



TRAIL WALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE • CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE SINCE 1920

NY State to Invest Millions in Catskills, Minnewaska

New York State is investing in two of its most popular parks in 2016, with trails poised to benefit from the continued commitment of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration to protect and promote our green spaces. On Oct. 23, Cuomo announced a \$5 million I Love N.Y. tourism campaign for the Catskills; a Catskills Challenge, featuring the area's outdoor recreation opportunities; and a \$7.3 million transformational project at Minnewaska State Park Preserve. The goal is to grow local economies while showcasing some of the state's marquee forest play lands.

Empire State Development will infuse \$5 million into an ad campaign promoting the Catskills to visitors from around the world. Part of that campaign includes the newly launched Ride the Catskills website (bit.ly/TC-RTCats), which offers a number of road trip itineraries throughout the region. The website offers several suggested hikes that involve trails maintained by volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

The Catskills Challenge will also put trails front and center. It's modeled after the gov-

ernor's successful Adirondack Challenge, which kicked off in 2013. Details of the Catskills Challenge will be revealed closer to its launch next summer, but in addition to hiking, it is expected to involve fly fishing, paddling, and biking.

"I'm very excited that New York State is calling attention to the beautiful natural resources of the Catskills," said Will Soter, the Trail Conference's current Catskills Assistant Program Coordinator and former Southern Catskills Trails Chair. "Encouraging people to engage in the region's recreational opportunities also

allows folks to learn about the hard work of our volunteers, and how they, too, can give back to trails."

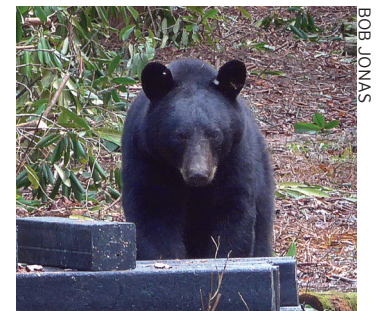
Not very far south from the Catskills, Minnewaska State Park Preserve will receive \$7.3 million in infrastructure upgrades, making this Shawangunk hiking destination more accessible. The centerpiece is a new, 6,000-square-foot visitor center that will better accommodate the nearly 300,000 people who visit the Lake Minnewaska area every year. Also of note are planned improvements to parking areas, a redesigned main entrance on



Catskill views like these from the Escarpment Trail (top and above) will be promoted to visitors around the world.



GEORGE DAGIS



BOB JONAS

The bear that visited the West Jersey Trail Crew in Wawayanda was unafraid of their presence.

Black Bear Encounter on Cedar Swamp Trail

DAVID DAY
WEST JERSEY TRAIL CREW
CO-LEADER

On Nov. 14, the Trail Conference's West Jersey Trail Crew was working in Wawayanda State Park on the long-term project of refurbishing the puncheon on the Cedar Swamp Trail. When we broke for lunch, we went back beyond the start of the puncheon to have a dry place to sit. After about 10 minutes, Bob Jonas, Central North Jersey Trail Co-Chair, noticed that "someone" was coming toward us.

That "someone" turned out to be a large male black bear. He stopped about 30 feet from where we were eating. Bob yelled, "It's a bear!" and we all got up and began to shout. The bear grudgingly turned and ambled back along the puncheon, with several of us following. He inspected our construction materials and tools, and emptied an unzipped backpack, scattering its contents. Once he got to the far end of that section of puncheon, he stopped—and did not leave. I finally started up a chainsaw, and he ran into the woods. We quickly finished lunch and returned to work, albeit much more cautiously aware of our surroundings.

A little while later, Bob and Estelle Anderson, his co-chair, started to leave. When they got back to the staging area where we had lunch, there was the bear! He had circled back around us, apparently to inspect where the smells of food had come from.

see BEAR, page 9

Route 44/55, and the addition of a warming hut and potable water in the park.

The project is part of the \$900 million N.Y. Parks 2020 plan for rejuvenating the parks system. The Minnewaska proposal is further supported by the Open Space Institute, which pledged to raise \$3 million in private philanthropy and deliver design and construction services, which are expected to begin in the spring.

With more people than ever anticipated to explore the Catskills and Minnewaska next year, the Trail Conference is looking forward to serving as ambassadors to these parks' beautiful trails.

"The Trail Conference is focused on protecting our public lands and making it easier for people to enjoy them," said Executive Director Edward Goodell. "Promoting and improving these parks will attract more visitors, and our volunteers, as always, will have the trails hike-ready."

NEW CATSKILL TRAIL TO GO UP MT. TOBIAS PAGE 5

GEORGE DAGIS

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Crew News: A Wildlife Survey, Appalachian Trail Reroute, and More page 8



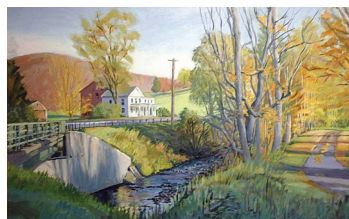
Celebrating Our Volunteers page 6-7

Trail Conference Hosts Guest Artist Exhibit at Headquarters

GLENDHA HAAS
ART SELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR

The newly renovated Trail Conference headquarters opened with many bare walls at the ribbon-cutting ceremony this past April. An Art Selection Committee has since been formed, led by volunteer Glenda Haas, and composed of fellow volunteer Diane Stripe and a staff liaison, with the goal of utilizing the arts to connect to environmental appreciation. Additionally, the stories of both the Trail Conference and Darlington Schoolhouse come to life through photographs and artwork in the historic foyer's double staircase. To attain the Committee's mission of partnering the Trail Conference with the community and artists to promote trails, the building's main conference room will display a rotating art exhibit, chiefly composed of local artists. An art display system has been installed and the Trail Conference is now hosting its inaugural art exhibition.

Our first guest artist is Richard Kirk Mills. His work comes to the Trail Conference as a satellite exhibition of "Ode to Earth," a larger exhibition sponsored by the Blue Hill Art and Cultural Center at the Blue Hill Plaza office complex in Pearl River, N.Y. Barbara J. Sussman and Joanna Dickey, the curator and art administrator



IMAGES PROVIDED BY RICHARD KIRK MILLS

If You Go

- ▶ **What:** Richard Kirk Mills exhibit
- ▶ **When:** Open through April 14, 2016, during regular Trail Conference hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- ▶ **Where:** Trail Conference headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, N.J.
- ▶ **Details:** Open to our members and the public. The paintings are for sale with 20 percent of the proceeds benefiting the Trail Conference.

of the Blue Hill Plaza Cultural Center, guided the Trail Conference Art Selection Committee in making our first exhibit happen. Their recommendation of Mills is serendipitous,

as the artist's studio in Bovina, N.Y., was designed by Walter Aurell, the architect for the Darlington Schoolhouse renovation. Mills has long been involved in environmental artwork and restoration, primarily at the Teaneck Creek Conservancy and Hackensack River Stories Project. Mills' background includes working as a master printmaker and as an art professor at Long Island University/Post.

Four of Mills' interpretive graphics are on display in the former schoolroom, along with nine of his landscape paintings of Catskill locations.

The Richard Kirk Mills exhibit is open to our members and the public until April 14, 2016, during regular Trail Conference office hours: 9 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The paintings are for sale with 20 percent of the proceeds benefiting the Trail Conference.



JEREMY ARGAR

Trail Conference Sign Installed at New HQ

We're official! On Wednesday, Nov. 11, the beautiful new TRAIL CONFERENCE letters and our logo were installed on the front of our headquarters in Mahwah, N.J. Many thanks to John Janis and Butler Sign Company for this generous donation. Stop by to see it for yourself!

WELCOME, NEW TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFFERS

Sabina Cardenas, Finance and Operations Assistant

Sabina's love for the outdoors was solidified when she spent a summer training to complete the Devil's Path in one day. Since then, she has continued to explore the outdoors, including serving as a Trail Conference AmeriCorps Trail Crew Member at Sterling Forest. She is currently working on her master's degree in school counseling and hopes to combine this with her passion for the outdoors to become a wilderness therapist.



neering firms. Will's love of the outdoors began as a boy while spending summers with his grandfather in the Catskills.



