



ADK Chapters Become 1

The Ramapo and North Jersey chapters of the Adirondack Mountain Club find new vigor by uniting. [READ MORE ON PAGE 9](#)



Beware This Beetle!

The Asian long-horned beetle's varied appetite poses a major threat to our forests.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 7](#)



TRAIL WALKER

September/October 2009

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference – Maintaining 1,716 Miles of Trails

www.nynjtc.org



Trail Conference Member Larry Luxenberg Gets Top Honor from ATC; Others Earn 25-Year Awards

Since completing a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail in 1980, Larry Luxenberg, a Trail Conference Life Member and resident of New City, NY, has dedicated much of his volunteer time to preserving the history, memories, and stories of the trail and the community that has built up around it. In July, his efforts were recognized by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy with the announcement that he has been made an "Honorary Member" of the ATC. The award was announced by Betsy Thompson, an ATC board member, at the group's biennial meeting in Vermont in July.

The award is given to a select few. Only 51 other people have been designated as Honorary Members by the ATC, among them AT founder Benton MacKaye. The honor recognizes "distinguished contribution to the Appalachian Trail project through service that shall have had an inspirational or exemplary effect because of its special quality, character or innovative aspects rather than simply service of a conventional nature performed in a superior manner."

Larry is the author of *Walking the Appalachian Trail* (1994), which includes excerpts from 200 interviews he did with AT hikers, maintainers, and land-acquisition pioneers. "During that book writing process," Betsy Thompson said in making

continued on page 10

Trail Conference Projects among 32 in New York to Get Funds for Trails

Two New York-New Jersey Trail Conference projects are among the 32 trail-related projects in New York State that will receive funding in 2009 as part of the federal Recreational Trails Program. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Carol Ash announced the grant awards on June 23.

The Trail Conference was awarded \$150,000 to complete rebuilding work on a section of the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain. This original section of the Appalachian Trail, the nation's first National Scenic Trail, at Bear Mountain is also the most heavily used and degraded. As part of a larger project to rebuild this historic trail to safely accommodate the hundreds of thousands of users annually, this project will open a three-quarter-mile section originating behind the Bear Mountain Inn.

A second grant, of \$120,935, will support construction of a half-mile accessible trail along the Bear Mountain summit, giv-

ing access to an area that is not now available to persons with disabilities. The Trail Conference is a partner in this project with the Palisades Parks Conservancy, the grant recipient, and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

Trail users of all levels of experience deserve great trails on which they can explore parks.

"These grants will help the Trail Conference and our partners achieve our goal of making hikes on Bear Mountain excellent trail experiences for visitors of all levels of experience," said Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell.

"With its close proximity to New York City, Bear Mountain is a very popular destination for people who want to enjoy time in nature. These visitors deserve to have a great experience when they explore the trails there. Our trained volunteers, working alongside professional trail-builders, are creating the trails that make great hikes possible. The public will get a lot for its investment in this project."

State Parks administers the federal matching grant program providing funding to state and local governments, not-for-profit organizations, corporations, and partnerships for the maintenance, renovation, development, acquisition and construction of trails and trail-related facilities. Funding is provided through the Federal Highway Administration's Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).



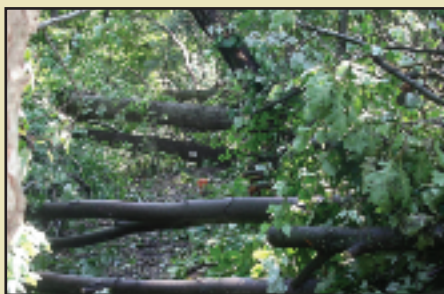
Tornado Strikes Appalachian Trail

On July 29 a tornado touched down on the AT on the New Jersey side of the state line at Unionville, NY. Gene Giordano, NJ AT committee chair, who coordinated the clean-up efforts, reports that no one was hurt, though hikers were in the area. NJ AT Corridor Manager Jim Wright reports that some hikers were about to enter the area during the storm, but heard cracking noises and decided to wait. After the storm, hikers were unable to pass through on the trail; some, attempting to bypass the blowdowns, lost the trail and ended up at the Outhouse Hostel in Unionville, a stopping place for AT thru-hikers.

Bob Boyle ("Shamrock"), AT supervisor and trail maintainer for the section, reports that trail damage was confined to a 0.2-mile section of the trail between Unionville Road and Quarry Road. Most trees fell perpendicular to the trail, many pulling up large root balls.



A certified chain-sawyer clears blowdowns.



The AT near Unionville after a tornado hit.



Within days, volunteers had the trail reopened.

By August 3, and despite rain delays, volunteers including Trail Conference members and passing thru-hikers had the trail cleared.

Workers on the cleanup: Bob Boyle, Jim Wright, Matt Degner ("Flatlander," from North Dakota), "Cartoon," (name and address unknown), Pierre Laroche ("Gnarley," from Manhattan, NY), Robert Ballagh ("Blue eyes," from Blacksburg, VA), and Dave Foley ("Dah Wah He," from Maine).

Says Bob Boyle: "I did get a lot of comments from the hikers who helped, saying, 'This was fun,' and 'It feels good to work on the trail.' These are comments I frequently say to myself while doing trail work."

Ground support was provided by the Outhouse Hostel, owned by Richard Ludwick, who brought the hiker volunteers to the site and provided water, potato salad, and hero sandwiches for all volunteers on the last big day of clean-up.

A big thanks for a great job by all!



Join us rain or shine for our 2nd Annual People for Trails Hike-a-thon at Bear Mountain State Park on October 3, 2009 starting at 7:30 a.m. Registration is limited. Gift bags stuffed with goodies donated by our sponsors will go to the first 100 registrants. Sign up today! Our new online registration and pledge forms make it easy for participants and the people supporting you.

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GEORGETTE WEIR EDITOR
LOUIS LEONARDIS 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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From The West Hudson Trail Crew

Open Letter To The Hiking Community Re: Vandalism on the AT in Harriman

This letter is prompted by recent events in Harriman State Park in New York where trail repair efforts (controlling erosion) on the AT were repeatedly dismantled. An initial report of natural erosion was first brought to our attention in the fall of 2006 by Gail Neffinger, the AT trail chair for Orange and Rockland counties. The section of the trail is located on the northeast shoulder of West Mountain. We spent over 230 volunteer hours in the spring of 2007 rebuilding the trail, and it was subsequently dismantled. We returned on May 30, 2009, to begin restoring the same section once again only to return on June 13 to find it vandalized again. This was not a case of a person (s) just kicking some rocks and brush out of the way. Heavy rock steps were dislodged, the extensive piles of brush used to block the old eroded path were removed, and the new blazes were scraped off the trees.

Based on these incidents, our trail crew believes a misperception exists among some users of the trails as to why crews of volunteer hikers go out and build water bars, stone or wood steps, switchbacks, check dams etc. There is only one reason—erosion control.

Our goal is to minimize the impact of hikers on medium-to-heavily-used trails as much as possible using both corrective and preventive methods. We are not tasked with providing the hiker an easier, more esthetic, or less strenuous way to navigate the terrain. We perform this as part of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference at the request of park management and rangers.

Many trails in the Hudson Valley, the Catskills, and the Adirondacks were built at a time when there were not nearly as many hikers as there are today and trails were built with the goal of getting to the destination the quickest way possible. Over time, as more people started using the trails, erosion became widespread on sections of heavily used trails, as many of you have experienced. Muddy sections have widened as hikers go around the wet spots. Gullies and ditches (some knee-high) have developed where there is extensive water run-off. Steep, "straight up the mountain" trails have eroded to the point that hikers seek other routes, further increasing erosion.

Trails crews' purpose is to build and repair trails so that erosion is controlled and user impact is minimized.

Our volunteer trail crew consists of hikers who have been trained in the best ways to control erosion to ensure we employ solutions that do not have to be redone in a year or two. Our crew leaders scout trail problems that have been reported by hikers to the Trail Conference, park officials, or crews as we work on the trails. Once a trail problem is evaluated we determine if corrective action is needed and, if so, the most appropriate action. The approach we took with the section of the AT followed all the procedures—it was a trail just falling apart and we were called to shore it up.

We see many hikers and thru-hikers on the AT as we work on the trails, and all are appreciative of what we are trying to accomplish. We ask that those of you who have issues with the way we are trying to control erosion to bring your concerns to the appropriate forum, such as the Trail Conference or the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, instead of dismantling our work.

— The West Hudson Trail Crew



Twice, Trail Conference crews invested heavy labor in relocating a stretch of the AT in Harriman State Park and building steps to control erosion. Twice, their work was undone by vandals.

Letters to the Editor



A panoramic photo of the view from the Wanaque Ridge Trail.

TODD SCHREIBMAN

Thanks for the Great Trails

In July, my husband and I had the pleasure of hiking the Wanaque Ridge, MacEvoy and Cannonball Trails. We were prompted to take this journey after reading the article on the Wanaque Ridge Trail in *Trail Walker* (Featured Hike, July/August 2009).

It's definitely helpful to have a GPS in the car to navigate along the residential streets off Skyline Drive, in order to find the start of the MacEvoy. Nonetheless, the drive is rewarded by the terrific 5.5-mile loop that follows.

With only moderate, though frequent, undulations (read...elevation change), this is a fine hike to raise your heartbeat without starting to pant. The foliage is varied, then fragrant at times, and the butterflies that dance across your path add even more color.

And of course, not to be remiss I should mention the views: westward to the Wanaque Reservoir and then immediately adjacent to views of the Ramapo Lake. Definitely plan on taking a break at either vista point.

Lastly, our simple thanks to you for the beauty that the Trail Conference brings to our metro area—through planning, designing, creating, and maintaining the wonderful trail system.

Enjoy your day on the trail!

