



TRAIL WALKER

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

In this issue: Bikers Are Our Friends...pg 2 • And the Winners Are...pg 3 • Deer: Forest Enemy...pg 7 • CCC in the Catskills...pg 11

Park Services Cut in New York & New Jersey

Park agencies in New York and New Jersey announced budget tightening measures that would be in effect this winter. Fortunately, the reductions appeared to pose small threat to trail access this season. Fiscal uncertainty reigned as this issue went to press, however, and so too did the outlook for park operations in the 2009 year. With further state budget reductions for the current fiscal year likely, and negotiations beginning for the 2009-10 fiscal year, the Trail Conference plans to continue to monitor spending plans in both states and to defend public access to nature. Stay tuned at www.nynjtc.org. Please turn to page 11 for details about announced reductions in our areas.

Leaving the Catskills a Better Place

"There are nearly 200 miles of trails across three-quarters of a million acres of Catskill Forest Preserve," notes Catskills Trails Chair Pete Senterman. It's a tough place to get things done.

Covering it are a dozen or so trail supervisors and 100 volunteer maintainer positions. State jurisdiction for the Catskills is divided between two regions of the Dept. of Environmental Conservation. There are constitutionally guaranteed protections for the Forest Preserve, but that means there are complicated rules and procedures to navigate to get anything done.

In other words, the job of Catskills trails chair is a big one. And it's now open. After more than 15 years of filling the position, super volunteer Pete Senterman is stepping down. His departure leaves a big hole. "Pete's been among our most effective leaders," says Larry Wheelock, West Hudson Regional Representative for the Trail Conference, who is heading the search for Pete's replacement.

Despite the scope of the job, Pete recommends it to the right person, that being someone who, as he does, "appreciates the Forest Preserve and has the qualities of persistence and patience."

There is prestige, he says, in working in the Forest Preserve. "It's unique in the world, this constitutionally protected wilderness in the Catskills and Adirondacks. I was very proud that I could work in it and work with the state people and around the restrictions to get things done."

Pete is most proud of having overseen the building of 15 miles of new trail in the preserve during his tenure. This includes a trail up Red Hill to a fire tower, a 5-mile

loop on Sugarloaf, and—his trophy project—10 miles of new Long Path treadway moved off of roads and into the woods between Mount Tremper and the Devil's Path on Plateau Mountain.

"It took a little over five years to get the approval for the last piece of the LP," Pete notes. "You have to navigate carefully and patiently. You have to build trust with the people in the regions. You learn that you

Trail Conference in the 1970s, maintaining a piece of the AT in Dutchess; in the 1980s he joined the Dutchess (now Dutchess-Putnam) AT Management Committee. It was near to home, and even when he took on the job in the Catskills, he continued to maintain a piece of the AT until two years ago. All this on top of full time work as a drafting supervisor with an environmental engineering firm, and raising a family.



Pete Senterman's love of the woods inspired his work as a TC volunteer.

can't go headlong, you have to be patient. And you have to pester."

Clearly, Pete did his job well. More than a decade ago, the state appointed him to its Forest Preserve Advisory Committee, where he has represented Trail Conference views regarding trails in the Catskill preserve. He'll stay on the committee until he is replaced by the state.

The Catskills haven't been Pete's only trail focus. He first volunteered with the

Says Larry Wheelock: "One of the things I find notable about Pete is that he always seems most comfortable when hiking or out working with the volunteers. Even though he's great at diplomacy, negotiations, and other leadership qualities, his actual knowledge of the forest environment, trails, and trail work makes his work most inspiring."

The Morris Canal Trail

By Mike Helbing

Mike Helbing is a Trail Conference member and volunteer on the Highlands Trail, and works for the Hunterdon County parks department. In his spare time, Mike is spearheading a new project—a trail that will run the route of the historic Morris Canal from the Delaware River in Phillipsburg to the Hudson River in Jersey City.

"He has the route all sketched out, has divided it up into segments, and is securing landowner permissions everywhere the old canal route now crosses private lands," notes Brenda Holzinger, TC's regional representative in New Jersey.

"I've been interested in the Morris Canal since I was born," Mike says. "My grandfather first got me hiking when I was three years old, and he told me a lot of canal stories and showed me so many places, not only on canals but abandoned railways and such. My grandfather also did the survey work for much of the land acquisitions to restore the canal greenway."

To generate enthusiasm for his project, in October Mike initiated a series of monthly section hikes of the canal on the last Sunday of each month. He invites all who are interested to join him; he expects to have walked the entire length by the end of February or March 2009, depending on the weather.

Here, he describes the Morris Canal's past and possible future.

The state of New Jersey is rich with abandoned former transportation corridors, many of which have been converted to greenways, such as the many rail trails and the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park. Yet others of these rights of way are being lost to development.

One of the most significant of these is the former Morris Canal. Opened in 1831, the Morris Canal traversed 102 miles by 1836, from Phillipsburg to Jersey City. In addition to the more conventional system of locks, the Morris Canal also used inclined plane technology, in which flatbed canal boats were raised or lowered by means of cradles attached to a cable. The Morris Canal was the greatest climber of all of the world's canals, charting an elevation

continued on page 11



Mike Helbing, seen on the Lehigh Canal Trail, hopes to create a Morris Canal Trail.

NJ ATV Legislation Continues Forward Momentum

At press time in late November, two all-terrain bills were moving through the New Jersey legislature simultaneously: one is the enforcement legislation that the TC has been pushing for many years (A823 in the Assembly and S2055 in the Senate), and the second would require the Dept. of Environmental Protection to identify a site for an off-road vehicle park (A2796 and S1059).

The group fighting for the ATV enforcement legislation remains optimistic about its prospects for success. According to Brenda Holzinger, the TC's NJ Regional Representative, "Member support via the electronic action alerts in November was a tremendous help to us when we talked to individual legislators because they were hearing from their constituents that the ATV enforcement legislation is important. That had an immediate impact on how the legislators viewed the proposed bill. However," Holzinger continued, "in order to achieve success by the end of the session in June we will need even more member support for our action alerts as we push the enforcement legislation through the Senate committees and the full Assembly and Senate."

Both the enforcement legislation and the ORV park bill, were reported out of their respective Assembly committees unanimously in November; a full Assembly vote was expected in December. On the Senate side, the enforcement bill was moved from the Transportation Committee, which was unwilling to schedule the bill, to the Environment Committee, and the TC and its partners were working diligently to get this bill on the committee hearing schedule in late 2008 or early 2009. The ATV park bill similarly awaits a hearing in the Senate Environment committee.

The Trail Conference seeks regulation of ATVs because of the environmental damage their unregulated use causes to trails and public open space.

For up to date information about the status of the NJ ATV bills, check the TC ATV website: www.nynjtc.org/issues/NJATV.html. Contact Brenda Holzinger, NJ Regional Representative, via email (Holzinger@nynjtc.org) or cell phone (973-303-3538) with any questions or for further information.

TRAILWALKER

VOLUME XXXVI, No. 1 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

GEORGETTE WEIR EDITOR
LOUIS LEONARDIS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

The TRAIL WALKER (USPS Permit #1239) (ISSN 0749-1352) is published bi-monthly by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference as a benefit of membership. Subscriptions are available to libraries only at \$15.00 a year. Periodical postage paid at Mahwah, N.J., and additional offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to the address below. Opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily represent the policy or position of the Conference. Contributions of typed manuscripts, photos, and drawings are welcome. Manuscripts may be edited for style and length. Send SASE for writers' guidelines. Submission deadlines for the TRAIL WALKER are January 15 (Mar./Apr. issue), March 15 (May/June issue), May 15 (July/Aug. issue), July 15 (Sept./Oct. issue), September 15 (Nov./Dec. issue), November 15 (Jan./Feb. issue). Unsolicited contributions cannot be acknowledged unless accompanied by SASE. For information on advertising rates, please write or call.

Copyright 2008 by:

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc.
156 Ramapo Valley Road (Rt. 202)
Mahwah, NJ 07430
201-512-9348

e-mail: info@nynjtc.org

editorial e-mail: tw@nynjtc.org

World Wide Web: www.nynjtc.org



Mission Statement

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

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

Board of Directors

Robert Boysen	Chair
Chris Connolly	Vice Chair
Mac Hight	Treasurer
Daniel Chazin	Secretary

Directors

Henry Atterbury	Peter Kennard
Ellen Cronan	Seth McKee
Jane Daniels	Winston Perry
Josie Gray	Edward Saiff
Ann Gruhn	Mary Smart
John Gunzler	Daniel Van Engel

Staff

Edward Goodell	Executive Director
Joshua Howard	Deputy Executive Director
Larry Wheelock	NY West Hudson Regional Representative
Christie Ferguson	NY East Hudson Regional Representative
Brenda Holzinger	New Jersey Regional Representative
Bill O'Hearn	Conservation Director
Jeremy Apgar	Cartographer
Gary Willick	Fulfillment Coordinator
Catherine Gemmell	Volunteer & Information Manager
Hedy Abad	Membership Program Manager
J. Cal Rizzuto	Help Desk Administrator

Part Time

Kathy Goldman	Office Assistant
---------------	------------------

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

♻️ printed on recycled content paper

From the Board of Directors

Hikers and Bikers in Common Cause?

Hikers and mountain bikers. The notion that these are two groups with nothing in common seems widespread, in spite of the fact that many people enjoy both sports. Unfortunately, it is all too common that some hikers look at trail bikers as enemies and vice versa. And yet, as our own Trails Council discussed at a recent meeting, we may have more in common than we realize. In the face of motorized recreational vehicles, and with the need to promote trails for human-powered recreation to park managers, it seems hikers and bikers should find similarities and not focus on their differences.

Based on the concept we both share—that volunteers take responsibility for building and maintaining trails—I set out to do some trail work with bikers on Saturday afternoon, October 18. The occasion was the field work portion of an International Mountain Bicycling Association/Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association (IMBA/JORBA) trail building workshop at Ringwood State Park. My purpose was simple: to spread good will for the hiking community and learn what mountain bikers thought about the Trail Conference.

Fifty-four people took part in the work trip; many had gathered earlier in the day for classroom instruction and then headed out to put their book learning into practice. The stereotype of a yahoo 20-something biker was quickly dispelled as people arrived in the parking lot ready and eager to work. The IMBA employee on hand stressed that safety was to be our first

goal, having fun was second, and last of all we were to build a trail. How much trail we built that afternoon was less important than safety and fun.

The field work was similar to what is done in our Trail Construction workshops: work on a trail problem with two to three people. I have done trail construction many times before, so I needed little introduction to the basics. The differences

... I confirmed that mountain bikers are similar to hikers - we love being in the outdoors and exercising in a way that is fun.

between footpath standards and bicycle standards were few: curves on switchbacks are not as tight on bike trails as on hiking trails, and where hikers build steps, bikers build ramps. They also like to tamp down the dirt to "harden" the trail. With those differences in mind, I set to work.

