



82nd Year

TRAILWALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE...MAINTAINING OVER 1500 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2002

Raising the Ante on the Shawangunks

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is ratcheting up its already dedicated and effective land preservation activities on the Shawangunk Ridge. In recent months the Conference spearheaded the organization and meeting of more than 20 environmental groups as the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, which aims to protect the entire Shawangunk ridge greenway and connect the Catskill Park, Minnewaska State Park, Sam's Point and Mohonk Preserves in the north with High Point State Park, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and the 2,167-mile long Appalachian Trail corridor to the south. In November, the Conference debuted a new web site that it developed to support the education and advocacy work of the coalition.

The Conference's ambitions have attracted the financial support of funders, including one anonymous donor who has made a \$25,000 challenge grant, contingent on TC members contributing another \$25,000 dedicated to Shawangunk protection. (Please see page 3.) This financial support is especially noteworthy and important during the current economic downturn.



View of Lake Awosting and Catskills from Shawangunk Ridge

This redoubled effort in the Shawangunks is timely in light of mounting development threats to the ridge. Some examples:

- In Orange County, upscale homes with a view are encroaching up the eastern flank of the ridge.
- In the Town of Greenville, a developer is trying to get approvals to build more than 2,000 condominiums on top of the ridge.
- In Mamakating, over the protests

of many townspeople, the town board recently approved a new master plan and rezoning that will permit hotels and resorts to be built up to 10 stories high on top of the ridge. Four local groups are challenging these changes in court.

▫ In the wake of New York State's recent and hasty approval of casino gambling in Sullivan and Ulster Counties, developers are eyeing new gambling casinos at the Nevele Hotel just below the ridge in Ellenville, at Kutschers Hotel in

Monticello, and at the Shawanga Lodge site on top of the ridge in Mamakating. Additional development, roadways, and traffic are expected to accompany any new casino.

▫ Route 17 is being converted into Interstate-86 and a new, expanded highway exit is being pushed for the top of the ridge.

Coalition Goals

The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition plans a multipronged approach to protection that involves both land acquisition and working with local owners and municipalities to develop "smart growth" planning goals and master plans.

The coalition will:

▫ Support acquisition of a continuous corridor of land along the 35-mile Shawangunk Ridge to protect the ridgetop, give the public direct access to its magnificent beauty, and assure protection of unique, ecologically sensitive areas;

▫ Encourage good planning and zoning in the 11 ridge towns to design for careful growth, while preserving the ridge as a valuable resource for future generations; build a strong network of ridge supporters who will encourage town and planning boards to adopt ridge-friendly zoning and planning codes, and to reject

continued on page 9

Luxury Homes, Golf Course Proposed for Sterling Forest

A rezoning request by the Sterling Forest Corporation to develop more than 100 luxury homes and an 18-hole public golf course on 571 acres the company continues to own in the midst of 18,000-acre Sterling Forest State Park has aroused vehement opposition from neighbors and those with environmental concerns, including the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

Opponents of the Sterling Forge Estates project cite "serious flaws, omissions, untruths, and non-compliance" with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared for the project. The DEIS was the subject of public hearings in November. Among the issues raised are:

▫ The impact of the proposed development on watersheds, in particular on the Ramapo and Wanage watersheds in New Jersey (watershed protection was a

major reason for protecting the land in the first place);

▫ The impact of blasting (most of the development is targeted on steep-slope ridges of exposed bedrock); and

▫ The impact on endangered species (the developer's DEIS states that "no endangered or threatened plants were observed on the project site," in contrast the park's own two-year biological inventory, which has recorded a rich diversity of species from common to rare and endangered).

Speaking for the Trail Conference at a public hearing on the plan November 28, Executive Director Ed Goodell said, "I represent an organization that promotes responsible access to the backcountry. This DEIS is not a responsible document." As an example of the inaccuracies throughout the document he used a viewshed map

to show that most of the development would be seen from viewpoints along the AT and Sterling Ridge trails. He refuted the DEIS statement that development "is not expected to have significant impacts on the quality and character of views along area hiking trails" and that the only visible areas of the site are "the green of hole #5 and the tees of hole #6 and up to five residential lots."

The Trail Conference is a member of the Sterling Forest Partnership, a coalition that monitors issues relevant to Sterling Forest State Park. The Conference has contributed \$4,000 to fund a scientific review of the Sterling Forge Estates DEIS. The Thendara Hiking Club, a TC member club, has contributed \$5,000. The Appalachian Mountain Club, Tuxedo Park Association and the Sterling Forest Partnership are other contributors. Individual Trail Conference members can contribute by check or credit card by using the notation "Save Sterling Forest."

For more news of TC advocacy and conservation, please turn to page 3.

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NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

Mission Statement

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, founded in 1920, is a federation of member clubs and individuals dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community. The Conference is a volunteer-directed public service organization committed to:

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

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

Farmland Protection Benefits NY-NJ Hikers

As I bundle myself up in these coldest of hiking months and put on layers of poly pro and other high-tech micro fibers before heading off on a trail, I remember how those of us who enjoy being outdoors once relied heavily on wool... valued because it keeps you warm when it is wet. (I value it, in addition, because I love to knit and enjoy beautiful sweaters.)

Wool makes me think of sheep, which causes me to remember several hiking trips overseas—in England, Scotland, Wales, and New Zealand—where trails often pass or even go through agricultural land. Sheep often are along these trails, and they add an ambiance to the hike and at the same time remind the hiker that in parts of the world agriculture and recreation can co-exist. In England for hundreds of years, the public has been given access across farmers' fields and pastures. If you hike in England, most of the time you will see sheep. Their grazing keeps the hillsides open with few trees. As a result, the views in the hilly areas are fantastic.

In this country, agricultural and recreational lands are usually separate. We set aside land with established trails as parks. As a general rule, we do not hike through active agricultural fields. However, there are exceptions and they provide a different hiking experience. In the

Hudson Valley, for instance, there are opportunities to hike through pastures and open fields. In the Hubbard-Perkins Conservation Area, the Perkins Trail crosses working hay fields, and the Appalachian Trail in Dutchess County passes through a cow pasture. In Pennsylvania, the AT crosses through 15 miles of farms in the Cumberland Valley and is in the viewshed of many more miles. Rail trails in both New York and New Jersey pass through orchards and dairy and horse farms. The ecosystems in these areas give the hiker an opportunity to see different insects, birds, and plants, and even domestic animals such as cows, now more rare in our region than white-tailed deer. The farmland along these and other trails offer a serenity not found on, say, the Bronx River Pathway in Westchester County. And the views they offer to hikers gazing down from many of our region's ridgetops is a patchwork of beauty.

Preservation of farmland is not in the Trail Conference's mission statement, but it behooves us as individual hikers to support farm preservation initiatives. Over the last 50 years, the number of farms in New York state has decreased from 136,000 farms on 17 million acres to 31,750 farms on 7 million acres. In New York, Scenic Hudson and Open Space Institute have

initiatives in the Hudson Valley, and the Pataki administration is expanding its open space plan to include farmland protection. New Jersey has a successful farmland preservation program, but one that needs to be expanded. Anyone who has hiked in the Pine Barrens is witness to a growth management model that includes viable farms. With development pressure ever-present and increasing, both New York and New Jersey can learn from that model.

In the meantime, should you, as I do, enjoy the ambiance of farmland hiking, I can offer some tips so that should you happen to pass sheep you can appear to be quite knowledgeable.

☐ Just because domestic sheep have horns does not necessarily mean that they are male.

☐ Not cutting the wool every year does not make for longer fibers.

☐ Jacob sheep have coats of many colors and have four horns.

And if, as I do, you still love wool sweaters, think about hiking along the coast of Great Britain. The place names—Shetland, Cardigan, Raglan, Aryan, Argye, Fair Isle, and Jersey—will have you thinking you are passing through a sweater shop.

—Jane Daniels

L E T T E R S

Trail Volunteer Recognition

In the recently published book, *Palisades, 100,000 Acres in 100 Years* by past Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) Executive Director Robert O. Binnewies, the Foreword written jointly by current Executive Director Carol Ash and Past PIPC President Barnabas McHenry states: "Binnewies acknowledges the extraordinary work of volunteers, notably the trail maintainers from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. The 350 miles of trails in the park (Harriman / Bear Mountain) are their responsibility and we could not operate without them."

Obviously this statement recognizes the fact that if solely dependent upon available state funding, the park would not be able to offer the diverse recreational opportunities and magnificent scenery presented by its trail system.

Yet, it seems that the general public and even many hikers are ignorant of these circumstances. In a far less dramatic fashion this might even mirror recent current events. Before the disasters involving the

World Trade Center and anthrax, how many of us recognized or acknowledged the sacrifices and dedication of our firemen, police, or postal workers?

Our volunteer trail maintainers and construction crews donate their time and efforts for the benefit of all. Their contribution is not that of "free time," for there is precious little of that nowadays, but rather time taken away from family and other personal pursuits.

It never ceases to amaze me that to whomever of them you might ask the question, Why do you do this work? the answer supplied is invariably the same. "It's my repayment for past enjoyment and I want future generations to experience it."

So, whenever you encounter maintainers or trail crews working on the trails, thank them for their efforts. You might also take a few moments to write a note of appreciation to the Executive Director, PIPC, Bear Mt. Admin. Bldg. Bear Mt. NY 10911-0427.

Or drop into our new office in Mahwah, NJ, to say hello and buy a copy of Bob Binnewies's excellent book.

Last, but by no means least, we can always use new volunteers.

Pete Heckler
 Chair, West Hudson Trails (South)
 Committee

Additions to Skyline Viewpoints

We just received our Nov./Dec. *Trail Walker*, and as usual I enjoyed the interesting variety of articles and information. Here are some additions to the list of trail views of the skyline in New York. All are in the northern Harriman/Bear Mt area.

☐ West Mountain (from the shelter and also a bit further north on the Timp-Torne Trail)

☐ Pingyp (Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail)
 ☐ Hill O'Pines (just north of Pingyp, on the SBM trail)

☐ The top of Cat's Elbow (near intersection of Ramapo-Dunderberg and SBM Trails)

☐ Multiple points from the RD trail as it goes south from Timp Pass and toward Cat's Elbow

Trudy Pojman
 Highland Falls, New York



from the Executive Director

2001 Has Been a Big Year

As we move into the next year and the relative quiet of winter, I want to take a moment to reflect on what volunteers and staff have accomplished together.