Marypat and Todd Schreibman
Denville, NJ

Volunteer Recognition:

...for Trails at Wonder Lake

I'd like to say thanks so much for the wonderful new trails that the Trail Conference has built in Wonder Lake State Park in the towns of Kent and Patterson, NY. The layout and the quality of the trails is just outstanding. My wife and I have often hiked this park before the new trails, and as members of the Conservation Advisory Committee for the Town of Kent, we've led groups of people on hikes along the old roads that are now bridle paths. During these many hikes, we've rarely seen anyone in the park. But since the opening of the new trails, we see a significant increase in the use of the park. Thanks so much for making this possible.

David Ehnebuske
Member, Conservation Advisory Committee,
Town of Kent, NY

...for Work at Sterling Forest

I am very impressed with the steps volunteers from the Trail Conference installed on the Lakeville Ironworks Trail. I can see that it was a big job. I am surprised [it was] done in one long day. It will be easier and safer for patrons to climb and descend that incline now. The steps blend in well and complement the natural and cultural resource.

Thank you!

Please pass my thanks on to all the volunteers who assisted.

Jim Gell
Park Manager
Sterling Forest State Park

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.

From the Executive Director



Trails Are Our Public Service Niche

Are trails important to society or mere recreational amenities?

I raise the question because I am challenged to answer it daily as I struggle to raise the operating funds needed to support our mission of creating the best trail system serving a major metropolitan area. Many potential funders approve of what we do but consider the Trail Conference to be more of a special interest group than a public service organization. Why, they ask, should they support an organization that serves a population of mostly white and aging hiking enthusiasts?

Because, I answer, trails are where children meet nature, where people get and stay healthy, where people rejuvenate their spirits. Trails are not amenities to be enjoyed by a select few, but rather are places where individuals, and thus society, forge a sustainable relationship to the environment.

A generation or two ago, the world was entirely different; the majority of people encountered nature as part of their everyday life. Kids—me among them—spent their days outside, playing in woods, climbing trees, swimming in lakes and streams. Those opportunities seem harder to take advantage of these days.

Yet there is broad agreement on the importance of outdoor physical activity, from the Centers for Disease Control Healthy Communities program to the No Child Left Inside movement inspired by Richard Louv's book *Last Child in the Woods*, which links a theory of "nature deficit disorder" to increases in depression, obesity, and attention deficit disorder.

Where will these children, and their parents and mentors go? To parks and trails,

of course. They will walk and hike trails—if they exist and are safe and attractive.

Over the past couple of decades, we have seen public focus shift from programming at parks to protecting land from development for parks. From a long term perspective, the protection priority is desirable, but with park budgets and staff being reduced, the immediate impact is that fewer and fewer park staff people are managing more and more land.

Trail Conference volunteers and staff have stepped in to fill the gap, creating an average of 50 miles of new trails per year and providing high quality stewardship and maintenance of the growing trail system.

With additional support, we could do so much more. That's a big reason we are collaborating with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission on a 2nd Annual People for Trails Hike-a-thon. Our hike-a-thon is an opportunity to reach out to a wider public, remind them about the importance of trails and the need to take care of them, and recruit their support in a fun way.

The case for the societal importance of trails is strong. The Trail Conference is the public service organization addressing this need in our region. Now, perhaps more than ever, trails need attention.

So I urge you to join us at Bear Mountain on October 3 for this year's People for Trails Hike-a-thon. Our members and clubs can participate by registering for the event and soliciting pledges from non-member friends and family, by pledging financial support to a participant, or by recruiting non-member trail users to sign up. Find details and sign up on our website. We promise the event will be fun. And we know it will be a great way to spread understanding of why trails are important and to thereby build a constituency that will support them.

— Edward Goodell
Executive Director



Board, Delegate Nominations Announced

Elections for the Trail Conference Board of Directors, and Delegates to represent the individual members of the Trail Conference at Delegates meetings, will take place at the Annual Meeting, Saturday, October 17, at the Lower Twin Lakes Camp in Harriman State Park. All members of the Trail Conference are welcome to attend. The meeting will be followed by hikes in the park. Details will be available on the website.

The Nominating Committee (Herb Chong, Jane Daniels, Allyn Dodd, Mary Smart, and Malcolm Spector), announce the following nominations.

Nominees for the Board of Directors (two positions, each a three-year term)

Gaylord Holmes

Gaylord Holmes is a hike leader for the Appalachian Mountain Club. Since late 2008, has been serving as a Trail Conference volunteer addressing strategic needs and program policy under the direction of Executive Director Edward Goodell.

Gaylord's professional experience is in account management and sales for three large multinational banks. In these banks, his position required him to have knowledge of all the banks' product lines, service current corporate customers, and identify and nurture potential corporate customers.

As account manager he needed to gather and interpret public financial information, analyze operating and capital budgets, and interim and annual financial statements, develop a risk profile for the customer and recommend credit limits and pricing for credit to be extended to the customer.

The majority of his assignments were in New York, however he lived in Tokyo for at least five years and spent time in London. Gaylord received his undergraduate degree from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his MBA from the University of Virginia. Gaylord has been an active member of the churches he has attended. He and his wife live in Irvington, NY. He has a son who lives in New York City.

Hans Khimm

Hans Khimm is a newly minted hiker, cutting back on his excellent game of golf to spend his weekend days in Harriman State Park.

Hans is a chemical engineer who spent his formative years designing chemical plants and pollution control systems for one of the top U.S. chemical companies. He was designated by the company as Technology Licensing Engineer for the Far East. As the industry changed, Hans chose the entrepreneurial route and started his own company to import and export specialty chemicals, colorants, and textile dye stuffs. As a Korean-American, he partnered with a Japanese trading company to serve 10 countries.

Hans received an undergraduate and graduate degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MBA from Iona College. He lives in Scarsdale, NY, with his wife, and has two daughters who are actively seeking postgraduate degrees.

Hans has served as the president of the Charitable Chinese Golfers Association and is an avid music fan who has served on the board of the Bowdoin Summer Music Festival.

**Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 17
Lower Twin Lakes Camp
Harriman State Park**

Nominees for Delegates-at-large (one-year terms)

Robert Berlin
Tuxedo, NY

Karen Rose
Mahwah, NJ

David Bertollo
West Milford, NJ

Ruth Rosenthal
New York, NY

Harvey Fishman
Brooklyn, NY

Trudy Schneider
White Plains, NY

Clifford Gerenz
Saddle Brook, NJ

Malcolm Spector
New York, NY

Jill Hamell
Ringwood, NJ

Naomi Sutter
Clifton, NJ

John Jurasek
Orangeburg, NY

Michael Vitti
Nyack, NY

Harold Kaplan
Yonkers, NY

Robert Ward
Far Rockaway, NY

Mark Liss
Fair Lawn, NJ

Arthur White
Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ

Jeffrey Mergler
West Milford, NJ

Richard Zinn
Teaneck, NJ

Margo Moss
Englewood Cliffs, NJ

Henry Zulauf
Park Ridge, NJ

George Petty
Denville, NJ

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 September 18, 2009. Please send nominations (with supporting statements) to Chris Connolly at c.connolly7@verizon.net.

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

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.



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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!

NEW JERSEY

By advocacy volunteer Brenda Holzinger

Fight Continues Against PSE&G Powerline in Highlands

New Jersey's Board of Public Utilities recently concluded a series of three public hearings in Sussex and Morris Counties to discuss the state's need for the planned Susquehanna-Roseland transmission line project. A final decision is expected from the Board of Public Utilities in December.

As this issue goes to press, another hearing is imminent during which the Morris County Park Commission will accept public testimony regarding PSE&G's request to lease some permanently preserved Green Acres land located in Mahlon Dickerson Reservation so they can construct access roads necessary to support the transmission line construction. PSE&G already owns some land adjacent to both Mahlon Dickerson Reservation and Weldon Wildlife Management Area, but they need a way to access this land from Weldon Road.

This PSE&G project threatens the current route of the Highlands Trail in the Mahlon Dickerson area as well as across Route 15 in Hopatcong borough, the site of a planned switching station. For an overview about the PSE&G Susquehanna-Roseland Reliability Project, you can visit the PSE&G website (www.pseg.com) and type "Susquehanna-Roseland" in the search box. For up-to-date information about the public process for commenting on the project as well as an archive of important documents, visit Stop the Lines (www.stophthelines.com/).

Push on ATV Bill Expected After November Elections

ATV regulatory legislation in New Jersey (S2055 and A823), regarding the registration, identification and enforcement of All Terrain Vehicles and their use, is now expected to come to votes in the Senate and Assembly after the November elections.

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reported the bill out on June 22, but it did not come to the full Senate before the legislature's summer break.

After the summer break, the legislature will be occupied with the November elections, so no action is expected on this legislation until after November 3. If the current legislation is not acted upon during the seven weeks following the election, the entire process will need to begin anew with a new legislature. Because this time frame is so short, your help will be needed more than ever to pass this important legislation!

For current updates about this legislation, please visit the TC website at www.nynjtc.org/content/atv-legislation-summary.

Open Space Funding To Be on November Ballot

The NJ Keep It Green Coalition, comprised of over 135 member groups representing environmental, outdoor recreation, farmland preservation, and historic and cultural resources across the state, worked closely with the state legislature to get the Garden State Preservation Trust bond measure on the ballot in November. Although it may be far from the ideal, long-term funding supported by every member of the KIG Coalition, the

\$400,000 three-year bond emerged as the most politically palatable measure given the current fiscal state of New Jersey. The KIG Coalition has already begun planning for its public education and advocacy campaign, which will begin Labor Day weekend with airplane banners along New Jersey's coastline. For more information about the bond measure and KIG efforts, or to find out how to help, please visit the KIG website at www.njkeepitgreen.org.

