



TRAILWALKER

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

MARCH/APRIL 2002

Xtreme Problem in New Jersey?

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has joined the opposition to a proposal to turn state land in the Wanaque Watershed/Wyanokie Highlands in West Milford, NJ, into a major off-road center for users of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other motorized, off-road riding machines. The site, formerly Jungle Habitat safari park, includes nearly 800 densely wooded acres and a 3,000-car parking lot. It was purchased by New Jersey's Green Acres program in 1988 for \$1.4 million and is now managed by the state Division of Parks and Forestry. Residential and senior housing is nearby.

The motorized recreation proposal, called X-Treme Habitat, suggests 30 miles of trails for motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, mountain bikes, and bicycle motocross. It would comprise the largest collection of off-road/ATV trails in New Jersey. The organization would lease the land from the state.

In an anti-project petition, opponents, who include environmental and outdoor organizations as well as local residents, note that such vehicles "would cause severe erosion along the 30-mile trail system, degrade the water quality (via gasoline spills and unburned fuel seepage into the groundwater) in a watershed region, put stress on an already stressed water supply, increase traffic, and disturb surrounding communities with the noise of



Hikers and off-road riders are increasingly at odds over public land use, as is evident in the tug-of-war over a proposed ATV center in NJ parkland and in this encounter on a TC-maintained trail on Schunemunk Mountain February 9. What is the best way for hikers to handle such trail encounters? Send your thoughts to the editor via the TC office or tw@nynjtc.org.

gunning engines."


The site is part of a continuous greenway that links Sterling Forest with Norvin Green State Forest. The recently created long-distance Highlands Trail, designated New Jersey's Millennium Trail, is immediately adjacent to the east side of the property.

Trail Conference Executive Director

Edward Goodell notes: "Contrary to comments that the site is in a highly degraded condition, our site visit proved that it is in an advanced successional state of reforestation." He says aerial photos indicate that 90 percent of the site was minimally disturbed during the Jungle Habitat incarnation, with most of that consisting of the parking lot. No structures are currently left standing, he says, and only cyclone fences, a few overgrown roadbeds, and the parking lots—"the larger of which has mature trees growing through the macadam"—remain. "In the 14 years since Jungle Habitat closed, previously cleared areas have returned to dense thickets of 30-40-foot tall forest trees. In the long view of protecting New Jersey's natural landscape, this parcel is well on its way to mature forest habitat."

The Trail Conference maintains two trails on the site. Trails Council chair Gary Haugland made this written assessment of the project's impact: "The proposal at full build-out will require the complete relocation of the footpaths on the property, as they will intersect with the numerous vehicular traffic routes and create unpleasant if not dangerous situations. The noise of the motorized vehicles—most of which use primitive and polluting engine technology—and, as the proposal emphasizes, the roar of the crowds at competitions, will be loud. Trail volunteers will

not want to work in such an environment and few hikers will find quiet there. In short, the property will not be a welcome addition to the hiking community."

As of press time, the Conference and its allies were emphasizing to state officials the risks such a site would pose to vital water resources and making the case that the proposed use violates the spirit and letter of the Green Acres legislation. 

Trail Maintenance Skills Workshops

Saturday, April 27 • 9 AM to 4 PM
Advance Sign-up Required

Learn or brush up your trail maintaining skills at the NY-NJ Trail Conference's annual trail maintenance workshop series, scheduled for April 27. Select a class that is appropriate for your experience, from beginning to more advanced. We will start out with classroom lecture and discussion at a location near Schunemunk Mountain in Orange County, NY, and then move to Schunemunk for field demonstrations and practice. Classes are open to both members and nonmembers. Advance registration is required and class size is limited. Select a workshop, fill out the registration form on page 3, and send it to the TC office by April 19, along with a \$3 registration fee (\$4 for nonmembers). An information packet will be sent to all registrants in late April. Sign-up is first come, first served. Past workshops have been oversubscribed, so send in your registration early.

Workshops will be held rain or shine.

Maintenance 101

Acquire basic trail maintenance skills with this introductory workshop. Trail clipping, blazing, and the basic standards of trail maintenance will be covered; we'll also learn how to recognize problems and take care of them before they become major obstacles to hikers. If you are a new or a potential maintainer and have not yet taken a basic maintenance course, this one is highly recommended.

Construction and Restoration

Get ready to tackle bigger trail projects by learning how to construct water bars and other drainage structures, and understanding the basics of rock construction—

continued on page 3

New Map Set, Guide Books Now Available

GPS Technology Basis for 2002 North Jersey Map Set

The NY-NJ Trail Conference is pleased to announce publication of the 2002 edition of the North Jersey Trails map set. In this new, sixth edition, all of the existing and new trails have been replotted using Global Position System (GPS) technology. This ensures that the trails are generally plotted to within approximately 30 feet. Besides the new accuracy of the trail locations, many park boundaries have been added and corrected. Viewpoints, parking areas, and shelters have all also been replotted and rechecked for accuracy. Highlights of the new map set

include the Highlands Trail, South Ridge Trail, and many trails in Sterling Forest.

Space precludes naming all those who assisted with this project, but Trail Conference GPS data coordinator John Jurasek thanks the many volunteers who helped with project by hiking trails with the GPS units, field checking for accuracy, and helping out with other fact checking. As with all Trail Conference projects, dedicated volunteers made the new map set happen.

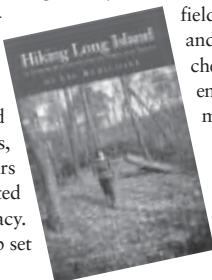
New Editions of Two Popular Guide Books

Also now available are brand-new editions of popular

guide books for those walking and hiking in the New York metropolitan area. *Hiking Long Island* and *Day Walker* each feature walks for people of all ages and hiking abilities. Many hikes in each book are accessible from public transportation. *Day Walker*

introduces foot paths in New York and New Jersey that are within 60 miles of the George Washington Bridge. These are great "starter" guides as well as an excellent resource for metro residents looking for an array of footpaths to explore close to home.

To order books and maps, see page 9.



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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.

from the president's notepad...

Our Next Generation

Who will take care of the trails next when those of us now over fifty are gone? It is the youth of today, and we need to kindle their interest in hiking, the environment, and volunteering. The Trail Conference has several programs that work to nurture these interests in young generations. Our Outreach Program at Tiorati Circle in Harriman State Park, in which TC volunteers lead families on short hikes on the Appalachian Trail, is one. Another is a projects fund set up to honor the memory of Elizabeth Levers, a tireless worker for trails who firmly believed that youth should be involved.

Elizabeth was a no-nonsense woman who devoted her energies seven days a week to the Appalachian Trail after her retirement from an administrative post at Columbia University. She is known for her involvement in the early land acquisition planning for the AT in New York, as well as setting the standard for AT management for our region. Thanks to a generous gift from her relatives at Elizabeth's death in 1999, the Trail Conference is able to provide funds for youth trail projects

on lands open to the public. The money is meant to help start-up work and not to fund entire projects.

Youth group leaders need to realize that projects vary in location and type. What will work for one group—bridge-building by older teens—might not be appropriate for a younger group. Interest levels, skills, motivation, and attention span all factor into what works best. To help the group, a volunteer oversees the project, sometimes providing training, other times just being there.