It was easy for me to engage with my fellow workers. I got conversation going by asking a question or two about why they were there and if they had done any trail work before. In time, the folks I was working with discovered I did not mountain

bike. They were interested in learning my views about mountain bikers. Some hikers dislike meeting a mountain biker on the trail, feeling that it ruins their hike. I find I enjoy talking with them. I would rather meet up with several mountain bikers than a group of 25 or more hikers. The bikers come and go quickly and quietly. Large groups of people make so much noise you can hear them through the woods.

I also had ample opportunity to talk about the Trail Conference. More important was to hear their views about the Trail Conference. Bikers seemed to think that, universally, Trail Conference members hate mountain bikers, and they were pleased to talk with one who did not. They also did not know that the Trail Conference wanted to reach out to bikers, to explore how together we can work for trails.

At the end of the day, I confirmed that mountain bikers are similar to hikers - we love being in the outdoors and exercising in a way that is fun. Add to that mix, we both like to do it with similarly minded folks. And neither group likes ATVs destroying our hard work. I hope that for that the 10 or so people I talked with, I was able to forge a sense of common cause between bikers and hikers. I will seek other opportunities to engage mountain bikers. We need them to help fight to protect open space and against ATVs.

— Jane Daniels,
Board of Directors; Chair, Trails Council

Letters to the Editor

Ticks Are Not So Easy to See

For background before I launch into corrections to Ms. Vuong ("Ticks: No One's Hiking Friend," Nov/Dec TW): I have had a house in Dutchess County for 40 years—statistically the worst area in the country for Lyme disease. I have had Lyme disease five or six times since 2000, mostly because I cut my own grass, trim shrubs, etc. on a two-acre property. I am a long term member of the New York Academy of Sciences, with a background in microbiology, biochemistry and other relevant science, as well as a long term reader of *Trail Walker*.

It is much more difficult to detect a tick if you are alone than you may imagine. After a horrendous illness caused by an undetected tick bite in the summer of 2006—13 days in the hospital, taken there in a coma by a 911 crew, diagnosed (mistakenly) at Lenox Hill Hospital with cancer of the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract and with hepatitis B & C, and biopsied to a fare thee well—my infectious disease doctor returned from a trip, and tested for ehrlichiosis and babesiosis, both of which I had. Ehrlichiosis is a bacterial disease that causes liver damage, bleeding, constant diarrhoea, coma, and death. Babesiosis is somewhat like malaria, caused by a one-celled animal. It took almost two months for me to recover. The tick had apparently landed on my hair, partly under a hat, from a shrub, and crawled onto my scalp. I never saw it.

Ms. Vuong never mentioned ehrlichiosis. Plus, she seems to believe it takes a tick a while to get into your skin. Wrong. The first time I had Lyme disease in 2000, I had arrived upstate on a Friday before Memorial Day at about 5 pm. I was in the house till about 7. I took out the lawn mower and cut grass for two hours, finishing in a sweat at close to 9 pm. Did not take off my clothes till midnight, and found a swollen tick on my forearm—the size almost of a bedbug (remember them?)

I used to hike with an MD and he always carried isopropyl alcohol to use on ticks (a different kind) on Long Island. After trying to pull off my tick, which was immovable, I dripped rubbing alcohol on it for many minutes before its hind legs curled under, and I was able to yank it off with a pair of tweezers. It had not been on my skin for more than five hours (7pm-midnight). I went to see my doctor on the following Thursday, about five days after the tick bite. The results came back—positive for Lyme disease, and I was put on doxycycline. Could not walk in the sun for weeks.

So: ticks can hide easily and not be detected. If you are alone, you will not find them on you. A friend of mine in Connecticut went for a prostate exam not long ago—his MD found a tick near his anus.

So: spray yourself with Off, use Deet, and beware of infections masquerading as sluggishness—with no fever, no bullseye rash, no nothing.

Roslyn Willett
New York, NY

FEATURED RETAIL PARTNER: Mountain Tops Outdoors

After growing up in Beacon, the owners of Mountain Tops Outdoors were inspired to open an outdoor retail store. Combining their desire to serve those who enjoy hiking and their desire to be an essential part of the local community, they opened their doors and now provide all Trail Conference members with a 10% discount off all regular-priced items at the store!

Catering to backpackers and hikers, Mountain Tops Outdoors offers clothing, equipment, books, and local photography. Mountain Tops Outdoors also carries gear for four-legged friends who love to hit the trail. The Trail Conference is pleased to partner with Mountain Tops and offer our members access to even more great hiking gear and destinations.

For more information on this store visit www.mountaintopsonline.com or call 845-831-1997. The store is located at 144 Main Street, Beacon, NY 12508.



Delegates Meeting Calendar

Tuesday, February 24
at Ramapo College

Sunday, June 14 at Teatown
Lake Reservation

Saturday, October 17 at
Lower Twin Lakes Camp
in Harriman State Park

Send Us a Letter

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

Visit Us Today! 
www.NYNJTC.org

From the Executive Director

Thanksgiving (for the past year and the new year to come)

By far the best part of my job is working with so many people whose positive attitude and exemplary dedication, passion and creativity are an inspiration to us all. The contributions of such people are truly the sum and substance of the Trail Conference.

One such individual, 12-year member Bob Augello, has been the attorney for all of our New York conservation efforts. Bob's careful efforts, and those of his assistant Karen Clark, have been an essential part of protecting 3,000 acres over the past ten years.



The late Bob Augello, one of many to whom we owe thanks for work well done.

Bob was not one to complain, so we never knew he had cancer, or that it was in remission, or that it had returned. One Tuesday we just learned that Bob was gone.

While his work with us to secure public open space is finished, the fact that those lands will be available for all to enjoy is a lasting legacy to Bob, as well as to the Trail Conference members and volunteers who supported his work.

This issue also includes an obituary for Harry Bott, a long-time trail maintainer whom I never met. Like Bob, and like thousands of maintainers and other volunteers who work diligently but quietly for our cause, Harry also leaves us a trail legacy. Through his dedication and attention to detail, as his co-maintainer recalls on page 10, Harry bestowed to hikers well maintained trails—neither too wide nor too narrow, with blazes placed in orderly fashion—in Harriman and Minnewaska State Parks. Those who follow in his footsteps have high standards to emulate.

I learned of these deaths during Thanksgiving week, and they remind me of how much we are beholden to other people. I am also reminded of the importance of regularly acknowledging and thanking people for their contributions, whether they be volunteer, staff member, or paid consultant; individual or club; partner organization or state agency; private land owner or non-profit preserve.

With so many doing so much, it is impossible to adequately recognize all who deserve it. We try to thank and recognize volunteers (see right for this year's volunteer awards, and page 10 for contributor's acknowledgements), but it is an impossible task.

So, to all of you who support our mission in ways large and small, outdoors and indoors, frequently or rarely, *thank you.*

— Ed Goodell, goodell@nymjtc.org

AWARDS '08

Each year the Trail Conference honors designated volunteers and partners for exceptional commitment to trails and the Trail Conference. Awards are made in up to nine categories and are presented either at the Annual Meeting or at a time and place of the award recipient's convenience.

WILLIAM HOEFERLIN AWARD

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

Estelle Anderson Co-Supervisor for Norvin Green State Park

Estelle Anderson is co-supervisor, with Bob Jonas, for the southern part of Norvin Green State Park. Two years ago she called every maintainer in their region to verify their volunteer start date so as to ensure they are getting the recognition and maintainer patches they deserve. She is calling them again this year. In addition, Estelle has represented the Trail Conference at numerous outreach events in New Jersey, and shares her passion openly with almost every one she meets on the trail or even hanging around a trailhead. She has taught or coordinated several Trail Maintenance 101 classes, as well as a course in Trail Construction. She volunteers inside as well, keeping the TC's web calendar up to date. Estelle's breadth and length of service benefits trails and the Trail Conference significantly.



Estelle Anderson

Mary Hilley West of Hudson South Trail crew leader and mentor

Since 1995, the West of Hudson South Trail Crew has benefited from Mary Hilley's expertise. A tireless worker and regular crew member, Mary also is a mentor and teacher of trail maintenance skills. She has maintained a section of the Camp Smith Trail since 1995, when the trail opened.



Presenters John Mack and Chris Ezzo with Mary Hilley

Ollie Simpson Appalachian Trail overseer in Dutchess County

In 2001, Ollie Simpson became an Appalachian Trail volunteer and in 2006 became supervisor of 11 miles of the AT in Dutchess County. Ollie's tremendous energy and great organizational skills have benefited the AT in Dutchess/Putnam. She has organized replacement of a shelter roof and a bridge, restored and relocated sections of the AT, converted privies to moldering privies, and built kiosks. She is a tireless worker on the AT project on Bear Mountain. Other trails have benefited as well. She worked on the Twin Lakes Trail and the Wappingers Greenway. Her behind-the-scenes work includes recruiting and training volunteers. Among her favorite activities is chain-sawing; Ollie earned her certificate in 2006.



Ollie Simpson, Jane Daniels (presenter), and Tim Messerich

NEXT GENERATION AWARD

Given to those under age 18 who are making significant contributions of time and energy to trail building or protection.

Tom Magerlein Trail worker par excellence

For eight years, Tom Magerlein (age 12) has been helping his parents, John and Karen Magerlein (supervisors for trails in Fahnestock State Park and registrars for Ramapo 2007). His parents have always taken Tom on inspection trips. At age five, he thought helping move logs which his father had chain sawed was a really fun activity. As he has grown, his help with swamping (assistant to a chain-sawyer) and supervisory trail work has increased. At maintenance workshops held in East Hudson, Tom helps with the outdoor training. His knowledge of trail maintenance is outstanding. On a work trip on Bear Mountain this spring, Tom was accepted as an adult. He helped his parents with registration for Ramapo 2007, including assembling packets. Tom personifies what the Trail Conference would like to have as our next generation of trail workers.

PAUL LEIKIN EXTRA MILE AWARD

Awarded to those volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to a 3-5 year project such as a book, map, or advocacy project.

Andy Garrison Singlehandedly made LaFarge cleanup a success

To put it simply, Andy Garrison, a long-time member of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail crew, singlehandedly made the cleanup of the TC-owned property on the Shawangunk Ridge, known as LaFarge, a success. Andy spent about 375 work hours (not including travel time) on the project between early November 2007 and the end of June 2008. He took a week of vacation from his paid job to spend 14+ hour days at LaFarge and dedicated more hours by himself during the tough winter months. Thanks to his hard work, determination, and good connections, Andy helped bring the cleanup costs in well under expected expense. Throughout this challenging project, Andy always remained good natured, keeping his sense of humor intact, no matter what went wrong on a given day.