NEW YORK

Bottle Bill Still on Shelf

Implementation of the Bigger Better Bottle Bill, on the verge of happening on June 1, has been on hold since May 29, when U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Griesa delayed implementation of all the new updates to the law until April 1, 2010. A dispute that originally focused on the timetable for meeting label requirements became the lever for delaying all updates to the bill, including the transfer of 80% of the unclaimed deposits to the state and the 1.5 cent handling fee increase for stores and redemption centers. As of the deadline for this issue, no resolution of the dispute was on the horizon. New York Public Interest Research Group estimates that the delay will result in more than two billion water bottles added to the waste stream or as litter rather than being recycled, and that the state will lose at least \$115 million this year in revenue from the unclaimed deposits.



Dam Reconstruction at Ramapo Valley County Reservation Closes Portion of Schuber/Silver Trails

Reconstruction of the MacMillan Dam in Ramapo Valley County Reservation got underway July 15, and the area surrounding the dam, including the park road in that area, is officially closed during the project for public safety reasons.

Dump trucks and other heavy equipment units are using the main dirt road (Schuber/Silver Trail) from the park entrance to the dam area; public access to the road is officially barred west of Scarlet Oak Pond to the dam area from 7am to 4pm weekdays.

Most trails at the reservation will remain open, though access to them from the main park entrance on Route 202 (Ramapo Valley Road) will be restricted. Hikers can still access trails from trailheads at Glen Gray, Ringwood State Park, or Skyline Drive, but be aware that trails that end at or west of the closed portion of Schuber/Silver Trails will require backtracking or circuitous detours. The project is expected to continue for approximately six months.

Trailhead Closed for Mine Trail/Wyanokie Circular in Norvin Green State Forest

The trailhead for the Mine Trail/Wyanokie Circular Trail (yellow & red) in Norvin Green State Forest is permanently closed by the landowner. This trailhead is on Snake Den Road, near the Weis Ecology Center parking lot. We will be posting signs and blocking access at both ends of the private property. Please plan your hikes to enter and exit the forest trails at other locations.

Use the Hewitt-Butler/Mine Trail (blue and yellow) via the Otterhole Trail (green) from the Weis parking lot, or the Highlands Trail from Westbrook Road/Townsend Road to the new Roomy Mine Trail extension to access other trails. Trail Conference volunteers will be creating links / detours very shortly. In the meantime, we ask your cooperation in avoiding this trailhead.

3 Lakes Trail in Fahnestock State Park Closed

The 3 Lakes Trail in Fahnestock State Park is officially closed between Sunk Mine Road and the AT crossing (not Rt. 301). The closing is posted with signs and yellow hazard tape. The ranger said that the closing was due to high water released from John Allen Pond, in an attempt to stabilize water levels there. As an alternate, hikers can use the AT from Sunk Mine Road, but because of the high water conditions, the stream crossing just north of there may be a problem.

A safe and dry alternate is to go north on the gated mine road just east of the bridge (dotted black line on the TC map) and about a five-minute walk east of the 3 Lakes Trail. This road will join the 3 Lakes Trail near the junction with the Old Mine Railroad Trail. This is in the closed section, but it is well north of the problem area.



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www.NYNJTC.org

Earl Shaffer and the Appalachian Trail Opens at the Smithsonian

"Earl Shaffer and the Appalachian Trail," celebrating the early years of the Appalachian Trail project and Shaffer's historic 1948 thru-hike, opened in June in the Albert Small Documents Room of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

The exhibit, which will remain in place through October 11, follows displays in the same space this year of Abraham Lincoln

and Duke Ellington artifacts. *Walking with Spring*, Shaffer's lyrical account of his first Appalachian Trail hike, is a major focus of the exhibit, along with other papers and artifacts Shaffer donated to the Smithsonian after his 1998, "50th anniversary" thru-hike at age 79, three years before his death. (He also hiked end-to-end southbound in 1965.)

Maps and other objects from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy adorn the walls, and that book and related products will be on sale at the museum gift shops. An Internet connection will take visitors to interactive exhibits as well

Visit www.americanhistory.si.edu; click on "Exhibits" for further information.



Shaffer at the end of the Appalachian Trail, Mount Katahdin, Maine.

Trail Conference Assists with Minnewaska Trails Study



Trail Conference volunteers and staff from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation get ready to head out to assess trails at Minnewaska State Park Preserve in August. Trail Conference assistance was requested by parks staff in compiling baseline data about footpaths in the preserve as part of master plan revisions now in progress. Volunteers were trained to take GPS waypoints of problem areas and measure grades with a clinometer. (In the photo, some are seen practicing with clinometers by focusing on the photographer.) A draft revised master plan is expected to be released for public review this fall.

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

September – October

To register for a class, go to our website. The Trail Conference offers workshops in Trail Building and Trail Maintenance at locations across our region. Register online or by calling the office, 201-512-9348, ext. 14.

To register online:

1. Go to www.nynjtc.org
2. Click on Trail University under Get Involved
3. Select Register Now

Stone Cutting, Splitting, and Shaping

Location: Bear Mountain
Date: Saturday & Sunday, September 5 & 6

Stone Moving

Location: Bear Mountain
Date: Saturday & Sunday, September 19 & 20
Moving stone by hand on the 19th and by highline on the 20th

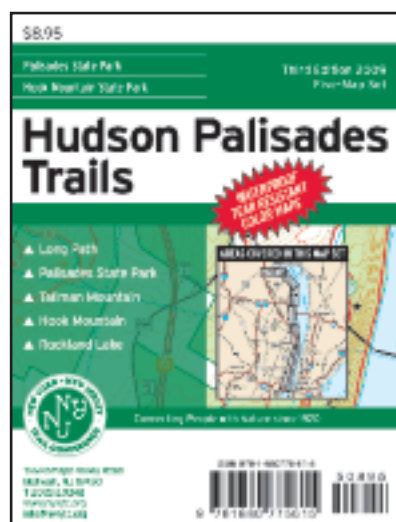
Volunteer Orientation and Trail Maintenance 101 combo!

Location: University Settlement Camp, Route 9D, Beacon, NY
Date: Saturday, September 26, 2009
Volunteer Orientation: 9am to 10am
TM101: 10:30am to 4:30pm

Trail Maintenance 101

Location: Merestead Manor, in Westchester (Mount Kisco)
Date: TBA
Time: TBA

New Hudson Palisades Trails Map Set Now Available!



The Trail Conference Publications Committee is pleased to announce that the revised third edition of our **Hudson Palisades Trails** map set is now available. This edition includes a number of updates to the trails and parklands on the western side of the Hudson River from Fort Lee, NJ, to Haverstraw, NY. Approximately 40 miles of the Long Path are shown, including a relocation of the trail near State Line Lookout. Parking areas and public transportation access points are clearly identified, and public land boundaries have been updated. Marked trails recently established by Trail Conference volunteers on West Hook Mountain, located just south of Rockland Lake State Park, are also included on this revised edition. So be sure to pick up a copy of this map set and explore the wonderful hiking and biking opportunities available along the Hudson Palisades!

To obtain this map set, see the Hikers' Marketplace on page 12, call 201-512-9348, shop online at www.nynjtc.org, or stop in at the Trail Conference office.

Trail Crew Schedules

September – November 2009

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 TRAILS COMMITTEE

Leaders: Estelle Anderson and Bob Jonas, ynoke@aol.com, 908-803-3883 (cell)

Saturday, September 19 Workshop/Work Trip at Norvin Green S.F.

With help from the West Jersey Trail Crew, we will be installing rock steps and utilizing high lines in a steep section of trail as well as building waterbars and doing other trail work to improve the trail tread on a popular hiking trail near the Weis Ecology Center. Bring a hard hat if you have one. All required tools will be supplied.

Please register at ynoke@aol.com for instructions & directions.

Saturday, September 26 Workshop/Work Trip at Norvin Green S.F.
See details for September 19.

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.

NORTH JERSEY WEEKDAY CREW
Leader: John Moran, thornburyhall@verizon.net

Work outings as needed
This crew covers the NJ Ramapos, Ringwood S. P., Norvin Green S. F., and NJ Palisades area. Its purpose is to respond quickly to immediate needs, rather than to schedule definite events far in advance. If you're interested in being on call for this work, contact John Moran by email.

WEST JERSEY CREW
Leaders: Monica and David Day, westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
732-937-9098 or 908-307-5049 (cell)
Website: www.trailstobuild.com

Bring your lunch, plenty of water, gloves and sturdy work shoes, and be prepared to get dirty. All tools, materials and training will be provided. Beginners are welcomed on all work trips.

All events begin at 9:00am. 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 the leaders know and we will try to arrange a shared ride. (Passengers please be prepared to contribute for gas.)

Saturday, September 19 Hewitt-Butler Trail, Norvin Green State Forest
Joint with Central Jersey Trails Committee. For details see their listing above.

Saturday, September 26 Hewitt-Butler Trail, Norvin Green State Forest
Joint with Central Jersey Trails Committee. For details see their listing above.

Saturday, October 3 Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Forest
We will continue installing rock steps and side-hill tread on a steep section of the trail between Hissim Road and Buzzards Glory Road.

Saturday, October 17 Terrace Pond North Trail, Wawayanda State Park
We will install stepping stones in a wet area of the Terrace Pond North Trail.

Saturday, October 24 Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Forest
We will install rock steps and sidehill tread on a steep section of the trail near Buzzards Glory Road.

Saturday, October 31 Terrace Pond North Trail, Wawayanda State Park
We will install stepping stones in a wet area of the Terrace Pond North Trail.

Saturday, November 14 Garvey Springs Trail, Worthington State Forest
We will install water bars and mitigate an eroded area of the Garvey Springs Trail.

HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW
Leaders: Glenn Oleksak, HT Supervisor: htsupervisor@verizon.net or 973-283-0306
Adam Rosenberg, HT Co-Supervisor: dobsonian@verizon.com or 973-570-0853

Monthly on a Sunday
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.