Will Soter, Catskills Assistant Program Coordinator

Before attaining his NYS-DEC license to guide, Will shared his love for the outdoors with friends and fellow members of hiking clubs in the Catskills. He was named the Trail Conference's Southern Catskills Trails Chair in January 2014, and in that volunteer position, coordinated the volunteer efforts on approximately 106 miles of trails. Will is engaged in promoting recreational tourism opportunities throughout the Catskill Park, and looks forward to utilizing his new role to grow awareness of the Catskill forest.



Will Smith, Buildings and Grounds Manager

Will brings nearly 40 years of engineering and facilities management experience to the position. He holds a bachelor's degree from Rutgers College of Engineering and has previously held engineering and management positions for several engi-

TRAIL WALKER (USPS Permit #970-100)(ISSN 0749-1352) is published quarterly by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference as a benefit of membership. Subscriptions are available to libraries only at \$15 a year. Periodical postage paid at Mahwah, N.J., and additional offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to the address below. Opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily represent the policy or position of the Trail Conference. Contributions of typed manuscripts, photos, and drawings are welcome. Manuscripts may be edited for style and length. Submission deadlines for TRAIL WALKER are Jan. 15 (Spring issue), May 15 (Summer issue), Aug. 15 (Fall issue), Nov. 15 (Winter issue). Unsolicited contributions cannot be acknowledged unless accompanied by SASE. For information on advertising rates, please write or call. Copyright 2015 by: New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc. 600 Ramapo Valley Road (Rt. 202) Mahwah, NJ 07430 201-512-9348

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TRAIL WALKER
VOLUME XLIII, No. 1 WINTER 2016
AMBER RAY EDITOR
STEPHANIE HINDERER DESIGNER

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 Trail 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.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

Trail Walker is a quarterly paper published by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. The editor and managing editor is Amber Ray, at the same address. The annual subscription price is \$15; contact person is Amber Ray; telephone number is 201-512-9348. The tax status of the organization has not changed during the preceding 12 months. As of the filing date of October 1, 2015, the average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months was 14,550; the actual number of copies of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 13,000. The paper has a total paid and/or requested circulation of 6,190 (average) and 6,226 (actual, most recent issue). The free distribution for the 12 months preceding the filing date was 6,177 (average) and 6,215 (actual, most recent issue). The total average distribution was 12,367; the actual distribution of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 12,441.

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

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NY Tradition of Supporting Outdoor Recreation Lives On

New York State support for outdoor recreation is moving in a very good direction, recalling its long tradition of excellence. In the decade before the “Great Recession,” New York poured hundreds of millions into acquiring land, but park maintenance and capital projects seemed to languish. Since then, under the Cuomo administration, capital investments have averaged almost \$100 million annually. While most of this goes into front-country infrastructure—roads, parking lots, swimming areas, bathrooms, water and sewer systems—a significant amount is increasingly being applied to park access and trails.

These funds are trickling down to projects that are near and dear to the hearts of many Trail Conference members and volunteers. Over the past



few years, the state has made significant investments in the Appalachian Trail, Catskill

Mountain Rail Trail, Hudson Fjord Trail, carriage road renovations in Minnewaska State Park Preserve, and dozens of other outdoor recreation projects that have received funding through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). Additionally, state funding has supported Trail Conference AmeriCorps crews serving in Fahnestock and Sterling Forest, the Catskill Conservation Corps, and invasive species management. As noted in our cover story, the Cuomo administration has continued its support of

the outdoors with additional investments in Minnewaska and the Catskills.

Just before this issue of *Trail Walker* went to print, New York State announced its 2016 CFA grant awardees, and major projects increasing access to outdoor recreational opportunities were a significant part of the package. A few directly support Trail Conference priorities, including:

- \$200,000 toward the completion of the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain.
- \$254,000 to provide a northern gateway to Minnewaska State Park via the magnificent but currently poorly accessible Stony Kill Falls, one of the four great waterfalls of the Shawangunks that the Trail Conference and Open Space Institute protected in 2000.
- \$500,000 for the Heritage Trail extension in Orange County that will host a segment of the Long Path, the Trail Conference’s longest trail.
- \$450,000 to purchase lands expanding Hook Mt.



Often our elected officials only hear from our community when there is a crisis. ... We need to reach out and let them know what we do like.

Goodell



State Park, which contains Trail Conference trails.

All told, more than \$5.4 million was awarded to 13 outdoor recreation projects in Rockland, Westchester, Dutchess, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster, and Orange counties. Projects include building new hiking, biking, and walking trails; new rail trails; constructing and rehabilitating visitor centers; and funds to purchase open space.

Often our elected officials only hear from our community when there is a crisis, like a pipeline that threatens to bisect a park or a proposed casino that looms

too close to our trails. However, we need to reach out and let them know what we do like.

For example, you can join us when we head to Albany on Feb. 24. The goal of the Trail Conference and dozens of other organizations is to convince elected officials to fund the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) at \$300 million dollars.

Even better, consider volunteering with our reconstituted Advocacy Committee, which will be working at the state and local level to protect and provide access to open space throughout our region. Contact Volunteer Coordinator John Leigh (jleigh@nynjtc.org) for details on how to get involved, and check nynjtc.org for updates on issues important to our mission.

Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

• TRAIL CONFERENCE YEAR-END PROGRAM REPORT •

2015 LOOK BACK



Catskills

- Grew the Catskill Conservation Corps through work trips, workshops, and litter pick-up events at the Blue Hole and other heavily used areas.
- Worked with Woodchuck Lodge to create family-friendly trail system in Roxbury, N.Y.
- Launched highly successful Summit Stewards program on Slide Mountain, the Catskills’ tallest and busiest mountain.

East Hudson

- Completed the South Taconic Trail extension. This lengthens the South Taconic Trail by 6.5 miles, reaching Rudd Pond and the outskirts of Millerton, N.Y.
- Built an extension to the Round Hill Bypass Trail in Fahnestock,

linking the Fahnestock Trail to School Mountain Road.

- Built three new trails, a total of 4 miles, in Dover Stone Church Preserve.

New Jersey

- Conducted 30 trail crew outings with West Jersey Trail Crew, Ramapo Earth Crew, and Long Distance Trails Crew, comprising hundreds of work hours.
- Played an early and leading role in the successful effort to protect the Hudson Palisades from a proposed high-rise structure at LG Electronics USA headquarters. The revised lower structure preserves the Palisades viewshed and views from the Long Path.
- Strengthened working relations with National Park Service in the

Delaware Water Gap (left), resulting in increased partnerships and volunteer outreach in western New Jersey.

West Hudson

- Volunteers and groups built a new section of the Highlands Trail, eliminating a 1.4-mile road walk.
- Long Distance Trails Crew rerouted an eroded portion of the Appalachian Trail, installing rock steps and cribbing on Bear Mountain.
- West Hudson North crew installed bog bridging on Mossy Glen Trail in Minnewaska.

Bear Mountain

- Completed approximately 500 highly labor-intensive feet of Upper East Face of the Appalachian Trail, reaching 60 percent completion.
- Finished construction of Trails for People Exhibit at base of Bear Mountain on the A.T.
- Provided over 10,600 volunteer hours of labor.

Cartography and Publications

- Produced new print and digital editions of four maps sets: Catskill, Harriman-Bear Mountain, South Taconic, and West Hudson.
- Completed and launched the brand new *Circuit Hikes in Harriman* book.
- Produced 15 new northern New Jer-



sey state park maps, made available as free handouts at parks, as downloads on our website, and through the PDF Maps app.

Invasives

- Completed the fifth year of the Invasives Strike Force (ISF), reaching a milestone of over 1,000 miles of trails surveyed for invasive species. This represents the cumulative efforts of 400 volunteers making over 60,000 observations.
- Removed over 50,000 invasive plants from 20 parks, preserves, and partner properties, improving over 100 acres of land.
- Convened over 40 partner agencies of the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) to prioritize invasive species work, education, and outreach.

2016 LOOK AHEAD

Catskills

- Rebuild German Hollow lean-to, which was crushed by fallen trees.
- Expand Summit Stewards program to other popular destinations in the Catskills.

East Hudson

- Expand and recruit a dedicated Hudson Highlands roving trail crew.
- Collaborate with NYC Parks to recruit volunteers and offer technical assistance and documentation with

trail maintenance projects.