Tim Messerich Organizing and implementing trail crew projects for the AT in Dutchess and Putnam counties

Over the last five years, Tim Messerich has organized and implemented annual big trail crew projects on the AT in Dutchess and Putnam counties, involving numerous volunteers who turn out to work and enjoy a weekend of picnics and fun. His crew has replaced a bridge, installed a privy, and built puncheon, turnpiking, and steps. He has solicited contributions so that these multi-day



Andy Garrison and Tom Magerlein

projects have minimal impact to the Trail Conference's resources and he has personally funded the food. Tim has also been able to leverage his employment at Eastern Mountain Sports to gain volunteers from customers and get EMS to sponsor National Trails Day projects. Tim has gone the Extra Mile to benefit the AT.

George Petty Publications Committee Chair, author, and project manager

George Petty has had many positions on the Publications Committee since joining it in 1999. He has served as chair for three years, managed publication of *Hiking Long Island* (three times) and *Kittatinny Trails*, and written and marketed *Hiking the Jersey Highlands*, the Trail Conference's current best-seller. He has donated the royalties from his book to benefit the Trail Conference.



George Petty

KEN LLOYD AWARD

Honors an individual affiliated with a Trail Conference Member Club who has given exemplary service to his/her club.

Suzanne Wilder Leg work on trail approvals for the Highlands Trail in Hunterdon County

As president of the Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy, Suzanne Wilder did all of the legwork on trail approvals for the Highlands Trail in Hunterdon County. She has also led many work trips on the trail, building new trail and maintaining existing pathway. Thanks to Suzanne's hard work and commitment, the Highlands Trail is on the verge of completing one of its final links, through Hunterdon County and coming close to the Delaware River.



Glenn Oleksak presents award to Suzanne Wilder



Conservation & Advocacy



From the
Conservation Director:
William P. O'Hearn

Why Not an Outdoor Jobs Program? Or, Bring Back the CCC and WPA

As our economy slides deeper into recession, a number of policy writers and commentators have called for President-Elect Obama to develop a public jobs program that would use federal funds to build and repair the country's infrastructure, including bridges, dams, roads, stormwater systems, sewage treatment plants, and the national electric grid.

I agree that this needs to be done, but would suggest that we add another category: green infrastructure support, meaning the trails, carriage roads, footbridges, scenic outlooks, parking lots,

bathrooms, signs, kiosks, and road crossings that allow the public to enjoy the public parklands that add so much to our health and quality of life. Recent reports and legislation in New York and New Jersey have documented that our park structures and roads are falling apart from neglect and years of budget cuts, so there is no shortage of work to be done.

And there is of course a famous precedent for this—the tremendous work that was done in the 1930s by the Works Project Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In our area alone, some of our most famous and best-loved parks contain numerous public projects that were built more than 70 years ago. The CCC created Pine Meadow, Wanoksink, Turkey Hill, Welch, Silvermine, and Massawippa Lakes in Harriman/Bear Mountain State Parks, and the WPA constructed Perkins Memorial Drive almost entirely by hand. In New Jer-

sey, High Point, Hacklebarney, and Voorhees State Parks were built by the CCC, as were numerous structures in Palisades Interstate Park in both states.

By 1938, the CCC had developed more than 3 million acres of parkland and 854 state parks, and developed forest fire-fighting techniques that are still in use today. A nationwide opinion poll in 1936 reported that 80 percent of the American public favored the program, and it is generally regarded as one of the greatest accomplishments of the New Deal era.

We certainly hope and expect that we will not see unemployment numbers like we had after 1933, but if we are looking to put people to work for the long-term benefit of the public, we should again invest money and labor into fixing up and expanding support structures in our state, county, and local parks.

Conservation & Advocacy News Notes

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

NEW YORK

TC Contacts:

West of Hudson Regional Representative

Larry Wheelock, Wheelock@nynjtc.org,
201-512-9348, ext. 16

East of Hudson Regional Representative

Christie Ferguson, Ferguson@nynjtc.org,
201-739-4434

Another Big Threat to the Shawangunk Ridge

A 650-acre parcel on the spine of the Shawangunk Ridge in Mamakating is the targeted site for a gated community of large luxury homes, a hotel, conference center, spa, and restaurants called Seven Peaks on Mountain Road. The land is directly above the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail/Long Path, within sight of the Delaware and Hudson (D&H) Canal Trail on the western flank of the ridge, and includes headwater streams that feed the nearby Shawangunk Kill on the ridge's eastern flank. The project would be highly visible from both the Wallkill Valley to the east and the Neversink Highlands and the Bashakill to the west. At full build-out, Seven Peaks would be one of the largest developments ever proposed along



View of Shawangunk Ridge from New Paltz

the Shawangunk Ridge. As indicated by the state and regional open space plans and conservation studies conducted by New York State, this project's impacts on both the ridge and valley will be of regional and state importance. The Trail Conference is working with its partners in the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition to monitor this project.

Basherkill Development DEIS Seriously Flawed

Consultants hired to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement submitted by Orange County Holding Company for the proposed Basherkill Subdivision on the Shawangunk Ridge, report serious deficiencies in the report and warn of widespread negative impacts to the Shawangunk Ridge if the project proceeds. The studies were commissioned by the Basha Kill Area Association with support from the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, of which the Trail Conference

is a member. The developers propose to build 354 single-family units, two retail developments, and recreational facilities on an undeveloped site of 636 acres adjacent to the Basha Kill Wildlife Management Area. The development, known as the Basherkill Subdivision, is bounded by Route 211, Route 62 and Port Orange Road in the Town of Deerpark. You can find links to the full reports and/or executive summaries by going to www.shawangunkridge.org; click on Threats, then Basherkill Subdivision.

Ramapo Preserves 420 Acres

The Town of Ramapo in Rockland County is buying 420 acres of mountain woodland in order to protect open space and watershed lands. The land is owned by Braen Stone Industries, whose plans to develop a power plant and stone quarry at the site were blocked in 2004 when the town rezoned the property as residential. New York State provided \$2.4 million of the \$5.25 million purchase price and will take title to a portion of the property and add it to Harriman State Park.

NEW JERSEY

TC Contact:

NJ Regional Representative Brenda Holzinger,
holzinger@nynjtc.org or 973-303-3538

Sunday Deer Hunting in NJ?

A legislative effort is underway that could effectively close some of New Jersey's public lands to hikers from October until January.

The legislation currently in play would authorize bow and arrow deer hunting on Sundays in Wildlife Management Areas and private property in New Jersey. If approved by the NJ Legislature, this change in policy could result in complete closures on lands that already have extremely restricted hiking opportunities during hunting season. For example, the Newark Watershed lands are open to hikers only on Sundays from early October until early January, with other hunting related restrictions throughout the year. It seems likely that these Watershed lands would be closed to hiking on Sundays also if bow and arrow deer hunting on Sundays becomes legal.



Sunday hiking at risk in New Jersey

The Senate legislation, S802, was voted out of the Environment Committee 5-1 and overwhelmingly approved by the full Senate (32-6-2) in October. Its counterpart in the Assembly, A1669, must be heard in the Environment and Natural Resources Committee before it can move to the full Assembly for a vote. The Trail Conference joined with the American Humane Society, the Sierra Club, and a number of other groups to fight this legislation. Hundreds of TC members responded to action alerts and let the Assembly know that hikers want Sundays to remain deer hunting-free so they can continue to enjoy New Jersey's public lands at least one day a week during the fall and early winter.

Stay tuned for more action alerts and an update in the March/April *TW*.



Coming soon to a trail near you?

Power Line Fight Continues in New Jersey

PSE&G's proposed 45-mile long Susquehanna-Roseland electric line will cut right through one of the state's most precious resources—the 860,000-acre Highlands Region. New transmission towers would be built next to the current 80-foot towers, but the new towers would rise to heights of almost 200 feet.

PSE&G originally intended to work individually with each of the 15 municipalities that will host the transmission line. However, after much resistance from the municipalities and environmental groups, PSE&G changed its strategy and is now going directly to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and bypassing the municipalities altogether. This move has further outraged both the municipalities and the environmental groups that are vehemently questioning the need for this electric transmission line.

Because the PSE&G project traverses New Jersey's Highlands Region, the NJ DEP will need to determine whether or not to grant a special exemption for the transmission line. PSE&G says the higher towers are designed to minimize electric and magnetic fields, and the proposed route minimizes the amount of vegetation that would have to be cut and crosses the smallest amount of forests and wetlands.



Southern Harriman Park Trail Accesses Reopen

Pipeline work along the southeastern edge of Harriman Park is essentially completed and access points from Route 202 are once again open. At Kakiat Park, no obstructions exist to the Kakiat Trail or the Mountain Trail. Construction work resulted in some missing, damaged, or obscured trail blazes in the area of the pipeline crossing, so it pays to be alert for them in this area.

The access road to the Town of Ramapo Equestrian Center, which had been blocked due to a collapsed bridge, is now reopened. At the deadline for this issue, assembly of a replacement bridge was in progress on site and scheduled for completion by Thanksgiving. At the Equestrian Center, where hiker parking is marked alongside a fence, the pipeline right-of-way above the lot is now clear for trail access, including most immediately to Pine Meadow and Suffern-Bear Mountain Trails.

Finally, the parking area at Diltz Road in Ladentown, which had been closed during summer construction months, is now enlarged, graveled, and reopened for hiker parking. (This parking area is owned and graciously provided by Orange and Rockland Utilities.) The eastern trailhead of the Tuxedo-Mount Ivy Trail, from which the Red Arrow and Suffern-Bear Mountain trails can be reached, is at this lot.

Car Break-ins at Elk Pen

Car break-ins, including smashed windows, were reported at the Elk Pen parking area in the fall. Hikers are reminded to leave valuables at home or put them in your pack, wherever you are hiking.

Trails in Minnewaska Fire Area Reopened

Trails in the fire-burned section of Minnewaska State Park Preserve, closed since April, reopened in mid October. The trails include the Jenny Lane Path, Stony Kill area including Stony Kill Carriageway, and Smiley Carriageway. The Jenny Lane Path had snags removed, and blazes reestablished. The extended closure of the area, said park officials, was intended to minimize the risk of introducing invasive plants on the boots and clothes of visitors.

Eagle Roosts Close Trails for Winter

From January 1 through March, trails at George's Island Park in Westchester and Denning Point in Dutchess County will be closed to prevent disturbances at roosting sites of Bald Eagles. (See related story on page 7.)



The 'Do Not Disturb' sign goes up for roosting eagles at George's Island

Visit Us Today!

www.NYNJTC.org

TRAIL U

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

Save the Dates

To register for a class, go to our website Trail University Registration page at: www.nynjtc.org/workshops/trailu/registration.html or phone the office at 201-512-9348, ext. 14.

Trail Maintenance 101 Workshop
Saturday, April 4
Location: Teatown Lake Reservation

Stay tuned for our spring schedule of courses, now being developed. Classes will be announced in the March/April Trail Walker and online at www.nynjtc.org.



Trail Crew Schedules

January – February 2009

For the latest schedules and additional details, go to nynjtc.org and click on "Trail crews/Work trips."