Sunday, September 13 (2nd Sunday due to Labor Day holiday) Combo Hike & Work Trip
Location: TBD
Leader: Adam Rosenberg

Sunday, October 4 Combo Hike & Work Trip
Location: TBD
Leader: Adam Rosenberg

METRO TRAILS 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

Sturdy work boots or other hiking footwear is mandatory. All participants must sign in to perform trail work. **RSVP is a must.**

Please contact Linda Sullivan, Metro Trail Crew Chief in order to receive email notices of work outings, or check the Metro Trail Crew page on the Trail Conference website.

EAST HUDSON CREWS

Ward Pound Ridge Weekly Trail Maintenance Trips
Leader: WPRR Trail Maintainer wprtrailmaintainer@gmail.com
Meet: 9:30am at the Trailside Nature Museum Ward Pound Ridge.

Ward Pound Ridge volunteer trail maintainers meet weekly year round. If you would like to be put on their email list for notifications, contact wprtrailmaintainer@gmail.com or view the East Hudson Trail Crew webpage at www.nynjtc.org for more information and the schedule.

Wonder Lake State Park/Highlands Trail
September 25 and 26 (Saturday, Sunday)
Special Work Weekend with the Metro Trail Crew
Saturday, October 17 with the West Hudson South Crew
Additional Dates TBA (Check Trail Crew Page)
Leader: Gary Haugland, hauglandg@aol.com, 845-642-1590
Meet: 9:30am at Ludingtonville Road, off I-84 in Putnam County.

New trail construction continues at Wonder Lake, including brush clearing, side-hilling, and some stone work. This section of trail is a critical portion of the Highlands Trail, a long-distance trail project through New York and New Jersey.

Dutchess-Putnam AT in Fahnestock State Park Every Saturday
Leader: Tim Messerich, bascomgrillmaster@yahoo.com 845-297-9573
Meet: 9am at the west side of Canopus Lake (Rt. 301), at the AT Crossing.

Trail work involves hauling stones, drilling stones, placing stone steps, and building waterbars. Call leader to confirm!

Special Project in Sterling Forest



GEORGETTE WEIR

Suzan Gorden and Peter Tilgner (at right in photo) are putting in a new trail to Bare Rock in Sterling Forest. Richard Sumner (left) and Allan Goshin (second from left) joined on the inaugural work trip in July. A work outing is planned for Saturday, September 19. Check the Trail Crew Schedules on the website for details.

Angle Fly Preserve in Westchester County
Saturday, September 12
Sunday, September 27
October dates TBA (Check Trail Crew Page)
Contact: Christie Ferguson, ferguson@nynjtc.org
Meet: 10am at the entrance to Angle Fly, off Primrose Street, 0.5 miles south of Reis Park (in the Town of Somers).

The Friends of Angle Fly are working on some new trails at Angle Fly with the support of the Trail Conference. Work includes trail clearing, putting in a bridge, and sidehilling.

Teatown to Kitchawan Trail in Westchester
Saturday, October 10
Saturday, October 24
Contact: Christie Ferguson, ferguson@nynjtc.org
Meet: 9:30am at location TBA (Check Trail Crew Page)

Be a part of connecting Kitchawan County Park to Teatown Lake Reservation with a carefully planned trail on designated DEP recreational lands. New trail construction begins in October, and will continue through the end of the year.

Fahnestock State Park
Saturday, September 12
Saturday, September 19
Saturday, September 26
Saturday, October 3
Contact: Christie Ferguson, ferguson@nynjtc.org

The bridges on School Mountain Road are in need of repair. Help the Friends of Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands, and Trail Conference volunteers on this exciting project!

NEW JERSEY APPALACHIAN TRAIL CREW
Leader: Gene Giordano, trails@genegiordano.com

Second Saturday of Each Month, April through November
Work begins at 9am and is finished before 4pm. Covers the entire NJ section of the AT, blue-blazed side trails, and shelters. Supplements work by our individual maintainers as requested and for special work projects. Workers bring gloves, lunch, and water; all tools, equipment and training provided. Email leader to be placed on email notification list.

BEAR MOUNTAIN TRAILS PROJECT
Project Manager: Eddie Walsh, bearmountaintrails@gmail.com, 845-591-1537
Volunteer Coordinator: Christopher Ingui, bearmountaintrails@gmail.com, 201-783-3599

Thursday-Monday, Weekly to November
General work days, suitable for beginners to experienced trail workers
Training will be provided according to participant's skill level, interest, and project needs. Meeting time is 8:30am at Bear Mountain. Please sign up via email and wait for either an email or phone confirmation from us prior to attending to confirm the trip and so we know whether to expect you.

Work trips involve a variety of tasks and experience, such as: corridor clearing, prepping work sites, 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.

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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 round the world, 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!

Contact volunteers@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 22, to indicate your interest or get more information about these or other volunteer opportunities. Information is also available at www.nynjtc.org; click on Volunteer.

Help Support our Virtual Trail Conference

Join an enthusiastic team of volunteers who ensure our website is the best place to go for trails information in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region!

With the introduction of our new and expanded website, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is putting in place a team of volunteers to support and enhance its capabilities. If you have a few hours each month or more to volunteer and would like to be a champion of our virtual presence on the web, sign up now! We need a wide range of skills and abilities to keep our site running, ensure its content is current and accurate, and maintain our presence in the expanding Web-enabled social network. Much of the work can be accomplished from your home computer on your own schedule.

Openings exist in the following areas: Assistant Webmaster, Web Developer, Content Manager, Analytics Maven, CRM database lead, Web writer. See our website volunteer postings for additional details.



Trail Conference staffer Larry Wheelock and former Catskills Region Chair Pete Senterman (positions 3 and 4 in photo) welcome new volunteers in the Catskills, left to right: Region 3 Chair Elie Bijou; Regional 4 Chair Howie (Pete) France, and Douglas Senterman, new Leanto Supervisor for both regions in the Catskills.

Volunteer Office Assistants Needed!

Are you looking for something new to do? Why not visit the Trail Conference office once a week and volunteer to spend a few hours with us. We need your help! The Trail Conference has a wide variety of tasks that could use your expertise, from assisting customers and answering phone calls to working on special projects, and many more exciting challenges. Make new friends or join current ones at the Trail Conference office for a few hours.

Become a Trail Volunteer! Opportunities Abound!

Trail Maintainer Opportunities:

Adopt a segment of a trail to keep clear and blazed on two or more visits a year. Help to keep our region's footpaths accessible, pristine and protected. Opportunities exist in the Catskills, Staten Island Greenbelt, South Taconic Trail, and in West Jersey, including Stokes State Forest and High Point State Park. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator: volunteers@nynjtc.org to find out if there is a trail near you!

Corridor Monitors Needed in Putnam County

Corridor Monitors walk the boundaries of the Appalachian Trail lands, reporting incursions and misuse, documenting monuments and markers, and interact with neighboring landowners. If you enjoy the off-trail experience, and would like to help protect these trail lands, then this is the opportunity for you!

Shelter Caretakers

There is just one vacancy remaining for a shelter caretaker at the Wiley Shelter in Dutchess County on the Appalachian Trail. Shelter caretaking includes picking up trash, reporting vandalism, basic structure repair, and testing the water source. By maintaining this overnight shelter, you are helping hikers by preserving a much-desired dry place to camp after a long hike!

Join a Trail Crew!

Our Trail Crews welcome new and experienced volunteers. If you're willing to do some physical work and enjoy working on the hiking trails, this may be an opportunity for you.

Participation on a crew is flexible; most crews spend from 3 to 8 hours—weekdays or weekends—working at a specific site. We have crews working on trails in West Hudson, East Hudson, Northern New Jersey, and Western New Jersey. They perform a wide variety of tasks ranging from painting blazes, clearing water bars, performing heavy maintenance, trail building, restoration, to other labor-intensive projects.

Trail Crew Leader for East Hudson

Exercise your leadership skills! Supervise and work with regional Trail Chairs and Trail Supervisors to lead Trail Crew trips throughout the East Hudson area. Trail Crews provide the construction and trail restoration needs in order to ensure that trails are built or repaired to Trail Conference standards. Determine the work schedule, help identify and plan projects,

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Volunteer Profile Joe Henderson

Joe Henderson, of Fair Lawn, NJ, enjoys volunteering both on the trail and in the Trail Conference office. Outside, he maintains a section of the Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail and South Ridge Trail, both in the Ramapo Mountains, as well as a section of the Long Path in Haverstraw. He started maintaining in 2003.

Joe added office volunteering in December 2006, helping the Trail Conference's Fulfillment Coordinator Gary Willick with shipping of Trail Conference books and maps, compiling welcome packets for new members, processing mailings, and assorted other tasks.

Says Gary: "By shipping orders once a week, Joe frees up about two hours for me so I can get other things done. He is diversified at work so I can count on him for other jobs if needed." Gary adds, "His pleasant conversation and humble demeanor are something everyone here in the office enjoys and appreciates, and some of his military stories are fun to repeat to my 11-year-old nephew."

A Vietnam-era veteran with 6 years

active duty and 25 in the reserves, Joe developed a fondness for walking while in the infantry, although he admits it's much easier now without the rifle and pack.

His favorite spot is on the Long Path in Tenafly near the Greenbrook Sanctuary, which he says has a great view of the river. So it stands to reason that the *Long Path Guide* is his preferred Trail Conference guidebook.

Joe has a big family, with four sons, one daughter, and eight treasured grandchildren.

His advice to everyone? "Volunteer, because you meet a lot of nice people."



LARRY WHEELOCK

Science & Ecology

Forest Pests Strike Close to Home

By Troy Weldy

The emerald ash borer, a beetle that feeds only on ash trees, is the latest addition to New York's fauna. The beetle's impacts to Detroit, Michigan, and the upper Midwest already are devastating. Virtually all ash

found throughout the state. Ash trees are prevalent along streams and wetlands, as well as backyards and city streets, and the impact of the emerald ash borer—it is considered to be unstoppable—is likely to severely alter important wildlife and human habitats.