Location, Location, Location

We moved. After 80 years in Manhattan, the Trail Conference moved its office to Mahwah, New Jersey. It was a bold decision, but we are now more centrally located to our trail network, and the move has generally met with approval.

Trail Land Acquisition

It has been a great year for trail pro-



Partnerships make success happen: Representatives of the NY-NJ Trail Conference, National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Conference, and NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection atop the completed Pochuck boardwalk

tection. The highlights:

▫ Trail Conference members put their money where their hearts are and donated half of the purchase price of access to Stony Kill Falls.

▫ After years of TC advocacy, New York State announced in March that it would purchase 2,200 acres on Schunemunk Mountain, creating a new state park. The property had been preserved by Trail Conference member Peter Stern and subsequently purchased by the Open Space Institute.

▫ The Trail Conference purchased five parcels amounting to over 400 acres along the Ginseng Ridge north of the Catskills, helping to protect the Long Path all the way to John Thatcher State Park, near Albany.

▫ The Trail Conference spent \$12,500 to permanently protect trailhead access into the delightful Mineral Falls and western sections of Black Rock Forest.

▫ In New Jersey, we donated \$25,000 toward the purchase of the Tory Estates near Norvin Green State Forest, protecting the Stonetown Circular trail.

All of these successes were made possible through effective cooperation and partnership with other organizations.

Trail Land Protection

▫ The Trail Conference is strenuously opposing the specious draft environmental impact statement submitted by the Sterling Forest Corporation for a golf course and residential development in its last undeveloped in-holding (see separate story).

▫ Trail Conference volunteers and Neil Woodworth have been opposing plans for power plants in Torne Valley. The plans have been withdrawn, for now.

▫ The Trail Conference is spearheading efforts to protect a Shawangunk Ridge Trail corridor that will connect two of the largest protected areas in New York and New Jersey (see story on page 1).

Trail Land Stewardship

▫ Once again, our trail volunteers will log more than 30,000 hours of effort.

▫ The boardwalk at the AT Pochuck crossing is now walkable! The Trail Conference will host an official opening sometime next year celebrating those who helped complete the largest single volunteer project along the AT.

ing those who helped complete the largest single volunteer project along the AT.

TC Partners in Black Rock Forest Acquisition

A cooperative effort by the Trail Conference, the Open Space Institute, and Black Rock Forest Consortium has resulted in acquisition of a critical one-acre property in the Town of Cornwall, Orange County, adjacent to Black Rock Forest. This parcel provides direct public access to the resplendent 90-foot Mineral Springs Falls, a popular area attraction.

Mineral Springs Falls, which is surrounded by a rare stand of old-growth eastern hemlock trees, is well known but currently hard to reach. The newly protected property contains the most convenient access to the waterfall and will act as a link connecting public lands in the

▫ Trail Conference volunteers have been busy identifying and laying out new trails and a Long Path reroute on recent Open Space Institute acquisitions in the northern Shawangunks and adjoining properties connecting to the Catskill Park.

▫ In the Catskills, the Trail Conference donated \$5,000 to volunteer trail maintenance programs.

▫ An agreement was secured to establish an official trails workgroup for Sterling Forest State Park and to complete a permanent trail plan within five years.

Education and Outreach

▫ The outreach program at Tiorati Circle in Harriman State Park gained momentum this year and Trail Conference volunteers led 115 new hikers on the AT this summer.

▫ Publication volunteers produced a new book, *Hiking Long Island* and revised three existing books, the *New York Walk Book*, *Daywalker*, and *Circuit Hikes in New Jersey*. At the same time, they have revised and reprinted the Bear Mountain Harriman State Park map set and the Catskill map set and are just completing massive revisions to the North Jersey map set.

All in all, it has been a very big year for the Trail Conference. There's been momentous change both inside and outside of the organization. The economic recession and the war on terrorism have permanently altered the environment we operate in. But through it all, our mission will not change. We want to provide the public with responsible access to unspoiled nature.

If anything, the demand for that wilderness experience is greater now than before. To be sure, there are new obstacles to achieving our mission. But with the help of our members, we will continue to work at making this region a hikers' paradise. Happy Hiking in 2002!

—Edward Goodell

A Gift, Times Two

Anonymous Supporter Offers a Challenge Grant for Shawangunk Ridge Protection

A hiker and member of the Trail Conference who wishes to remain anonymous has made a very generous double gift to the Conference.

Gift # One: \$50,000, which will be used to hire a fulltime volunteer projects coordinator. The person will help coordinate the over 30,000 hours of volunteer efforts annually that are so vital to Trail Conference effectiveness and success.

Gift # Two: A \$25,000 challenge grant for preservation efforts on the Shawangunk Ridge. The Conference must "earn" this gift by raising a matching \$25,000 from members. The combined \$50,000 will go toward:

▫ Acquisition of options, easements, and key parcels along the ridge;

▫ Outreach and presentations to local planning boards and town officials interested in promoting smart growth and sustainable development;

▫ Development of brochures, maps, and illustrations to communicate the value of a protected ridge to the surrounding communities;

▫ Establishing a computerized geographic information system (GIS) for monitoring up-to-date information about conservation opportunities and development threats along the entire ridge; and

▫ Setting up a program for conservation buyers and investors to protect land directly.

Help us meet this generous challenge.

Send your donation to NY-NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430; note *Shawangunk Ridge* in the memo.

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

surrounding area.

The acquired property is on the cojoined Scenic and Highlands Trails corridor between the Black Rock Forest/Storm King Mountain State Park area and the protected lands of Schunemunk Mountain to the west. The popular Scenic Trail, which traverses the entirety of Black Rock Forest and connects to Storm King Mountain, passes over this property as it snakes west toward Schunemunk Mountain. The 2,200-acre Schunemunk Mountain was protected by OSI in 1996; New York State announced plans to acquire Schunemunk as a state park in 2001.

This addition to Black Rock Forest, a 3,750-acre scientific and education preserve, will also provide a much-needed

trailhead parking area, which is now being planned and should be opened in the spring. The NY-NJ Trail Conference plans to restore an old half-mile trail leading from the proposed parking lot to the waterfall.

"As a result of this purchase and creation of a trailhead, hikers will be able to access the west side of Black Rock Forest for the first time without parking along neighboring roads. This addition is certainly welcomed by both hikers and local motorists," said Edward Goodell, Executive Director of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference contributed \$12,500, half the purchase price. *continued on page 7*



View from Anthony's Nose in the Hudson Highlands

White Bar Trail relocation: Harriman-Bear Mountain

A short, 1/3 mile section of the White Bar Trail has been relocated to eliminate a dangerous roadwalk to and from the parking area on Route 106. (See the Trail Conference's Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails map #3, grid B4.)

The trailheads for the White Bar remain unchanged. This relocation proceeds east from Island Pond Road, to cross Route 106 directly to the middle of the parking area on the south side of the road, then climbs Carr Mountain to the White Bar.

Pyramid Mountain

Two trails along the Taylortown Reservoir in this Morris County Park Commission park in Boonton and Montville, NJ, have been closed for security reasons. The Orange and Green Trails are closed until further notice.

Storm King Still Closed

According to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers is still finding ordnance rounds in the northern part of Storm King. The hiking trails have been swept, but rounds are still being found in adjacent park areas. PIPC is expecting a Phase II Clean-up Report by the end of December. A decision on whether to reopen trails only will be made after PIPC analyzes the report.

Stepping Up in Harriman

It was a foggy autumn morning when crew chief Bob Marshall and his crew unloaded two 13-foot stringers, lumber for steps, and heavy tools at Pine Meadow Lake in Harriman State Park. They then carried everything up the ridge to the Raccoon Brook Hills Trail and constructed a ladder up an eroded slope among the cliffs.



LSA DUNHAM

For two days, different crews hiked to the work site, moved large rocks for the construction of steps, and stabilized footings and the approach to the ladder.

The maintainer of the Raccoon Brook Hills Trail, Ilse M. Dunham, was elated: "I applaud the people and their volunteer spirit that planned and built the first trail ladder in the park—what an accomplishment!"

Flags on Trails

A number of hikers have sent in photos of American flags flying from prominent trail points in the New York region. This particular expression of patriotism is inspiring to some, objected to by others.

"Such displays are rife with much more controversy than you might think," notes Trail Conference New Jersey Field Representative Larry Wheelock. "There are many who consider trails a place to get away from the challenges that day-to-day life brings and, with 'leave no trace' principals in mind, political or religious symbols would be inappropriate where we seek nature in its most pure state." He suggests more appropriate places for this type of message are one's pack or automobile. What do you think? Send your thoughts to: tw@nynjtc.org or Trail Walker, NYNJTC, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430.

Fire and Drought

Although some rain was falling as of the end-of November deadline for this issue of *Trail Walker*, drought was still a significant concern throughout the New York/New Jersey region. No parks had been closed for fire considerations at that time, but one seven-mile stretch of the AT on the New York/Connecticut border was closed until further notice because of a fire on Schiaghtcoke Mountain. As of November 26, the section from Schiaghtcoke Mt. Road to Route 341 was off limits to hikers; the relo is to walk along Schiaghtcoke Road for the approximately seven miles until further notice. A fire in Harriman State Park burned some 200 acres on Dunderberg Mountain in November. October fires in Harriman had burned some 500 acres, including 450 acres on Surebridge Mountain. Check with local parks for updates on park/trail closings.

Hiker Murdered in the Whites

Hikers everywhere were stunned by the killing of a hiker in the White Mountains during Thanksgiving weekend. Lousie Chaput, a psychologist from Quebec, was stabbed to death by an unknown assailant while hiking alone on a Mount Washington trail. Her body was found near Glen Boulder Trail Thanksgiving Day about a quarter-mile from her car and the Appalachian Mountain Club's Pinkham Notch base camp. Investigations are continuing.

West Jersey Crew: A Productive First Two Years of Trail Building

The West Jersey Crew (WJC) has just completed its second successful year. Born as a group recruited for a special project in the spring of 2000, the crew just kept going after that project was accomplished.