TBD = To Be Determined

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

NORTH JERSEY WEEKEND CREW

Leader: Sandy Parr, 732-469-5109

Second Sunday of each month

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

NORTH JERSEY WEEKDAY CREW

Leader: John Moran, thornburyhall@verizon.net

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

WEST JERSEY CREW

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

Hibernating for the winter.

HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW

Leader: Glenn Oleksak, htsupervisor@verizon.net

We meet on the first or second Sunday of each month, with additional trips sometimes scheduled. We tackle a variety of Highlands Trail projects from trail maintenance to trail building. For details on trips, go to www.nynjtc.org and click on "Trail crews/Work trips" at left. Please contact leader if you are coming on a trip so that you can be notified of cancellations.

METRO TRAILS CREW

Leaders: Joe Gindoff, 718-614-2209, joeghiker@nynjtc.org; Linda Sullivan 347-721-6123, marmilinda@yahoo.com

No experience is required. We provide the training, tools, gloves and the fun! Please bring a lunch and plenty of water. A day pack to carry your lunch and supplies is suggested. Sturdy work boots or other hiking footwear is mandatory. All participants must sign in to perform trail work. **RSVP is a must.**

January 31 (Saturday) Staten Island Greenbelt

Leader: Linda Sullivan
 Erosion control on Blue Trail
 Meet at High Rock parking lot, end of Nevada Ave., 9am

February 28 (Saturday) Staten Island Greenbelt

Leader: Linda Sullivan
 Erosion control on Blue Trail
 Meet at High Rock parking lot, end of Nevada Ave., 9am

EAST HUDSON CREW

January 31 (Saturday) Ward Pound Ridge

Contact: Brenda Bates, Park Manager, 914-864-7317
 Meet at the Trailside Nature Museum Ward Pound Ridge, 9:30am
 Join the dedicated trail volunteers of the nearly 40 miles of trails at Ward Pound for a brief update meeting followed by clearing, trail blazing maintenance, and/or erosion control.

WEST HUDSON SOUTH CREW

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

Hibernating for the winter.

WEST HUDSON NORTH CREW

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

Hibernating for the winter.

NEW JERSEY APPALACHIAN TRAIL FIELD CREW

Leader: Gene Giordano, trailwork@appalachiantrail-nj.org

Second Saturday of Each Month, April through November

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

BEAR MOUNTAIN TRAILS PROJECT

Contact: volunteers@nynjtc.org
 Tool and equipment maintenance.

West Jersey Season Recap

It was a challenging year for the West Jersey Crew. The ranks were thin—due to the high cost of gasoline and the distance to our often-remote work sites. Several of the work trips included only one participant—but, with the two leaders, that still made a Crew! And then there was the rainy autumn: almost half of the scheduled trips had to be canceled due to rain. Nonetheless, trail work was accomplished in 2008. Thank you to everyone who persevered.

The steep first quarter-mile of the Douglas Trail in Worthington State Forest now has a dozen water bars combating erosion. The trickiest parts of the Terrace Pond North Trail relocation have been improved with rock steps, retaining walls, and side-hilling. The Warren Trail now is completed from the Jenny Jump State Park office to Hissim Road, after the construction of more than a half-mile of side-hilled tread. An eroded section of the Blue Trail in Worthington State Forest has been rehabilitated. And two privies were constructed and installed, replacing decrepit and barely-usable structures.

Thank you to everyone who was part of the West Jersey Crew in 2008: Jack Baccaglioni, Brad Barnhard, Pam Barnhard, Ian Blundell, Gordon Campbell, Joan Campbell, Gene Giordano, Joan James, Ken Malkin, Gay Mayer, Keith McDermott, Lee Mott, Brian Mulraney, Rich Pace, Steve Reiss, Chuck Rood, Christy Steinbach, Bill Taggart, Linda Taggart, Hsin-Chien Tai, Bruce Thomson, and Bob Warren.

And thank you also to our NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection partners at the state parks, who let us borrow their tools, use their facilities, store our stuff in their yards, and park in their restricted parking areas.

Note: The West Jersey Crew takes the winter off, and will start work again in mid-April 2009. We are ceaselessly recruiting. If spending the day with people passionate about trail work, working hard, getting dirty, and hiking out at the end of the day over a trail that you just transformed together is something that appeals to you, please contact us—or just come join us in the spring! (You'll never look at a hiking trail the same way again!)

David & Monica Day, Leaders, West Jersey Crew

Old Cedar Trail at Campgaw Gets Makeover by Scouts

Doug Fernandez of River Edge, NJ, completed an Eagle Scout trail project on October 26, 2008 at Campgaw Mountain County Reservation in Mahwah, NJ. The project, which took place on the Old Cedar Trail, involved repair and re-decking of a footbridge over a stream, plus lay-down of crushed rock for a hundred yards to harden the railway, and lining that path with stone. Doug's fellow Scouts of Troop 36 in Oradell also constructed and positioned eight new bog-bridges on the Dogwood Lane Trail.

ANTHONY TARANTO COURTESY OF THE PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK COMMISSION



Volunteers helped Palisades State Park staff haul lumber to a work site in the fall.

TC helps PIP

The main project was to construct a bridge in Palisades State Park in Alpine NJ. The bridge is located at the junction of the Long Path and the Forest View Trail. The need for it came about as a long term effect of Hurricane Floyd in 1999, which enlarged a small stream to a large gully that needed crossing.

The PIPC-NJ staff invited the Trail Conference through TC Supervisor Chris Connolly to participate in the project by assisting in carrying the materials from the top of the Palisades cliff down the trail to

the worksite, which we did: three 6 x 12 x 24-foot pressure-treated stringers down the rock steps to the new bridge site, then back for the 24 deck planks, 16 posts, some cross braces, nails, bolts, spikes, generator, power tools, fuel, etc.

In addition, the TC workers helped assemble the framework of the bridge. PIP staff finished up the construction. Trail Conference volunteers who helped five PIP workers were Chris Connolly, Vin Dryer, Cliff Konnerth, and John Moran.

— John Moran



Bear Mountain Volunteers

Thanks go to the following volunteers who helped at the Bear Mountain Trails Project this past season (June 1- November 21, 2008): Milicent Allen, Dorothy Andrews, Jarrod Ball, Alexandra Barbella, Kelsey Barra, Ben Berkow, Rina Binder-Macleod, Grant Black, Lacey Collins, Devin Crenshaw, Matt D'Angelo, Timothy Garrett, Edward Goodell, George Harrar, Dan Hausner, Josh Horn, Mike Johnson, Hannah Johnson, Yi Li, Jeremy Lowengara, Anna Magdalena Hess, Laura Maihofer, Ted Martello, Allegra Mathews, Andrew McNeil-Marshall, Robert O'Connor, Tiffany Parshall, John Peton, Ronald Quackenbush, Susie Rand, Robert Reardon, Jonathan Salas, Melissa Shinbein, Ashley Shively, Ollie Simpson, Becka Vees, Harvey Walden, Julie Walter, Leroy Weimer, Steve Zubarik.



BILL TAGGART

West Jersey crew volunteers carry a replacement privy to a trail location.

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

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



NY-NJ Trail Conference BENEFITS

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

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

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

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

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

Money-Saving Discounts at participating retailers and businesses.

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

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

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



Some of Our Discount Partners



VISIT WWW.NYNJTC.ORG/COMMERCE/DISCOUNT.HTML FOR COMPLETE LIST OF MONEY-SAVING DISCOUNTS!

Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

Contact volunteers@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 14, to indicate your interest or get more information about these or other volunteer opportunities. Information is also available at www.nynjtc.org; click on Volunteer.

Trail Crew Chief Assistant (work from home!)

Are you not inclined to do the heavy work of trail building but would like to support our trail crews? Here is an opportunity to become an important part of building and repairing our hiking trails by becoming a Trail Crew Chief Assistant. The work will involve contacting prospective recruits for the crew, keeping records of the work done and the people who volunteered, as well as other duties as requested by the Trail Crew Chief. If you're comfortable working with people, have some organizational skills and time during the spring, summer and fall, then this kind of work could be just right for you.

Web Intern

College student internship available to design, update and manage The Darlington Schoolhouse website. DSH, an historic building located on Route 202 near Ramapo College, will be renovated by the NY-NJ Trail Conference as headquarters/offices and community space. An updated, online website will be an important tool by which to inform Trail Conference members, educate the public, enlist volunteers, and facilitate fundraising for the DSH Project. A student intern with strong computer skills is needed for 5-10 hours/week (including availability on Wednesday afternoons).

Writers: Adopt a Trail Region on the Web

New Parks and Regions online database resources will complement and expand the Trail Conference's highly regarded Walk Books for New York and New Jersey. We've got New Jersey covered and need help with New York. Work from home or in the office. Adopt a region and write about it. Required: a computer, online access, commitment to accuracy, ability to be concise, willingness to learn and use online tools that are still in development. A great opportunity to support trails without getting dirty.

VBA Programmer

Work with Fulfillment Coordinator to write project specs and algorithms. Project includes creating an interactive application that uses caller's information as input and creates a Word file with directions to existing stores in his/her area. Sort list of stores

based on estimated availability of desired items. Need VBA programming experience for Excel, Access, Word; ability to learn a new API (MS MapPoint).

Data Entry and Clerical Support

Office help needed for our office in Mahwah, two to three hours a day, one to two days a week. Duties include, but are not limited to, shipping of *Trail Walkers*, Internet research, processing and shipping retail orders and stocking of our books, maps and supplies.

Trail Crew Beginners

This spring, the West Hudson North Crew plans a series of projects and workshops particularly for new crew members who are interested in learning trail building techniques, including rock construction of steps, cribbing, rock cutting and shaping, as well as other skills. If you're willing to do some physical work and enjoy working on the hiking trails this may be an opportunity for you to look into.

All trail crews welcome new volunteers. Opportunities to get involved exist throughout our region. Contact us and tell us where you would like to work.

Trail Maintainers for Staten Island Trails

Maintainers are needed for sections of the Staten Island Greenbelt. Help maintain the trail, clean up litter, trim plant growth, clean out water bars, refresh blazes, and work with Trail Conference volunteers, Boy Scout groups, and park employees to repair these beautiful trails!

Appalachian Trail Overseer or Supervisor

For the volunteer who likes to organize as much as hike, the job as an AT Trail Overseer might be just right. Hike the entire trail in your assigned area (about 20 miles) at least once a year to evaluate its condition, report problems, recommend trail relocations, and provide trail information. Supervise trail maintainers on your section.

Appalachian Trail Corridor Manager

This is an exciting job for someone who has AT corridor boundary monitoring and maintenance experience. Supervise boundary monitors, coordinate semi-annual reporting, work with the monitors to maintain neighbor and government contacts and with the local management committee to stop illegal boundary activities, and assess environmental and development impacts.



Equipment Jockeys

Boy Scout Troop 258 of Mahwah, NJ, spent a cold and blustery day cleaning and greasing highline cables at the Bear Mountain project last winter. A volunteer is needed to get the same and other similar work done this winter. Work would include cleaning and greasing cables, oiling tool handles, painting tools, sharpening tools, and organizing the tool storage units at Bear Mountain. Contact volunteers@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348.