Another non-native beetle, the Asian long-horned beetle (ALB), whose life-cycle and appetite includes a long list of our native deciduous tree species, poses a potentially greater threat to our forests. It is, however, characterized as a "lazy flyer," giving scientists hope that, with vigilance and proper action, its spread can be

which weaken and eventually kill the tree. There will be high economic costs imposed on cities from the destruction and removal of infested hazard trees. Additional costs and lost economic opportunities would impact rural areas, particularly from fall foliage tourism, maple syrup sugarbushes, and timber, not to mention the ecological and aesthetic impacts.

ALB is a large (up to 1.5 inches long) jet black beetle with white spots, the antenna has an alternating black and white color, and it emerges from bullet-sized holes of various deciduous trees. There are a few look-a-likes. If you think you see one, please take a digital image and/or capture the beetle and place it in a freezer bag for later confirmation. (The University of Vermont has produced an excellent online identification resource www.uvm.edu/albeetle). **If you think you have found the Asian long-horned beetle, please call 877-STOP-ALB.**

So what can we do to slow the spread of these beetles and how can we stop future infestations?

First and foremost: **don't move firewood.** While these pests can spread half a mile or more each year, we accelerate the spread inadvertently by moving infected live trees, logs, pallets, or firewood longer distances. New York's Dept. of Environmental Conservation regulations now limit the movement of firewood to no more than 50 miles. These regulations are vital to protecting the trees in our backyards as well as the treasured forests of the Catskills and Adirondacks. Instead, we should remember to support local businesses and **"Buy It Where You Burn It."**

You can also keep an eye out for forest pests in your own community. Most of the known infestations have been found by everyday people curious about the world around them. Educate yourself about the signs of foreign pests like Asian long-horned beetle, emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, and sudden oak death.

Our efforts are probably too little too late for the likes of hemlock woolly adelgid and the emerald ash borer, but the vast majority of forest ecologists believe we still do have an opportunity to eradicate the Asian

long-horned beetle. Your assistance in finding this beetle and cooperation with eradication efforts are critical if this effort is to be successful.

In the long term, the best solution is to prevent invasive species from arriving in the first place. International trade is necessary for a healthy economy. Unfortunately, many invasive insects enter this country via shipping containers, crates, and pallets. Properly overseeing and regulating imports—in particular, wood packaging—is key to preventing these unwanted hitchhikers. New international trade rules implemented in 2007 should have closed this specific pathway, but we need to stay watchful to ensure the rules are successful and sufficient.

If we do not get ahead of this invasive species problem, we will continue to suffer from significant environmental and economic harm. By properly implementing new policies designed to address the threats of invasive species and taking individual action such as not moving firewood, we can minimize the threat of pests like the Asian long-horned beetle.

Troy Weldy is the Director of Ecological Management for The Nature Conservancy-New York.

Follow these links, or find them and others on our website:

www.nynjtc.org/news/science, to learn more about forest pests and the role of firewood in spreading them.

www.uvm.edu/albeetle

www.agmkt.state.ny.us/PI/ALB.html

www.dontmovefirewood.org

The Trail Conference may offer training in identifying Asian long-horned beetles. If interested, please go to our website, click on Volunteer, and fill out the Volunteer Interest Form.



JAMES APPELBY, USFWS

The Asian long-horned beetle's appetite for a variety of our native trees poses a major threat to forests.

trees in Detroit and surrounding suburbs have been killed, and millions of ash trees are dead across the upper Midwest and adjacent Ontario. Spot outbreaks have occurred in numerous other states, now including New York, where it was detected this past June in a western region of the state famous for its ash baseball bats, a favorite of major league baseball. The emerald ash borer is yet to be seen in New Jersey, but, sadly, that is considered inevitable.

New York and New Jersey have four native species of ash—green, white, black, and pumpkin. Estimated at well over half a billion trees strong in New York, ash is

checked and the beetle eradicated.

As the name indicates, this beetle is native to eastern Asia. ALB was first documented in 1996 in Brooklyn, where it is believed it entered the United States in the late 1980s via wood pallets holding pipe shipped from China. Through separate introductions, this forest pest established itself near the ports of New York, Chicago, and Toronto. In 2008, it was then also found in Worcester, Massachusetts, where it likely went undetected for 10+ years.

The Asian long-horned beetle lays its eggs on maple, poplar, willow, and many other deciduous tree species. The larvae burrow through the wood, creating tunnels

A Flash of Gray and Gold

By Orion Weldon

The Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), is an especially beautiful bird that thrives only in an increasingly rare habitat in our area—forest edge.

It is small, weighing only 10 grams (a little over 2 ounces!), but what it lacks in size it makes up for by its striking plumage: a blue-gray body with a black throat and mask offset the brilliant patch of gold on the top of its head and wing. Add white stripes above and below the eyes and this bird resembles a dashing bandit. Few people get to see the Golden-winged Warbler in such detail for it is a furtive species, often flitting through low vegetation just beyond view. Despite a seeker's best efforts, one is often left with just a glimpse, a flash of gray and gold.



CSL IMAGE

A Golden-winged Warbler parent feeds its young.

Unfortunately, the fate of this bird, like many other migratory species, is uncertain. Its population level in most regions has undergone precipitous declines. Since the beginning of the Breeding Bird Survey in 1966 (an annual survey conducted to count the number of birds breeding in North America) the Golden-winged Warbler has experienced an overall decline of 3.4 percent per year in the United States. This has resulted in the extirpation of this bird from 11 states where it previously bred. If trends continue, New Jersey may soon join this list.

The Golden-winged Warbler requires a unique combination of herbaceous plants, scrubby shrubs, and grasses next to a forest edge. This combination of plants, typical of early successional vegetation, is found after a forest fire, a timber harvest, or in a farmer's field left fallow. However, the availability of this habitat has been decreasing steadily with fire suppression, changing logging activities, and the loss of agriculture in the region.

One landscape feature that may promise the continued availability of this habitat is the power line right-of-way. Criss-crossing the landscape, these rights-of-way require that the vegetation within them always remain short and young. Golden-winged Warblers are often found breeding in these corridors. Currently these areas force warblers to maintain artificially linear territories bounded by the narrow width of the right-of-way, quite unlike the natural grouping of territories in a wide field.

In the highlands of New Jersey a partnership has been formed between the New Jersey Audubon Society, PSE&G, and the

City of Newark to promote breeding habitat for this species. The partnership is undertaking a project to selectively expand a section of a PSE&G right-of-way in order to create patches of wider area that may

Unfortunately, the fate of this bird, like many other migratory species, is uncertain.

allow the birds to establish more natural territories and to create a larger amount of suitable habitat for breeding. In the Pequannock Watershed below Clinton Reservoir, an approximately 900-meter section of right-of-way in the northern highlands will be widened an additional 300 feet in the hopes of attracting Ruffed Grouse, Red-headed Woodpecker, Field Sparrow, and especially Golden-winged Warbler.

A study is currently being conducted to monitor the success of these changes; if they prove successful, other sections of power line rights-of-way could be widened in the hope of reversing the declines of Golden-winged Warblers. While these areas of cut-down forest may look like environmental destruction to many hikers, the patches may well be the only way to help keep the Golden-winged Warbler, and other edge species, alive and thriving in our region.

This experiment in creating habitat shows that there may be real solutions available that can incorporate desirable

habitat into our developed landscape.

If you happen to find yourself hiking a trail that traverses one of these rights-of-way, take a moment to appreciate the different creatures that may live there. You may just see a flash of gray and gold.



Only a lucky few spot this tiny warbler.

Any sightings of Golden-winged Warbler or any other state listed species is of great interest to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish and Wildlife Endangered and Nongame Species Program and may be reported using their rare wildlife sightings form found at www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensprptform.htm

Orion Weldon is a Ph.D. student in the Graduate Program in Ecology and Evolution at Rutgers University.

Monday, October 5

UHC. Loantaka Brook Reservation, NJ. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10am at Kitchell Rd. parking near pond. Easy hike; about 3 miles. A stroll where you can talk and not watch your feet.

Tuesday, October 6

UHC. Lake Skannatati, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Marilyn Varley, 914-698-2339. Meet: 10am at Lake Skannatati parking; call for directions. Moderate 5-6 miles. Rain cancels.

Wednesday, October 7

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Tulip Springs parking. Easy to moderate 4-mile hike.

Thursday, October 8

UHC. Bearfort Ridge, Hewitt State Forest, NJ. Leader: George Smith, 973-778-3586. Meet: 10am at A&P lot for short shuttle; call for directions. Strenuous morning and easier afternoon; about 8 miles.

AFW. Campgaw Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: call 973-644-3592 to register or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am, out by 2pm. Moderate hike.

Saturday, October 10

AFW. Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail Part 2, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: call 973-644-3592 to register or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 7:30am, out by 5pm. Strenuous hike at a moderate pace; a long day but a beautiful hike.

WTA. Wyanokie High Point, Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@yahoo.com. Meet: contact leader for details. 6-7 moderately strenuous miles with hills. This hike in the Weis Ecology Center area (Ringwood, NJ) takes in many of the best views in the Wyanokies. Lunch on Wyanokie High Point, dessert on Carris Hill. Rain cancels.

Sunday, October 11

IHC. Wildcat Mtn./Indian Hill, Sterling Forest State Park, NY. Leader: Chris Davis, 609-924-2563. Meet: 9am at commuter parking, Rt. 17 at Rt. 17A, Southfields, NY. Moderately strenuous 9 miles. Up over Wildcat, past the old forge, followed by the Indian Hill loop.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, NJ. Leader: Patricia Curley, 908-868-7510. Meet: 10am at Trailside Nature Center, Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. 4-5 miles at brisk pace. Steady rain cancels.