New Jersey

- Promote, protect, and improve the long-distance Highlands Trail, New Jersey’s Millennium Legacy Trail. Develop workshops, volunteer outings, and events to draw attention to this nearby, under-utilized hiking treasure.
- Expand Trail Conference presence and recruitment everywhere we maintain trails.

West Hudson

- Collaborate in a Trails Town event along southwestern boundary of Harriman, attracting eco-tourism and highlighting improved trail access via mass transit.
- Develop a Bear Mountain Stewards program.
- Create a new trail loop in Sterling Forest’s recently preserved “donut hole.”

Bear Mountain

- Extend progress on the remaining 1,145 feet and 325 stone stairs of the A.T. on the Upper East Face. Complete all work by fall 2017.

Cartography and Publications

- Develop a new map set covering the entirety of the Long Path.
- Produce revised editions of Jersey Highlands, Kittatinny, Sterling Forest, and Shawangunk map sets.

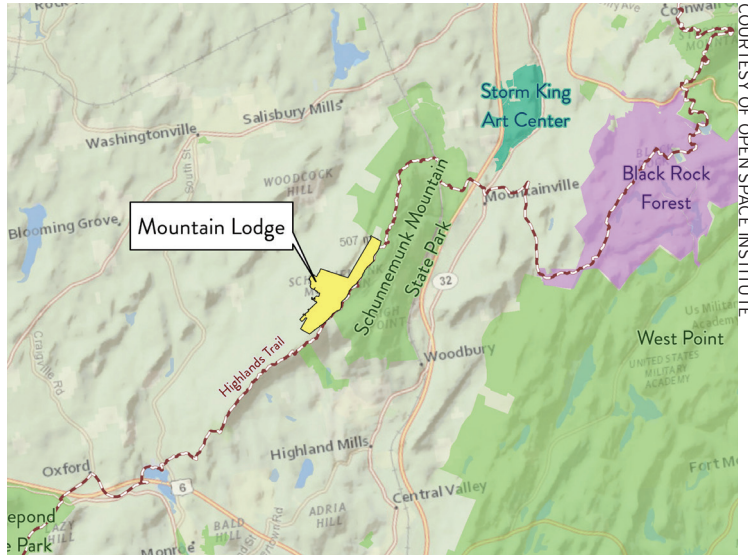
Invasives

- Ramp up invasives removal efforts by increasing summer crew service periods, engaging more volunteers, and streamlining data collection and processing.
- Lead the Lower Hudson PRISM to aggressively target priority areas and species.

Mountain Lodge Property Receives Permanent Protection

After 10 years of effort, the Open Space Institute (OSI) purchased 405 acres of Mountain Lodge property in Orange County, N.Y., in October. This newly conserved land in the Hudson Highlands will serve as a buffer for the Highlands Trail and the Long Path and preserve a scenic natural area from the threat of development spreading north and west of the Route 87/17 interchange.

Located in the Moodna Creek Watershed adjacent to the 2,700-acre Schunne-munk Mountain State Park, the acquired Mountain Lodge property furthers the long-term vision of OSI, the Trail Conference, and other conservationists in the region: a protected greenspace connection between regional state parks. The land is expected to become a permanent addition to Schunne-munk Mountain after OSI transfers the prop-



erty to the state parks system. “Long-distance recreational trails are key in getting more people to experience and develop a stake in the great outdoors,” said Glenn Oleksak, Chair of the Trail Conference’s Highlands Trail West Committee. “Land conservation achievements like

Mountain Lodge are critical for the long-term success of these trails, in addition to creating important wildlife corridors.”

This acquisition will ensure that the land—and the Highlands Trail and Long Path—will remain protected for generations of hikers to come.

News in Brief

Giving Tuesday Challenge Raises More Than \$65K

We’ve tallied your Giving Tuesday Challenge donations and we’re blown away: Our supporters helped us raise \$32,501 from Nov. 24 through Dec. 1. Thanks to a generous contribution from the Janet Ross Fund, these donations will be matched 1-to-1 for a grand total of \$65,002. All of these gifts will be put to work to support building, maintaining, and protecting trails in our region. Thank you!

Shop with AmazonSmile and Support the Trail Conference

When you shop AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price on eligible orders to the Trail Conference. Bookmark

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-6042838> and support us every time you shop. Thank you to our supporters for raising \$84.99 in the third quarter of 2015!

Design Our Next Volunteer T-Shirt

Calling all artists: The Trail Conference wants your creative designs for our 2016 volunteer T-shirts!

Rules:

- 1) All entries must be sent via email by Feb. 1 to Volunteer Coordinator John Leigh (jleigh@nynjtc.org).
- 2) All entries must contain the Trail Conference logo and be a single color design (to be printed on a color T-shirt).
- 3) All entries become property of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.
- 4) The decision of the Volunteer Committee is final.
- 5) All designs may be modified to meet Trail Conference branding guidelines.
- 6) Winner will be announced in *Trail Walker* and E-Walker, and on Facebook and Twitter.

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In honor of Kenneth Malkin's birthday
Kenneth Mayer

In memory of William Edward Growich
Cane & Boniface

In memory of Edward J. Fuller
Long Distance Trails Crew & Chris Reyling & Robert E. Fuller

In memory of Ed Fuller, who passed away on August 14, 2015 (father of Robert Fuller). Ed served the Trail Conference as a trail maintainer and builder for over 20 years until his retirement to North Carolina. His generosity, friendship, and hard work on behalf of the Trail Conference will be remembered.

Singles and Sociables Activity Committee of the AMC & Linda Rousseau

In honor of Chris Connolly, Board Chair 2011-2015
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Building Trails in Sterling Forest: Work Begins on Red Back, Eagle



SONA MASON
WEST HUDSON
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Over the last few years, the Trail Conference, in partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), has been working down their “to-do” list for trail building and restoration at Sterling Forest State Park through the Backcountry Trails Program. The Trails Program is a means for making trail improvements, recruiting and training volunteers, and fulfilling the needs of parks and park plans. In Sterling Forest, this has involved improving tread and wet crossings on existing trails, and completing the almost 4-mile Doris Duke Trail loop. Now, the park has asked the Trail Conference to set its sights on the next major item on their priority list: Build a multiuse trail in the southeastern corner of the park, which also happens to be the most recently preserved section—the so-called “donut hole” that was



ERIK MICKELSON

From left: Trail Conference Field Manager Erik Mickelson, Art White of the Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association (JORBA), Tom Hennigan of Jungle Habitat, and Ellen White of JORBA kicked off work on the Red Back multi-use trail in Sterling Forest in October.

preserved in 2006—to open it to the public.

A 7-mile loop adjacent to Tuxedo Park has been reviewed by NYS park planners, biologists, and historians. Half of the loop will encompass usable sections of former woods roads on the Red Back Trail (north), and circumvent them when necessary with a

2-foot-wide tread built to sustain traffic from feet, wheels, and hooves. The other half of the loop, the Eagle Trail, will only accommodate hikers and bikers. Sight lines, turning radii, flow patterns, and speed control design elements will be incorporated into the loop to ensure a conflict-free and mutually enjoyable and durable

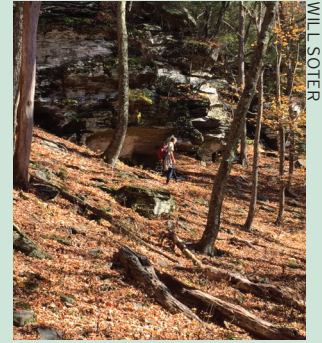
trail for all three user types.

Hiker, mountain biker, and equestrian groups have been invited to participate in creating this highly anticipated loop trail. Mike Vitti, president of CLIMB and a New York State Trails Council delegate, is among those involved with the Trail Conference in the early planning stages. Volunteers began construction on the trail in October, and so far the response from the public has been great—in just a handful of work days, almost a quarter-mile of trail was completed.

You’re invited to join volunteers each Saturday to learn sustainable trail-building techniques for multiuse trails and work off some of those holiday calories. We will continue until the ground is frozen, and start up again when conditions allow. Work days will be expanded in early spring, when the 2016 Conservation Corps team is on the ground.

Contact Sona Mason at smason@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 x16 with questions.