Science & Ecology

Support your local friendly hunter?!

By Joan Ehrenfeld

Another hunting season is just about over*, and the fears of hiking past the sights of a shotgun or high-powered bow are receding. But the chances of seeing a deer in the woods, always a beautiful sight, haven't changed despite the best efforts of the hunters.

New Jersey and southern New York are overrun with deer: most ecologists and forestry biologists consider the deer population the single greatest threat to the ecological health of our forests. Throughout much of our region, the forests lack an understory—one can see long distances among the trees, or walk off-trail for long distances with only minimal impedance from shrubby undergrowth. During the summer, there is commonly a conspicuous “browse line”—green vegetation down to about four feet off the ground, and then a sharp straight boundary with a brown landscape beneath this height. This is not natural; in fact it is a dramatic sign of serious ecological problems.



USDA PHOTO BY SCOTT BAUER

The forest is his deli.

In short, our forests lack the seedling and sapling trees that provide the forest with continuity and the ability to recover from wind and ice, insects and pathogens. And, because deer munch on herbs as well as woody plants, they eat the native wildflowers as voraciously as they do young trees and shrubs, greatly depleting their populations.

Deer had been nearly extirpated from New Jersey at the end of the 1800s. In 1901, a total of 20 deer were harvested by hunters, and deer hunting was completely prohibited. By 1913, deer had been imported from outside the state to re-stock private reserves and parks, and populations started to recover. Consider today's harvest: during the 2005-2006 hunting season, 59,657 deer were harvested in New Jersey (and somewhat fewer during the past two seasons), out of a population of about 140,000 deer. In addition, thousands of deer are killed by cars; New York State's Dept. of Transportation estimates that there are 60,000 to 70,000 deer-vehicle accidents annually; North Jersey Deer Crash Coalition says 7,000 deer-car crashes are reported each year and estimates twice that number are unreported. So, with all these dead deer, why are they a problem?

Deer are fecund creatures, producing as many as three (but usually fewer) offspring each year. The adults mate in late October through November in our area, and the young are born in the spring (May to June). They eat a wide variety of plants, both leafy herbs and woody twigs, and also fruits and nuts, such as acorns. Woody tissues, including twigs, young seedlings, and bark, are their main foods during the winter. They lack teeth on their upper front jaws, and so they cut off twigs unevenly, leaving a ragged edge, unlike other browsers such as rabbits or small mammals, which cut off twigs sharply and cleanly. This fact allows observers to easily tell whether browsing damage to plants was inflicted by deer or by other animals.

The lack of predators is often cited as a reason for the exploding populations. This is true, in part: predators tend to eat vulnerable young animals, removing them from the population before they can reproduce, whereas cars and hunters tend to remove the larger, older animals that have already produced numerous young. But another factor is at work, too.

Deer particularly like the edges between forests and fields; they are not creatures of dense woods. These habitats offer the widest variety and abundance of all the different types of vegetation during the year. Indeed, some of their favorite foods are crop plants—corn, soybeans, and other crops—making them one of the greatest



JOAN EHRENFELD

The deer browse line is clearly seen in this photo.

problems on farmland. It is not uncommon for farmers in our area to lose 20% or more of their crops to deer.

But it is the patchy landscape of bits of forest and field, lots of back yard, and small remnant farms that make up our suburban landscape that creates the perfect environment for deer to thrive, and so they do.

It is this love of forest edges that contributes as much to the deer overpopulation problem as the lack of predators. When our region was first actively settled by Europeans, in the mid-1600s, most of the landscape was continuous forest, with only small openings around Native American settlements. It has been estimated that New Jersey had about 70,000 deer in 1500, or about 9 per square mile, over pretty much the entire area of the state (7,500 square miles).

Today, the population of 140,000 deer is squeezed into a forest area of about 2,800 square miles, yielding an average density of 50 per square mile. And this figure is misleading, as deer are not uniformly distributed. In some of our natural areas, deer densities are well over 100 animals per square mile. Because deer tend to stay in small “home ranges” of less than a square mile, a lot of deer in one place can mean a lot of ecological damage, to farms and house landscaping as well as forests.

This is not healthy for the deer, and it is catastrophic for the forests. The lack of understory not only eliminates wildflowers, shrubs, and young trees, it removes the habitat required for many of our migrant

forest birds that nest in the shrubs and on the forest floor, and it also removes the habitat for salamanders and small mammals that need dense cover and a thick layer of dead leaves on the forest floor. The whole forest community suffers when deer are over-abundant.

The hopeful news is that deer populations have been declining, slowly. In New Jersey, the population peaked at 204,500 deer in 1995; the estimate for 2006 was 131,782. New programs, like special permits for farmers, programs to assist communities in developing deer management plans, a “hunters helping the hungry” program that allows hunters to take additional deer to supply community food pantries, and liberal limits on taking “antlerless” deer are helping.

But we are still a long way from having healthy forests in New York and New Jersey, and indeed throughout the eastern deciduous forest. Extensive research on non-lethal means of controlling populations has shown them to be far from effective and exceedingly costly. So, support for your friendly local hunter is probably the best way of helping our forests, and all the other critters that depend on them for a place to live.

*Winter bow season extends through January in much of New Jersey.

Joan Ehrenfeld is Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Rutgers University.

George's Island: Winter Closure to Benefit Eagles

Located on the Hudson River, portions of George's Island Park in Westchester County are popular for roosting and perching Bald Eagles in the winter time. Bald Eagles migrate to the lower Hudson Valley during the winter in search of food, open water, and roosting sites. Some Bald Eagles travel great distances in order to survive, and as a threatened species, they need protection.

Conservation efforts appear to be paying off as the number of migrating Bald Eagles has increased in recent years, creating popular viewing locales for bird enthusiasts, families, schoolchildren, environmental education organizations, scientific groups, and local residents.

Bald Eagles have been documented as using sections of George's Island Park for at least the past ten years. Recreational users of the park often traverse onto the trail area underneath the roosting Bald Eagles. This startles and alarms the magnificent birds, leading to their flight away from the area. This disturbance not only stresses the eagles, but also reduces their use of the site.

The Trail Conference, working in collaboration with NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation and Westchester County Parks, has been closing a section of the trail system seasonally (January 1 to the end of March) in order to protect the Bald Eagle roosting site. Signage notifying hikers of the trail closure was posted, and a new trail, blazed light blue, was built as a reroute.

This year, additional measures are being taken. Jeff Main, Senior Curator of Westchester County Parks, has announced the department will be restricting winter access to George's Island Park for anything other than eagle viewing.

In order to continue to serve the Westchester residents who use the facility, the parks department will be offering interpretive programs about the eagles' return to the Hudson. Scott Williams, Croton Point Curator, is dedicating every Wednesday in January and February and every other Saturday to facilitate this outreach initiative. Jeff Main has asked for other organizations and individual volunteers to join the educational efforts that aim to protect the roosting habitat.

It is important to note that there are several vantage points throughout the lower Hudson Valley that allow for viewing without disturbing the Bald Eagles. These locations are utilized by environmental organizations as educational outlets for the community. Teatown Lake Reservation, in collaboration with numerous organizations in the area, visits several of these (including George's Island Park), during their annual EagleFest in early February. (See story at right for details about this year's event.) This event is dedicated to educating the community and visitors about the importance of Hudson River habitat, promoting a stewardship ethic. Included in these programs is information about how to safely and respectfully view Bald Eagles without disturbing them.

Fifth Annual Teatown Hudson River EagleFest

Teatown Lake Reservation will host the Fifth Annual Hudson River EagleFest on Saturday, February 7, 2009, from 9 am to 4 pm. The event will be headquartered at Westchester County's Croton Point Park, with additional eagle viewing sites hosted by collaborating organizations located along the Hudson River.

At Croton Point Park. Heated tents filled with educational displays, collaborators' exhibits, and children's activities about bald eagles and other birds of prey.

- **Arm of the Sea Theatre.** A performance of giant puppets and music telling the story of the formation of the New York City aqueduct system, and the on-going story of the watershed in the Hudson Hills and Highlands. Two shows: times to be announced; \$5 per person.
- **Close Encounters with Birds of Prey.** Bill Streeter, from the Delaware Valley Raptor Center, will introduce eagles, hawks, and owls in an informative and thrilling show. Two shows: times to be announced; \$5 per person.
- **Eagle Exploration Bus Tour.** The tour will begin at the headquarters at Croton Point Park and will visit three eagle viewing sites. The 2-hour tour is geared to adults and teens, and offers the expertise of a naturalist in the comfort of a chartered 36-seat bus. Tickets must be purchased in advance for \$15 at 914-762-2912, ext.110.

Eagle Viewing Sites along the Hudson River. Three eagle-spotting sites along the Hudson River: (1) Croton-Harmon train station boat ramp; (2) George's Island Park in Montrose; and (3) Charles Point Park in Peekskill. Each site will be staffed by eagle experts with spotting scopes, warming tents, and hot chocolate. See www.teatown.org for the listing of additional open education centers, viewing locations, and EagleFest activities.

As part of the Hudson EagleFest, Teatown has created a FREE eagle spotting map for the “Hudson Hills and Highlands,” the region stretching from Yonkers to Newburgh. The maps will be available in mid-January at Teatown Lake Reservation, through EagleFest collaborating organizations, and at other community locations.

In the event of severe weather, the alternate date for the EagleFest will be Sunday, February 8. Please check Teatown's website (www.teatown.org) for program and weather updates. For more information about the EagleFest, or to get directions, please call Teatown at 914-762-2912, ext. 110.



STEVE SACHS

HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes
Sponsored by Member Clubs

January

Thursday, January 1

SW. Happy New Year's Day Hike in Upper Manhattan, NY. Leader: Cy Adler and friends. Meet: Noon at 178th St. and Broadway at Port Authority Bus Terminal information booth. Explore the woody northern end of Manhattan, including Inwood Hill and Highbridge Parks and shoreline of the Harlem River.

OC. Afternoon along the Hudson, NY. Leader: Rolande Chapeau. Meet: 2pm at corner of 23rd St. and 8th Ave., Manhattan. Easy walk along the Hudson River to enjoy gorgeous views and park restorations. Rain or shine.

OC. Greystone to Ardsley on the Old Croton Aqueduct, NY. Leader: Hal Kaplan, 914-376-3156; call for hike message starting Wed. Meet: At Grand Central Terminal to take 11:20am train to Greystone, arriving 11:57 (drivers park near Greystone RR station, but not in commuter lot). Moderate 7 miles with some climbing in nearby parks. Bad weather may cancel.