Monday, October 12

UHC. Grover Cleveland Park, NJ. Leader: Cherryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10am; call for directions. Easy hike; about 3 miles. Bad weather cancels.

Tuesday, October 13

UHC. Terrace Pond, Wawayanda State Park, NJ. Leader: George Smith, 973-778-3586. Meet: 10am at lot #7 on Clinton Rd.; call for directions. 7 miles with lunch at the pond; for experienced hikers.

Wednesday, October 14

UHC. Lake Ames, Hibernia, NJ. Leader: Peter Beck, 201-274-4471. Meet: 10am at parking lot; call for directions. Easy 3 miles, with one stream crossing.

Thursday, October 15

UHC. AT to Black Mountain, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Hank Perrine, 212-666-0694. Meet: 10am at Anthony Wayne parking lot; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 8+ miles on Appalachian Trail to Black Mtn., returning on 1779 Trail, Owl Lake Rd. and Red Cross Trail. For experienced hikers.

Saturday, October 17

AFW. Crater Lake, Delaware Water Gap N.R.A., NJ. Call 973-644-3592 to register or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am, out by 2pm. Moderate hike.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Tulip Springs parking; call for directions. Moderate 4 miles through pine forest, overlooking a beautiful gorge, and crossing the Rahway River. Return on woods road.

Sunday, October 18

AMC-NYNJ. Family Pumpkin Ramble, Orange County, NY. Leader: Andrew Joyce, 973-324-2657, amojoyce@aol.com. Meet: 9:30am at AT parking lot on Rt. 94. We'll hike up the AT as far as we can climb, until the hot cider and donuts being made below at Heaven Hill Farm make us turn around; will also enjoy pumpkin picking.

AFW. Sculpture Garden, Hamilton, NJ. Leader: call 973-644-3592 to register or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am, out by 3pm. Easy hike.

IHC. Breakneck Ridge & Taurus, Hudson Highlands State Park, NY. Leader: Roy Williams, 570-828-6207, royhiker@aol.com. Meet: 8:30am at Anthony Wayne parking area (north), Harriman State Park. Car shuttle required. Strenuous hike on these two striking peaks rising above the Hudson; bring your camera for some breathtaking views. Rain cancels.

UHC. Garret Mountain, NJ. Leader: Walter Koenig, 973-684-5528. Meet: 10am; call for directions. Moderate hike with splendid views of historic Paterson. Optional lunch at Libby's Diner and visit to Paterson Falls after the hike.

Monday, October 19

UHC. Eagle Rock Reservation, NJ. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-731-0602. Meet: 10am at restaurant parking; call for directions. Easy hike; about 3 miles.

Tuesday, October 20

UHC. Breakneck Ridge, Hudson Highlands State Park, NY. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10am at larger lot north of tunnel; call for directions. Extremely steep and exposed initial climb with rock scrambles, which we'll take slowly. 5 miles overall; for experienced hikers. One of the East's most spectacular hikes, with nearly constant views of the Hudson River.

AFW. Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: call 973-644-3592 to register or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am, out by 2pm. Moderate hike.

Wednesday, October 21

UHC. Wildcat Ridge, Fanny Highlands, NJ. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10am; call for directions. Some moderate hills, with spectacular views. Hike up to the Hawk Watch for an early lunch. Steady rain cancels.

Thursday, October 22

UHC. Lake Tiorati, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: George Pullman, 973-773-2678. Meet: 10am at Lake Tiorati parking lot; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 8+ miles; for experienced hikers.

Saturday, October 24

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Lee Fanger, 973-376-3160. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove parking, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Moderate 5-mile hike with some rocky sections.

Sunday, October 25

IHC. Trail Maintenance on Schunemunk Mountain, NY. Leader: Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9am at Taylor Rd. parking, Mountainville, NY. Moderately strenuous day cleaning up our section of the Long Path and Lower Jessup Trail. Please come and help us maintain these trails! Bring work gloves, lunch, water, and clippers if you have them (or you may use our tools). Rain postpones to Saturday, Oct. 31.

AFW. Catfish Pond, Delaware Water Gap N.R.A., NJ. Call 973-644-3592 to register or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am, out by 2pm. Moderate hike.

UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown National Historical Park, NJ. Leader: Dave Bennett, 973-701-0248. Meet: 10am at visitor center parking. Moderate 5-mile hike on historic trails. Steady rain cancels.

Monday, October 26

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Len Shnitzer, 732-499-9176. Meet: 10am at Turtle Back Rock parking; call for directions. Easy, level hike; about 3 miles.

Tuesday, October 27

AMC-NYNJ. Jones Point Dog Friendly, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Susan Sterngold, 845-519-4890, banjolady@verizon.net. Meet: 11am start; contact leader for details. Calling people and dogs to climb plenty of hills; views abound on Dunderberg Mountain. Dogs must be under control of owner and park leash laws must be followed. Bring lunch and water for people and dogs.

UHC. AT from Wawayanda to the Pochuck Boardwalk, NJ. Leader: Carol O'Keefe, 973-901-0824. Meet: 10am at Pochuck Boardwalk; call for directions. Car shuttle required. Moderate 8 miles. AT from Warwick Turnpike, climb up Wawayanda Mtn., steep downhill, then to the boardwalks. Second half of hike is almost entirely level, on the astounding engineering feats of boardwalk and suspension bridge over the marshland—a Trail Conference project.

Wednesday, October 28

UHC. Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, NJ. Leaders: Don and Jeane McLellan, 908-464-6246. Meet: 10am at trail parking, Great Swamp NWR; call for directions. Moderate 4 miles on level terrain; trails may be wet and muddy and there may be some logs to step over. Explore this designated Wilderness Area. Heavy rain cancels.

Thursday, October 29

UHC. Sterling Ridge, NY & NJ. Leaders: Carolyn and Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9:30am at Jennings Hollow in Hewitt (on Greenwood Lake Turnpike opposite East Shore Dr.); Car shuttle required. Moderately strenuous 8+ miles; for experienced hikers. We'll hike through Sterling Forest from Route 17A to Hewitt.

Saturday, October 31

WTA. AT, Fahnestock State Park, NY. Leader: Helen Wu, wpony44@yahoo.com. Meet: contact leader for details. 6 moderate miles. Out and back along the AT (Highland Rd. to Chapman Rd.), with time to enjoy the view from Canopus Hill.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-564-8780. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove parking, Glen Ave. at Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn, NJ, RR station. Moderate 4-5 mile hike with some uneven terrain. Rain cancels.

Member Club Profile

The Trail Conference comprises 10,000 individual members and more than 100 member clubs with a combined membership of 150,000 hikers. We invite club representatives to submit photos from hikes or maintenance outings or other events (please set your digital camera for highest resolution). Email your photos, along with complete caption information to: tw@nynjtc.org; put "TW club photo" in the subject line.

North Jersey and Ramapo Chapters of ADK Merge

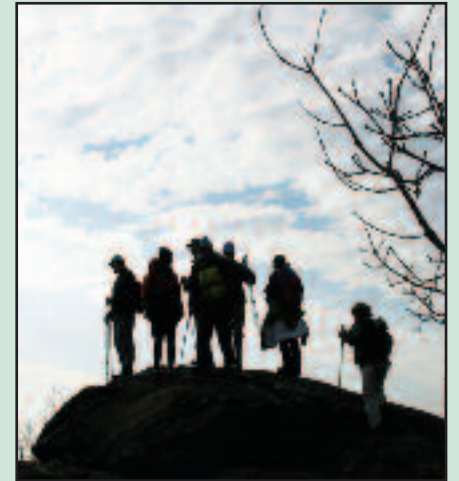
After many years of combining hike schedules and special events, the North Jersey and Ramapo Chapters of the Adirondack Mountain Club have officially merged and become the NORTH JERSEY RAMAPO CHAPTER.

Their history as a hiking organization goes back a long time. In 1969, 40 ADK members formed the North Jersey Chapter. Membership increased rapidly and many Rockland County residents joined as well. In 1972 ADK members from Rockland and Orange Counties created the Ramapo Chapter. The two chapters functioned independently for 36 years with parallel interests in hiking, trail maintenance, and conservation. Both supported the Trail Conference as member clubs.

Several years ago, the clubs began to share hike schedules and events to create fuller listings and encourage greater participation. The members of the two chapters walked together in the woods, shared the trails, and enjoyed hiking together. They were effectively acting as one chapter.

In August 2008, representatives were selected from each club to meet and explore merging the two chapters. It was recognized that joining forces would be mutually beneficial for both organizations. By the end of 2008, a new slate of officers was chosen from the leadership of both chapters, bylaws created, and a formal resolution was written explaining the benefits of blending the clubs. In April 2009, both clubs voted to ratify the merger and it was approved by an overwhelming majority.

Now, the membership is over 900 strong and the new committee chairs are eager to see more participation on hikes and at planned events. In September, the new chapter has scheduled a day of hiking and dinner at Mohonk Mountain House, and in October, a fall foliage



Hikers with ADK's North Jersey Ramapo Chapter reach a viewpoint.

weekend at Shawnee Inn at the Delaware Water Gap. The chapter offers three hikes every week using trails on both sides of the Hudson. The hikes are varied and at different levels of ability. There is something for every hiker. You can see the full hiking schedule and the Trail Talk newsletter by going to the club's website at www.hudsonhikers.org.

Many members of North Jersey Ramapo ADK are active volunteers in the Trail Conference. The list ranges from: Trails Supervisors/Chairs past and present (Susan Gerhardt, Peter Heckler, Chris Connolly, Manny Silberberg, Ike Siskind, Suzan Gordon and Peter Tilgner) to office volunteers (Marilyn Siskind, Lou O'Neill, Richard Zinn, Peter Tilgner, and Nick Viggiano). The chapter also maintains sections of the AT (Rudy Garfinkel and Reena Mancuso) and Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail (Karen Rose) in Harriman State Park.