TRAIL MIX



WILL SOTER

Catskills' Mt. Tobias to Get New Trail

Mt. Tobias is not your typical Catskill hiking destination. Its relatively short, 2,540-foot summit and its lack of any official trails tend to keep hikers from seeking its peak. With the opening of the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center in Mt. Tremper, there is now a renewed effort to construct a trail over this less-traveled mountain.

The trail will connect the Interpretive Center to the summit of Mt. Tobias in two phases: First, a bridge from the perimeter trail at the Catskill Center will cross the stream. From there, the trail will rise up the steep hill on a series of switchbacks. This trail will connect hikers to the second portion of the trail, which will start on an old woods road on Wittenberg Road. A third phase of construction will eventually tie into the Willow Trail.

For an insider’s look at the process of designing this trail, as well as some of the mountain’s history and info on how you can get involved, visit bit.ly/TC-nt-mt.

Will Soter, Catskills Assistant Program Coordinator

Fawn Trail Extended Through Harriman-Bear Mountain

The Fawn Trail in Harriman-Bear Mountain State Parks has been extended from its former terminus at the Appalachian Trail. It now connects with and follows a section of the Doodletown Bridle Path, continuing eastward to the Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail. The Fawn Trail, now 1.5 miles in length, provides a direct connection from the Anthony Wayne north parking lot to the Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail.



AMA KOENIGSHOF

Trails for People Exhibit Opening this Spring

Join us in the spring of 2016 for the grand opening of the Trails for People Exhibit located on the Appalachian Trail at the base of Bear Mountain. Constructed by the Megalithic Trail Crew over a three-month period, the exhibit will serve as a gateway to the backcountry for millions of Bear Mountain State Park visitors each year. Thirty-two signs will help hikers learn how and why trails are built as they experience various trail structures. Check our events calendar (nynjtc.org/calendar) for updates on the Trails for People Exhibit grand opening.



AMA KOENIGSHOF

Weis Ecology Center Under New Ownership

Ownership of the 160-acre Weis Ecology Center in Ringwood, N.J., was officially transferred from New Jersey Audubon to the Highlands Nature Friends (HNF) on Nov. 10. HNF is a non-profit specifically formed to manage the property, which is now named The New Weis Center for Education, Arts and Recreation.

This land offers access to 24 miles of trails in Norvin Green State Park in northern New Jersey and includes more than two dozen cabins, small structures, and an environmental education center. The New Weis Center will continue to provide public access to Norvin Green, a popular destination for hikers.

“We are excited that New

Jersey Audubon and the Highlands Nature Friends were able to reach an agreement that preserves public parking and access at this extremely popular trailhead,” said Trail Conference Executive Director Edward Goodell.

Work has begun on assessing the needs of the property, with a public opening anticipated in the spring.



DANIEL CHAZIN

The Carris Hill Trail is accessible from The New Weis Center.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Given by the Volunteer Committee to recognize significant service or a special achievement by Trail Conference volunteers.



Irene Auleta
nominated by Chris Connolly
As an active member of the Stakeholder Action Team responsible for fundraising activities for the Darlington Schoolhouse, Irene contributed to the Trail Conference's success in helping to obtain the funds necessary to build the new headquarters. She was also integrally involved in the planning of the Darlington Schoolhouse "standing-room-only" ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Susan Barbuto
nominated by Chris Connolly
As an active member of the Stakeholder Action Team responsible for fundraising activities for the Darlington Schoolhouse, Susan contributed to the Trail Conference's success by helping to obtain the funds necessary to build the new headquarters. She was also integrally involved in the planning of the Darlington Schoolhouse "standing-room-only" ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Hanna Benesch
nominated by the Membership and Development Team
In early 2013, Hanna began volunteering weekly with Membership and Development, but her ties to the Trail Conference date back to 1980, when she became a member. Hanna is a dependable data entry resource, and as an essential part of the team, enabled Membership and Development to focus on fundraising. In the summer of 2014, Hanna was particularly helpful during a personnel transition, volunteering an extra day each week.

Wendell George
nominated by Doug Senterman
Since 2011, Wendell has been managing the Catskills roving

2015 TRAIL CONFERENCE AWARDS**HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS**

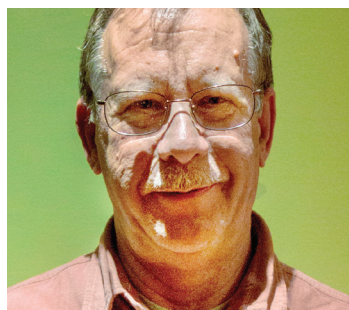
The Trail Conference Annual Awards are determined by the Board of Directors upon recommendation by the Volunteer Committee. The following award announcements were made Nov. 7 at the Celebrating Our Volunteers event at the Trail Conference Headquarters in Mahwah, N.J.



trail maintenance crew for the Catskill Mountain Club and the Trail Conference. The crew includes volunteers from the Trail Conference, Catskill Mountain Club, Rip Van Winkle Hikers, and the 3500 Club. Under his leadership, their work has kept many Catskill trails open to hikers.



David Haas
nominated by Chris Connolly
As a member of the Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce, David worked with the Chamber to sponsor a 5K road race that raised funds for the Trail Conference. In addition, he was involved in the planning of the Darlington Schoolhouse "standing-room-only" ribbon-cutting ceremony and the grand opening.



Lee Mott
nominated by Gene Giordano
Active since 2009, Lee has built moldering privies at all the Appalachian Trail shelters in New Jersey, constructed the new Brinks Shelter, and assisted in the construction of the

Appalachian Trail Community Kiosk on Route 17A in Warwick, N.Y. Lee is an active member of the West Jersey Trail Crew and helps organize ad-hoc crews to assist maintainers when they submit help requests.



James Mott
nominated by Dave and Monica Day
Since 2012, James has been a "stalwart and stout fellow" of the West Jersey Trail Crew. His work is excellent and his efforts nearly limitless. Jim has been a major positive force with the West Jersey Crew by always joining in on ad-hoc crews along the Appalachian Trail corridor. An all-around good guy, he will do whatever he is asked—or more—with enthusiasm.



Howard and Susan Reed
nominated by Howie Liebmann
Stokes State Forest is a special place for Susan and Howard. This dynamic trail-maintaining duo met in 1995, when Susan went on an organized hike on the Paulinskill Valley Trail in Stokes State Forest. While on that hike, she met her future husband, Howard. After getting married in 1997, Susan and Howard decided to give back to the trails where they met. In 2003, they started maintaining trails in Stokes State Forest.

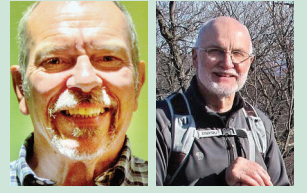


Will Soter
nominated by Doug Senterman
Since January 2014, Will has served as Trails Chair for Catskills Region 3. Always more than willing to help out whenever and wherever he can, he fills vacant trail sections and spreads the word about the Trail Conference and its mission throughout the region.



Martin Stratton
nominated by Doug Senterman
Since 2009, Martin has performed trail maintenance and served as a Trail Supervisor for multiple sections of Catskills Region 3. He has a strong work ethic and covers any vacant trail sections, helps maintainers when needed, and simply does not stop until the job is done.

Jill Weber
nominated by Bob Ward
Recently retired after 38 years of service, Jill served as the Rockaway Park Administrator for the past eight years. Jill was instrumental in the development of the Bayswater Trail. She served as the liaison between the Trail Conference and the New York State Forest that had jurisdiction over the land for the proposed trail. She provided tools, supplies, and manpower to cut and clear a portion of the trail.



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

Jim Gebhard
nominated by Sona Mason and Dave Webber
A field checker, trail crew member, sawyer, maintainer, and former Trails Chair, Jim (above left) has a love affair with the trails at Minnewaska State Park Preserve. He was instrumental in reopening the overgrown trail sections along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail race route. A regular with the West Hudson North Trail Crew, he adds special touches to enhance morale.

Gail Neffinger
nominated by Ed Goodell
A long-time volunteer and Trail Conference Life Member, Gail (above right) is packing his boots and moving to North Carolina. Since 1995, he has been Chair of the Orange-Rockland Appalachian Trail Committee. From 1990-2001, he served as a member of the Trail Conference Board of Directors. Gail has been the Trail Conference Trails Council Chair and is stepping down from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Stewardship Council, where he represents the Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Council.