That first project, reconstruction of the steep Mt. Tammany Trail trailhead at the Dunfield Creek (Appalachian Trail) parking lot in Worthington State Park, was completed in five weekend days in May and June 2000. Working with railroad ties and power tools provided by the park, the group constructed a new route of timber steps and timber-edged tread, able to withstand the trail's heavy use, up the steep slope. The eroded gully that was the old trail was blocked off and filled with forest debris to hasten its natural restoration.

The crew returned to the Mt. Tammany Trail in autumn 2000, working its way up the mountain installing water bars, relocating a deeply-gullied section of trail, and constructing rock stairways in eroded areas.

Spring 2001 initially found the WJC back on Mt. Tammany, where, in addition to yet more water bars, the crew constructed a series of stone steps and retaining walls to reroute a section of trail through a steep rock jumble. In June, however, the crew moved to the Pochuck site, where, on a very hot and humid day, they constructed the conventional trail section that would connect two yet-to-be-built parts of the boardwalk.

For one four-day weekend in both July and August the WJC camped and worked at Pochuck, constructing a 120-foot section of boardwalk and beginning the pier installation for the next section—which would be completed by the ATC crew in September and October.

In the fall, the WJC was back at Mt. Tammany with more railroad ties, where they reconstructed the steep trail from the



other Mt. Tammany Trail parking lot, again installing timber steps and timber-edged tread. They concluded the season at Pochuck on a chilly weekend in November, when they and the North Jersey crew joined forces to complete the last remaining section of boardwalk.

Thanks to all who have participated in one or more West Jersey Crew work trips: Jack Baccaglioni, Mary-Nell Bockman, Ian Burndell, Gordon Campbell, Kate Canney, Jackie Corrieri, Ellen Cronan, Dante Dematteo, Thomas Friesema, Ryan Friesema, Victor Gabay, Don Griffin, Bob Hagon, Phyllis Ianniello, Aram Kagan, Petra Knappe, Stephna May, Gay Mayer, Bob McElroy, Bob Messerschmidt, Nancy Moen, Bob Novick, Adam Paugh, Jack Reilley, Norm Reischer, Karen Rosencrans, Rich Rosencrans Sr., Rich Rosencrans Jr., Jonathan Sauer, Roger Sauer, David Schmitz, Arch Seamans, Bruce Shriver, Bob Sickley, Ron Snider, Rosalyn Thompson, Scott Thompson, Jeanette VanderGaag, Denise Vitale, Larry Wheelock, the Passaic High School Hiking Club, and Worthington State Park college interns John, Joubert, JC, and Sara.

We'll be back out there in the Spring!
—David Day and Monica Resor
Crew Leaders

Pochuck: It's Now Walkable



Pochuck volunteers take a break

ing 2,600 feet of boardwalk and about 400 feet of soil trail. Next spring, riling over the last bridge, about 250 feet of additional boardwalk through the woods, and some other finishing touches will be completed.

Of the grant monies received by the Trail Conference for this project, \$20,000 of the National Recreational Trails grant and approximately \$1,500 of the American Hiking Society grant have been used for this past season's work. The balance of these grants will be put to completing the project in the spring. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection provided a large additional portion of the necessary funds for materials and much staff time for this project.

The conference plans to celebrate completion of the Pochuck project next year. Watch for details.

—Larry Wheelock
Trail Conference Field Representative in New Jersey

GET INVOLVED

Looking for a Few Good Volunteers

Trail Maintainers Needed: Long Path, Shawangunks, Staten Island

Three maintainers are needed for stretches of the Long Path between the George Washington Bridge and Nyack (one on the Palisades, one in Blauvelt State Park, and one in West Nyack).

Two maintainers are needed on the southern portion of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (Greenville, NY). For information on these positions, call 201-512-9348.

—Jakob Franke, Chair, Long Path South

The Metro Area Trails Committee is also looking for people to assist in the maintaining of various segments of trails in the Staten Island Greenbelt. Many positions are available. If interested, please contact Bob Ward, Metro Area Trails Chairman, at 718-471-7036 after 8 p.m. or email Robert.Ward31@verizon.net.

Executive Assistant

One or more volunteers are needed to work with the Executive Director on development, communications, and special projects. This work will be on a regular part-time basis in the Mahwah office.

Tech Savvy?

Put your technology know-how to good purpose by volunteering your skills with the Trail Conference. Several volunteer jobs are available.

- Maintaining the office computer systems, both hardware and software;
- Programming to help integrate our office database and finances;
- Maintaining and developing selected parts of our web site;
- Upgrading our membership/development database to a new release of FileMaker in early 2002.

Join the team! Contact: Walt Daniels wdaniels@bestweb.net.

Want to Be in Publishing?

Volunteers are needed to help field check trails in the East Hudson area using the Conference's GPS unit (or their own). Information is for future Conference publications. Contact: John Jurasek, jurasek@worldnet.att.net.

For all the latest Trail Conference volunteer opportunities, click "Volunteers" at www.nynjtc.org.

Volunteers Recognized at Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting on October 13, 2001, the Trail Conference presented three awards for exemplary service.

The Major Welch Trail Partner Award was presented to Karen Lutz. Karen is the Appalachian Trail Conference's MidAtlantic Field Representative. She interacts with all three of the local AT committees to help them in innumerable ways. Her aid in pushing the Pochuck River bridge project toward completion is especially noteworthy. (See separate article about Pochuck.) Ron Rosen, chair of the AT committee for Dutchess/Putnam, says of Karen, "Her dedication to the AT Project is incredible, and she has a knack of working closely with volunteers without stepping on their toes or taking over their work. She is great at keeping the details of scores of projects and trail club activities in her mind."


The Hoeflerlin Award, given to volunteers who demonstrate exemplary service to trail maintenance and management, was presented to Monica Resor and David Day (see story on the pair in the November/December 2001 *Trail Walker*). David and Monica have been long-time members of the West Hudson Trail Crew. More recently they have taken on heading the new West Jersey Trail Crew (see



A photo op at the TC Annual Meeting at Black Rock Forest

page 4). Visit www.trailstobuild.com for a web site they have developed about their adventures in trail building.

Trail Conference staff also took the opportunity to thank particularly those member volunteers who help in the office—answering mail and phones; packaging map, book, and other merchandise orders; managing membership data; providing technology support and services, and countless other tasks.

Special thanks were given to Anne Grob, called "my right hand" by administrative director Scott Voorhees. Among her many contributions to the Conference, Anne has been acting as the unofficial volunteer coordinator. Also singled out for special thanks was Paul Leikin, who oversees the group of volunteers who meet every two weeks at his home to collate map sets. Paul, who is nearing age 90 and still walks seven miles a day, recently decided to step down from trail maintaining and overseeing the advertising for *Trail Walker*. 

FOR & ABOUT

Our Members

▫ Errata

The photo accompanying the article on TC's outreach program at Tiorati Circle in Harriman Park (page 5, of the November/December 2001 *Trail Walker*), incorrectly identified the TC leader. Pictured with the group was Herb Young.

▫ Pair Completes AT

Congratulations to Conference member Dick Redfield, of Pleasantville, NY, and Eileen West, who completed hiking the Appalachian Trail, arriving at the summit of Katahdin on September 7, after about eight years of pursuing the trail "in earnest" (mostly day hiking). Earlier in the year, they completed the Metacommet-Monadnock Trail, which runs from the Connecticut/Massachusetts border to New Hampshire. They are also Long Path end-to-enders.

▫ Update on a Well-known Catskill Hiker

Many Conference members know Bill Riemus, a life-long hiker whose favorite trails were in the Catskills. Member Mary

Sive recently visited with Bill and sends this update:

"Bill has found a new pursuit. In September he had a one-man show of his artwork at the Mountainside Care Center in Margaretville, where he now resides. His signature medium—cartoons sketched on five-inch paper plates. But he also works in any medium available in the center's art department.

"Many of us would have had a lot more trouble completing the Catskill peaks without Bill's help. He was always willing to come out to help find a canister on a trailless peak. He also knew the location of every plane crash in the Catskills and could find the wreckage without fail with his uncanny compass skills.

"After Bill's wife, Anna, died two years ago, he gave up their home not far from the Panther Mountain trailhead and moved to Mountainside. Popular with both staff and residents, his sense of humor and sharp wit have helped him create a new life. When not painting or sketching, Bill enjoys reading adventure stories. His address is c/o Mountainside Residential Care Center, Margaretville, NY 12455."

Board Updates

At the annual meeting in October, board members for 2001/2002 were elected and appointed: Art Lebofsky and Mary Smart were elected to full three-year terms replacing Neil Zimmerman and Gail Neffinger. Gary Haugland, Dan Chazin, and Pete Heckler were reelected to new three-year terms. Barry Mark was appointed to replace Jan Hesbon for the remainder of his term, and Anne Osborn was appointed to replace Ann Loeb for the remainder of her term.

At the board meeting on October 16, the board elected the following officers:

Jane Daniels, President
Tom Humbach, Vice President
Daniel Chazin, Secretary
Bill Mishler, Treasurer

In addition, chairs of several committees were appointed and several new committees formed.

Neil Zimmerman, Conservation & Advocacy
Gary Haugland, Trails Council
John Gunzler, Marketing
Barry Mark, Membership
Wanda Davenport, Outreach
Art Lebofsky, Science
Joan Ehrenfeldt, Science
Mary Smart, Development
Jane Daniels, Administrative
Bill Mishler, Finance
John Gunzler, Personnel

Delegates' and Membership Meeting February 7

All TC members invited

All Trail Conference members are invited to attend the next meeting of hiking club delegates on Thursday, February 7, 2002, at the Seafarers and International House, 123 East 15th Street, in Manhattan (corner of 15th Street and Irving Place, one block east of Union Square).

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Please join us for a social hour, beginning at 6 p.m., for a chance to share refreshments and chat with hiking club representatives.

Edward Goodell encourages delegates to bring general and specific issues of concern to these meetings. "In addition to the governance function of delegates' meetings, we need to use these meetings to improve the quality of dialogue about the issues affecting the hiking community and how the Trail Conference can best help," he says.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Public transportation to the Seafarers House: subway lines 4, 5, 6, N, R and L to 14th Street/Union Square. Or bus lines 6 and 7 (Broadway); lines 1, 2 and 3 (Park Ave.); and lines 102 and 103 (Third Ave.).