ADK-MH. Wappingers Greenway Trail to Hudson River, NY. Leader: Georgette Weir, 845-462-0142. Kick off the Quadracentennial Year marking 400 years since Henry Hudson's sail up the river with an easy walk from the Village of Wappingers to New Hamburg along a Greenway trail. We'll start from the Market Street industrial park and walk approximately 2 miles on a woodland trail along the Wappingers Creek to a point overlooking the Hudson River in New Hamburg. Then back the way we came. Some up and down. Meet to depart 12:45pm in the parking lot of Staples, between Rtes. 9 and 9D (meet on the 9D side) or at 1pm in the parking area of the Market St. industrial park. Call to confirm.

Saturday, January 3

OC. Extreme Day Hike - Great River to Smithtown, NY. Leader: Mike Puder, 718-743-0920, before 8pm, or nyhiker50@verizon.net; call for hike message starting Thur. eve. Meet: Early start at Penn Station (LIRR waiting room) for train to Great River; call for time. 14 miles at peppy pace along the Nassau-Suffolk Trail; drop offs available, finish after dark. Bad weather may cancel. Fee \$3.

UCHC. South River, East Brunswick, NJ. Leader: Gary Petrie, 732-257-0137. Meet: 10am at Mid-State Mall, Rt. 18 and Tices Lane (at Boston Market). 9-10 mile walk through the area where leader grew up: through parks, wooded and residential areas, up and down hills, along ponds and meadowlands. A walk with "spiritual" as well as physical nourishment.

Sunday, January 4

GAHC. Cranberry Lake Park, N. White Plains, NY. Leaders: Manfred Janowski (914-428-4573) and Evelyn Hoyer (718-457-8319). Meet: 9:30am at Rt. 22 and Old Orchard St.; preregistration requested. Easy hike; possible cross-country skiing.

OC. Jones Beach Walk, NY. Leader: Frank Bamberger, 718-457-5159; call to confirm hike is still on. Meet: Take 9:10am LIRR train from Penn Station to Wantagh (check schedule). Easy 4 miles on boardwalk and beach watching for birds. Rain, snow, ice cancels.

WEC. Weis Wyanokie Wanderers - Jackie Jones, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Don Weis; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 to preregister. Meet: 9:30am; call for location, possible carpool to trail head. Strenuous 7-9 mile hike on steep terrain requiring good fitness level; out by 2:30pm. Hike overlooking Lake Welch and reservoirs; visit Orak ruins and a fire tower. Fee \$8.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Dave Bennett, 973-701-0248. Meet: 10am at visitors center parking lot. Moderate 5 miles in this historic park. Rain, falling snow, or ice cancels.

Monday, January 5

RVW. Bearpen (3600') and Vly (3529') Mountains, NY. Leader: For details call 607-363-7267. Meet: 8am; call for location. Extremely strenuous 8-mile hike and bushwhack; snowshoes, crampons, and experience required. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

Thursday, January 8

UCHC. Lake Skannatati, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: George Pullman, 973-773-2678. Meet: 10am at Lake Skannatati parking lot. Moderately strenuous 8-10 miles at a brisk pace; for experienced winter hikers.

Saturday, January 10

TLR. Winter Bird Walk, NY. Leader: Contact Teatown Lake Reservation for further information, 914-762-2912 or www.teatown.org. Meet: 9am at Croton Boat Ramp. All are welcome to this free outing to view waterfowl, hawks, and eagles. Dress warmly and bring binoculars.

WEC. Women's Hike, NY. Leader: Sanctuary Director Karla Risdon; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 to preregister. Meet: 8am; call for location, possible carpool to trailhead. Moderate 3 miles; out by 10am. Hazardous driving conditions cancel. Fee \$5.

OC. Long Beach to Point Lookout, NY. Leader: Judy Levine, 718-482-9659; call to confirm hike is still on. Meet: Take LIRR train from Penn Station to Long Beach at about 9am (check schedule). Moderate 8 miles along beach; dress warmly including scarf for face. Short breaks to spot shorebirds; lunch at restaurant (or bring your own to have at beach) after the hike. Heavy rain or blizzard cancels.

RVW. Lower Esopus Rd., Saugerties, NY. Leader: For details call 845-246-2945. Meet: 10am; call for location. Easy 4 miles.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10am at Trailside parking on Coles Ave. at N. Providence Rd. About 5 miles at moderate pace. Mixture of easy walking and some hills on possibly rough terrain; in deep snow we'll snowshoe or ski. Steady rain, heavy snow, icy conditions cancel.

Sunday, January 11

OC. South Beach to Oakwood Beach, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 10:15am at Staten Island Ferry Terminal, Manhattan side. Moderate 6.5 miles along the south shore of Staten Island; great views of lower NJ Bay. Walk on beach and boardwalk. Fee \$3.

WEC. Highlands Hike, NJ. Leader: Associate Naturalist; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 to preregister. Meet: 9:30am; call for location, possible carpool to trailhead. Moderate hike to explore some of the special places in the Highlands Region; out by 2:30pm. Fee \$8.

TLR. Snowflakes and Snowshoes, NY. Leader: Contact Teatown Lake Reservation for further information, 914-762-2912 or www.teatown.org. Meet: 2pm at Teatown, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining, NY. Strap on snowshoes and head out to discover the wonders of winter; limited number of snowshoes available for children and adults. Out by 3:30, with hot chocolate for all! Fee \$5.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Turtle Back Rock parking in W. Orange on Walker Rd. About 5 miles at moderate pace.

Monday, January 12

RVW. North Lake, NY. Leader: For details call 518-895-8474. Meet: 8am; call for location. Moderate to easy 4 miles; snowshoes or crampons may be required. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

UCHC. D&R Canal, N. Brunswick, NJ. Leaders: Linda and Bob Barth, 908-722-7428. Meet: 10am at Lock 11 Park, South Bound Brook across from post office. About 3 miles. See locks and other canal structures while enjoying views of the canal and Raritan River. Heavy rain or snow, icy conditions cancel.

Thursday, January 15

UCHC. Anthony Wayne, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864; must register day before hike. Meet: 10am at Anthony Wayne parking lot (Palisades Pkwy, Exit 17). Moderate 5-6 miles.

Friday-Monday, January 16-19

ADK-MH. Weekend in the Adirondack High Peaks, NY. Leader: Pete McGinnis, 845-454-4428 or pmcgin1@aol.com. Spend a winter weekend at ADK's Weitzel Trail Cabin near Lake Placid. Email questions to the leader. Your check is your reservation. The cost is \$67.50 per person for the 3 nights. There are four rooms with 2 bunk beds in each room; separate bathroom facilities for men/women; kitchen and living room. It's conveniently located to the parking lot and trails for all levels of hiking, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing. We may have a group meal on Sat. evening.

Saturday, January 17

OC. Central Park to Riverside Church, Manhattan, NY. Leader: Jane Alexander. Meet: 11am at 59th St. and Broadway in front of Time-Warner Building. Easy 5 miles around the park and through city streets; optional early dinner after walk. Rain or shine. Fee \$3.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove parking, corner Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 5 miles with steep hill at start, out in little over 2 hours. Steady rain, heavy snow, ice cancels.

Sunday, January 18

GAHC. Blue Mountain Reservation, Peekskill, NY. Leader: Bernhard Kessler, 212-541-7964. Meet: 10am at Peekskill RR Station. Easy and moderate hikes; possible cross-country skiing.

OC. Philipse Manor Meadows to Organic Café, NY. Leader: Amy Winter, 718-472-9620; call 8:30-10pm. Meet: Take 9:20am Hudson Line train from Grand Central to Philipse Manor (check schedule); meet 10:12am on RR platform at Philipse Manor. 10 miles at moderate pace; some hills but entirely on carriage roads. Walk through farms, fields, lunch at café or bring your own; great Hudson River view. Rain, ice, snow cancels. Fee \$3.

WEC. Young Adult Hike - Ringwood State Park, NJ. Leader: Associate Naturalist; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 to preregister. Meet: 11am; call for location, carpool to trailhead. Moderately paced 6 miles over Mount Defiance, past Spruce Swamp, and along Bear Swamp Lake; out by about 4pm. Social hike intended for ages 18-30; spend some time outside and make some new friends. Hazardous driving conditions cancel. Fee \$5.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leaders: Don and Jeane McLellan, 908-464-6246. Meet: 10am at visitor center lot. Moderate 5 miles. Rain, falling snow, ice cancels.

Monday, January 19

OC. Palisades, NJ. Leader: Mike Pollack, 718-648-3424; call to confirm and for meeting place/time. 8 miles on the Long Path from Alpine to State Line Lookout, then down to the shore to the Giant Stairs (moderately difficult rock scramble). 600' ascent at Closter Dock Rd. Icy conditions may require crampons/stabilizers. Fee \$3.

RVW. Panther Mountain (3720'). Leader: For details call 845-246-8074. Meet: 8am; call for location. Very strenuous 6.5 miles; snowshoes or crampons may be required. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Cheryll Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10am at Deer Paddock off of S. Orange Ave. About 3 miles. Fairly level hike to Washington Rock.

Tuesday, January 20

UCHC. Stokes Forest, NJ. Leader: Alan Breach, 973-875-4376. Meet: 10am at Stony Lake lot. Moderate 5 miles on Blue Mtn., Tinsley, Swensen, and other trails. Light snow does not cancel (road is plowed).



A cairn atop Popolopen Torne in Harriman State Park memorializes U.S. service people.

Saturday, January 24

OC. Massapequa to Bethpage on the Long Island Greenbelt Trail, NY. Leader: Mike Puder, 718-743-0920; call before 9pm. Call starting Monday Jan. 19 or email nyhiker50@verizon.net for meeting place/time. 6 miles at a peppy pace. Easy trail into town, possible stop for pizza, then walk past three beautiful ponds and watch the waterfowl. Fee \$3.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Ellen Jeydel, 908-232-2413. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove lot, Glen Ave. at Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 4-5 miles with hill at start. Steady rain cancels.

Sunday, January 25

TLR. Waterfowl and Eagles, NY. Leader: Contact Teatown Lake Reservation for further information, 914-762-2912 or www.teatown.org. Meet: 10am at Teatown, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining, NY. All are welcome to this free outing to locate wintering waterfowl and eagles on the Croton Reservoir and on the Croton River. Dress warmly and bring binoculars.

TLR. Snowshoe Trek, NY. Leader: Contact Teatown Lake Reservation for further information, 914-762-2912 or www.teatown.org. Meet: 1pm at Teatown, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining, NY. 2-hour snowshoe hike on Teatown's trails. Limited number of snowshoes available. Fee \$5.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10am at Trailside Center on Coles Ave. at N. Providence Rd. Moderately paced 4+ miles with some hills and possibly rough terrain. If heavy snow on ground, we may ski or snowshoe.

Monday, January 26

RVW. Partridge Run. Leader: For details call 845-417-8097. Meet: 8am; call for location. Moderate 6 miles; snowshoes/crampons may be required. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

UCHC. Loantaka Brook Reservation, NJ. Leader: Len Shnitzer, 732-499-9176. Meet: 10am at Kitchell Rd. lot near pond. About 3 miles. Stroll where you can talk and not watch your feet.