NEXT GENERATION AWARD

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



Zachary Kunow
nominated by Wayne Kunow
For his Eagle Scout project, 15-year-old Zachary chose to build a 60-foot truss bridge on the Long Swamp Trail in Sterling Forest. Zach proposed to his troop that they maintain the trail, which they are now doing. He has built and installed 10 wood duck boxes in the park. Zach arranged for instruction about invasive plants and then had the troop remove over 200 invasive bushes.

LEIKIN EXTRA MILE AWARD

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



Suse Bell
nominated by the Publications Committee
A member of the Publications Committee since 2003, Suse produced the Trail Conference's Book Production Manual and has indexed several Trail Conference guide books. She files for copyrights to protect the Trail Conference's books and maps. As part of our partnership with New Jersey State Parks, Suse has served as the Project Coordinator for the production of 15 trail maps.

Alice Luddington-Cantor
nominated by the Membership and Development Team and Chris Connolly



Since 2010, Alice has been a Membership and Development volunteer, primarily working on the capital campaign to restore the historic Darlington Schoolhouse. She oversaw the grants received from public funding and also wrote proposals to secure funding from private donors. Alice's expertise in writing and editing were essential for this project. She wrote nominations for the Trail Conference for two historic preservation awards—the Bergen County Historic Preservation Award for adaptive use and the New Jersey Historic Preservation Award—both of which the organization won. She was



a key player in executing fundraising events, assisting with invitations, press releases, and blog posts. She sat on the Stakeholder Action Team and was a member of the Headquarters Grand Opening Committee and the Membership and Development Committee.

Arnie Seymour-Jones
nominated by Gary Willick
For eight years, Arnie has come to the office weekly to methodically and prolifically assemble our map sets. Working behind the scenes, yet vital to the functioning of the Trail Conference, Arnie has put in a lot of "trail miles" with all the map sets he has assembled!

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Conveys life member status and the right to vote at Delegates meetings. Usually given after long (greater than 20) years of extraordinary service to the Trail Conference.

John Bleninger
nominated by Sona Mason and Harold Hill

John (right) has been a Trail Conference member for 44 years. He has been Trail Supervisor of Black Rock Forest for 35 years and Storm King State Park Trail Supervisor for more than 20 years. His attention to detail is second to none. A dedicated trail volunteer, he is known for his meticulous paint blazing—each blaze is a work of art.

KEN LLOYD AWARD
This 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. It is usually given after more than seven years of service.

Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization (MEVO)
nominated by Chris

Connolly
Founded in 2008, the Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization (below) is primarily composed of high school and college students from Mahwah, N.J., and neighboring towns. MEVO has logged 18,000 hours on projects that promote environmental sustainability in local communities. MEVO's activities include the Earth Crew summer intern program, which sponsors student volunteer leaders and members to organize recycling bin distribution, pollution clean-up, agriculture, and trail repair and rehabilitation projects. Over the past two years, the Earth Crew volunteered over 800 hours on Trail Conference trails in Bergen, Passaic, and Rockland counties.



ASK A TRAIL BUILDER

Why all the hammers? Do you really need them to build trails?



AMA KOENIGSHOF
Trail Builder and Educator

Hammers are an essential tool in trail construction, especially when dry stone masonry is involved. But the variety can be overwhelming. Hammers can range in price from a \$12 local hardware store special to a \$315 carbide-tipped monster slab splitter. Choosing the right hammer for the job can make your tool bag lighter, while proper care will ensure your investment lasts a lifetime. Here are my top 5 lesser-known hammers.



1. MASH HAMMER (CAN BE CARBIDE TIPPED)
Use: The best crush maker out there. It can also be used to split and trim stone. Comes in weights from 2lbs to 18lbs with various handle lengths.
Strike: Stone Only



2. HAMMER SET/ BULL SET (CAN BE CARBIDE TIPPED)
Use: Trimming stone, removing drill marks, taking off an edge, squaring up a stone. Hold in place with hammer blade angled on its edge toward the outside of the stone and strike with another hammer. Comes in weights from 2lbs to 12lbs with horizontal or vertical blades and various handle lengths.

Strike: The striking head can be used to strike other hand tools. The blade is used on stone and not swung.
Do Not Strike: Do not use the striking head on stone or swing the blade to hit stone or other hand tools.



3. MALLORCAN HAMMER
Use: Shaping, texturing, trimming stone. Comes in weights from 2lbs to 4lbs with a long, 30-inch handle.
Strike: Stone only.



4. BUSH HAMMER (CAN BE CARBIDE TIPPED)
Use: Shaping, texturing, smoothing stone. It can help to remove drill and other tool marks. Comes in weights from 1.5lbs to 7.5lbs with various handle lengths.
Strike: Stone only



5. BRICKLAYER'S HAMMER (CARBIDE TIPPED)
Use: Shaping stone and digging in the dirt. The blade edge works great as an "adze" to bust out kerfs, or grooves, in a stone. Comes in 1lb and 1.5lbs weights.
Strike: Stone and dirt. Other hammers may be used to strike the flat head (if not carbide tipped) when using the blade to "kerf and adze" stone.
Do Not Strike: Other hammers, chisels, hand drills, and the wedges of your feather and wedge sets when splitting a stone.

Speak Up for Trails!

Advocacy at the Trail Conference involves our annual Lobby Day pilgrimage to Albany, where we chat with elected officials about preserving the Environmental Protection Fund, which keeps parks open and running, among other issues. That's where the day-to-day work of our volunteers has a huge behind-the-scenes impact: Officials quickly realize that parks are not so easy to defund when they see

just how many people put so much time and energy into caring for trails. Make your voice heard! Join us for the Catskill Park Awareness Day on Tuesday, Feb. 9, or the Environmental Protection Fund Lobby Day on Wednesday, Feb. 24. Want to get involved? Check out the advocacy issues the Trail Conference is currently involved in, such as the Pilgrim Pipeline threatening trail networks in both New York and New Jersey, at bit.ly/TC-advocacy.

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

A quarterly look at some of what we have been doing to improve public access to nature.

A Year in the Life of the Westchester Trail Tramps



MARY DODDS
WESTCHESTER TRAIL
TRAMPS SUPERVISOR

The Westchester Trail Tramps have evolved into a year-round crew that performs trail maintenance, improvement, construction, and monitoring Wednesday and Friday mornings (and other days when necessary). We go where we are needed in northern Westchester and Putnam counties, with Teatown Lake Reservation serving as a home base on Wednesdays, and Ward Pound Ridge on Fridays. Here's a glance at our year.

WINTER

While many crews were hibernating, the Tramps insisted on staying active, participating in a fisher tracking program. (Fishers, for those of you un-

familiar with these animals, are in the weasel family.) Cameras and bait were set up in many parks and preserves in Westchester, and it was our job to retrieve them over each two-week monitoring period.

This project gave the crew the opportunity to learn not only about fishers, but also how to locate things using waypoints on hand-held GPS devices. All recoveries were off trail, which meant bushwhacking through deep snow. At project completion, we were rewarded with a slideshow of the animals captured on camera—deer, coyote, fox, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, red tail hawk, owl, and yes, fisher...not to mention the crew!

SPRING

Projects included blazing and building the new Twin Lakes Trail at Teatown,



MARY DODDS

In 2016, the Tramps hope to construct a new bridge on the Teatown Kitchawan Trail, perform a crew invasives survey, and build new trails at Teatown.

blowdown clearance at Mountain Lakes and on the Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail (our crew includes two B-certified sawyers), and the usual sprucing up of trails. We welcomed four John Jay High School senior interns, who participated in the construction of punchon, stone causeway, and water bars, and attended the invasive plant identification course provided to the crew by Linda Rohleder, Trail Conference Director of Land Stewardship.

SUMMER

The Tramps did serious

maintenance, suffering the thorns and ubiquity of outrageous invasive plant life. We had one disappointment: We attempted an invasives survey in Montrose State Forest, but the trails proved so overgrown that maintenance took precedent, forcing us to cut the survey short.