HIKING ACROSS AMERICA

A Journey Between the Dots

By Neil DiBernardo

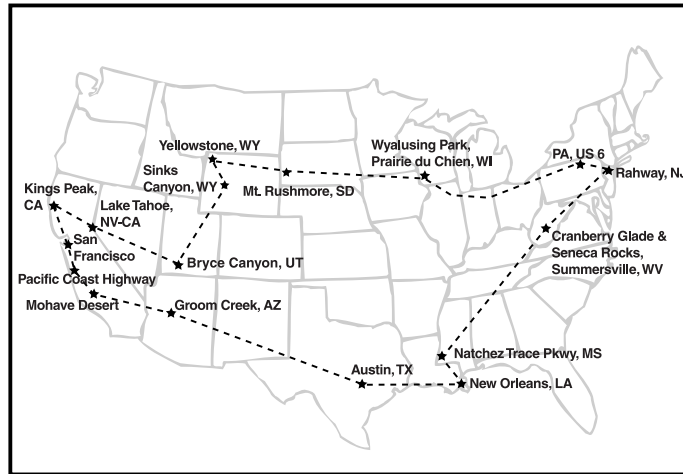
Since childhood, I've been buying Rand McNally road atlases every few years and plotting a round-trip, cross-country drive that would take me through the most possible states with no backtracking. In the fall of 2000, after getting approval to take off three consecutive weeks from my job, I set about to map my dream vacation.

In terms of destinations, I knew only a few things for certain: I would head west from New Jersey on a northerly route with San Francisco as my turnaround point and then return through the South; I wanted to avoid the interstates as much as possible; I wanted to see Mount Rushmore; I also wanted to visit my sister's new home in Prescott, Arizona, stay a night in Austin, Texas, to hear some live folk music, and at least pass through New Orleans. And I wanted to do as much hiking as possible.

Several months before the trip was to begin, I set out to create a written itinerary. I decided to plan a hike for every third or fourth day, and to use the hikes as "dots" that I would connect to create my route. This idea really took hold once I realized I could tell people I was planning to "hike across America." I quickly realized it would cost me a fortune to purchase every hiking book that I would need—books I might never use again. There was only one place I knew of where I might find trail guides to every state on my blueprint—and as a bonus not have to purchase a single one: the NY-NJ Trail Conference Hoefler Library.

Just a little room tucked in the TC offices—then in Manhattan—the library nevertheless contains an extensive collection, predominantly guide books for hiking in the U.S., plus some international trail guides, travel essays, and picture books. It became an integral part of planning my dream vacation. Over the course of two separate four-hour visits to the library, I was able to narrow down the states in which I would hike. I then checked out the relevant books (for the three-week time period the library allows) and spent more time at home honing each chosen state down to one prime challenging hike and an alternate easier hike in case of bad weather. Once I had those "dots" in place, I sprawled out on my living room floor with my AAA maps, my chosen hikes, a blank composition notebook, and multi-colored hi-liters, and began to connect the dots to create an itinerary that ended up covering 22 states.

I have lived my whole life within a half-day's drive of New York City, but as I set out from New Jersey on a bright October morning, the spaces between the dots



ABOUT THE DOTS

Due to a notable dearth of good hiking in the Midwest, I ended up with fewer than expected hikes planned—just six. But the quality made up for the quantity.

▣ Wyalusing State Park in southwestern Wisconsin near Prairie du Chien—where the exquisite Wisconsin River joins the not-yet-great Mississippi River; dense woods, open wildflower meadows and steep river overlooks across to Iowa.

▣ Sinks Canyon in west-central Wyoming near Lander—woods and riparian walking along the Popo Agie River in Wind River Mountains and Shoshone National Forest, with side-trips to "The Sinks," where the river disappears into a cave, and "The Rise" where it re-emerges from underground into a pond.

▣ Bryce Canyon National Park in southwestern Utah near Cedar City—spectacular deep red canyon walking encompassing figure-eight double loop of Queens Garden and Peekaboo trails, including Wall of Windows and "Wall Street" sections.

▣ Kings Peak in northwestern California near Redway—17 miles of rugged and remote dirt road driving led to a loop trail of deep woods climbing into cloud-high mountaintop views and Pacific Ocean vistas, in the King Range National Conservation Area.

▣ Lanfair Valley in southeastern California near (vaguely) Needles—a 30 mile drive (20 of which are dirt and hardly road) from the nearest town (barely) into the Mojave National Preserve for a loop hike to Fort Piute and the only perennial stream in the east Mojave Desert.

▣ Groom Creek in central Arizona near Prescott—evergreen forests and gently rising mountains lead to a fire look-out with panoramic views of the Prescott National Forest.

As it turned out, owing to unexpected adventures, I ended up doing only the first four of these hikes (although I got within a mile of the trailhead of the Mojave hike). But that's another story...

became places, filled with sometimes exquisite, sometimes disturbing landscapes. I came to see that life really does exist outside of cities and suburbs. And the hikes, in remote or little-known areas of Wisconsin, Wyoming, Utah, California, and Arizona, took me to a variety of terrains and vistas that I would never have known to explore had it not been for my research in the Trail Conference library.

The trip was such a complete success that I decided to declare it merely the first

part of an ongoing journey to "find" America. Somehow I managed to convince my employer to let me have another three consecutive weeks of vacation, and on September 9, 2001, I set out with a whole new itinerary based on another set of dots, researched this time in the more spacious Trail Conference library in the new Mahwah office.

As fate would have it, I was setting out for a hike on the Appalachian Trail in northern Georgia on the morning of September 11, and this second journey between the dots ended up revealing a very different view of America than can be charted on maps. This trip through 24 more states had its share of scenic wonders, but it will be the faces and voices of the people I will remember—many different cultures and many different accents but one people, unified at first by shock and then by grief and finally pride. But that is a longer story than can be told in these pages.

About the TC Library

Books in the Trail Conference library can be checked out by members for three-week loan by visiting the office. The library includes how-to books (snowshoe, backpack, camp cooking, etc.) and trail and natural history guides for the NY-NJ region and beyond, including many national parks and foreign destinations popular with hikers.

Books Recently Received in the TC Library Include

Short Nature Walks on Long Island
Rodney and Priscilla Albright, Globe Pequot Press, 2001

Hiking the Triple Crown: Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, Continental Divide Trail
Karen Berger, Mountaineers Books, 2001

Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years
Robert O. Binnewies, Fordham University Press and Palisades Interstate Park Commission, 2001

Classic Treks: The 30 Most Spectacular Hikes in the World
Bill Kirkett, Little Brown and Company, 2000

Views from on High: Fire Tower Trails in the Adirondacks and Catskills
John S. Freeman, Adirondack Mountain Club, 2001

GPS Made Easy: Using Global Positioning Systems in the Outdoors.
Lawrence Letham, Mountaineers Books, 2001

Written in Stone: A Geological History of the Northeastern United States
Chet and Maureen E. Raymo, Black Dome Press, 2001

A Season on the Appalachian Trail
Lynn Setzer, Menasha Ridge Press, 2001

Lonely Planet Guides:
Hiking in Alaska
Walking in Australia
Hiking in Japan

The Geysers of Yellowstone
Scott T. Bryan, University Press of Colorado, 2001

Awakening to Nature: Renewing Your Life by Connecting with the Natural World
Charles Cook, Contemporary Book, 2001

A Journey North: One Woman's Story of Hiking the Appalachian Trail
Adrienne Hall, Appalachian Mountain Club Books, 2000

California Hiking: The Complete Guide to More than 1,000 of the Best Hikes
Tom Stienstra and Ann Marie Brown, Avalon Travel Publishing (Foghorn Outdoors), 2001

Videos:
How to Hike the Pacific Crest Trail.
Lynne Wheldon. VHS. 4 hours 39 minutes.

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continued from page 3

chase price, with the remainder provided by a grant from the Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Endowment, a perpetual endowment held by OSI to further land preservation. The Black Rock Forest Consortium will manage the property and has agreed to construct the parking area complete with signage and trail information.

Open Space Wins in NJ Elections

Nearly half of the open space issues decided by ballot this past November—54 of 113—were passed in New Jersey. What's more, Garden State voters approved 81 percent of these ballots by margins as high as four-to-one, even though all but a handful required a property tax increase. Nationally, the passage rate was 73 percent. The Trail Conference had joined with nine other local and regional organizations in September to support open space preservation issues on the November ballot in New Jersey.

Two of the biggest approvals in New Jersey were:

- \$200 million in Morris County, NJ, for open space, recreation, and farmland preservation; and:
- \$50 million in Old Bridge Township, NJ, for open space acquisition.

Nationally in 2001, voters approved committing \$1.16 billion in new funding for parks and open space conservation. Sixty-seven percent of the referenda presented to voters were approved during the year. From 1998-2000, voters approved approximately \$17.6 billion for open space protection.

Data is provided by the Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust Alliance; for additional information go to www.tpl.org.

In NY, Lofty Plans, No Money

As 2001 draws to a close, New York State's budget still does not include appropriations for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), the state's main environmental funding source. As a result, the completion of numerous pending state land purchases, including Stony Kill Falls access in the Shawangunks, the Long Path in the Catskills and the Capital District, the Lundy Estate in the Catskills, Schunemunk State Park, and the Genny Green Trail to connect the North Country Scenic Trail and the Finger Lakes Trail in Central New York, remains uncertain and could be jeopardized if the fund remains at zero.

Although the state is facing significant budget difficulties as a result of the decline in the economy and the September 11 attacks in New York City, the EPF has its own dedicated revenue stream from real estate development taxes and sums already collected this year. These funds are sufficient to meet our requested level of appropriation for the April 1, 2001-March 31, 2002 fiscal year. By law, EPF

funds cannot be spent for any purpose other than for the environment. The main purpose in creating EPF as a locked box was so the environment would not be neglected in difficult budget times.

It is not too late to lobby your state officials in support of the EPF. There is still time for the governor and the legislature to reach agreement to appropriate these funds.