The Appalachian Trail in Dutchess and Putnam Counties has benefited from youth efforts, as supervisor Ron Rosen always manages to find projects suitable for young people. One group built the tent pads at the Wiley Shelter, others have relocated a trail segment, and an Eagle Scout candidate directed troop members in building a new latrine. Bob Jonas in Norvin Green State Forest in New Jersey has overseen numerous scout projects involving trail restoration and relocation. I had the privilege of working with a Girl Scout Gold Award candidate as she photographed viewpoints in Putnam County, recorded the

compass settings, and also photographed the place from where each view photo was taken. Others can return in five years to see what changes have occurred and take another photograph. These examples are just a few possible ways that you can be involved.

Not all projects require funding, but some do. Trail registers, bog bridges, and kiosks all cost money, sometimes more than a single individual can afford for his or her project. Lack of funds for major trail projects should not deter young people or their leaders, as the Trail Conference has the means of providing some of the funds, thanks to the Levers Fund.

If you are working with youth, are a young person with a trail project, or know of someone who qualifies, go to www.nynjtc.org/grants.html and look for the Levers Memorial Grant. The form was deliberately kept simple and there is a sample of an application. You can also call the Trail Conference office at 201-512-9348 for information and an application.

—Jane Daniels

President, Board of Directors

L · E · T · T · E · R · S

Flags on Trails: Pro & Con

Re "Flags on Trails" discussion (see January/February *Trail Walker*, page 4): I agree with Larry Wheelock. Technically speaking, a piece of cloth or plastic left on or near a trail is garbage. Just because it is printed in red, white, and blue with 13 stripes and 50 stars does not make it exempt from Leave No Trace ethics. I removed two flags from the trail I maintain at the Delaware Water Gap. I also removed flag stickers from trails in New Hampshire.

I'm glad to hear that this issue is being brought up. A durable memorial is acceptable on a trail if it is approved by the governing body of the trail or natural area. A flag is inappropriate.

Ellen Cronan
 Sommerville, NJ

I feel that given the extraordinary circumstances of the attack on America, the placing of flags at viewpoints, especially those with views of the New York skyline, is entirely appropriate, although it might be a technical violation of Leave No Trace guidelines or park regulations. I feel it would also be appropriate to place flags on trails such as the Victory Trail or Revo-



lutionary Trails in Harriman, whose names have patriotic themes, but such flags should be limited to junctions with other trails. It would not be appropriate for many small flags to be placed by individual hikers.

I am concerned that if the flags are banned, there will be negative publicity, which will hurt the public's support of the Trail Conference.

At some time in the future, the flags could be replaced by a permanent memorial, perhaps at one of the viewpoints of the New York skyline.

Rich Siegelman
 Landing, NJ

Don't get me wrong, I'm pro-America, but I agree with Larry Wheelock, "leave no trace." I'm 57 years old and have been

hiking for 50 years. I hike for the serenity of the woods, the views, and of course the great exercise one gets. You can also get away from everyday problems (even if for only a few hours). Now, 'retired' from one job and working three nights a week at another, I get more opportunity to get out and enjoy the 'great outdoors.' Please leave it the way we have found it—Natural!

At first I thought the flags might be a fitting 'tribute' to what had happened in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania on 9-11. But we DON'T need flags to remind us we are Americans—we already know that. These flags and other things that might appear in the woods or on mountaintops are NOT welcome, especially by this 'seasoned' hiker!

Art Rickey Jr.
 Newburgh, NY

Everyone is entitled to an opinion, but I do not agree with that of Larry Wheelock. Maybe we come from different places, but I cannot comprehend how he could be critical of what I think is a wonderful thing. When I saw the picture of the American flag flying from Anthony's Nose I felt a

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Volunteer Dan Chazin and Ed Goodell unload a shipment of the new Hiking Long Island guide book.

from the Executive Director

More Land Wins Lead to More Work

The Trail Conference began as a volunteer organization dedicated to conservation when in 1920 Major William Welch, an early general manager of the Palisades Interstate Park, asked metropolitan area hiking clubs to work with him to manage the overuse and abuse that the fledgling PIPC lands were then experiencing. Today, much has changed, but the Trail Conference's task is still the same—providing the nation's most densely populated region with public access to a wilderness experience and, by doing so, helping to preserve the region's environmental integrity.

What was true in 1920 is even more true today. With ever more land coming into public ownership, land managers are spread even more thinly in their stewardship role. The support they get from volunteer organizations like the Trail Conference becomes more essential with every new celebrated acquisition of conservation lands.

And there has been a lot to celebrate in our region. Almost half of the open space ballots in New Jersey this past November were passed by very high margins even though most required a property tax increase. The New Jersey Green Acres Program, the driving force behind open space acquisitions in the state, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year with over 480,000 acres protected, more than 35 percent of that in the last four years. New Jersey

nature lovers everywhere need to continue to support this program so it can reach its goal of a million acres protected by the year 2010.

In New York, more than 300,000 acres have been preserved since 1995. And in his 2002 State of the State address, Governor Pataki also set a "goal of preserving over one million acres of open space over the next decade." To do this, the New York legislature and the governor need to authorize the expenditures of dedicated Environmental Protection Fund dollars.

If land acquisition of this magnitude does occur in the next decade in New York and New Jersey, it will represent the last great acquisition effort on behalf of conservation in the region. As I've mentioned in this column before, the region is quickly being "built out" and within a decade or two, all land will either be developed or conserved. At that point, the great conservation question will shift from how do we acquire enough land to how do we take care of it adequately. The role of on-the-ground volunteers is a critical and essential part of the solution.

Enhancing Our Support

To meet that challenge, the Trail Conference is working on two strategies: strengthening its volunteer efforts and launching a science-based program of environmental monitoring and restoration. To help accomplish the first, the position

of Volunteer Projects Director has been established; to help with the second, we are seeking funds to establish a Science Director position.

The first priority of the Volunteer Projects Director will be to assist the Trails Council and publication units in strengthening their volunteer efforts. For example, the Trail Conference needs to develop additional trail crew capacity so that it can respond to the many opportunities to build and maintain trails on new and acquired conservation lands. Additionally, the Volunteer Projects Director will help launch new volunteer programs on trail lands, such as monitoring occurrences of rare endangered and threatened species as well as removing invasive species.

The main task of a Science Director will be to create science-based programs to monitor and protect the ecological health of the trail lands maintained by the Trail Conference. The Science Director would work with the Science Advisory Committee to integrate environmental considerations into Trail Conference stewardship and education programs. Our goal will be to develop a body of science to support efforts to influence environmental policy and decision-making. We are beginning several hands-on projects this spring, including natural heritage monitoring and hemlock woolly adelgid research.

As we look forward to these challenges, it is important to state unequivocally that the Trail Conference has been, and always will be, a volunteer organization. Not only does the magnitude of the work facing us require it, but volunteering for nature is one of the deepest and most meaningful ways of connecting with nature. Given that our mission is to enable the public to connect with nature, providing opportunities to volunteer one's time so that others can experience nature will remain a signature priority of the Trail Conference.

—Ed Goodell

MAINTENANCE WORKSHOPS continued from page 1

stairs, retaining walls, and stream crossings. This workshop is ideal for those who are on or would like to join a trail crew, or for individual maintainers facing drainage, water, and erosion issues on their trails.

