only to the extent that invasive alien plants are removed and certain native competitive species are not encouraged. Guided tours are given during the months of April through September as follows:

May: Wednesdays, 7pm
Saturday, 10am and 2pm
Sunday, 2pm

June: Saturday and Sunday, 2pm
July-September : Saturday, 10am



Reservations are required and can be made by calling Teatown at 914-762-2912, ext. 110. Private tours on weekdays can be arranged for groups of six or more. Admission is with guided tour only. Experienced guides lead visitors along the Island path, describing the unique features of the Island's wildflowers, most of which are native to our area. Admission is \$4 for Teatown members and \$6 for nonmembers. Children under 12 are not permitted on the Island.

Enjoy National Trails Day in NYC

New York Hiking Club and the Urban Trail Conference plan to “Hike the Heights” on Saturday, June 5. The groups will meet at 10:30am on the northeast corner of Central Park West and 110th Street, Manhattan, and then follow the necklace of parks from Central Park to Highbridge Park, ending up at the Watertower Plaza. There, refreshments will be available and each walker will receive a free t-shirt. Upon reaching the Watertower Plaza, there is the

possibility of a free watertower tour giving viewers a spectacular view from its top. The hike will support C.L.I.M.B. (City Life Is Moving Bodies), a grassroots project of the Community Research Program of the Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University.

Trip leaders: Bob Ward, 718-471-7036 (call after 8pm) and Patricia O'Malley, 212-924-7486 (call before 9pm). Event Coordinator: Lourdes Hernandez-Cordero, 212-305-1077 (call business hours, weekdays except Monday).

Rock Lodge Club Plans June 5 Open House

Rock Lodge Club in Stockholm, NJ, a returning Trail Conference Supporting Member, opens its gate to the public on Saturday, June 5, for its annual Open House. The group's Trail Conference membership was affirmed at the February Delegates meeting.

Rock Lodge is a historic family and kid-friendly nudist resort which sits on 145 acres of woodlands. The club maintains a trail network that connects to trails through the Passaic River Coalition's Russia Brook Sanctuary and the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The Highlands Trail passes within a stone's throw of the Rock Lodge gate. The club has a clean, spring fed-swimming lake, tennis, sauna, and hot tub.

From Rock Lodge trails, hikers can access the Audubon Trail, which passes through the Edison Mine area with the historic remains of Thomas Edison's mine works, or hike to Ryker Lake and meet up with the Highlands Trail just east of the lake to access the ridges of the central highlands.

Each October, Rock Lodge leads a hike on its trails, through Russia Brook Sanctuary and the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area to Ryker Lake. Before leaving club lands, the group stops at “Indian Cave” for the traditional hot dog roast. After lunch, children and “easy” hikers are led back to the club, while others continue on to Ryker Lake to rest and pick up and pack out litter. Other informally-scheduled hikes continue throughout the May-October season.

Learn more about the club at www.rocklodge.com.

Book Review

The Adirondack Reader Four Centuries of Adirondack Writing

Edited by Paul Jamieson with Neal Burdick



Adirondack Mountain Club, 2009
Reviewed by Howard E. Friedman

The Adirondack Reader is a smorgasbord of excerpted writing about or in some way related to the region of the same name, known since 1892 as the Adirondack Park, the largest park in the “lower 48” states.

At almost 6 million acres of rugged and mountainous terrain, criss-crossed by streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds, the Adirondacks have been inspiring writers for hundreds of years. Editor Paul Jamieson brought the first and second editions of the Reader to life; he died in 2006 (at age 103) while guiding the preparation of this third edition by Neal Burdick, long-time editor of *Adirondack* magazine.

Like all such books, *The Adirondack Reader* includes and draws from an array of disparate works, in this case including classic fiction, such as *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper, which takes place in the vicinity of Lake George; poetry, “Lords of this Realm,” by Ralph Waldo Emerson from his collection *The Adirondacks*; and humor, “How I Killed a Bear,” a spoof by Charles Dudley Warner (1829-1900) of a then-popular genre of adventure writing.

This collection is divided into 10 sections with a total of 132 selections. Section titles date back to the first edition, published in 1964; most are self-explanatory, such as “Shelter for the Night” and “Woods-Peaks-Waters”; others, though, offer a bit of mystery: “The Angle of Vision” and “Imperishable Freshness.” Each section begins with an introduction, updated as needed to reflect the inclusion of 32 pieces new to the third edition. Reading all of these introductions before wading into the myriad selections provides a helpful overview of the subject matter.

Neal Burdick assembled an advisory panel of Adirondack-based writers to help select the new material. They focused on pieces by writers living full-time, or at least part-time, in the Adirondacks. So, for example, an excerpt from the novel *Loon Lake*, by non-Adirondacker E. L. Doc-

torow that was in the second edition, was omitted from this edition.