Tuesday, January 27

UCHC. Sourland Mtn. Preserve, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10am; call for directions. Moderate 5-6 miles with hill at start and through extended area of huge boulders. Some amazingly large trees in this Somerset Co. park, about 30 minutes from Morristown.

Wednesday, January 28

RVW. Glenerie Rd., Saugerties, NY. Leader: For details call 845-246-4590. Meet: 10am; call for location. Easy 4 miles.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Dave Bennett, 973-701-0246. Meet: 10am at visitor center lot. Moderate 4-5 miles in this historic park.

Thursday, January 29

UCHC. Reeves Meadow, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10am at Reeves Meadow visitor center on 7 Lakes Drive. Moderately strenuous hike to Pine Meadow Lake; if not too icy or snowy, we'll circumnavigate the lake and return via Pine Meadow Trail. For experienced hikers.

Friday, January 30

OC. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, NY. Leader: Edith Goren, 718-622-4421; call two days before for meeting place/time. 3 miles at an easy pace. Far Rockaway A train to Broad Channel.

Saturday, January 31

OC. Tarrytown to Pleasantville, NY. Leader: Joel Pomerantz, 212-691-3844. Meet: 9:40am on street below 242nd St. station, park side (last stop on #1 train) to take Bee-Line Bus; will return by Metro North RR. 11 miles at steady pace, with many hills and bushwhacks; hiking boots essential. Includes Pan's Altar Trail, North County Trailway, woods roads in Rockefeller State Park, and Graham Hills Park. Fee \$3.

UCHC. South Mtn. Reservation, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Turtle Back Rock lot in W. Orange. Moderately paced 4+ miles in this nicely wooded area, see the Turtle Rock.



A cairn atop Popolopen Torne in Harriman State Park memorializes U.S. service people.

ADK-MH. To the Timp in Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Alvin DeMaria, 845-255-1704. Moderately strenuous 8 miles. From Anthony Wayne parking area, we will take Timp-Torne Trail to the Timp, and return on Ramapo-Dunderberg and Beechy Bottom Road. If snow conditions dictate, we can shorten the hike at three different locations. Be prepared with winter gear. Contact leader for meeting time and weather forecast.

February

Sunday, February 1

GAHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Mathias Wuehrich, 908-253-9042; preregistration requested. Meet: 10am at visitor's center. Easy and moderate hikes.

OC. Hastings, NY. Leader: Hal Kaplan, 914-376-3156; call for hike message starting Jan. 31. Meet: at Grand Central to take 11:20am train to Hastings, arrive 11:57; drivers park in northbound commuter lot. 7 miles at a moderate pace in connected suburban parks, including Old Croton Aqueduct, Rowleys Bridge, Burke Estate, and others. Bad weather may cancel.

WEC. Highlands Hike, NJ. Leader: Associate Naturalist; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 to preregister. Meet: 9:30am; call for location, possible carpool to trailhead. Moderate hike to explore some of the special places in the Highlands Region; out by 2:30pm. Fee \$8.

UCHC. South Mtn. Reservation, NJ. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove lot. Moderately paced 5 miles. Rain, falling snow, ice cancels.

Tuesday, February 3

UCHC. Ringwood Manor, NJ. Leader: Eric Singer, 973-744-7147. Meet: 10am in upper lot; call for directions. Moderate 5 miles, depending on trail conditions.

Friday, February 6

OC. Scarborough to Tarrytown, NY. Leader: Oliver Wayne, 917-415-2567; leader boards train at Marble Hill. Meet: Take 9:20am Hudson Line train from Grand Central to Scarborough. 10 miles at moderate pace, mostly along Old Croton Aqueduct with detour along 13 Bridges and Pocantico River Trails. Fee \$3.

Saturday, February 7

TLR. Fifth Annual Teatown Hudson River EagleFest, NY. Leader: for more information go to www.teatown.org or call 914-762-2912, ext. 110. Meet: Festivities are from 9am to 4pm, headquartered at Croton Point Park in Westchester County. Activities include exhibits and children's activities about birds of prey in heated tents, giant puppets theater (\$5), live raptor show

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

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

Club Codes

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

ADK-MH	Adirondack Mountain Club, Mid-Hudson	TLR	Teatown Lake Reservation
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	UCHC	Union County Hiking Club
OC	Outdoors Club	WEC	NJ Audubon Society's Weis Ecology Center
RVW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club		
SW	Shorewalkers		

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 15.

(\$5), eagle exploration bus tour (\$15 in advance), and three eagle-spotting sites along the Hudson River with experts, spotting scopes, warming tents, and hot chocolate. Inclement weather date is Sunday, February 8.

OC. New York Botanical Garden, NY. Leader: Bob Susser, 212-666-4371 or rsusser@aol.com; email or call to confirm walk is still on. Meet: 10:45am just outside Mosholu Gate. Enjoy the stately, snow-clad trees in this winter wonderland, then warm up in the tropical air of the conservatory (\$8 admission to conservatory, admission to garden is free on Saturdays before noon.) Park in lot by RR station (\$7) or on nearby street.

UCHC. South Mtn. Reservation, NJ. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove lot. Brisk 5 miles in a little over 2 hours; hill at start. Heavy rain, snow, ice cancels.



PETER GORDON

ADK Ramapo Fall Foliage Weekend hike on the Tumbling Waters Trail, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The weekend was organized by Ramapo Special Outings Chair, Suzan Gordon. The hike was led by Ramapo's Aaron Schoenfeld. Joining Ramapo for the weekend were members of ADK North Jersey and the Interstate Hiking Club.

ADK-MH. Hudson Highlands, Garrison, NY. Leader: John Kolp, 845-496-1731. Moderate hike of about 9 miles from Garrison train station along the Hudson around Arden Point. Then approach Castle Rock and South Sugarloaf to hike the Osborn Loop and AT. Might ascend Sugarloaf on the way out to take in panoramic views if weather permits. Bring appropriate footwear. Inclement weather/bad road conditions may cancel. Meet 10:06 train at south end of Metro-North station in Garrison, NY, in Putnam County. Follow signs to station from junction of NY Route 9D and NY 403.

Sunday, February 8

OC. Lower East Side Walk, NY. Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-9457; call 7-8am. Meet: 1:30pm at E. Broadway and Rutgers St. (F train to E. Broadway). 3 miles in this neighborhood that has been designated a State and National Landmark.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Ellen Jeydel, 908-232-2413. Meet: 10am at Trailside Center lot on Coles Ave. and N. Providence Rd. Moderate 5-6 miles. Rain, falling snow, ice cancels.

WEC. Young Adult Hike - Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Associate Naturalist; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 to preregister. Meet: 11am; call for location, carpool to trailhead. Moderately paced 7 miles with a scramble through Cascade of Slid, along Stony Brook towards Pine Meadow Lake, and climbing Raccoon Brook Hill and the Russian Bear; out by about 4pm. Social hike intended for ages 18-30; spend some time outside and make some new friends. Hazardous driving conditions cancel. Fee \$5.

Monday, February 9

UCHC. Grover Cleveland Park, Essex Fells & Caldwell, NJ. Leader: Cherryll Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10am; call for directions. About 3 easy miles. Enjoy the best of two parks.

Thursday, February 12

UCHC. Wawayanda State Park, NJ. Leader: Kathleen Grifone, 201-891-5161. Meet: 10am at boat dock. Moderately strenuous 8 miles; bring crampons or similar equipment.

Saturday, February 14

TLR. Night Hike at Teatown, NY. Leader: Contact Teatown Lake Reservation for further information, 914-762-2912 or www.teatown.org. Meet: 7pm at Teatown, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining, NY. We'll listen for owls on the prowl and look for animal tracks; mulled cider afterwards in the nature center. Not suitable for children under age 6. Fee \$5.

OC. Inwood Hill and Highbridge Parks, Manhattan, NY. Leader: Julia W., 718-438-2642; call to confirm hike is on, starting Thur. eve. Meet: 10am at 218th St. and Broadway. 8 miles at a moderately fast pace, some hills. Bad weather may change meeting place and time. Fee \$3.

\$700 Billion Bailout Package Can Help You Benefit the Trail Conference!

On October 2, 2008, President Bush signed into law the \$700 billion economic bailout bill, which includes a two-year extension of the IRA Rollover provision.

This great opportunity allows your charitable distribution to satisfy all or part of your required minimum IRA distribution for the year. You can use your IRA to make your charitable gifts this year and avoid federal tax on your required IRA distribution.

Some restrictions apply:

- You must be 70 1/2 years old.
- Tax benefits apply for gifts up to \$100,000 per person.
- This federally tax free distribution is only available through 2009. According to the law, after that, this window of opportunity will be closed.

WEC. Women's Hike, NJ. Leader: Sanctuary Director Karla Risdon; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 to preregister. Meet: 8am; call for location, possible carpool to trailhead. Moderate 3 miles; out by 10am. Hazardous driving conditions cancel. Fee \$5.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Ellen Jeydel, 908-232-2413. Meet: 10am at Trailside Center lot on Coles Ave. and N. Providence Rd. Brisk 4-5 miles. Steady rain cancels.

Sunday, February 15

GAHC. Staten Island Greenbelt, NY. Leaders: Fred Volk, 718-987-3094, and Walter Loeffler, 718-979-5501; must call to preregister. Meet: 10am at Greenbelt nature center. Easy to moderate hike.

OC. Top of the Palisades, NJ. Leader: Craig Nunn, 551-206-6823 or dystopicnj@yahoo.com; call before 10pm. Meet: at Port Authority Bus Terminal; contact leader starting Wed. for meeting time and bus details. 4 miles at easy pace. Mostly flat walk on streets and in parks from Weehawken to Edgewater, NJ; spectacular views of NYC and the Hudson River; optional extension. Steady rain or snow cancels. Fee \$3.

UCHC. Morristown Historical Walk, NJ. Leader: Al MacLennan, 973-451-1435. Meet: 10am at Loantaka Brook Reservation, South St. lot, Morristown, NJ. About 9 miles visiting some of the wonderful old historic places in Morristown; after lunch we'll take a brisk walk on the paved Traction and Loantaka Brook Trails. Shuttle required; may return to cars after the morning stroll.

ADK-MH. Jenny Lane to Rainbow Falls at Minnewaska, NY. Leader: Pete McGinnis: 845-454-4428; pmcgini@aol.com. 10 miles at moderate pace. Join me as I prepare for a 41-mile all day marathon. Register with leader for details.

Wednesday, February 18

UCHC. South Mtn. Reservation, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Tulip Springs parking; call for directions. Moderate 4 miles.

Saturday, February 21

TLR. Teatown Hole in a Tree Hike, NY. Leader: Contact Teatown Lake Reservation for further information, 914-762-2912 or www.teatown.org. Meet: 11am at Teatown, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining, NY. A hole in a tree is more than it seems. Look at holes made by woodpeckers on this hike. Fee \$5.