Trail Layout and Design

In the best of all worlds, trails are carefully laid out and designed to result in minimum impact to the environment while maximizing the pleasure and safety of the hike. This course will offer an introduction to the process of planning and designing a new trail or relocation. Topics will include: assessing trail lands management requirements, designing to reduce maintenance needs, maintaining an appropriate elevation grade, locating and evaluating points of interest, dealing with sites that are naturally or historically significant, and anticipating potential user impact and conflicts.

Science Workshops: June 15

Keep an eye out in our May/June *Trail Walker* for details about science workshops to be offered by our Science Advisory Committee. Topics will be AT natural heritage monitoring and woolly adelgid monitoring (see story on hemlocks, page 7).

REGISTRATION FORM

Trail Maintenance Workshop
Saturday, April 27, 2002

Please check the session you want to attend:

- Maintenance "101"
- Construction and Restoration
- Trail Layout & Design

I am a Trail Conference Member and I enclose a check for \$3.00

I am not a Trail Conference Member and I enclose a check for \$4.00.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Day Phone (____) _____

Eve. Phone (____) _____

Do you currently maintain a trail?

- Yes No

If yes, do you work

- As an individual or
- with a club?

Name of club, if applicable: _____

Name of trail you maintain: _____

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

Return by April 19th with a check payable to: NY-NJ Trail Conference, Trail Maintenance Workshop, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

TC Negotiating for Gunk Acres

The Trail Conference has been very actively working toward its goal of creating a permanently protected corridor along the entire 3.5-mile length of the Shawangunk Ridge. John Myers, Conference trail lands coordinator, has contacted nearly all of the key landowners along the ridge and identified 30 willing sellers. So far he has obtained signed options for more than 600 acres, with 500 acres awaiting signatures. Active negotiations are still in progress for an additional 500 acres. The Conference also received approval by Orange County to purchase 11 tax sale parcels from them totaling 150 acres. Altogether, with 525 acres already under option by the Trust for Public Land, this totals over 2,200 acres of Shawangunk Ridge lands. Funding sources to hold these lands

until they can be transferred to New York State are being sought.

If readers know of anyone willing to assist in purchasing some of the key smaller individual tracts through short-term loans, please contact Ed Goodell or John Myers through the Conference office.

The Conference is also working closely with Shawangunk Ridge Coalition partners on the casinos issue in Sullivan County, where a casino site has been proposed directly on top of the ridge off Route 17 at Wurtsboro. To address this and other economic growth issues, the coalition is sponsoring a meeting in April in Mamakating of officials from all 11 ridge towns to discuss "Smart Growth" approaches to development.

Keep up with news of the Shawangunk Ridge via www.shawangunkridge.org

Support Needed Now for Pataki Environmental Proposals

Hikers and others interested in open space issues may want to support two proposals made by Governor George Pataki in his January State of the State address. The first, with an immediate deadline, is to spend in the 2001/02 fiscal year \$125 million set aside for the Environmental Protection Fund but not yet appropriated. The governor proposes the spending be carried out by means of a "deficiency" budget appropriation that the legislature must approve by March 31, 2002.

Pataki has also proposed to budget \$125 million to the EPF in 2002/03. Given the state's budget problems, that's good news. The bad news is that some items previously charged to the General Fund

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TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES



For the latest schedules, check www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trvlop.html#crew

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

❖ WEST NEW JERSEY CREW

Leaders: David Day & Monica Resor: 732-937-9098, westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com or Larry Wheelock: 973-823-9999, wheelock@warwick.net

Pochuck Wrap-up

(Yes, the AT Pochuck relocation is opened, but it's not done! The goal is to

get the trail ready for its Grand Opening on September 14.)

April 20-21; May 4-5

The remaining work includes: extending the boardwalk at the Rt. 517 end out to Rt. 517 (approximately 200 feet); adding boardwalk over a low spot in the woods, contiguous to the last section completed in the fall (approximately 150 feet); installing edging and railings on the last sections completed last fall; and installing tie-downs on much of the boardwalk constructed last summer. In short, there's plenty to be done!

Meeting time is 9:00 am on all days. Please phone the leaders for the meeting place.

❖ EAST HUDSON CREW

Contact: Walt Daniels 914-245-1250 or wdaniels@bestweb.net

Leaders needed. Contact Walt Daniels

The East Hudson Trail Crew has some exciting opportunities to build several new trails. In cooperation with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, we will work on trails on private property easements in the southern Hudson Highlands. In cooperation with Scenic Hudson, we will work on a new trail up the front face of Mt. Bea-

con. In cooperation with the Town of Cortlandt and Scenic Hudson, we will work on a network of trails on the 350-acre Hillpoint property. The exact order of work is undecided as there are ongoing trail design and ecological assessments that must be completed first.

Hudson Highlands

Saturday, April 13, vicinity of North Redoubt. Meet at 9 am at the Garrison Train Station, where we will pick up those arriving by train.

❖ WEST HUDSON CREW

The West Hudson crew will be doing erosion control and trail rehabilitation on various trails, and also starting on a new historical trail near Fort Clinton. If you would like to volunteer for any of our work projects please call the leader for information including time and place of meeting. Bring water, lunch and work gloves. We supply tools.

Leader contacts:

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

Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563, email brian@grandrenovation.com

Chris Ezzo: 516-431-1148

Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324, email

clganz@earthlink.net

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

Special Project:

Doodletown Historical Walking Tour and Clean-up, Bear Mountain State Park

For more information contact: Robert Marshall (see above)

Saturday, April 6 (Marshall)

Sunday, April 7 (Ezzo)

Schunemunk Preserve

Sunday, April 14, Long Path (Marshall)

Harriman State Park

Thursday, April 18, Pine Meadow Trail (Marshall)

Sunday, April 21, Pine Meadow Trail (Marshall)

Sterling Forest State Park

Sunday, April 28, Southfields Furnace Trail (Buchbinder)

Bear Mountain State Park

Saturday, May 4, Twin Forts Trail (Ezzo)
Sunday, May 5, Twin Forts Trail (Ezzo)

❖ HIGHLANDS CREW

Leader: Bob Moss, 973-743-5203

For details, call no more than one week before the scheduled work date.

Tentative Schedule:

Sunday, April 14; Sunday, April 28

Clubs: Plan Now for National Trails Day, June 1

The 10th Annual National Trails Day will be celebrated Saturday, June 1, 2002. The focus of NTD this year is on the health benefits of hiking. Increase the physical and mental well-being of your members and community by hosting a National Trails Day event, and let the Trail Conference know of your plans: we will publicize them in the next issue of *Trail Walker* (send a notice of your event to tw@nynjtc.org or to TW at the NY-NJTC office).

Tips on planning your NTD event and incorporating the "Hike for Health" theme into it are offered online at the website of the American Hiking Society (www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/index.html).

Outdoor Expo Set for Monmouth County

An annual exposition of outdoor recreation gear and adventures is scheduled by the Monmouth County Park System to take place Sunday, April 28 from 10 am to 4 pm at Turkey Swamp Park, Georgia Rd., Freehold, NJ. The expo will feature the latest in outdoor recreation equipment and is designed to acquaint the public with the many different outdoor adventure opportunities available through lectures, demonstrations and mini-clinics. Members of outdoor clubs will be on hand to answer questions and give advice. Experience the park system's bouldering wall! Food can be purchased; camping will be available. Free admission and parking. Call Ann Marie Osnato, 732-842-4000 ext. 4240 for more information.