FALL

Projects included building stairs at FDR State Park, demolishing an old structure near a new trail and building boardwalk at Teatown, and blazing trails at Taxter Ridge. The crew assisted

in reblazing the Wilkinson Trail and clearing the Osborn Trail in Hudson Highlands. We also participated in two John Jay student volunteer projects: water bars at Leon Levy Preserve and Ward Pound Ridge.

Want to join us? Contact Supervisor Mary Dodds at doddshelmer@gmail.com or 914-261-7082 for more information.



READ MORE
ABOUT THE
CREW: bit.ly/TC-wtt-15



MONICA DAY

New Bridge Completed

In the spring of 2015, the West Jersey Trail Crew began work in Stokes State Forest on a new realignment of the Stony Brook and Blue Mountain trails, including a new 36-foot-long bridge over the Stony Brook. You can read a detailed account of the crew's extraordinary work on this project at bit.ly/TC-wjc-sbb.



PETER MEYER

Keeping Trails Open & Safe

Swamper John Moran, pictured, helped clear the Silver Trail with sawyer Peter Meyer on Oct. 5 in Campgaw Mountain County Reservation.

New Section of Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain Opens with Ribbon-Cutting Hike



ANDREA MINOFF
ASSISTANT TO THE LONG
DISTANCE TRAILS CREW CHIEF

A new section of the Appalachian Trail on the southwest shoulder of Bear Mountain in Harriman-Bear Mountain State Parks was opened on Nov. 14. Long Distance Trails Crew Chief Chris Reyling, assisted by Crew Leaders Bob Fuller and Erik Garnjost, cut the ribbon on the new 0.2-mile section built by the all-volunteer group.

The crew led a tour of this new, sustainable route, which winds its way up through cliffs, climbs a stone ladder, and reaches beautiful views. Many accolades were expressed for the trail, which includes a rock-pinned stone lad-



ANDREA MINOFF

Join the crew! Check bit.ly/TC-tc-ldtc for dates.

der out of a crevice and up the rock face. Close to 70 volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours during more than 40 work trips to complete the trail.

The relocation is very accessible, only two-tenths of a mile from the Appalachian Trail/1777W Trail parking area on Seven Lakes Drive

between Palisades Interstate Parkway and Route 9W.

Read more about the crew at bit.ly/LDTC-ATbm. For info on joining the Long Distance Trails Crew, contact Chris Reyling at 914-953-4900, chrisreyling@gmail.com, or Bob Fuller at 732-952-2162, refuller99@hotmail.com.

Summit Stewards Complete First Successful Season on Slide Mountain

The inaugural Summit Stewards program on Slide Mountain ran each weekend from early June through Columbus Day and contributed greatly to the safety of visitors and their respect for our wild areas. The most common interactions were confirming hikers' routes for the day, addressing questions on terrain and hike difficulty, and discussing the Catskills region. The Summit Stewards engaged visitors in a dialogue on Leave No Trace principles and empowered visitors with a better understanding of the rules, regulations, and opportunities available in the Catskill Park, including dispersed camping, DEC campgrounds, and other trails.

Another benefit of the program was raising awareness for the sponsoring organizations. The Summit Steward uniform, with patches for both the Trail Conference and the 3500 Club, sparked conversations about both organizations, hopefully generating new members.

Summit Stewards also acted as de facto ambassadors for the local towns and communities in the Catskills, making recommendations on places to eat, lodging and camping, and other worthy sights in the area. In this way, the Summit Stewards also supported economic activity in the region and strengthened visitors' overall experience in the Catskills.

Andrew Strasburg,
Slide Mountain Summit Steward

AmeriCorps Season in Review

The Trail Conference fielded five Conservation Corps crews in 2015 with extraordinary results

Thanks to the support of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, New York State Environmental Protection Fund Grants, New York State Department of Environ-

mental Conservation, Westchester Land Trust, Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Recreational Equipment Inc., The Corps Network Ameri-

Corps Education Award Program, and private donors, as well as countless volunteers and park personnel, for making the work of our Conservation Corps crews possible.

CREW	WHERE THEY WORKED	ACCOMPLISHMENTS	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS
Palisades Crew	The Palisades Trail Crew served in Sterling Forest State Park constructing and reconstructing portions of the Doris Duke Trail, McKeags Meadow Trail, Allis Trail, and Sterling Ridge Trail.	1.95 miles of trail including 59 stone stairs, 26 square feet of stone crib wall, 54 stepping stones, and 80 feet of bog bridging	65	4,366
Taconic Crew	The Taconic Trail Crew served in Fahnestock State Park constructing and reconstructing portions of the Appalachian Way Trail, Wilkinson Trail, and Highlands Trail at Fishkill Road.	0.66 miles of trail including 62 stone stairs, 31 square feet of stone crib wall, and 85 stepping stones	143	4,861
Megalithic Crew	The Megalithic Trail Crew served in Bear Mountain State Park constructing the Upper East Face portion of the Appalachian Trail reroute up Bear Mountain, as well as the Trails for People Exhibit on the A.T. at the base of Bear Mountain.	0.2 miles of trail including 86 stone stairs, 1,000 square feet of stone crib wall, 5 stepping stones, one bridge, 10 feet of puncheon, 10 feet of bog bridge, 1 open culvert, 1 closed culvert, and 25 feet of turnpike	313	11,237
Long Path/SRT Crew	The Long Path/SRT Trail Crew served in Huckleberry Ridge State Forest constructing portions of the Lenape Ridge and Shawangunk Ridge trails.	2.29 miles of trail	14	1,550
Invasives Crew	The Invasives Crew served on 30 projects from the Delaware Water Gap through the Lower Hudson Valley surveying and removing invasive plants.	102.49 acres of land improved; 47,600 invasive plants removed	75	2,709

Education About Bears Can Help Keep Parks Open

The closure of Ramapo Mountain State Forest and Ramapo Valley County Reservation by New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection and Bergen County Parks in October was an understandable but unfortunate response to "unusual black bear activity" reports from the public. The Trail Conference assisted in these closures, but we believe interactions between bears and people in suburban parks are predictable this time of year and largely preventable through robust public education programs. The Trail Conference is eager to work with parks and the public to avoid further park closures.

Bear safety begins with bear education. Learning how to act in the event of a bear encounter is crucial for the public's safety, and, especially, the bear's safety. (See the West Jersey Trail Crew's story about handling a bear encounter

on page 1.) We want to work with the NJ DEP and other land managers to reinforce the fact that we live and recreate among bears, and that there is a right and wrong way to act in parks, the bear's natural habitat.

Appropriate signage is particularly crucial. Bears are learning bad habits from people who are trying to "help" them by offering food—an illegal and dangerous act that leads to aggressive bear behavior. The end result is bears being trapped and euthanized, and our parks being closed "out of an abundance of caution"—a huge failure. These are our public parks, and we need to work together to keep them open.

Only outreach and education can address this matter without setting precedent for a cycle of park closures at great cost to both land managers and the hiking public.



JITZE COUPERUS/FLICKR.COM

It's time to work with our parks partners to protect people, protect bears, and keep parks open.

Things We Can Do

- ▶ The Trail Conference offers bear safety tips written by wildlife experts at nynjtc.org/content/bear-tips-hikers. We can do a better job of advertising this information.
- ▶ Clear information about

bears must be installed at trailheads and kiosks in all parks where there is a likelihood of bear activity. The NJ DEP has good materials on their website. Parks can reproduce them and Trail Conference volunteers can help keep trailheads posted.

BEAR, from page 1

He clawed at and punctured the seat of the park's utility vehicle that we were using. Bob and Estelle started yelling, and the bear moved a little distance away, but stopped.

Fortunately, I had cell service, so I phoned the park office. A park police officer armed with a shotgun arrived after about 20 minutes, by which time the bear was out of sight. This had been the officer's third bear call that day. We packed up our tools, and with a "police escort," made our way back to the trailhead.

Our bear had three ear tags—clearly a known "problem bear," since these animals are tagged every time one is trapped and relocated. We have seen bears on multiple occasions while working in the woods, but they have always avoided us once our presence was known. However, it seems that bears are much less wary of humans as of late. Our visitor was unfazed by our presence. Those of us who spend time in the woods need to be prepared for the very real possibility of a bear encounter such as we had.