NY Gambles with Open Space

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) held 12 Open Space Plan public hearings on November 13, 14, and 15 across the state. At the meetings, the main message from Trail Conference advocates was "Great Plan, No Money." The plan calls for an annual budget of \$113 million for land acquisition.

Formal comments on the plan submitted by the Trail Conference and ADK included a request that the plan be funded (see related story above). The Conference also commended the plan for urging protection of Schunemunk and Woodcock Mountains in Orange County, various Shawangunk Ridge parcels, an important inholding in Sterling Forest, and land adjacent to Harriman Park in the Torne Valley that has been proposed for a massive power plant project. The groups also endorsed state recommendations in the Catskill Forest Preserve for protection by acquisition of the Graham and Doubletop Mountains/Dry Brook area, the Peekamoose Gorge, remaining private holdings on Bearpen/Vly/Roundtop Mountains, and consolidation of holdings in the Hunter Mountain, Indian Head-Plateau, Westkill and Windham High Peak areas.

The Conference and ADK also asked the state to place more emphasis on protecting the Shawangunk Ridge generally from growth and development. The groups urged that particular caution be focused on growth pressures exerted by any casinos that may be proposed for the area as a result of the state's October approval of new casinos in Sullivan and Ulster Counties. Anti-gambling forces have filed lawsuits to overturn the new law, alleging that it violates the state constitution.

Air Quality Advocacy

The Trail Conference and ADK, as part of Hikers For Clean Air, are continuing to advocate for strong rules that cut emissions from power plants and reduce SOX, NOX and smog from our national parks. The organizations will be submitting testimony to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in support of new federal regulations mandating major reductions in emissions from all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, trail motorcycles and jet ski engines by 2006.

The EPA is proposing emissions cuts from these mobile source engines to help reduce hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx). Controlling these pollutants will help reduce acid rain, smog, and improve visibility in the Hudson Highlands and the Catskills.

HIKERS' BOOKSHELF

Palisades 100,000 Acres in 100 Years
by Robert O. Binnewies

I had reservations about reading an organizational history of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) written by a prominent retired insider and underwritten by that same organization. But this chronicle of the unique two-state agency has the elements of numerous best-sellers: There's violence (development goliath Robert Moses attempting to strangle Trail Conference icon Raymond Torrey during a dispute about the Northern State Parkway on Long Island; see page 193); there's sex (or at least a 1919 dance called "the shimmy"; see page 104); there's intrigue (throughout the book, in the details of the many acquisition stories that created the PIPC network of parks). Most prominently, there is the book's huge cast of larger-than-life characters: J. P. Morgan, John D. Rockefeller, George W. Perkins, W. Averell Harriman, Laurance S. Rockefeller, Mary Fisk, Larry Rockefeller, Theodore Roosevelt, and the list goes on.

PIPC got its start when wealthy estate owners on the New York side of the Hudson River objected to the noise and destruction of the "palisade" cliffs on the New Jersey side by quarriers. But, Binnewies makes clear in his account, this self-interest of the rich quickly evolved into

dedicated commitments to conservation and public access to outdoor recreation. Over decades and generations, individuals have supported PIPC with extraordinary donations of time, talent, money, land, and influence and in the process created one of the country's most important park systems.

Of particular interest to hikers is the role of the Trail Conference in this history. The Conference makes frequent appearances as an important partner in land acquisition successes. Binnewies also relates the Conference's formation in 1920, "specifically to lend volunteer assistance to the PIPC" in the matter of trail-building and trail maintaining. The continuing importance of the Conference is acknowledged in the Foreword by current PIPC Executive Director Carole Ash and President Barnabas McHenry.

Binnewies, the now retired executive director of PIPC, has squeezed an enormous amount of information into 356 pages, and at times it is a bit difficult to keep track of when in the story we are. His focus is on acquisition; management issues and philosophy get less attention. But overall, *Palisades* will interest anyone concerned with the history of parks, open space, and efforts to protect them.


—Georgette Weir

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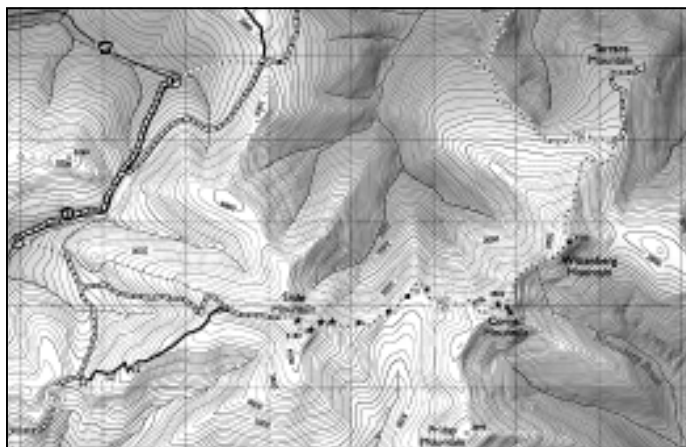
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An Award Winning Map

By Herb Chong

Many of you may know that the Trail Conference has been producing its own hiking maps for approximately thirty years. What you may not know is that the Trail Conference's maps have been good enough to win awards. In 1996, the Shawangunk Trail map set won second prize in the competition sponsored by the American Cartographic Association. This year, a prototype map, "The Long Path-South Central Catskills," produced as a design study for future hiking maps to be created by the Trail Conference, won a Notable Entry award from Avenza Systems Inc. in their First Annual Map Competition.

Avenza Systems produces a program called MAPublisher and the Trail Conference has been using it to help create the newest, all-computerized maps. The Sterling Forest Trails map is the first one published by the Trail Conference that was created with the aid of MAPublisher. John Jurasek, field data coordinator for map publications, is working on the newest, computerized edition of the Hudson Palisade Trails map set for publication some time in 2003. The upcoming 5th edition of *The Long Path Guide* will have its maps created with MAPublisher too.

Using computerized tools such as MAPublisher to create hiking trail maps has opened up opportunities for creating maps with more information than practical when using traditional map-making techniques. One technique that has become standard for many types of maps such as the Trail Conference's hiking trail maps is the use of shaded relief. Shaded relief is the use of an artificial lighting from the upper left corner of the map towards the center to illuminate the bumpy surface of the terrain. The shadows and highlights make it easier for the non-expert map-reader to visualize the shape of the land. Although it does not convey any more information than traditional contour lines, it is easier to see the landforms.

Another technique for trail map creation that becomes much easier with computer techniques is being able to have more

types of lines on the map for representing the trails. The map that won the Notable Entry award from Avenza experiments with some of these techniques to show hiking trails with more information than was easily possible before. The Long Path map uses two techniques that haven't been tried on Trail Conference maps, color-coding the trail lines using their blaze colors, and using an outline that depends on the nature of the trail's track. Footpaths, woods roads, and drivable roads each have a different outline treatment to help in identifying the character of the trail. See example above.

Although the Trail Conference is still experimenting with new styles in our computerized hiking maps, the changes being made are being recognized by the computer cartography community as new and aesthetically pleasing ways of enhancing the information content of our maps. These changes will begin to appear in the next generation of hiking trail maps being created today. 🍃

Herb Chong is a member of the NY-NJTC Publications Committee. For more information, visit www.avenza.com.

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New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new life members: Marilyn Varley, Barry Mark, Michael Nutry, and Larry Wehr; and joint life members: Mary Smart and Irving Fletcher, Tom and Jane Dupont, and Carol O'Keefe and Douglas Ryan.

A Life Membership to the NY-NJ Trail Conference is just \$400 for an individual; \$600 for a joint membership (two adults at the same address, 2001 rates; see page 11.). The next time you renew, consider becoming one of the Conference's more than 800 "lifers."



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Hiking Long Island (2001)	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$3.00	_____
Catskill Trails: A Ranger's Guide to the High Peaks				
Book One: The Northern Catskills (2000)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
Book Two: The Central Catskills (2000)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
Scenes & Walks in the Northern				
Shawangunks (1999) & see combo	\$10.95	\$8.75	+\$1.75	_____
Scenes & Walks in the				
Northern Shawangunks (1999) Hardcover	\$17.95	\$14.50	+\$3.00	_____
New York Walk Book (2001) & see combo	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$3.00	_____
New Jersey Walk Book (1998) & see combo	\$15.95	\$12.75	+\$3.00	_____
Iron Mine Trails: NY-NJ Highlands (1996, rev. 1999)	\$8.95	\$7.15	+\$1.75	_____
Health Hints for Hikers (1994)	\$5.95	\$4.75	+\$1.75	_____
Doodletown-Hiking Through History in a				
Vanishing Hamlet on the Hudson (1996)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman Trails Guide (1999) & see combo	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$3.00	_____
Long Path Guide to NY/NJ (1996)	\$9.95	\$7.95	+\$1.75	_____
Nature Walks in New Jersey (1998)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.50	_____
50 Hikes in New Jersey (1997, rev. 1999)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills &				
Hudson River Valley (1992)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children - New Jersey (1992)	\$12.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
A.T. Guide for NY & NJ (1998) w/ 6 maps	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.50	_____
ADK Guide to Catskill Trails (1994, repr. 1998)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 years (2001)	\$27.50	\$22.00	+\$3.00	_____

Combo-Packs

Catskill (5-map set & book)	\$27.80	\$21.60	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman (2-map set & book)	\$22.40	\$17.55	+\$2.50	_____
NY & NJ Walk Books	\$32.35	\$25.85	+\$5.00	_____
Shawangunk Combo (4-map set & book)	\$17.90	\$13.95	+\$2.50	_____

The Personal Touch

Hiking Cap	\$12.90	\$10.50	+\$1.50	_____
Long-sleeve Denim Shirt Circle: S M L XL	\$29.90	\$23.90	+\$3.95	_____
Polo Shirt (Forest Green) Circle: S M L XL	\$19.90	\$15.50	+\$3.50	_____
NY-NJTC T-Shirt Circle: L XL	\$13.95	\$13.95	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman Map Bandanna	\$6.95	\$5.25	+\$1.25	_____
Conference Logo Patch	\$2.50	\$2.50	postpaid	_____
Long Path Logo Patch	\$2.75	\$2.75	postpaid	_____
Conference Logo Decal	\$.85	\$.85	postpaid	_____

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

TECH NEWS

Complete Trail Walker Now Online

The full *Trail Walker* will now be available on the web shortly after the print version is shipped. (Previously, only selected articles were available online.) Selected stories will continue to be in the regular Conference web pages, e.g. trail crew schedules and articles that appear first on the web.