Sierra Club Singles Puts Out Welcome Mat

The Sierra Club Singles Section of New Jersey provides opportunities for singles with a love for the outdoors and concern for the environment to come together, have fun, and help protect the wilderness. Meetings are held in the Library of the Chatham; other events—speakers, hikes, social dinners, and the occasional old movie—are scheduled in various locations. For information, visit the group's webpage at <http://njsierra.enviroweb.org/~singles/>, or call a recorded message line at 973-364-7573. All are welcome, regardless of membership or marital status.

FOR & ABOUT

Our Members

❖ Congratulations go to former NY-NJ Trail Conference president Neil Zimmerman, who has been elected president of the board of the American Hiking Society, a national organization dedicated to promoting hiking and protecting hiking trails nationwide. Zimmerman has been a member of the AHS board for five years.

❖ The December/January issue of *American Hiker*, published by the American Hiking Society, profiled a past winner of the Trail Conference's Next Generation Award. Ed Walsh, who received the award from the TC in 1989, received an award from AHS in 2001 in recognition of his significant contributions to the development and maintenance of hiking trails. Ed, who once was the Long Path end-to-end coordinator for the Conference, has maintained trails in the Adirondacks and Green and White Mountains. He continues to be an avid hiker and rock climber.

❖ Peter Tilgner and Suzan Gordon received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Palisades Interstate Park Commission in December, recognizing their many years of trail maintenance in the Palisades region. The two were particularly cited for their help in creating the Allis Connec-



Peter Tilgner and Suzan Gordon

tor, Wild Cat Mountain, and Indian Hill Trails in the newly created Sterling Forest State

Park. Val Cutajar and John C. and Mary A. Yizarry, all volunteers at PIPC's Trailside Museum & Wildlife Center, were also honored by the commission with certificates of appreciation.

New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new life members: Ian Blundell, Paul Fazzari, Christian M. Frost, Anne Grob, David J. Klem, David Levner, John James Rowan, and Trudy Schneider.

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 12.). The next time you renew, consider becoming one of the Conference's more than 800 "lifers."

EASTERN MOUNTAIN SPORTS

CLUB DAY

EMS Club Day

Fri., April 26

Sat., April 27

4pm to Closing
All Day

As a member of an outdoor organization, we know you love the outdoors as much as we do. Club Day is our way of saying thanks.

20% Off Everything

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Friday, April 26 4pm to Closing
Saturday, April 27 All Day

Just bring proof of membership in an outdoor organization or this ad, and we'll take 20% off your entire purchase at EMS that day.

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www.ems.com

GET INVOLVED

Looking for a Few Good Volunteers



TC chain saw crew in '01

Maintainers Needed

As is evident in this issue's published schedules of trail maintenance workshops (see page 1) and upcoming trail crew work dates (see page 4), the time of peak volunteer trail activity fast approaches. Trail maintainers of all levels of skill and experience are needed throughout the New York-New Jersey region. Whether you prefer to work alone in the woods or with a group, there is a place for you as a maintainer. In return, you earn the satisfaction of keeping our trails safe and open for users now and in the future. Get more information online at www.nynjtc.org or contact staff member Larry Wheelock at wheelock@nynjtc.org; telephone 201-512-9348.

Wanted: Super Sleuths

The technology committee needs a super sleuth to ferret out information from paper files, maps, individuals, and the web to add to and improve the Trail Conference database of trails and maintainers. For example, the database has extensive information about trails, but not necessarily which maps they are on; data on length of service by individual maintainers is incomplete, thus impeding proper recognition of their contributions. A lot of this information gathering will test your map reading and trail knowledge; it's a perfect rainy day or winter pastime. Work at your own pace on a one-shot deal. Much of it can even be done at home if you have almost any database program or spreadsheet. The work to be done can easily be separated into either regions or topics so multiple people can participate. Contact Walt Daniels, wdaniels@bestweb.net to volunteer or for more information

Share Nature with Urban Families Training Date: May 18

If you would like to share your love of nature and hiking with others, consider joining the Trail Conference's Harriman Park Tiorati Circle Outreach program this summer. On Saturdays from June 29 through August 3, Trail Conference members will guide families visiting the park

on short trail walks. A training workshop for leaders is scheduled for Saturday, May 18. Additional details and registration information will be published in the next issue of *Trail Walker*. Save the date. This program is cosponsored with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and receives financial support from the Appalachian Trail Conference. It continues a very successful Tiorati Outreach program implemented last summer.

Drivers, Hosts Needed for AT Survey This Season

The Appalachian Trail Conference seeks logistical support for an important mapping project of the entire centerline of the AT using sophisticated Global Positioning System equipment. Volunteer shuttle drivers (available during the regular hiking season), residences, hostels, or other facilities where the AT surveyor could set up equipment and stay overnight (cost arrangements will be taken care of), and listings of any potential drivers, nearby hotels, or residences are sought. The data collected in this survey will be used not only for trail maps, publications, and geographic analysis, but will aid in trail protection by being available to federal, state, and municipal agencies, trail clubs, and for use in negotiations with the wireless telecommunications industry.

Restore a 19th Century Marker?

In January, the Trail Conference received the following note:

"On a recent hike along the Old Arden Road (which parallels the New York Thruway in Harriman Park), my husband and I paused to read the 4' vertical marker placed along the road in the late 1800s by the American entrepreneur Edward H. Harriman. The etching on the stone describes the Arden Road as the first experiment in building flat roads in hilly terrain in America.

"Unfortunately, the passage of time has rendered the stone practically unreadable. Forty years ago this interesting historical marker was still easy to read, but over the years we noticed the steady wearing-away of the lettering to its present practically unreadable condition.

"We believe this small slice of American history should be restored or replaced. To walk this road and to see the busy New York Thruway adjacent to it is to see history compressed before one's eyes."

—Marianne Van Blarcom

Is anyone interested in tackling this project?

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Relishing the Files and Flotsam of TC's Past

Jules Orkin is every organization's dream volunteer: a person who sees a job that needs doing and does it.

Last year Orkin, who owns and operates a "small struggling new and used bookstore" in Bergenfield, NJ, and is a long-time hiker and TC member, wrote to the Trail Conference board: "Based on some



Archivist Orkin with Howell cup

off-the-cuff conversations I've recently had with board members, staff, volunteers on the trail, and in my half-day visit to the office, I have the following opinion of the mood of the TC towards its archives: 1. The archives are important; 2. They should be kept and maintained; 3. At present, there are other more important matters and there is no money or staff time

available to devote to the archives."

Most important, he began his letter with these crucial words: "I would like to volunteer to be the archivist for the Trail Conference."

And so he is.

In this issue (see below), Orkin contributes the first of what is intended to be a series of reports on his adventures among the files and flotsam of TC history. As he inventories the collection, and invites contributions to it, he will share with TW readers his discoveries. Why does he do it? As might be expected of a bookshop owner, he enjoys researching. But also, he says, "Like most volunteers I speak to, I want to give back something to an activity I get much pleasure from."