Long Path Race Series Ends Successful First Year



KENNETH POSNER
INCOMING BOARD MEMBER

Inspired by their personal experiences on the Long Path, Ken Posner and Todd Jennings organized a series of races during 2015, including events in the Hudson Highlands, Schunemunk Mountain, the Wallkill Valley, Shawangunks, and Catskills. Participants in the Long Path Race Series earned points based on distance and relative finishing time in each race. In a nod to

Raymond Torrey's memorial plaque on Long Mountain, the series winners were declared "disciples of the Long Brown Path," and received gift certificates from Kenco Outfitters.

Jordan Grande, 24, of East Longmeadow, Mass., clinched the female division with a strong performance in the Catskill Mountain 100K, a challenging 62-mile ultramarathon that circumnavigates one of the Catskills' high peaks regions. Chris Regan, 35, of Wappingers Falls, N.Y., won the male division by rack-

ing up points in the Catskills race, a new trail race on Schunemunk Mountain, and the Hambletonian Marathon, which includes seven miles of the Long Path on the Orange Heritage Trail. Anna Pettersson, 47, of New York City, crushed the female master division, completing multiple events and winning the female division of the daunting 74-mile SRT, an adventurous race along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail that is completely unsupported. The male masters division was won by two Virgin-

ia natives, Dave Herring, 44, of Linden, and Bernard Pesjak, 46, of Annandale, who completed the SRT together just minutes behind the winner.

"In addition to Hudson Valley locals, we were thrilled to attract racers from as far away as California," Jennings said. Plans for 2016 are underway.

Posner and Jennings worked closely with park and preserve managers in the planning and execution of each race, and were supported by teams from New Jersey Search & Rescue and Sam's Point Search & Rescue to ensure participant safety.

"The Long Path is an incredible experience, and it was exciting to see people discovering this important trail and the beauty of the Hudson Valley," Posner said.



Dave Herring, "disciple of the Long Brown Path."

Hikers' Directory

Can't find your club? This list represents all Trail Conference member clubs whose dues are up-to-date. If you have questions about your club's status, please ask your officers to contact the Membership and Development team at 201-512-9348.

ADK Long Island
www.adkli.org

ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter
www.midhudsonadk.org

ADK Mohican Chapter
www.adkmohican.org

ADK New York Chapter
www.adkny.org

ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter
www.hudsonhikers.org

Adventures for Women
www.AdventuresforWomen.org

Alley Pond Environmental Center
<http://www.alleypond.com/>

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter
www.amcdv.org

AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter
<http://www.amcmohawkhudson.org>

AMC New York North Jersey Chapter
www.amc-ny.org

Bellvale School
<http://www.bruderhof.com/en/international-directory/united-states/bellvale>

Black Rock Forest Consortium Inc.
<http://www.blackrockforest.org>

Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council

Boy Scout Troop 50, Mahwah
MAHWAHtroop50.scoutlander.com

Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 21

Boy Scouts of America-Northern NJ Council
www.nnjbsa.org

Byram Township Environmental Commission
www.byramtpw.org

Catskill 3500 Club
www.catskill-3500-club.org

Catskill Mountain Club
www.catskillmountainclub.org

Chinese Mountain Club of New York
www.cmcny.org

Closter Nature Center Association
www.closternaturecenter.org

East Coast Greenway Alliance
www.greenwaynj.org

East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
www.ehtps.org

Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
www.flatrockbrook.org

Fox Hill School
www.bruderhof.com/en/international-directory/united-states/fox-hill

Friends Of Garret Mountain
friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com

Friends of Pelham Bay Park
<http://www.pelhambaypark.org>

Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway in Teaneck
<http://www.teaneckgreenway.org>

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.
<http://aqueduct.org>

Friends Of The Shawangunks
<http://shawangunks.org>

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park
<http://vancortlandt.org>

German-American Hiking Club
<http://gah.nynjtc.org>

Greenburgh Nature Center
www.greenburghnaturecenter.org

Hike for Mental Health
<http://www.hikeformentalhealth.org>

Hilltop Conservancy, Inc.
www.hilltopconservancy.org

Hudson Highlands Gateway Task Force
www.TownofCortlandt.com

Hunterdon Hiking Club
www.hunterdonhikingclub.org

Interstate Hiking Club
www.interstatehikingclub.org

Jolly Rovers
<http://jollyrovers.org>

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
www.littlestonypoint.org

Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference
www.ligreenbelt.org

Long Path North Hiking Club
www.schoharie-conservation.org

Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization
www.mahwahevo.org

Mohonk Preserve
www.mohonkpreserve.org

Monmouth County Park System
www.monmouthcountyparks.com

Morris County Park Commission
www.morrisparks.net

Mosaic Outdoor Mountain Club
<http://www.mosaic-gny.org>

Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy
<http://mmc.nynjtc.org>

Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club
www.nassauhiking.org

Nelsonville Greenway Committee
VillageofNelsonville.org

New Haven Hiking Club
www.NHHC.info

New Jersey Search & Rescue Inc.
www.njsar.org

New York City Audubon Society, Inc.
www.nycaudubon.org

New York Ramblers
www.nyramblers.org

NYC Outward Bound Center
www.nycoutwardbound.org

Palisades MTB
www.facebook.com/groups/palisadesmtb

Protect Our Wetlands, Water & Woods (POWWW)
box292.bluehost.com/~powwworg

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods
www.siprotectors.org

Rip Van Winkle Hikers
<http://newyorkheritage.com/rvw>

Rock Lodge Club
www.rocklodge.com

RPHC Volunteers
rphcabin.org

SAJ - Society for the Advancement of Judaism
<http://www.thesaj.org>

Salt Shakers Trail Running Club
www.saltshakersrun.com

Shorewalkers Inc.
www.shorewalkers.org

Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group
www.newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson

Southampton Trails Preservation Society
<http://southamptontrails.org>

Storm King Adventure Tours
www.stormkingadventures.com

Sullivan County Audubon Society
<http://www.sullivanaudubon.org>

Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society
<http://www.meetup.com/Sundance-Outdoor-Adventure-Society>

SUNY Oneonta Outing Club
www.oneonta.edu/outdoors

Teatown Lake Reservation
<http://www.teatown.org>

Tenafly Nature Center Association
www.tenaflynaturecenter.org

The Highlands Natural Pool
www.highlandsnaturalpool.org

The Nature Place Day Camp
<http://thenatureplace.com>

The Outdoor Club, Inc.
www.outdoorsclub.info

The Storm King School
<http://www.sks.org>

Thendara Mountain Club
www.thendaramountainclub.org

Town of Lewisboro
<http://www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec>

Trail WhippAss
<http://www.trailwhippass.com>

TriState Ramblers
<http://TSR.nynjtc.org/Schedules.html>

University Outing Club
www.universityoutingclub.org

Valley Stream Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/vshclub

Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee

West Milford 13ers
<http://www.weishike.com>

Westchester Trails Association
<http://www.westhike.org>

Women About
www.womenabout.org

WWW
<http://www.weishike.com>

New Catskill Map Set and Expanded Coverage Area App Map Available Now

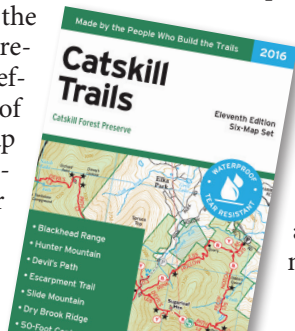


JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

As first announced in the Fall *Trail Walker*, our new, 11th edition of the Catskill Trails map set arrived in November with many significant updates and changes. With more than 400 miles of marked trails in and around Catskill Park, these are the most accurate and up-to-date maps available for the Catskills, so be sure to pick up your copy if you haven't yet! Many thanks also to our volunteer project manager, George Dagus, and a large number of excellent GPSers, field-checkers, and reviewers who played a crucial role in the

production of these maps.

These maps have also been made available in digital versions through Avenza's PDF Maps app for Apple and Android devices. Plus, for the first time, we have also produced a brand new, digital-only Catskill map that combines all the individual section maps into one single map. It also features an expanded coverage area to show more of the greater Catskills region for general reference. Now, users of the Catskill app map can simply download one map for all of their Catskill hiking and travel-



ing needs. Whether used for planning at home or in combination with our print maps in the field, we hope many of you will enjoy this new offering from the Trail Conference. Currently, we do not have plans to produce print copies of this expanded Catskill map, but if you'd like to see such a product, please let us know!