One big plus of the new arrangement is that Google (a web search facility; www.google.com) will index the articles so that searching with Google will find them. The minus is that *Trail Walker* files are large—typically more than a mega-

byte; download times will be long on slow lines. All the files are in PDF format so you need Acrobat Reader. Currently the last two issues of 1999, all of 2000, and all of 2001 are online.

As with most Trail Conference committees, volunteers to work on tech stuff are welcome and needed. The volunteer opportunities page has been updated to reflect those needs. Click on **Volunteer** on the main menu to see the current opportunities.

—Walt Daniels

Chair, Technology Committee

SHAWANGUNK RIDGE COALITION

continued from page 1

poorly planned developments;

Create a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based clearinghouse about the ridge containing current ownership information, proposed developments, open space protection efforts, GIS maps, and aerial photos;

Initiate landowner outreach to empower neighbors along the ridge to actively participate in creating healthy, scenic, well-designed communities in which they can live;

Foster communication and information sharing among the coalition, not-for-profits, land trusts, towns, counties, DEC and local citizens; provide email communication and updates; and offer regional gatherings/educational workshops; and

Create awareness of the entire ridge as a regional ecosystem in which each town has a greater responsibility beyond its own boundaries to protect this valuable resource for the benefit of all.

“When we can successfully protect this ridge, it will

be a regional and even national success story for hikers and for the environment,” says Trail Conference Executive Director Edward Goodell.

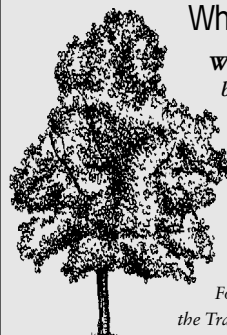
To keep up with news of the Shawangunk Ridge and to help preserve it, visit the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition web site at www.shawangunkridge.org.



Protected and unprotected lands of the Shawangunk ridge

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

When we build them, you hike them. We've been building and protecting trails for at least four generations of hikers since 1920. That's 1,500 miles in New York and New Jersey to date. Help us keep building for the next generation by naming the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in your will. A bequest makes a wonderful gift, and it lasts beyond one lifetime.



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

Family-Oriented Winter Trails Event Set for January 19



The American Hiking Society invites everyone to its Sixth Annual Winter Trails™ event, designed to get people outdoors to experience the popular sport of snowshoeing through winter hikes and walks. This free event is being offered at 11 sites across the country on January 19th and at one site on the weekend of February 16-17th. Included will be demos and clinics that offer individuals of all ages and abilities a chance to try snowshoeing in a fun, educational, and pressure-free environment while appreciating the natural out-of-doors.

One of the January 19 events is set for the New York-New Jersey area, at High Point. Games are planned for children; a cross-country ski lodge with fireplace will be available. There will be igloo building, demonstrations by the National Ski Patrol, guided hikes by state park naturalist, and birdwatching. Without natural snow the activities will be on

manmade snow. Bring binoculars, extra clothes.

Schedule: Sign-up for activities and use of demo equipment 9:00 am to 10:00 am; event hours 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m.

Directions: North: Rt. 287N to Rt. 23N to High Point State Park (HPSP); West: Rt. 80W to Rt. 23N to HPSP; South: Rt. 23S to HPSP; East: Rt. 94E to Rt. 565E to HPSP.

The local sponsor for the event is the High Point XC Ski Center

Questions? Contact Hans P. Karlsen, 973-702-1222, hpk@warwick.net, or visit our www.xskihighpoint.com.

AT COMMITTEE'S VIGILANCE PROTECTS THE TRAIL'S LARGEST BLAZED TREE

These notes, excerpted and adapted from the minutes of the Dutchess/Putnam Appalachian Trail Committee, testify to the need and effectiveness for vigilant watchdogs for all our trails: Quick work by committee members prevented damage to a tree identified as the "largest blazed tree on the entire Appalachian Trail."

Item: Telephone Line at Dover Oak Tree: Ron [Rosen, committee co-chair] received a phone call from a regular hiker in the Pawling area who is a former employee of New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG), who was concerned that Verizon seems to be putting a new pole line up West Dover Road that will definitely require trimming of the Dover Oak Tree, which is the largest blazed tree on the entire Appalachian Trail. The hiker contacted Ron, and gave him the names and numbers of a number of contacts in the engineering office at Verizon who could be contacted to stop the work and avoid damage to the tree. Ron made some calls and left messages on voicemail for two people in the engineering office. A lead engineer from Verizon returned Ron's call and assured the committee that Verizon will not disturb the tree. Ron also determined that Verizon had actually installed three poles near the tree, one on the east side of the road about 25 feet south of the National Park Service property corner, one on the west side of the road just northwest of the tree's trunk, and one on the east side of the road just south of the north NPS property corner.

FAVORITE HIKES



West Kill Peak on Snowshoes

Snowshoe Treks for Every Skill Level

By Donald C. Pachner



A 3,880 foot-high Catskill peak that offers snowshoeing routes for people of every degree of experience, is West Kill Mountain in West Kill-North Dome Wilderness Area. The route described here can be divided into a level trip of a couple miles for beginners, a moderate four-mile round-trip to the scenic notch between West Kill and the trailless North Dome for novices, and a rigorous nine-mile adventure of interesting wilderness terrain and spectacular views for experienced snowshoers. The latter is one of my favorite trails in all seasons, a familiarity I've acquired thanks to the advice of my friend Diane from the local ADK Mohican Chapter.

The trek starts from Spruceton Road at the western end of the rugged, 2.5+ mile, red-blazed "Devil's Path" The first mile or so ascends gradually and wanders along beautiful Mink Hollow, through some of the last old-growth hemlock forest of the Catskills. If you're lucky, other snowshoers may already have done the tough work of breaking trail. Watch for signs of animal tracks as you make your way through the hollow.

For those willing to expend the energy, a moderate climb of about 400 vertical feet over a half-mile will take you to the notch between West Kill and North Dome. More open views of North Dome and a seasonal pond open up an impressive panorama of this wild area. You may wish to hike a little farther up the trail and glide on snowshoes down the ridge back toward the notch.

The summit trip of another 3.1 miles is recommended ONLY for experienced outdoors people and proficient snowshoers. Those who climb to the summit will test their ledge-climbing skills (snowshoes act like platforms when kicked into a vertical snow bank) and agility as well as their ability to snowshoe downhill through tree-studded, rocky glens. When I last snowshoed this route, I passed no other snowshoers from the notch to trail's end, so don't expect help from others in the event of an emergency.

Snowshoeing through that special

winter mix of light, reflection and shadow, and the quiet white stillness will have you thinking about what's absent in winter: barred owls that hoot here on cool, drizzly spring days; blankets of trout lilies that appear after the snow melts in May; black flies that make hiking miserable after a hard winter.

After the ups and downs of the black spruce-and balsam fir forest of the ridge, you can easily miss the summit sign among the densely growing trees. There is no view from the summit, which is wooded. But soon you'll come to one of the most expansive and dramatic panoramic views in the Catskills—Buck Ridge Lookout, offering views of Hunter and Southwest Hunter Mountains. From here, the trail descends steeply, and you will glide down to Diamond Notch Falls (blazed blue) in no time, where you cross a bridge over the West Kill, then turn left onto a jeep road that will lead you to the end of Spruceton Road (about a mile). Allow at least 8-9 hours for the summit climb and descent.

Travel Directions

The trailheads on Spruceton Road can be reached via Route 42 from either Lexington (Route 23A) or Shandaken (Route 28). Turn east onto Spruceton Road. The small DEC trailhead parking area from which this outing begins is 3.8 miles down the road on the right, just before Albino's Guest Cottages. For those snowshoeing the entire trail, park another car at the DEC Parking area at the end of Spruceton Road, which saves a 3.2-mile road walk at the end of the day. Travel time from New York City is about three hours.

Donald Pachner is a leader for the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Outings Committee and chair of Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group Trails Committee.



Map 41, NYNJTC Catskills map set (2001)
Grid K&L/4

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OPEN YEAR ROUND



continued from page 12

out the various pavilions, then weather permitting, we will tour the newly renovated Japanese garden and other areas of the 52-acre garden. Non-members fee \$3, plus \$3 admission.

ADK-R. Letter Rock, Goshen and Stevens Mt. Circular. Leader: Call 845-359-2465. 6-7 moderate miles.

SUNDAY, JAN. 20

GAHC. Hook Mountain State Park (Hudson River shoreline), Upper Nyack, NY. Leaders: Holly deLiz, 201-592-6377 & Henry Loddigs, 718-899-1052. Meet: 10 AM at parking lot at northern end of North Broadway, about 5 miles north of NY Thruway Exit 10. Average hike. Non-members \$2.

IHC. Wawayanda Winter Wonderland. Leader: Ilse Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 AM at A&P/Post Office parking at Warwick Tpk. Shopping Center, Hewitt, NJ. Moderately strenuous hike past ponds and Wawayanda Lake, including stands of hemlocks and spectacular, dense growth of rhododendrons lining the Cedar Swamp trail. Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancel.

OUT. Hell's Kitchen/Clinton. Leader: Ina Stone, 212-877-9623. Meet: 1 PM at McDonald's on W. 58th St. and 8th Ave. 3 miles at an easy pace. See St. Clements Church, Clinton Court, Holy Cross Church, Manhattan Plaza, Landmark Tavern and other local sites. Heavy rain/snow cancels. Non-members \$3.

MONDAY, JAN. 21

RWW. Doubletop Mt (3,860). For information call 845-246-8616. Strenuous bushwhack: 5.5 miles, 5.25 hours. (snowshoes and crampons necessary). Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

TUESDAY, JAN. 22

FVTW. Pyramid Mountain, Montville. Leader: Bill Barton, 908-647-6658. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 6-7 miles exploring the new Orange Trail: visits to Bear Rock and famous Tripod Rock.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23

FVTW. Patriots' Path, Morristown. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 5-mile hike along the old Rock-a-Bye Railroad and the Whippany River.