From the Trail Conference ARCHIVES

Jules Orkin, new volunteer archivist for the NY-NJTC, is not only cataloguing the Conference's extensive collection of historical papers, photos, and artifacts, he is alert for the stories they harbor. Mr. Orkin sends this tale—the first in what we hope will be a series of occasional reports from the Conference's history cabinets—about a drinking cup used by famed hiker and Hudson Highlands Park advocate William Thompson Howell (learn about him in the New York Walk Book). Both the cup and the story (condensed and edited for publication) were donated at Mr. Orkin's request by TC member Robert Schulz of Queens.

DRINKING CUP SPILLS A STORY AND A QUERY

Robert Schulz writes:

"In the late 1960s I hiked once in a while with the Fresh Air Club. Most of the members were on in years but still very active. Most often in Harriman Park, they met at a secret location called "the tombstone," near a rock which resembled a tombstone. It was located on a little knoll beside a rippling brook. There they had a crude open-front lean-to made of tree limbs, complete with a deacon seat, and would drink tea out of pots and cups that were stashed there. There were pots and cups stashed at other locations in the park as well.

"Over the years, we would discuss William Thompson Howell, who had hiked with the Fresh Air Club, but was not a member. [Howell died in 1916.] It seems that in 1939, the club searched for the various places that Howell and his hiking companions stashed their cooking pots and such. The cache at Stalter's Spring was found and club members were of the opinion that no one had visited it since Howell's time.

"On Saturday, June 21, 1969, I went

in search of Stalter's Spring and found the spring, but not the utensils hidden nearby. On September 21, 1969, I returned to Stalter's Spring and found the cups. There were six of them, and I took one home for safekeeping. It has until now been in my glass closet with instructions written on a piece of paper in it to give it to the Trail Conference if anything happened to me."

Mr. Schulz further notes that the Fresh Air Club disbanded around 1978, "after being around for about 100 years. At the time I hiked with them, women were not allowed, which may have been a factor in the decline of their membership."

He also poses this historical question: Just north of the spring is a slope of rock boulders. On a tree growing out of them is an ancient wooden sign that reads in faint letters, "Water 25 Feet. Bob Porny" *Who is or was Bob Porny?*

Readers: If you have the answer and would share it with us, please write to the Trail Conference office or send the archivist an email: bookstop@bellatlantic.net.

A Thank You

In addition to the contribution by Robert Schulz, another long-time Trail Conference member recently made a donation to the archives. William J. Myles, author of *Harriman Trails*, gave the contents of his historical collection of books, maps, and research. Among the notable items received by the archives were an almost complete set of maps by William Hoeferlin and a copy of *Winbeam* by Minnie Mae Monks.

Contributions of regional hiking memorabilia, photos, and stories are welcomed by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference archives. Direct inquiries to the Conference office.

—Jules Orkin,
Trail Conference archivist

SHAWANGUNK CHALLENGE GRANT DONORS

The Following members contributed more than \$56,000 to the Shawangunk Challenge and helped the Trail Conference earn an additional \$25,000 from an anonymous donor for preservation work on the ridge. THANK YOU!

(Gifts \$500 and over)

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Gold for the Gunks

The challenge: Raise \$25,000 for Shawangunk protection from Trail Conference members to get an additional \$25,000 from an anonymous donor. Within just a few weeks of that offer at the end of 2001, a winning response from TC members made the challenge a done deal. By the end of January, Executive Director Edward Goodell reported that nearly 600 members had contributed over \$56,000—more than double the goal.

Goodell thanks all who contributed to the Shawangunk cause, and notes that the Conference is moving forward with its effort "to add the Shawangunk Ridge to the 'permanently protected' category that includes Storm King Mountain, Minnewaska, Sterling Forest, and Schunemunk Mountain."

See Advocacy, page 3; to keep up with news of protection efforts, visit www.shawangunkridge.org.

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Hemlocks

by Joan Ehrenfeld



Walking through a hemlock grove is like no other experience on a hike in the northeast. On even the most brilliantly sunlit day, the shade and the enveloping cool, moist air come as a surprise. Hemlocks occupy a unique role in eastern forests, so an appreciation of their biology and place in the woods is a fitting way to introduce a column on the ecology of the lands through which TC members pass.

Eastern Hemlock (scientific name *Tsuga canadensis*) is a member of the large pine family, but there are only three other species of hemlock in North America (one rare type in mountains of North Carolina, and two of the forest giants of the Pacific Northwest). Our hemlock ranges from northern Michigan, across southern Ontario and Quebec



to Maine and Nova Scotia, south to Pennsylvania, and then down the Appalachian Mountains just into Georgia. It is a tree of extreme traits—more shade-tolerant than any other tree in the northeastern forest, and capable of growing bigger and older

than most other trees in the region.

Unlike most other trees, whose seedlings require some light to become established, survive, and grow, hemlock seedlings can persist in the dense shade cast by their parents. Hemlock forests have an unusual appearance—there are few other plants growing in the understory, as it is too dark for all but a handful, and among that handful, hemlocks are the only young trees. In virtually all other types of forest, there is a diversity of herbs, shrubs, and young trees; not so in hemlock stands. New seedlings grow slowly, sometimes only one to two inches in the first year, and a plant can stay that small for as long as 100 years—just surviving, hardly growing—until a bit more light becomes available and it turns into a respectable-sized tree. Once having survived and grown, hemlocks can reach extraordinary ages and sizes: up to 1,000 years old, 7 feet in diameter, and more than 160 feet tall.

Hemlocks require environments that are relatively cool and moist. For this reason,

pure hemlock forests are usually found only on north- or east-facing slopes, or in narrow ravines that shade the ground during long summer days. The soil under the hemlocks is also notable. The blanket of slowly decomposing needles forms a thick layer of organic material above the mineral soil; it is soft and springy to walk on and retains the moisture so necessary to the plant's growth. This layer may contain most of the tree's feeder roots—in essence, the tree is perched above the soil on a surface of its own creating.

Hemlock forests were once much more abundant in this region, especially in the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains. However, the bark contains high concentrations of tannin; this chemical helps the tree by warding off insects and other pathogens, and inhibiting decay organisms, but also is the basis for turning hides into leather. Extensive tanneries operating during the mid to late 1800s stripped these woods of their hemlocks, and the dry, warm conditions in the logged stands prevented any hemlock seedlings from surviving.

Tragically, a new problem is further reducing our hemlock stands, and threatens to eliminate them. The hemlock woolly adelgid, an insect pest inadvertently imported from Asia, is causing the decline and death of hemlocks in a belt from North Carolina to Massachusetts. Beetles that eat the adelgid have been introduced, but the future of the Eastern hemlock in our forest community is still in doubt.

Joan G. Ehrenfeld is a professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, Cook College, Rutgers University. She chairs the Science Advisory Committee of the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Note: The TC plans to initiate a woolly adelgid monitoring program. Watch future issues of TW for details.

Environmental Science for Non-Scientists

Saturday, April 13

This day-long seminar will provide activists and others interested in the natural world with a basic understanding of the science underlying many of the conservation issues of our day. Planned topics include: air pollution and acid rain, forest ecology and invasive species, landscape ecology, habitat fragmentation, ecological restoration, and more. Instruction will be led by Peter Anderson, physical geographer, and other West Point faculty. Location: Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ. Public transit accessible. To register, contact Jill Hamell, jmh@pobox.com; 973-463-1881. Sponsored by the NY-North Jersey Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Vernal Pool Workshop

Saturday, March 16

Vernal pools, though ephemeral, provide habitat for many species of amphibians, insects, reptiles, plants and other wildlife, and New Jersey officials seek volunteers to help map and monitor the state's inventory of such sites. The Endangered and Nongame Species Program of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will be holding two training seminars for vernal pool volunteers. Each training will be an all-day crash course on vernal pool biology and survey methods. The training entails both lecture (2 hours) and field (4 hours) components. It is intended only for serious volunteers who are willing to wade hip-deep in water, often during cool springtime nights. In northern New Jersey, training will be held Saturday, March 16 (snow date April 6) at the Lord Stirling Environmental Center, from 9 am to 4 pm.