Many of these new pieces focus on issues of the day in the park. These tend to revolve around land use or environmental themes. One example is “The Woods” by Saranac High School physics teacher Thomas Kalinowski, who explains in layman's terms the ecology of a coniferous forest in the Adirondacks, taking into account seasonal temperatures and soil types. In “Wilderness Guaranteed,” Philip Terrie, an Adirondack historian and a former assistant curator of the Adirondack Museum, mixes a tale of bushwhacking in the Seward Range and negotiating a significant blowdown—“I pondered my situation: I'm a long day's hike from the nearest phone; I'm by myself; if I break a leg now, they won't find me for weeks”—with ruminations on the importance of wilderness in modern society.

Editor Burdick contributes a murder mystery, “Who Killed Orrando P. Dexter?” Burdick revisits the mystery of this unsolved, 1903 murder and writes in a colloquial style as he tries to deconstruct the life of an enigmatic, wealthy loner who moved to the North Country, bought up land, and angered his neighbors by limiting their access to the pristine wilderness. Burdick doesn't solve the mystery, but he sounds a theme familiar among the more recent Adirondack writers, declaring, “It all came down to a question of land use.”

The third edition expands the Reader concept to include the visual arts, with a collection of 32 pages of reprints of works depicting the region by artists including Winslow Homer. If later Adirondack writers have become more realistic in their writing, visual artists tend to present a romantic, almost impressionistic, view of the lakes and mountains. Black-and-white portraits of Adirondack personalities taken in the late 1800s are reprinted from the first edition.

The Adirondack Reader will likely have something to whet the interest of anyone who enjoys reading about the outdoors. Among my favorites are “Nate's Pond” by the prolific nature writer of the early 1900s, John Burroughs; Robert Marshall's 1932 hour-by-hour account of how he climbed 14 Adirondack peaks in one day; and the introduction to the section entitled “Shelter for the Night,” which explores the different meanings that “camping out” has to different people. This volume is certainly a book that readers will pull off the shelf again and again, and it will serve as a springboard for exploring the growing universe of authors writing on this vast expanse of a most unique sanctuary.

Howard Friedman, DPM, is a podiatrist in private practice in Suffern, NY, treating hikers and non-hikers. He is a frequent contributor to Trail Walker.



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Featured Hike



By Georgette Weir

Manitou Point Preserve on the Hudson River



The shoreline trail at Manitou Point Preserve

Manitou Point Preserve is a sweet little (136 acres) spot along the Hudson River, 1.8 miles north of the Bear Mountain Bridge. It includes several miles of trails and woods roads that criss-cross steeply sloped woodlands and offer access to the Hudson River. On an early spring visit, most of the trails were walked in a leisurely two hours.

The water views and moss-covered rocks that line the treadway are enchanting

The preserve, once known as Mystery Point, is bounded on the east by Route 9D and straddles the Copper Mine Brook, the train tracks of Metro-North Hudson Line (via a stone bridge), and a modest tidal marsh. Trails are generally moderate to easy, though there is one steep, short bluff to navigate if you fully traipse the preserve from east to west (or vice versa).

A handsome 19th-century, red-brick mansion looks out over the Hudson River from a point that juts into the Hudson River at the foot of Mystery Point Road. Until

recently, it served as the national headquarters for Outward Bound. Ruins of small service buildings can be seen on the property, which was once a portion of the estate of Edward Livingston.

The best trail at Manitou extends south from the mansion along the shoreline for perhaps half a mile. It's a narrow trail, blazed blue, and the water views and moss-covered rocks that line the treadway are enchanting. The trail makes a sharp turn back at the point to meet a red-blazed woods road; the entire loop is about one mile long.

The woods at Manitou clearly show the sad deterioration of our eastern hemlocks. The 2001 edition of the *Walk Book* describes the woods at Manitou as "primarily hemlock forest." A decade later, most of the hemlocks are fading or dead. The woods at the top of the bluff are littered with downed trees and branches, an increasingly familiar sight in many of our fire-free, suburban woods. Still, even soon after some major late winter storms, the trails in late March were mostly clear and all were well-blazed and marked by a maintainer with an interest in building whimsical, fragile-looking cairns.

The *New York Walk Book* suggests a hike at Manitou be combined with a visit to Manitoga, less than a mile to the north.

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Manitoga, a natural landscape designed around a quarry by designer Russel Wright, offers some four miles of hiking trails. Both properties have appeared on Trail Conference maps of East Hudson trails. But the newest edition of the East Hudson Trails map set presents the two sites in more detail as inset maps, with all trails marked by their blaze colors (missing on previous editions). The Appalachian Trail is also within reach, and hikes of various lengths can be created in this area with careful study of the trail maps.

How to Get There:

By car: look for Mystery Point Road on the west side of Route 9D, 1.8 miles north of the Bear Mountain Bridge, less than 1 mile south of Manitoga. A small parking area is immediately at left. **By train:** Manitou Point Preserve (and Manitoga via Rt. 9D) is within walking distance of the Manitou train station. The train stops weekends only; check the Metro-North schedule. Walk east 0.1 mile on Manitou Station Road, then turn left between two stone pillars onto a woods road that edges the Manitou Marsh.

Hikers' Marketplace



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