"Both clubs have contributed generously to the Trail Conference every year and now, as one organization, we will continue to do so," says Richard Sumner, past treasurer of the Ramapo Chapter and now vice chair of the new club.

For membership information contact 201-768-5573 or pkeyhiker@juno.com.

— Suzan Gordon,
Chair North Jersey Ramapo ADK

Enjoy the 22nd Annual Sterling Forest Conservation Day Sunday, September 27; 9am - 4pm

Enjoy a day full of hiking and biking led by experienced hike leaders and surrounded by the beautiful fall foliage in Sterling Forest State Park.

This annual event is organized by Sterling Forest Partnership, a nonprofit organization that continues to take the lead in efforts to protect and preserve the land in and around Sterling Forest State Park. (The Trail Conference is a member.)

Meet at the Lautenberg Visitors Center in Sterling Forest State Park, 116 Old Forge Road, Tuxedo, NY. The center is off Long Meadow Road, approximately 5 miles north of County Route 72 or approximately 4 miles south of NY Route 17A.

For more information contact: Tom Thompson at 201-848-1080.

Another Way to Give

Have you considered investing in the Trail Conference's mission? Making a donation in the form of a charitable gift annuity from the Trail Conference might be the perfect opportunity for you. A charitable gift annuity pays you a steady fixed income for the rest of your life.

Charitable gift annuities are very popular gifts because of the high rate of return, which will never change after a gift is made, regardless of interest rate fluctuations. And, a charitable gift annuity is simple to establish.

With a charitable gift annuity you would get an immediate income tax deduction for a significant portion of the value of your gift, and favorable taxation of the annuity payments will increase the spending power of your annuity.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Hezel at hezel@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 28.



Find More Scheduled Hikes on our website!
Go to www.nynjtc.org and Click on
Scheduled Hikes under Go Hiking.



Hudson River view from Bear Mountain State Park.

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MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

AIG Matching Grants Program, Avon Matching Gifts Program, BP Foundation, Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation U.S. Matching Gifts Program, Earth Share, Google, Somerset County United Way, The Environmental Fund for NJ Inc., The New York Times Company Matching Gifts Program, Unilever United States Foundation, Inc., United Way of Tri-State.

DARLINGTON SCHOOL HOUSE FUND

Home Depot, Drew Lehman

BEAR MOUNTAIN TRAILS

Charels Scully

TRIBUTES

In honor of Herb Chong's Birthday
Jane and Walt Daniels

In honor of John and Marianne Gunzler's 50th Wedding Anniversary
Trudy and Rolf Lesem, Marilyn Kurland

In honor of Herb Chong
John and Karen Magerlein

In memory of Marjorie Navidi
Lawrence Gries

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



The Trail Conference thanks The Home Depot store in Mahwah for the donation of garage doors for the Darlington Schoolhouse, as well as Buy-Rite Overhead Doors for installing them. The work was done in July. Pictured are, left to right: Tom Weber and Nick Concilio, installers with Buy-Rite Overhead Doors; Tino Longobardi, the Home Depot Mahwah Store Manager; Dennis McNearney, County Executive of Bergen County; Eddie Saif (in blue jacket), Trail Conference board member and chair of the Darlington Schoolhouse steering committee; Arnold Brown, a representative from the Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund office, a project funder; and, in orange, members of the Home Depot team.

VOLUNTEER CLASSIFIEDS

continued from page 6

build your team of volunteers, and mentor new leaders.

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Communications Coordinator

Love the trails at Ward Pound Ridge? Become a part of the trail maintainer team!

The current coordinator is moving, and a replacement is needed! If you have access to a computer and the internet, and are interested in trail work trips at Ward Pound Ridge, then you can be the next WPRR Communications Coordinator. This fun, energetic, and dedicated group works closely with park management on trail projects. A sense of humor is necessary, and good times are promised. Become the next Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Communications Coordinator today!

Outreach Event Coordinator for the East Hudson Region!

If you enjoy working with people, planning events, and talking about the important work of the Trail Conference, we need you! There are many events in the East Hudson Region that we would like to have represen-

tation at, but we need someone to help organize volunteers and coordinate materials. You can also participate in the events themselves, which are always fun!

East Hudson Outreach Event Volunteers Needed!

No matter what your background is with the Trail Conference, you could be an ambassador for us at an outreach event. There are many exciting opportunities for you to meet people who enjoy the outdoors, and to share with them what the Trail Conference does! Volunteer your time for a few hours, and then enjoy the event as well! All of our current outreach volunteers comment on what a fulfilling experience it is to work at an outreach event. Join us today!

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LARRY LUXENBERG

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the award, "he contributed immeasurably to the early organization of the ATC archives and brought numerous historical facts and sources to the attention of the Conservancy staff and editors.

"Not long after the book project was completed, he conceived of an Appalachian Trail Museum that would preserve and display, for public edification, not only the more memorable tales of the trail from more noted hikers, but also the efforts behind the trail and its management since the 1920s."

Larry is now president of the Appalachian Trail Museum Society, which has found a home for the museum in a 200-year-old grist mill near the trail in Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Gardners, PA. The building is to be renovated this fall and winter and made ready for a grand opening on National Trails Day 2010: Saturday, June 5. (Learn more at www.atmuseum.org.)

Larry is a portfolio manager at Lexington Avenue Capital Investment.

25-Year Awards

The ATC also recognized at its meeting volunteers who have contributed long service. Three Trail Conference volunteers received 25-Year awards from Pamela Underhill, National Park Service AT Park Office Superintendent: Robert J. Reardon, Robert F. Marshall, and Jim Haggett. Bob Reardon is the AT maintainer from the Bear Mountain Bridge to South Mountain Pass; Bob Marshall is the AT maintainer from South Mountain Pass to the intersection of Rt 9 and 403; and Jim Haggett is Trails Chair for the Dutchess/Putnam AT Committee.

Further, with the hours tallied through June of this year, Bob Reardon has surpassed the 1,000 hour mark and will soon be presented with a fleece vest provided by the National Park Service. Only 11 other East of Hudson AT NY-NJ Trail Conference volunteers have reached this level of service.

The Trail Conference is a maintaining club member of the ATC. We thank all four of these volunteers for their service and congratulate them for their awards.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 25 Highlands Trail Opens in Hunterdon County, NJ Event at Jugtown Mountain Preserve

The Trail Conference and Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy will officially open the Hunterdon County section of the Highlands Trail with a celebratory event.

For full details, visit the Highlands Trail website at www.highlands-trail.org or contact Brenda Holzinger at brendaholzinger@gmail.com or 973-303-3538.

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TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES

continued from page 5

WEST HUDSON SOUTH CREW

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

Saturday, September 19 AT Bypass

Leader: Chris Ezzo

Thursday, September 24 Twin Forts Trail, Bear Mountain State Park

Leader: Bob Marshall

Thursday, October 8 TBD

Leader: Bob Marshall

Saturday, October 17 Wonder Lake State Park

Leader: Chris Ezzo

Thursday, October 22 TBD

Leader: Bob Marshall

Sunday, October 25 Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail on Black Mountain, Harriman State Park

Leader: Chris Ezzo

Saturday, October 31 Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail on Black Mountain, Harriman State Park

Leader: Claudia Ganz

Saturday, November 7 AT on West Mountain, Bear Mountain S.P.

Leader: Monica Day

Thursday, November 12 TBD

Leader: Bob Marshall

Saturday, November 14 TBD

Leader: Brian Buchbinder

WEST HUDSON NORTH CREW

Leaders: Denise Vitale (crew chief): WHNTrails@aol.com, 845-738-2126 (days or early evenings)
Dave Webber (crew leader): webberd1@yahoo.com, 845-452-7238

Peters Kill Loop Red Trail, Minnewaska State Park Preserve
Relocation of this trail continues. Each work trip will include education for the novice and plenty of challenges for the more experienced. This is a great opportunity to learn all the basics of trail building like side-hilling, rock moving with rock bars and a high-line system, plus rock splitting/shaping and building crib walls and stairs.

Saturday & Sunday, September 19 & 20

Leader: Denise Vitale
We will set a highline on Saturday. Over the next few work trips we will be using the highline system to move rocks into place for building stairs and crib walls.

Sunday, September 27

Leader: Dave Webber

Sunday, October 11

Leader: Denise Vitale

Saturday, October 17

Leader: Denise Vitale
We will set a highline to be used over the next few work trips to move rocks into place for building stairs and crib walls.

Sunday, October 18

Leader: Dave Webber

Saturday, November 14

Leader: Dave Webber

Sunday, November 22

Leader: Denise Vitale



Scouts Complete Project at Bear Mountain



Mahwah Boy Scout Troop 258 with family and advisers pose on the bridge on Bear Mountain they completed in May as part of Charles Scully's Eagle Project. Charles (fifth from left in front row; his mother, Patrice, stands next to him) worked with Matt Townsend (holding dog) over six months to clear over 50 feet of new trail as part of the AT relocation project and build a small stone wall and bridge to prevent erosion on the trail. Scouts and their parents volunteered well over 300 hours over 4.5 days to complete this work. "It was a great experience for everyone involved," wrote Patrice Scully. "The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a great organization to work with."

Help Make Hudson Highlands Triathlon a Success



This year the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference East Hudson Trails Committee will co-sponsor the Philipstown Greenway Committee's fourth Annual Hudson Highlands Greenway Triathlon. The race takes place Sunday, October 11, and promotes the trails, scenic routes, and recreational opportunities of the Hudson River Valley Greenway system in the Hudson Highlands.