To register online, go to <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/vpoltrn1.htm>.

New NYC Watershed Permits Required for Recreational Use

If you wish to use NYC-owned watershed lands, you must apply for a new comprehensive permit—a general Public Access Permit—that will, hiking and hunting on certain designated lands in the watershed. People who currently hold five-year or lifetime boating permits for the reservoirs may keep those permits, but they still will need to apply for a new Public Access Permit. And anyone who has a five-year fishing or hiking permit will be mailed an application for a new one by March 1, as will all registered boat owners and hunting permit applicants. Applications also may be picked up at town halls and bait and tackle shops in the watershed and at Department of Environmental Protection police precincts. Forms also are available online at www.nyc.gov/watershedrecreation.

Completed applications must be mailed

to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, 71 Smith Ave., Kingston, NY 12401. Once permits are ready, applicants will be notified and can pick them up in person—provided they present a government-issued photo ID. Permits will not be issued to anyone other than the applicant, nor will they be mailed. People with questions about new permits may call 800-575-LAND. Applications for use of city-owned watershed lands are also available at town halls and local tackle/sports shops, or can be obtained online at www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/dep/html/.

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Mohonk Offers Internships

The Mohonk Preserve is accepting applications from junior or senior high school students and freshman or sophomore college students for the 2002 Thom Schaefer Land Stewardship Internship. The intern will assist in basic ranger duties and be responsible for a special project and a written report. For information and to apply, call 845-255-0919.

The Daniel Smiley Research Center is accepting applications from freshman or sophomore college students for the 2002 Schaefer Summer Research Internship. The Schaefer Intern will collect daily baseline data and participate in land management research projects. For information and to apply, please call 845-255-5969.

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Estate of Adolf W. Forst

LETTERS

continued from page 2

great surge of pride in our country and all that it represents. But when I read the article I found myself concerned.

Yes, the trail is not a place for political or religious symbols. I agree. But that is not what I am seeing in the picture. Yes, the trail should give us nature in its purest state, but what is that thing in the background? I think it is the Bear Mountain Bridge. And I think that the 9W bridge is also visible. Looking down on those structures from Anthony's Nose has never bothered me, but I guess it bothers Mr. Wheelock.

If a large, permanent pole with lights and a plaza had been erected atop Anthony's Nose maybe I'd be concerned, even though it would be a great place to display our country's symbol. But the flag pictured is clearly on a thin tree trunk placed in a pile of rocks, certainly not permanent. Considering the enormity of the 9-11-01 events, I think that Mr. Wheelock should be proud that his country's flag was flying so proudly, rather than worrying about political correctness. Lighten up. Next it will be blazes, and then bog bridges, and then what?

I think it more important to say God Bless America.

Norman T. Marten, Jr.
Chappaqua, NY

I traverse Sterling Ridge on Route 17A on my commute home from my job in Paterson regularly. On a crystal clear day in the late fall and winter, I can catch a glimpse of the Manhattan skyline fronted by a wondrous rural vista. It is a stunning juxtaposition of the great metropolis with what remains of the bucolic beauty of Orange County. Now, the dominance of the twin towers in that fleeting one second glimpse of the city is no longer; its absence filling me with the hope, more than ever, that we human beings will strive to resolve our differences peacefully.

Russ Layne
Chester, NY

Congrats on Year #1

I would like to offer my congratulations to Ed Goodell on the occasion of his first anniversary (March 5th) as Executive Director of the Trail Conference.

In successfully directing TC operations during last year's difficult transitional period, he has lived up to the expectations held for him.

With his "rookie year" a memory now, we all look forward to his continued enthusiastic leadership in providing further TC achievements in the preservation of open space and hiking trails.

Pete Heckler
Oradell, NJ

Member, NYNJTC
Board of Directors

I am an American; born in Brooklyn, NY. I do not believe that our trails and nature preserves are the places for flags. Wave the flag on your own property. America is beautiful; we don't have to dress it up to demonstrate that.

Stan Mandel
Somers, NY

Send letters to the editor to the Trail Conference office or to tw@nynjtc.org. Please sign your complete name and include your city and state of residence and phone number.

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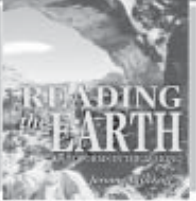
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Still a Haunting Absence

I found Glenn Scherer's lead article "The View No More" (November/December Trail Walker) very poignant. It was sobering to read in print sentiments that I have felt. The tonality of his piece was much appreciated.



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Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 years (2001)	\$27.50	\$22.00	+\$3.00	_____

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Catskill (5-map set & book)	\$27.80	\$21.60	+\$2.50	_____
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ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

continued from page 3

may be charged to the EPF, if the governor's proposals are adopted. This includes some \$15 million a year for facilities rehabilitation and improvements in Forest Preserve and Department of Environmental Conservation lands. The governor has also proposed to take \$100 million in unspent EPF funds and accumulated interest for general spending purposes.

Says TC and ADK counsel Neil Woodworth of the proposals: "The \$100 million sweep is not a good thing, but at least it does not subtract from the customary statutory annual appropriation of \$125 million. It is my hope that concerns over this, while very valid, will not prevent an agreement between the legislature and the governor. Otherwise, New York will go without EPF funding for another disastrous year. It is time to approve the \$250 million for EPF projects through April 1, 2003, and get on with protecting New York's environment."

Proposed Loan Fund May Help NY Land Purchases

The last \$212.4 million from New York State's 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act will likely be spent in 2002/03, if proposals by Governor Pataki are adopted. The total amount for environmental projects proposed by the governor for all environmental projects in the next fiscal year is \$1.4 billion, about \$100 million over last year's total.

With no bond act money remaining for land acquisition, the amount proposed for land acquisition—to be taken solely from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) plus \$2.5 million in federal Forest Legacy funds—is \$66 million for Forest Preserve and state park projects through March 2003, and another \$12 million for farmland preservation. The Trail Conference and ADK will lobby to get this number increased, but, realistically, the state may be hard pressed to get more than this sum between now and April, 2003.

To make these dollars go farther, the governor has proposed to allow loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to not-for-profit organizations, including ADK and the Trail Conference, to fund land acquisition projects that pro-

tect water quality. Not-for-profit organizations could obtain low-interest, long-term loans through the CWSRF for eligible projects that preserve open space. Loan costs could be reimbursed by the state when the state acquires the park or open space property in future years.

Bottom line in New York: the state is out of money for buying land. The Trail Conference and its allies will work to persuade the legislature to pass the 2002-2003 state budget with a fully funded EPF by summer in order to ensure that land acquisition opportunities are not lost because of lack of funding.