THURSDAY, JAN. 24

FVTW. Skannatati Circular, Harriman. Leader: Al and Jane Leigh, 973-471-7528. Meet: 10 AM at Skannatati parking. Early in the year, at a beautiful spot in Harriman, we will share about 8 miles at a moderate pace, keeping ground cover in mind.

SATURDAY, JAN. 26

UHC. Jockey Hollow. Leader: Bob Hagan, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10 AM; Call night before between 7 and 9 PM only. This will be a brisk ramble of 5-6 miles.

OUT. Forest Hills Circular. Leader: Helen Yee, 212-348-5344; call 9-10 PM only Mon-Fri. Meet: 1 PM inside Wendy's on Continental Ave. off Queens Blvd. (take F, R or E subway to 71st St. Continental Ave.). 4 miles at moderate pace with some ups and downs. Walk through the planned communities of Forest Hills and Kew Gardens, where we'll see many beautiful homes. Snow/ice on ground or heavy rain cancels. Non-members \$3.

RWW. Ashokan Reservoir. For information call 845-876-6551. Moderate walk: 6 miles, 4.5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 10:00. Inclement weather date—following Saturday.

SUNDAY, JAN. 27

UHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Ed Leibowitz, 201-332-1709. Meet: 10 AM at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave., as it intersects with New Providence Rd. This will be a steady, moderate paced hike of 4-5 miles. Steady rain cancels.

OUT. Fort Tilden/Breezy Point. Leader: Mike Puder, 718-743-0920. Meet: in front of Wiz, corner of Flatbush Ave. and Ave. U to take bus to Rockaway; call leader any time during week of hike for meeting time. 6 flat miles at a moderate, steady pace. See one of the last nesting places of the Piping Plover on the east coast.

MONDAY, JAN. 28

RWW. Huntersfield Mt (3,423). For information call 845-246-5670. Moderate Hike: 7.5 miles, 6 hours, (snowshoes and crampons necessary). Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

TUESDAY, JAN. 29

FVTW. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, Jefferson Township. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 6-7 mile hike with views, a lake, hemlocks and a swamp.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30

FVTW. Locust Grove, South Mountain Reservation. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. A 5 mile hike following the Rahway River past Diamond Pond.

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, FEB. 2

UHC. Somerset County Environmental Center. Leader: Mary Doyle, 908-580-1778. Meet: 10 AM, Somerset County Environmental Center, Lord Stirling Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ. Ramble these easy trails or cross-country ski if there is enough snow.

OUT. Park Slope/Gowanus in Brooklyn. Leader: Helen Yee, 212-348-5344; call 9-10 PM only Mon-Fri. Meet: 12:45 PM in front of library near Grand Army Plaza on Flatbush Ave. and Eastern Parkway (take #2 or #3 subway to Grand Army Plaza and walk toward arch). 5-mile moderate city walk with drop-off points. Walk around historic neighborhood of Park Slope and over several Gowanus Canal bridges. Ends in downtown Brooklyn with optional early dinner at Junior's Restaurant. Snow/ice on ground or heavy rain cancels. Non-members \$3.

SUNDAY, FEB. 3

GAHC. Ramapo Lake Circular (Bill Hoeflerlin Trail), Oakland, NJ. Leaders: Halga Nagy, 201-796-5578 & Verena Dornie, 201-945-2301. Meet: 9:30 AM at parking lot opposite entrance to Camp Tamarc on Skyline Drive. Average and easy hikes. Non-members \$2.

IHC. Lake Skannatati Winter Circular. Leader: Roy Williams, 973-283-9756. Meet: 9:00 AM at Lake Skannatati parking, Seven Lakes Dr., Harriman State Park, NY. Moderately strenuous hike. See Lake Askoti (flooded 1937) from the Red Cross Trail, the Hasendecker Mine (1797), the little old cemetery from the Beech Trail (named after Art Beach) and Lake Skannatati (flooded 1947). Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancels.

OUT. Sutherland Park. Leader: Joel Pomerantz, 212-691-3844. Meet: Noon at 242nd St. and Broadway (park side), 8 miles with some ups and downs at a moderate pace; a few unmarked trails and 20 ft. embankment. Walk through Van Cortlandt Park on abandoned "Getty Square Spur" of the NY Central RR. Lunch at Sutherland Park in Yonkers, then to Tibbetts Brook County Park and return to Bronx on the Old Croton Aqueduct. Non-members \$3.

MONDAY, FEB. 4

RWW. Lone (3,721) and Rocky (3,508) Mts. For information call 845-246-7987. Strenuous bushwhack: (snowshoes and crampons necessary.) Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 6:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

TUESDAY, FEB. 5

FVTW. Wawayanda State Park. Leader: Carolyn and Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10 AM at park office. 6-7 mile hike on favorite trails and some new ones, depending on ice and snow conditions.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6

FVTW. Great Swamp Nature Center, Chatham. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 5 mile level walk along the boardwalk and the Laurel Trail.

THURSDAY, FEB. 7

FVTW. Lake Tiorati Circular, Harriman. Leader: George Pullman, 973-773-2678. Meet: 10 AM at Tiorati Circle parking. 7-10 mile circular with many available trails and views.

SATURDAY, FEB. 9

UHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Bob Keller, 908-233-0699. Meet: 10 AM at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. where it intersects with New Providence Rd. This will be a moderate ramble of 4-5 miles. Steady rain cancels.

OUT. Nassau Greenbelt: Bethpage to Massapequa. Leader: Mike Puder, 718-743-0920. Meet: at Roy Rogers across from LIRR ticket windows at Penn Station, NY, to take train; call leader any time during week of hike for meeting time. 8 flat miles at a moderate, steady pace. ADK-R. Breakneck Pond Snowshoe Outing. Leader: Call 201-871-3531. 4 moderate miles.

RWW. Balsam Mt (3,600). For information call 845-246-4145. Strenuous hike: (snowshoes and crampons necessary), 5.0 miles, 5.0 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Saturday.

SUNDAY, FEB. 10

UHC. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319. Meet: 10 AM at the Turtleback Rock parking area in West Orange (lot is on Walker Rd. near corner of Northfield Ave.). We will enjoy a brisk ramble on the orange trail in this nicely wooded area and also see the "turtle rock".

IHC. Lollipop Hike. Leader: Roy Williams, 973-283-9756. Meet: 9:00 AM at Red Apple Restaurant, Southfields, NY (park in rear). Moderate hike along the southern end of Island Pond road with a stop at the former Ranger Cabin. Come out and see if the "Lollipop Lady" is out with her lollipops. We loop around the lake; this is a nice winter hike, with or without snowshoes. Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancels.

ADK-R. Island Pond Snowshoe. Leader: Call 201-569-0244. 5-6 moderately strenuous miles.

MONDAY, FEB. 11

RWW. Cruger Island. For information call 845-246-5447. Easy hike: 4 miles, 2.5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 9:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

TUESDAY, FEB. 12

FVTW. Lewis Morris Park, Morristown. Leader: Jim and Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 6-7 miles in Lewis Morris and Jockey Hollow Park.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13

FVTW. Tulp Springs, South Mountain Reservation. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. A 5 mile hike over to Hemlock Falls and back by way of the Painters Point Trail.

RWW. John Carle Road (loop to Mt. Marion Park). For information call 845-246-7174. Easy Walk: 4 miles. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 10:00.

THURSDAY, FEB. 14

FVTW. Anthony Wayne Circular. Leader: Arnold Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 AM at Anthony Wayne parking. 7-10 miles. Depending on conditions, we can hike West, Long and Black Mountains, or perhaps all of them.

FRIDAY - MONDAY, FEB. 15-18

MIRAMAR. President's Day Ski Weekend. Downhill and cross-country skiing. Travel by bus to our lodge in Waitsfield, Vermont. Call 212-978-9309 for information.

SATURDAY, FEB. 16

UHC. Jockey Hollow. Leader: Bob Hagan, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10 AM; call night before between 7 and 9 PM only. This will be a brisk ramble of 5-6 miles.

ADK-R. Surebridge Mt. and Goldthwaite Memorial. Leader: Call 845-354-0738. 6 easy to moderate miles.

SUNDAY, FEB. 17

IHC. Winter on West Mountain. Leader: Pete Rigotti, 718-769-3814. Meet: 9:00 AM at Anthony Wayne north parking area, Harriman State Park, NY. Moderately strenuous climb up West Mt. in the morning to warm your spirits, then on to the Timp Tonne for lunch. Ice and snow may change route.

ADK-R. Letter Rock Mt., Owl Swamp, Black Mt. Circular. Leader: Call 845-359-2465. 7-8 moderate miles.

MONDAY, FEB. 18

RWW. West Kill (3,880) Mt. (and optional Rusk (3,680) Mt.). For information call 845-246-7158. Strenuous hike: (snowshoes and crampons necessary), 8.0 miles, 5.5 hours (plus optional bushwhack time). Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 7:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

TUESDAY, FEB. 19

FVTW. Kay Environmental Center, Chester. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 6-7 miles along the Black River in a beautiful wooded park.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

FVTW. Turtle Back Rock, South Mountain Reservation. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 5 mile, level hike to the Girl Scout oval, down to the hemlock grove, and back.

SATURDAY, FEB. 23

UHC. Jockey Hollow. Leader: Mac Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 AM at the Jockey Hollow Visitors Center. A \$4 per-person admission is charged to those without park passes. Enjoy a moderate ramble in this beautiful Morristown Historic National Park. Steady rain or snow can-

cel, but if a lot of snow on the ground, may cross-country ski instead. OUT. Byram River Gorge. Leader: Mayer Wiesen, 516-671-2095; call before 10:30 PM. Meet: 9:30 AM at Jerome and Bainbridge Avenues, level; take #4 express to Woodlawn. 6-mile moderate woods walk through a hemlock gorge in Connecticut which stays green year-round. No smoking. Non-members \$3.

RWW. Hurley Rail Trail. For information call 845-246-2459. Easy Hike: 4 miles. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 10:00. Inclement weather date—following Saturday.

SUNDAY, FEB. 24

WEC. Appalachian-Long Path Loop. Leader: Don Weise, 973-835-2160. Meet: 9:30 AM at Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ. 7.5 strenuous miles along the popular AT-Bottle Cap-Long Path loop while the crowds are away. Deep hemlock hollows and rocky summits overlooking Lake Tiorati. Hike adjusted to weather conditions; some steep terrain. Bring boots, gaiters, cleats as needed. Non-members \$8.