To obtain the print map set, shop online at nynjtc.org, call 201-512-9348, or visit the Trail Conference office. To obtain the digital app maps, including the new expanded coverage area map, visit nynjtc.org/pdfmaps.

Donate Your Old Maps

The Trail Conference has a great collection of maps from the past century, including original maps created by William Hoeflerlin from the 1930s and copies of Trail Conference maps produced since the early 1970s. However, our collection has some gaps.

If you have any Hoeflerlin maps or Trail Conference maps (prior to the year 2000) that you may be interested in parting with, please consider donating

them to the Trail Conference! We will gladly accept maps that are well-worn or marked up. (Please note that we already have a surplus of historic USGS topo quads and are not interested in additional copies at this time.)

As we approach the Trail Conference's 100th year, we will be looking back at these historic maps with great admiration. Your help in completing our collection is greatly appreciated. Maps can be sent to our office, care of the cartographer. Questions? Email apgar@nynjtc.org.



READ MORE ONLINE

Catskill Conservation Corps: Year in Review

It was a year of growth and opportunities for the Catskill Conservation Corps. Read a recap of the volunteer program's 2015 efforts and plans for a jam-packed new year. The latest news on trail improvement outings, workshops, and other volunteer opportunities throughout the Catskill region can be found at catskillconservationcorps.org.

bit.ly/TC-ccc-15

Breakneck Ridge: A Trail Steward's Diary

Breakneck Ridge Steward Brian Tragno gives a day-in-the-life account of what it's like to help and educate visitors at this popular trailhead. On busy days this season, our Breakneck Trail Stewards assisted more

than 1,000 hikers.

bit.ly/TC-BR-15

Dry Stone Walling Workshop at Our HQ

This spring, the Trail Conference will be offering a two-day, freestanding dry stone wall workshop in partnership with The Stone Trust from Dummerston, Vt. Check this link for details.

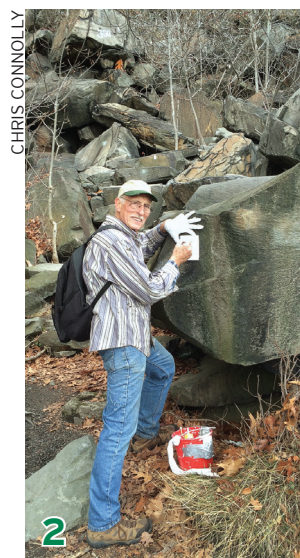
bit.ly/TC-dsww

Appalachian Trail Volunteer Honors

Did you know that there is a recognition program for volunteers working on the Appalachian Trail? The National Park Service honors service performed on the A.T., based on the number of hours worked on the trail over a lifetime. Find details at this link, or contact Volunteer Coordinator John Leigh at jleigh@nynjtc.org.

bit.ly/TC-nps-ath

People for Trails



1 The Trail Conference partnered with REI for a National Public Lands Day event at Bear Mountain State Park on Sept. 26 to help with revegetation efforts along the Appalachian Trail.

2 NJ Palisades Supervisor Karl Soehnlein, pictured, and Northeast Jersey Trail Chair Chris Connolly recently reblazed all 12 miles of the Shore Trail in Palisades Interstate Park. The pair spent approximately 75 hours on the project.

3 In a joint effort of the Trail Conference, the Ramirez Solar House nonprofit, and the National Park Service, about 40 volunteers uncovered architectural relics in the landscape at the Ramirez Solar House in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area on National Public Lands Day.

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Hoks: A Snowshoe-Ski Hybrid



HOWARD E. FRIEDMAN DPM
Suffern, N.Y., podiatrist treating hikers and non-hikers

On snow-covered trails, hikers usually choose between snowshoes or cross country skis. But a hybrid of the two is also available: the skishoe. Skishoes are based on the skis of the Altai mountain people, descendants of Genghis Kahn and indigenous Chinese citizens of the Altai mountain range. Their wide skis feature a permanent horsehide skin

on the undersurface designed to enable walking up snowy hills, but allowing the user to ski downhill and across level snow as well.

Altai Skis (altaiskis.com) is a North American company that has designed a modern skishoe for outdoor recreationists. Called Hoks, which means "skis" in the native Tuva language of the Altai people, they feature a fabric climbing "skin" built into the undersurface, as well as metal edges. Hoks are about 70-75 percent the length of traditional skis and weigh about 5-6 lbs. per pair.

Altai Hoks were designed to be more efficient than snowshoeing, yet easy to learn even for non-skiers, said Nils Larsen, president of Altai Skis, when I interviewed him by

phone. In fact, hikers can use their existing hiking or backpacking boot with the skis' universal binding, or use a cross country ski boot with a different binding for increased control.

Compared to cross country skis, skishoes are slower both on flat terrain and downhill. But they are more efficient than snowshoes, since the user can slide his foot forward instead of lifting it up each step. Plus, the shorter ski length makes Hoks more maneuverable than longer skis when navigating around obstacles in wooded areas. Hikers in our region may find that this simple design could enhance their winter adventures by making snow travel both more efficient and more versatile.



Find more info on Hoks and stories about skishoeing at skishoeing.com.

Hiking the Harriman Trail Town Corridor

FEATURED HIKE

Details

- ▶ **Hike:** Suffern to Sloatsburg via Suffern-Bear Mountain, Kakiat, and Pine Meadow Trails
- ▶ **Time:** 6.5 hours
- ▶ **Difficulty:** Strenuous
- ▶ **Length:** 9.2 miles
- ▶ **Route Type:** Shuttle, two car, or public transportation
- ▶ **Dogs:** Allowed on leash
- ▶ **Features:** Views, cliffs

The trail town movement on the western edge of Harriman State Park is an exciting, inspiring thing to witness: Residents, outdoor enthusiasts, local businesses, and elected officials are all coming together to improve and promote access to the incredible parklands right at their door. Suffern, Hillburn, Sloatsburg, and Tuxedo are realizing that hikers are already passing through on their way to various trailheads; these towns are now working on enticing them to stay a while. Becoming more hiker-friendly by installing kiosks and better directional signage to the trails is a great start.

In September, a crew from the Suffern Department of Public Works volunteered their time paving a welcoming entrance at the Suffern-Bear Mountain trailhead in town. A kiosk is in the works, but in the meantime, the Suffern Chamber of Commerce has installed

a banner pointing to the trailhead, making it much easier to find.

For a great introduction to the trail town corridor, park at this trailhead for a 9.2-mile hike along the Suffern-Bear Mountain, Kakiat, and Pine Meadow trails. This route traverses some little-used areas of Harriman State Park, passes many interesting rock formations, and on a clear day, offers views of the New York City skyline. It also makes for a nice trail run. This is a one-way hike north to Sloatsburg, but you can return to Suffern via Transit of Rockland's #93 bus, which runs hourly on both weekdays and weekends. Make sure to give yourself enough time to browse the shops and restaurants before and after your hike—your patronage is important in creating a true trail community.

Find the full hike description at bit.ly/TC-suf-slo.



A crew from the Suffern Department of Public Works paved a welcoming entrance to the S-BM Trail in town.



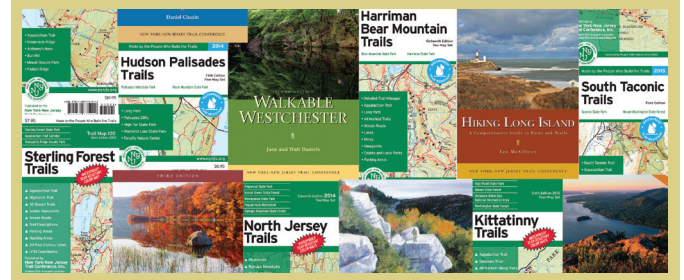
Harriman Trail Town Resources

- ▶ bit.ly/Explore_Harriman
- ▶ suffernchamber.org/hiking-trails
- ▶ sloatsburgvillage.com
- ▶ suffernchamber.org/outdoors-community

On a clear day, you can see the NYC skyline from the Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail.

HIKERS' MARKETPLACE

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Find links to all these and more at nynjtc.org.

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