NJ Watershed Lands Preserved

The State of New Jersey has agreed to spend nearly \$10 million for the development rights to 9,284 acres of Highlands watershed lands owned by the City of Newark. The land is spread across Passaic, Sussex, and Morris Counties and is the source of drinking water for more than 2 million state residents. Combined with another 8,817 acres similarly preserved in the 1990s, protected land in the watershed now totals more than 18,000 acres.

Hudson River Site Protected

Ninety-three acres on the Hudson River in Garrison have been saved from development as the result of a purchase by the Open Space Institute. OPI has agreed to pay \$7.4 million to the Capuchin Friary, whose members had been considering selling the land to a developer. The parcel, known as Glencllyffe, is across from West Point and adjoins Arden Point State Park to the north. The future of the site continues to be under study.

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FAVORITE HIKES



In High Point State Park

The Trail Less Traveled Wild New Jersey

By Shawn Viggiano

Resource: Trail Map 18 in the TC's Kittatinny Trails map set

This nine-mile hike in High Point State Park takes you to one of the wildest areas in extreme northwest New Jersey. You traverse a ridge with expansive views of the Pocono Mountains, Wallkill River valley, Wawayanda Mountain, High Point Monument, and the Kittatinny ridge. You also hike in a valley along a pristine natural lake, crystal clear streams, and through dense forest.

The hike starts at the Appalachian Trail

parking lot off of Route 23 in High Point State Park. Next to the park office, walk past the bulletin board and turn left onto the white-blazed Appalachian Trail and head south. (Caution: sections of the Appalachian Trail are very rocky.) At .1 mile from the trailhead, you pass the red-blazed Iris Trail on your left. (The Iris Trail connects with the AT three times. The return loop of this hike will be on the Iris Trail.) Continue south on the AT.

At .9 miles you come to a junction with the Blue Dot Trail on your right. A short detour of .1 mile onto the Blue Dot Trail brings you to an exposed ledge and the first of the viewpoints. To the west are

Sawmill Lake and High Point State Park. Beyond the lake you get a glimpse of the Delaware River Valley and the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Looking south, you see the Kittatinny Ridge all the way to Stokes State Forest and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area. Notice how wild the area is; not a road or house in site!

Retrace your steps back to the Appalachian Trail; turn right and continue heading south; you descend into a valley, then ascend steeply up to a nice ledge and another ridge. At 2.4 miles (not counting the Blue Dot detour) you get your first view of Lake Rutherford, the Wallkill River valley, with its rolling farms, Wawayanda Mountain, and the New Jersey Highlands. At 2.6 miles a blue-blazed side trail connects with the AT on your left; it leads .4 mile to the Rutherford Shelter. Continue south on the Appalachian Trail. At 3.4 miles you pass a second intersection with the red-blazed Iris Trail. Continue south on the white-blazed AT. The next .8 mile extends through a wet valley, then back onto the main ridge, where you go through a pitch pine forest. At 4.2 miles you come to a clearing from which there are nice views to the east. At 4.6 miles the red-blazed Iris Trail connects with the AT for the third and final time. At this intersection, turn right onto the red-blazed Iris Trail.

The next 2.4 miles take you through a beautiful valley between the main ridges. You pass remnants of what were at one time farm fields. Notice the crystal clear streams. You intersect with the white-blazed Appalachian Trail; be sure to stay on the red blazed Iris Trail. At 7.0 miles you come to an overlook of one of the most pristine natural lakes in New Jersey, Lake Rutherford (it is a water supply for the town of Sussex). Continue north on the Iris Trail. The next two miles take you through some dense forest and unusual rock outcroppings. At 9.0 miles you come to the Appalachian Trail and the end of the Iris Trail. Turn right onto the Appalachian Trail and take it .1 mile back to the trailhead.

This trail is worth the journey. Not too many people know about its existence. Discover the serenity and beauty in Sussex County.

Shawn Viggiano is the Trail Conference Overseer for the AT in the Mid-south section in New Jersey.



Treasures of the Highlands...

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Highlands Coalition, Adirondack Mountain Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, Sierra Club, and Weis Wyanokie Wanderers are jointly sponsoring a hike series that will showcase the beauties and development threats to "Critical Treasures of the Highlands" in New York and New Jersey. All are welcome. Additional hikes are scheduled for May 19 and June 15; look for details online or in the next issue of *Trail Walker*. (For more information

about the Highlands, visit www.highlandscoalition.org, or call 609-818-0400.) NYNJTC is a founding member of the Highlands Coalition.

Sunday, March 17

Extreme Threat Wyanokies Hike

5-6 miles, moderate pace

Leader: Rob Lehmann

(rob@hikeleader.com); **guide:** Don Weise (donweise@hotmail.com)

This circuit tour will include two of the

Highlands most famous long-distance trails. Enjoy incredible views of Monksville Reservoir, Sterling Forest, the Wyanokies, and Ramapo Mountains as we tour endangered trail land, proposed to become a motorized recreation center in the near future. Meet at 9:00 am at NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ, for a short, pre-hike talk and slide presentation and then a short drive to the trailhead near Long Pond Ironworks. Along the hike we will learn of ongoing efforts to protect these and other critical treasures of the Highlands region. Some steep climbs. Hike held rain, snow, or shine.

Directions: Take Rt. 287 North to exit 55 (Wanaque-Pompton Lakes). Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Ringwood Ave. or Rt. 511 North. After approximately 4 miles, turn left onto Westbrook Rd. This is the first left after the Skyline Family Diner on your right. Westbrook Rd. forks; bear to the left. After the fork, take the second left turn onto Snake Den Rd. Snake Den Rd. also forks; bear to the left. Look for the Weis Ecology Center sign and outer parking lot about 1/3 mile from this fork. No need to register. Email leaders with questions.

Sunday, April 21

Pequanock Watershed

5 miles, moderate

Leader: Rob Lehmann

(rob@hikeleader.com); **guide:** Tom Gilbert (tgilbert@igc.org)

Join leaders of the Highlands Coalition on a moderately paced hike and tour of the magnificent Newark watershed, including majestic views from atop a firetower. Along the way you will learn of ongoing efforts to protect the watershed and other critical treasures of the Highlands region.

Meeting place: NY-NJTC headquarters on Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202) in Mahwah, NJ, at 9:30am or at the trailhead at 10:30am. Directions to the NY-NJTC: Just south of the intersection of I-287 and Rt. 17 on Rt. 202, 100 yards east of Rt. 17. Directions to trailhead: Take I-80 to I-287 North to NJ 23 North. Turn right at Union Valley Rd. In 3.3 miles, turn right on Gould Rd. The pull-off is 0.3 mile on the left (north) side. NJ Transit Bus Route #197 stops near the trailhead; check with NJ Transit for exact schedule and stops. Rain cancels. No need to register. Email leaders with questions.



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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-MH	Adirondack Mountain Club, Mid-Hudson Chapter	MOS	Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Mountain Club
ADK-R	Adirondack Mountain Club, Ramapo Chapter	NYHC	New York Hiking Club
AFW	Adventures for Women	RVP	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
CAHC	College Alumni Hiking Club	SCS	Sierra Club Singles
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	SW	Shorewalkers
HC	Highland Coalition	UHC	Union County Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	UTC	Urban Trail Club
LPNHC	Long Path North Hiking Club	WTW	Woodland Trail Walkers
MPCS	Monmouth County Park System	WWW	Weis Wyandotte Wanderers

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference office. The deadline for the May/June issue is March 25, 2002.