IHC. Black Rock Forest. Leader: Donal Maloney, 201-760-6320. Meet: 9:00 AM at Red Apple Restaurant, Southfields, NY. Moderately strenuous route including Mt. Misery, Rattlesnake Hill, Hill of Pines, Spy Rock. Several good views of the Hudson Valley and lakes. Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancels.

OUT. Narrows Trail Connecting with Brooklyn Greenbelt. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 1 PM outside Fort Hamilton Parkway station on N subway line (exit back of train from Manhattan at Fort Hamilton station). 7-mile walk at moderate pace through Brooklyn parks, winding up on the Narrows Trail along New York Bay. Drop-off points in middle of hike. Non-members \$3.

MONDAY, FEB. 25

RWW. North Lake. For information call 845-246-7616. Easy hike: (snowshoes and/or country skis may be necessary), 5 miles, 3 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 9:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

TUESDAY, FEB. 26

FVTW. Jennings Hollow, Ringwood. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 6-7 mile Sterling Ridge circular; remains of an old flywheel and ironworks.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

FVTW. Loantaka Brook Reservation, Morris Township. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. A 5 mile stroll where you can talk and not watch your feet.

THURSDAY, FEB. 28

FVTW. Bear Mountain/Popolopen Circular. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 AM at Bear Mountain Inn. 7-10 miles. A great view from Bear Mt. followed by a cool walk through Popolopen Gorge.



HIKERS' ALMANAC

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

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

Club Codes

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

ADK-R	ADK - Ramapo	OUT	Outdoors Club
FVTW	Frost Valley Trailwalkers	RWW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	UCHC	Union County Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	WEC	Weis Wyanokie Wanderers
MIRAMAR	Miramor Ski Club		

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference office. The deadline for the March/April issue is January 26, 2002.

JANUARY

SATURDAY, JAN. 5

UCHC. Ramapo Lake. Leader: Micky Siegel, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 AM on Skyline Dr. at the first parking lot on the left (bottom of the hill). Take Rt. 287 to Exit 57, Skyline Dr. in Oakland. This is a very scenic, moderate, 5-6 mile hike; well worth the commute. View beautiful Ramapo Lake. Call leader if in need of additional directions or in doubt due to inclement weather.

IHC. Balsam Lake Mountain, Catskills. Leader: Roy Williams, 973-283-9756. Meet: 7:30 AM at municipal parking lot, Suffern, NY. Carpool to this strenuous peak climbing; if weather is good and snow not too deep, we may also climb Graham Mountain. Snowshoes and full crampons required. Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancels. Possible dinner at local restaurant afterwards.

OUT. Mt. Vernon/Pelham Bay. Leader: Helen Yee, 212-348-5344. Meet: call leader 9-10 PM only Mon.-Fri. for meeting time and place; bring Metrocard for subway and bus. 7 miles at a moderate pace from the Bronx to Mt. Vernon, where we'll stop for an inexpensive lunch in a restaurant. Then walk through Mt. Vernon to Pelham Bay passing some lovely houses. Snow, ice or heavy rain cancels. Non-members \$3.

ADK-R. Times Square and More. Leader: Call 845-354-0738. 5 easy miles.

SUNDAY, JAN. 6

GAHC. Mt. Taurus, Cold Spring, NY. Leader: Manfred Janowski, 914-428-4573. Meet: 10 AM at Cold Spring railroad station parking lot (western end of Main St./Rt. 301). Average and easy hikes. Non-members \$2.

WEC. Wawayanda State Park. Leader: Don Weite, 973-835-2160.

Meet: 9:30 AM at Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ. 5.5 moderate/strenuous miles through dense evergreen forests. Level circuit hike past a lake, large iron furnace and cedar swamp. Non-members \$8.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 AM at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave., as it intersects with New Providence Rd. Enjoy a moderate ramble on marked and unmarked trails. Steady rain or snow cancels, but if a lot of snow on the ground, cross-country ski instead.

IHC. Saddle River County Park, Ridgewood, NJ. Leader: Phellis Swan, 973-835-4513. Meet: 10 AM at duck pond parking lot at Saddle River. Start the new year with a nice easy stroll; the park has paved paths along two rivers and two duck ponds. Rain, ice, or poor driving conditions cancel.

OUT. Westchester Hudson Shore Walk. Leader: Hal Kaplan, 914-376-3156; no calls before Thursday evening. Meet: 10:20 AM Metro North train from Grand Central to Ossining. Drivers park in Ossining train station at 11:10 AM (return is from Croton by rail). 8 miles at a moderate pace from Ossining to Croton Point. We will try and hike as close to the shore as possible. See the Croton Nature Center, a recently reopened beach and other points of interest in this 500-acre peninsula park.

MONDAY, JAN. 7

FVTW. Mills Reservation, Cedar Grove. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 3 miles along a section of the Lenape Trail.

RWW. Blackhead Mt (3,940). For information call 845-246-4145. Strenuous hike: 4.4 miles, 4 hours, (snowshoes and crampons necessary). Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

SATURDAY, JAN. 12

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Don Meserlian, 973-228-2258. Meet: 10 AM at the Tulip Springs parking lot, Brookside Ave., Millburn (4 miles north of So. Orange Ave.). Ramble at a moderate pace through the pine forest and to Hemlock Falls and beyond.

OUT. Connetquot River State Park. Leader: Paul Develet, 516-488-5232. Meet: Penn Station LIRR ticket window to take 9:12 AM train (check latest schedule) to Great River. Drivers meet at Great River train station. 8-mile moderate paced, flat terrain. Snow or ice may shorten hike. A pleasant wintertime walk along a river and several lakes. May see deer, waterfowl and turkeys. Non-members \$3.

ADK-R. Anthony Wayne Out and About. Leader: Call 845-268-7486. 2 easy miles.

RWW. North/South Lake Area. For information call 845-246-4145. Cross Country Ski/Snowshoe. 5-6 miles, 5.0 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Saturday.

SUNDAY, JAN. 13

UCHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown. Leader: Mary Dell Morrison, 908-684-1173. Meet: 10 AM at the Jockey Hollow Visitors Center. A \$4 per person admission is charged to those without park passes. Enjoy a scenic 4.5 mile ramble at a moderate pace in this historic National Park

(where Washington's army camped during the winter of 1779-80).

IHC. Pine Meadow Lake Roundabout Hike. Leader: Ann Gilbert, 973-839-0292. Meet: 9 AM at Reeves Brook Visitor Center, Seven Lakes Dr., Sloatsburg, NY (Harriman State Park). Moderate hike on many trails: Reeves Brook trail, Raccoon Brook Hills trail to Pine Meadow Lake, Mountain Laurel Tunnel trail, Conklin Crossings trail. Rain, ice or poor driving conditions cancel.

OUT. Westport's Compo Beach, CT. Leader: Karen Davis, 203-348-0487; call before 10 PM only. Meet: Take Metro North train from Grand Central at 11:07 (confirm time with Metro North) to Westport. Drivers meet at Westport train station at 12:09 PM. 7-mile moderate, steady pace. Scenic circular hike from the train to the beach. Non-members \$3. ADK-R. Winter Walk. Leader: Call 845-735-5304. 5 easy miles.

MONDAY, JAN. 14

RWW. Windham High Peak (3,524) from Route 23. For information call 845-246-7616. Strenuous hike: 6.6 miles, 4.25 hours, (snowshoes and crampons necessary). Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

TUESDAY, JAN. 15

FVTW. Tourne Park, Boonton. Leader: Joe Rapp, 973-334-4382. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 6-7 miles along a conglomeration of new, old and familiar trails.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16

FVTW. Ramapo Mountain State Forest. Leader: Mickey Siegel, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for location. 5-mile tour of Ramapo Lake and the surrounding mountains.

THURSDAY, JAN. 17

FVTW. Paulinskil Valley Trail, Ski or Hike. Leader: Charlie & Anita Kentler, 201-835-1060. Meet: 9:30 AM at Blairstone Diner on Rt. 94. 7-10 miles; length and location of event will depend on weather and amount of snow. Hike or ski along the Paulinskil trail on the right-of-way of the former NY Susquehanna and Western Railroad.

FRIDAY - MONDAY, JAN. 18-21

MIRAMAR. Martin Luther King Jr. Ski Weekend. Downhill and cross-country skiing. Travel by bus to our lodge in Waitsfield, Vermont. Call 212-978-9309 for information.

SATURDAY, JAN. 19

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 AM at the Bramhall Terrace parking lot on Crest Dr. (.35 mile from the entrance on South Orange Ave.). Enjoy a casual-to-moderate paced ramble; steady rain or snow cancels, but if there is a lot of snow on the ground, we'll ski instead.

OUT. Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. Leader: Alan Kaye, 718-998-3793. Meet: 11 AM at token booth of Prospect Park Brooklyn O subway (back of train coming from Manhattan). 3 miles at an easy pace. Check

continued on page 11

Renew Early. Renew Now.

**Did you know? Membership Dues Have Increased.
Current Members Can Save Money by Renewing Now
For a Limited Time Only.**

From this moment through March 31, 2002, current members can renew their membership for as long as they want at 2001 prices. (A price increase for individual memberships was approved by voting members at the Conference's Annual Meeting in October.)

Regardless of when your Trail Conference membership is set to expire, NOW is the best time to renew it. You'll be able to take advantage of special member-only discounted prices, and you'll be helping the Trail Conference at an important time, when open space and trail protection most need our attention and energy.

Act now. You'll be helping yourself and strengthening the Trail Conference in its efforts to protect and extend access to unspoiled nature.

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	2001 DUES*	2002 DUES
Senior/Student Individual	\$15	\$18
Senior/Student Joint	\$20	\$24
Individual	\$21	\$25
Individual Joint	\$26	\$31
Sponsor Individual	\$45	\$50
Sponsor Joint	\$50	\$60
Benefactor Individual	\$95	\$100
Benefactor Joint	\$100	\$120
Life Individual	\$400	\$500
Life Joint	\$600	\$750

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TRAIL WALKER

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