The event will begin at the waterfront at Dockside (1 West Street) in Cold Spring. The race will include a six-mile kayak paddle on the Hudson River to Bannerman's Island and back; then a 24-mile bike race down to Bear Mountain Bridge and back up to Breakneck Ridge. An eight-mile trail run follows, through Scenic Hudson's Foundry Preserve, then up and over Bull Hill, and back into the Village of Cold Spring.

Interested racers can register at Active.com. The East Hudson Trails Committee encourages Trail Conference members to volunteer to help on the day of the race. Call 845-803-4145 or email info@hudsonhighlandstriathlon.org. **Say the Trail Conference sent you.**



Join The Forest Ride 2009

to support Black Rock Forest Consortium's environmental, research, education, and conservation programs.

(The Trail Conference is a consortium member.)

Columbus Day Weekend

One-day ride:
Sunday, October 11, 2009
 Three-day ride:
**Saturday, October 10 -
 Monday, October 12, 2009**

Training rides this summer in NYC and Orange County

For more information or to register visit:
www.theforestride.org

or call Emily at Black Rock Forest Consortium
 845-534-4517, ext. 26

Hunting Seasons 2009

NEW YORK

Deer Seasons: Regular and Archery Southern Zone (includes Hudson Valley and Catskills)

Regular: Nov. 21 – Dec. 13
 Bow: Oct. 17 – Nov. 20, Dec. 14 – Dec. 22

Westchester County

Bow only: Oct. 17 – Dec. 31

Suffolk County

Bow only: Oct. 1 – Dec. 31

Hunting is not allowed in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Parks. However it is allowed in parts or all of other state parks. Call parks for details.

Black Rock Forest (845-534-4517) closes to all hikers from Nov. 21 through Dec. 13.

For more info about deer season in New York, go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28605.html. For info about all big game hunting seasons and regulations in New York, visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/10003.html.

NEW JERSEY

In New Jersey, the safest course in the fall is to hike only on Sundays, when hunting with firearms is generally prohibited throughout the state. Otherwise, hunting seasons vary by weapon and geography.

A six-day firearm season is set for December 7-12 in all zones.

A one-day shotgun season is set for December 16 in many zones with additional days permitted in some zones.

For the complete set of deer season regulations, go to www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw, then click on Hunting, then Deer. Go to the same site for other hunting seasons and information.

Book Review

Hiking by the Numbers

Backpacker magazine's online map of the Appalachian Trail



Backpacker Magazine, 2009
 Reviewed by Howard Friedman

Say "Appalachian Trail" to almost anyone, and they will likely picture thousands of miles of nature in the raw, a serene hiking trail through the wilderness. Say "Global Positioning System" and most people will think of satellites, navigating unfamiliar city streets, and high-tech equipment. Backpacker magazine has paired technology and back-country and mapped the entire Appalachian Trail using 10 months of GPS data collection by one of their correspondents. Their AT can be visited online at www.backpacker.com/at.

This review focuses on the trails through New York and New Jersey, which Backpacker divides into 8-15 mile sections (some sections in Maine are more than 50 miles in length). GPS coordinates are sprinkled along the trail as "waypoints," markers that identify a landmark with a specific satellite-based coordinate. At the top of the screen, viewers can select how to view the map: topographic, terrain, satellite image, or a standard road-map type image. These maps are built on the familiar Google maps, which the Trail Conference also uses on its website to locate, for exam-

ple, trailhead parking for hikes (see www.nynjtc.org/hikes).

Click on a trail segment and more detail pops up, as does a photo gallery for the segment. Zoom in on the map so that the waypoints are distinctly separate. Click on a camera icon to see a thumbnail image of a photo snapped from that spot on the map. Click on the image and a larger version of the photo will pop up, including its GPS coordinates. Rarely are images otherwise identified. The photos for each segment are also displayed in a slide-show format to the right; with a click you get the same bigger picture with its GPS info as by clicking on the camera graphic.

Listings and descriptions of some of the waypoints are identified in a table below the map. Oddly, and confusingly, the waypoints are not always in the correct directional order. Clicking on the Previous and Next links in the waypoint pop-up boxes can result in apparently random sequences, not previous or next spot along the trail, as one might expect.

Page for page, the *Appalachian Trail Guide for New York and New Jersey* produced by the Trail Conference and published by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy definitely presents more information in a more organized, reader-friendly format. And it's easily portable, too. For fun, however, the Backpacker online map is great for taking a "virtual" hike, helping you to zoom in on topographic areas of interest along the trail, appreciate the trail's beauty, and re-visit areas you may have already hiked by clicking through an assortment of trail pictures.

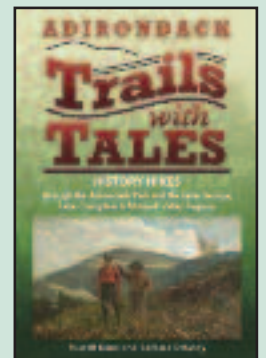
Howard Friedman, a biker and doctor of podiatric medicine, is a frequent contributor to Trail Walker. His articles include equipment reviews and many about taking proper care of one's feet and body before, during, and after hiking.

Books Received

Adirondack Trails with Tales

History Hikes through the Adirondack Park and the Lake George, Lake Champlain & Mohawk Valley Regions
 By Russell Dunn and Barbara Delaney
 Black Dome Press, 2009

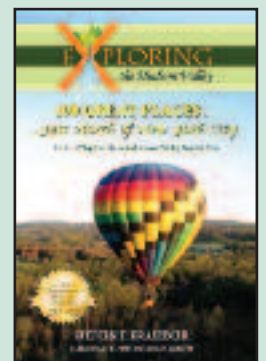
The authors may be familiar for their series of regional waterfall guides (Catskill Region Waterfall Guide, 2004, and Hudson Valley Waterfall Guide, 2005, among others) from the same publisher. Well organized, with photos and easy-to-read, simple maps. Each hike is described; a short history follows. This is a great book for history lovers and those who seek alternatives to peak-bagging.



Exploring the Hudson Valley

100 Great Places Just North of New York City
 By Steffen T. Kraehmer
 ExploringTheValley.com, 2009

This self-published guide is organized topically (i.e., Agri-tourism and Airborne Ventures to Zoos), with one Great Place suggested (among other notables) in each category. The suggestions are eclectic and sometimes offbeat, such as Metro North, identified as a "movable" great place in the category "Trains & Trolleys." The book includes lots of ideas and contact information for more than just the top 100 Mr. Kraehmer, a Trail Conference member, recommends.



Camp Glen Gray Mahwah, NJ

Weekend Camping In The Beautiful Ramapo Mountains
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Featured Hike



By Howard Friedman

Carris Hill: A Hike for All Seasons



Chikahoki Falls is a favorite destination in Norvin Green State Forest.

Editor's note: Now that direct access to the Roomy and Blue Mines in Norvin Green is no longer available from the Snake Den Road trailhead (see page 4), member Howard Friedman suggests a hike to Carris Hill from the little-used trailhead for the Wyanokie Crest Trail.

Some hikes, like a favorite food or special song, can be enjoyed again and again, yet they retain their appeal. For me, one such hike is a 4-mile lollipop-loop hike that leads to the top of Carris Hill in the southern section of Norvin Green State Forest in northern New Jersey. I hike this route several times each year, including at least once in the thick of winter, using mini-crampons for traction.

The most popular route leaves from the Otter Hole trailhead on Glenwild Avenue in Bloomingdale, but I prefer an alternative route, beginning at the trailhead for the yellow-blazed Wyanokie Circular Trail, 0.7 mile southeast of the Otter Hole trailhead. This route traverses a less-used portion of the park.

The hike begins by traversing low-lying terrain, a wet area, and a modest boulder field dotted with rocks the size of misshapen bowling balls. After a few gentle ascents and descents, the trail crosses several branches of Posts Brook. The water is usually not very deep, but the crossing can be challenging when the volume of water

increases after rain or snowmelt.

Just beyond the brook, the Wyanokie Crest Trail reaches the blue-blazed Hewitt-Butler Trail (co-aligned with the Highlands Trail). Turn right here, following the Hewitt-Butler Trail eastward along a wide, well-traveled dirt-and-leaf-strewn path. Another brook crossing lies ahead.

A short distance ahead is a junction with the white-blazed Posts Brook Trail. Follow the white blazes along the brook towards Chikahoki Falls, a loud if low falls. They are only about 15-20 feet high, but are quite impressive for the volume of water they spill into a large and shallow basin at their base. The path closely hugs the cascading rapids along the water's edge, but soon leaves the rushing sound of water and climbs back into the forest.

Follow the Posts Brook Trail until you reach the junction with another white-blazed trail—the Lower Trail—and turn left. Almost immediately, turn left again at the junction with the yellow-blazed Carris Hill Trail. This trail begins a gradual climb, which soon steepens, gaining about 500 feet in elevation over a distance of one mile. The payoff is several great viewpoints with a panoramic view of the Ramapo Mountains, the Wanauque Reservoir, and even the New York City skyline on a clear day.

The Carris Hill Trail (yellow) continues along the ridgeline, soon ending at a junc-

tion with the blue-blazed Hewitt-Butler Trail. Turn left onto the Hewitt-Butler Trail, which descends to Posts Brook, where you will pass the white-blazed Posts Brook Trail on your left. Turn right and continue along the blue-blazed trail to its junction with the yellow-blazed Wyanokie Circular Trail, then turn left and follow the yellow-blazed trail back to the parking area.

onto Hamburg Turnpike, which changes its name to Main Street. In 1.3 miles, bear right at a fork, then bear right again (towards West Milford) onto the sharply ascending Glenwild Avenue. Continue about 2.5 miles to the small parking area on the right for the Wyanokie Crest Trail (this parking area is about 0.1 mile past the second entrance to Kampfe Lake).

Trail Conference Map 115, North Jersey Trails (2009 edition now available)

Directions (from north and east): Take I-287 south to Exit 53 (Bloomingdale), and turn left at the end of the ramp

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