MARCH

MONDAY, MARCH 4

FVTW. Eagle Rock Reservation, West Orange. Leader: Bob Lipman. Meet: 10 am; call Cherrill Short, 973-299-0212, for meeting place. 3-mile, level hike in Cecit's playground.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

FVTW. Bockberg Escalator Reprise. Leaders: Dave and Naomi Sutter, 973-778-0992. Meet: 10 am at Rt. 9W parking area opposite old road to Jones Point. 7-10 miles. Again, sip from Stalter's Spring and

ascend the forgotten Escalator. Bushwacking; no beginners.

ADK-NJ. Thursday Hikes, 5-6 miles. Contact Phyllis: 201-358-9252 or Betty: 201-967-2937. Every Thursday.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

WTW. Turkey Mountain. Leader: Gwen Healey, 973-492-4855. Meet: Call leader. Hike from Pyramid Mountain Visitor Center to Turkey Mountain, including the waterfalls. Adverse weather could cancel.

NYHC. Pyramid Mountain. Leader: Lester Lica, 718-386-6216 (call after 9:30 pm, early in the week if you need a ride). Meet: 10 am at parking lot on Rt. 511 south near Taylortown Reservoir; call leader if you

need a ride. Moderate 6-mile hike with some hills but spectacular views.

RVW. Giant Ledge and Panther Mt. (3720) from County Rt. 47. Strenuous hike: (snowshoes and crampons necessary), 6.5 miles, 6.0 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date: following Saturday. For more information call: 845-246-4145.

ADK-MH. Minnewaska Carriage Roads. Leader: Bill Beehler: 845-454-7832. Hike about 5 miles on the carriage roads and trails at Minnewaska. Beginners welcome (hiking boots a must). Meeting place: Park and Ride at junction of Rts. 9W and 299 in Highland. Call leader for more details.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

UHC. Garrett Mountain. Leader: Mary Sive, 973-746-3986. Meet: 10 am; take Valley Rd. 2 miles north of Rt. 46 to second light. Turn left on Mountain Park Rd. to park entrance; meet at the first parking area on left. Moderate circular in this park near Peterson with splendid views. Optional visit to Lambert Castle after hike.

IHC. High Point State Park. Leader: Neil Weiss, 973-625-0078. Meet: 9 am at Burger King/Stop N Shop, Butler, NJ; park in front near highway (will carpool to the park). Moderately strenuous circular hike using the Iris Trail and the AT. Rain, ice, or poor driving conditions cancels.

SW. Scarborough to Croton Dam. Leader: Dorothy Lourdou, 212-685-6443. Meet: 8 am at Grand Central Station to take train to Scarborough. Steady, moderate pace along Croton Aqueduct to the Croton Dam; return from Croton. Two short, but steep, ups and downs. Could be muddy; heavy precipitation or icy conditions cancel. Non-members \$3.

MOS. Bear and West Mountains. Leader: Ira Haironson, 718-854-4472; no calls on Shabbat, please. Meet: Call leader to register by 3/7. Moderately paced 8-mile hike with more than 2,000 feet elevation gain. Bring your cameras for guaranteed sensational views. Challenging hike; no beginners. Public transportation available. Non-members \$10.

SCS. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Ron Pate 973-634-7573, ext. 2. We will hike 6-7 miles at a moderate pace. Meet before 10 am. Enjoy beautiful views of NYC and a 25-foot waterfall. Bring water and snacks, wear hiking boots, optional lunch to follow at a local restaurant. Rain cancels. If snow, bring cross-country skis. Rt. 280 to Pleasant Valley Way, go south 3 miles into reservation, turn left into the Tulip Springs parking area. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-members and all participants must sign a liability waiver.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

FVTW. Wondrous Wyandotte. Leaders: Al and Jane Leigh, 973-471-7528. Meet: 10 am at Weis Ecology Center. We will share 7-8 miles of delightful trail and views on this moderate circular; renew your pleasure with these hillsides.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

UHC. Torne Park, Bontont. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 am; call leader for directions; meet at the second parking lot. Moderate hike to the top of the Torne through flowers by a stream and lake and a stop to see the boiling springs.

WTW. Explorer Hike, Mendam, NJ. Leader: Leslie Sosstau, 973-252-8122. Meet: 9:30 am at A&P shopping center on Rt. 206 in Flanders,

NJ. 4-5 miles hiking a trail that's new to us, with waterfall, iron mine, and who knows what else. Buttermill Falls and India Brook Nature Trail. Adverse weather could cancel.

NYHC. Queens Greenbelt. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 11 am under clock at corner of Main St. and Roosevelt Ave. #7 to last stop, Main St., Flushing. Moderate 7-8 miles through the Kissena Park Corridor, Cunningham Park, Alley Pond Park, and perhaps on to Oakland Lake. Easy terrain with minimum of road walking.

ADK-MH. Catskills. Difficult bushwack up Doubletop Mtn. in the Catskills, from Seeger. Leader: Russ Faller, 845-297-5126. We may also visit Big Indian Mountain, depending on weather and the group's motivation. Bushwack of Doubletop is about 7.5 miles round trip. If we add Big Indian, total mileage would be about 10 miles with the last 5 miles on a good trail. Bring snowshoes, headlamp or flashlight, 2 quarts water; wear layered clothing (no cotton). Call leader to register by March 14th.

UTC. Palisades to Alpine. Leader: Mike Puder. Call 718-743-0920 for details.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

HC. Extreme Threat Wyandotte. Join leaders of the Highlands Coalition on a 5-6 mile circuit of an area proposed as a site for motorized recreation. Leaders: Rob Lehmann (rob@hikeleader.com); guide: Don Weise (donweise@hotmail.com). See additional details on page 10.

ADK-R. Up the Timp from the West. Leader: Call 201-569-0244 for information. Strenuous 8-9 mile hike (see TC Map #4).

GAHC. Greenwood Lake, NJ. Leader: Mathias Wuethrich, 908-253-9042. Meet: 9:45 am at shopping center parking, just west of junction of Rts. 511 and 513. Difficult, average and easy hikes available.

CAHC. Coney Island to Verrazano Bridge and Beyond? Leaders: Marty and Judy Mahler, 718-338-7929. Meet: Call leaders. 4-5 miles along Lower New York Bay enjoying the brisk sea air; Steady, moderate aerobic pace with rest stops.

SW. Central Park Waterways. Leader: Suzanne Reid, 212-874-1067, and Ted Gabay. Meet: 12:30 pm at Central Park West and W. 86th St. 5-6 miles along pond, lake, and waterfall. Non-members \$3.

MOS. Appalachian Trail. Leader: Ira Haironson, 718-854-4472; no calls on Shabbat, please. Meet: Call leader to register by 3/14. Celebrate the start of spring with a moderately strenuous 8-10 mile hike. We'll get an early start, a good workout, and a couple of good climbs and views. Rain/snow cancels. Public transportation available. Non-members \$10.

MONDAY, MARCH 18

AVW. Sunfish Pond, NJ. For information and meeting place call AFW 973-644-3582. Strenuous hike from 10 am-4 pm. Women only club, membership required or day fee.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

FVTW. Turkey Mountain, Montville. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mt. Visitors Center. 6-7 interesting, not very strenuous, miles on a loop including waterfall and some great views.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

SW. Riverdale/Fildston. Leader: Minor Bishop, 212-686-5095.

continued on page 11

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