OC. Tallman Mountain and Old Erie RR Bed, NY. Leader: Marvin Malater, 718-376-3608; call to confirm week of hike. Meet: Before 7:50am at Port Authority Bus Terminal, South Wing at white commuter statues, for 8:22 bus (one-way) to Piermont, NY. 9 moderate miles, ending in Nyack with optional dinner. Fee \$3.

UCHC. Ringwood State Park, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10am at second lot above the Manor. About 7 moderate miles on fairly level terrain. Cooper Union Trail to Governor Mtn. and the great view overlooking the reservoirs. Out by 2pm. Snow on ground will not alter hike, except pace.

Sunday, February 22

WEC. Weis Wyanokie Wanderers - Schooley's Mountain. Leader: Don Weise; call Weis Ecology Center at 973-835-2160 to preregister. Meet: 9:30am; call for location, possible carpool to trailhead. Strenuous 8-mile hike on steep terrain requiring good fitness level; out by 2:30pm. Explore historic Morris County Highlands: waterfalls, Lake George, old rock quarry, and a 470' floating bridge. Fee \$8.

OC. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Bob Susser, 212-666-4371 or rsusser@aol.com; contact leader in advance to confirm hike is on and to coordinate rides from NYC or for bus/train details. Meet: 10am in Slootsburg, NY. 7 miles at moderate pace on White Bar, Triangle, and other trails and passing Lakes Skenonto and Sebago. Lunch indoors at ADK lodge (\$2 facility use fee). Icy conditions may require crampons.

Monday, February 23

UCHC. Duke Island Park, Somerset, NJ. Leader: Clotilde Lanig, 732-549-4977. Meet: 10am at visitor center; call for directions. About 3 easy miles in this newly renovated county park. Steady rain, snow, ice cancels.

Wednesday, February 25

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10am at Trailside Center on Coles Ave. at N. Providence Rd. Moderate 4+ miles; if sufficient snow, we may snowshoe. Steady rain cancels.

Friday, February 27

OC. Brooklyn Botanic Garden, NY. Leader: Edith Goren, 718-622-4421; call to confirm meeting time/place two days before walk. Meet: Take 2 or 3 train to Eastern Parkway stop. Easy 2-3 miles with possible extension to Prospect Park.

Saturday, February 28

OC. Byram River Gorge, Greenwich, CT. Leader: Mayer Wiesen, 516-671-2095; call before 10:30pm. Meet: 9:30am at Grand Central Terminal, upper level information booth. 6 moderate miles in this hemlock gorge that stays green year-round; bring an extra pair of socks.

UCHC. South Mtn. Reservation, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Tulip Springs lot. Moderate 4 miles.

Member Club Profile

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

East Coast Greenway Alliance

Imagine an urban Appalachian Trail, a 3,000-mile, multi-use path that connects the major cities of the East Coast. Imagine walking or bicycling safely, separated from road traffic, from Boston to DC, New York to Savannah, or all the way from Maine to Florida. That is the project spearheaded by the newest member group of the Trail Conference, the East Coast Greenway Alliance, a national nonprofit membership organization headquartered in Wakefield, Rhode Island, with field staff in each of its four regions and volunteer committees in each of the states along the route.

The East Coast Greenway is steadily becoming a reality as pedestrians, cyclists, and trail advocates work together with planners and transportation officials in communities along this corridor to complete the East Coast Greenway. The Greenway passes through 15 states and Washington, D.C., linking cities and towns along the way using urban greenways, park paths, abandoned railroad corridors, waterfront esplanades, and scenic roads. Overall, about 20% of the route is already on traffic-free, firm-surface trail.

ECG's current routing through New York and New Jersey spans 140 miles. New York boasts the highest percentage of completed trail at 62%. New Jersey has 48% of its route completed, including the D&R Canal Towpath, which is the longest trail in the ECG system.

East Coast



Greenway

The ultimate goal is to make the entire trail off-road, allowing families and people of all abilities to travel safely from city-to-city, state-to-state, or within their own community without the use of motorized transportation. When complete, the ECG promises to be the longest continuous bike-ped path in the U.S.

The Alliance itself does not build the Greenway; it promotes the vision for connecting local trails and provides strategic assistance for states, counties and municipalities that do build and manage the trails that comprise the ECG.

In 2008, the Alliance developed cue sheets and Google maps of its route from Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida. These are available online and, for the first time, Greenway travelers have the way-finding tools they need to navigate any or all of the route. In addition to the tools currently available, state-level print maps and an online trip planner are being produced. There are currently over 100 completed trails in the ECG

system that are accessible by trail users of all ages and abilities. However, because 80% of the route is still on-road, traveling the entire 3000-mile route is only recommended for experienced cyclists.

Cue sheets and maps are available for free at www.greenway.org. If you would like to get involved or if you have any other questions email the NJ ECG Committee at info@greenwaynj.org or the NY ECG Committee at eastcoastgreenwayNY@gmail.com. Check the website regularly for ECG scheduled rides, which are led along the Hudson waterfront and other areas in New York and New Jersey.

Announcing the Trail Conference's 2009 VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION schedule!

Are you thinking about volunteering for the Trail Conference, but don't know where to start?

Would you like to have a better understanding of the Trail Conference and the volunteer opportunities available?

Join us for one of our VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION sessions to:

- Learn more about the details of our volunteer programs!
- Meet new and experienced volunteers!
- Discover the many ways you can contribute to your trails and give back to the open space you enjoy so much!
- Gain a better understanding of how the Trail Conference Connects People with Nature.

Register now for our January Orientation to be held on Tuesday January 20, 2009, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm at our Mahwah office by:

- Visiting our website: www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/vif.html,
- Emailing: volunteers@nynjtc.org with "Orientation" in the subject line, or
- Calling the office at 201-512-9348

Anyone interested in learning more about who we are and what we do is encouraged to attend one of our monthly ORIENTATION workshops. You must register to attend.

Upcoming Orientation Dates: Tuesday evenings, January 20, February 17, March 17 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at our Mahwah office.

- Your gift distribution must be directly to the Trail Conference.
- Only outright charitable gifts can be made (not to a donor advised fund or income gifts such as charitable gift annuities).

The provision will be made retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008, and will apply to gifts made from that date through Dec. 31, 2009.

You should consult with your financial adviser or accountant to see how the Pension Protection Act can help you.

To inform the Trail Conference that you are making an IRA distribution, please contact Joshua Howard, the TC's Deputy Executive Director, at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 13.

DONORS TO THE ANNUAL FUND

September 27, 2008 to November 21, 2008

GIFTS

Betty J. Aiken, Carmine M. Alfano, Steven & Christine Arkin, Robert P. & Joan T. Augello, Walter J. & Elizabeth Barrett, Edith Barth, Steven Becker, Margaret Begley, Ann Benedetto, Gottfried Bernert, Tom Bessor, Minor Bishop, Susan Blakeney & Eric Sieber, Ed Blaumeiser, John B. Blenninger, Ian Blundell, Murray & Jeanne Bodin, Bill Boyle, Vincent & Rosemary Brancato, Howard Brown & Nancy A. Houghton-Brown, Tom Buckley, James M. Callen & Rina Slavin, Jeanne V. & Malcolm Campbell, Barbara L. Chase, William Chiappane, Aldo L. Cicchetti Jr., Lee & Sally Coda, Herbert J. Coles, Harriet Cornell, Joseph A. & Marion Costa, Jane & Walt Daniels, Bob G. & Eva B. Davis, John Devery, Allyn Dodd, Margaret Donohoe & David Tull, Douglas K. Eads, Joan & David Ehrenfeld, John Ellingboe & Page Hartwell, Susan Emy, Frances Lee Fanger, Christopher & Dorothy Freeman, Thomas & Susan Gallo, Maria A. Geiselhart & Tom J. DiBella, Clifford Norman Gerenz, R. Dan Gladding & Ann Gladding, James C. & Susan P. R. Goodfellow, Joan B. Gossner & Will Ortiz, John & Wanda Giuffrida, Josie Gray, Glenn S. Gray, Timothy A. Gregg, John & Anne Grob, Judith E. & Richard M. Grose, Paul & Maria Haggerty, Ira Haironson, Mary E. Hall, John M. Hanrahan & Maria Butrico, The Hayda Family, Hanes A. Heller, Tracy Heydweiller, Blaine T. & Mary Jo Hoekstra, Raymond T. Hoelz, Royal Jay Holly, Jan A. Hopper, Joshua E. & Melissa Howard, Daniel M. Hunt, Calvin Johnson & Eric Johnson, Peter P. Johnson, Robert A. Jordan Jr., Gregory Joseph, Daniel S. Kaufman, Michael A. Kaye, Hormoz & Leili Kheirabi, George King, Mark Klingenstein, Charles Kovacs, Paul Labounty, Edward Landau, Eliot Langsam, Bryan Lees & Paula Whitlock, Steve Legenhausen, David E. Levine, H. Max Lopp II, Michael Lynch, Robert Madden & Cynthia Chazotte, Lawrence E. Mals, Brian Markey & Virginia M. Lincoln, Patrice Martin, MaryAnn & Charlie Massey, Robert Massey, Stewart J. & Maeve Maurer, Donal F. McCarthy, Dr. Edwin McGowan, Steve M. McGrath, Jennifer J. McGruther, Bruce Modick, Nikolaos D. Monoyios & Valerie A. Brackett, Thomas C. Moorhead, Elizabeth Moran, Brian P. Mulraney, Robert F. Neff, Wesley Nicoll, Daniel North, Michael O'Connell, Beverly O'Hearn, Joachim & Lila Oppenheimer, Andrew & Elizabeth Van Orden, Dean F. & Lorrie Paccioletti, William F. & Mary H. Penny, George P. Perkinson, Jeanne Petta, George Petty & Marilyn Katz, Thompson & Joan Prentzel, Bob & Sandy Purnell, Carol A. Quinn & David W. Mayo, Anna Raff, Timothy M. Rankin, Jeffrey S. Raskin, James Recktenwalt & Sarah Gordon, Roger Roloff & Barbara Petersen, Charles L. Rood, Adam & Megan Ross, John Rowan, Mark Rubin & Barbara Rubin, Michael Sasse, Janet M. Saylor & Evan Colgan, Geraldine M. Schwartz, Paul E. Scraggs, Chester Sensenig, Alfred A. Seymour-Jones, Terry Sherman, Robert Sickley, Richard Smith, Douglas Sohn & Joan Nickel Sohn, Richard E. Sparrow, Kristine Stortroen, Lewis H. & Jill Strauss, Mark & Lynn Sullivan, J. Bruce Taylor, Michael Taylor & Sharon P. Churcher, James A. Thompson, Diana Trebbi, John P. Turrell, Daniel & Lynne Van Engel, Christie Van Kehrberg, Nicholas J. Viggiano, Jason & Rhea Vogel, Larry A. Wehr, Robert & Virginia Weismantel, Georgette Weir & Jean Claude Fouere, Hanson Wong, Gene & Muja Yoon, James Zeller, H. Neil Zimmerman, Martin F. Zumsteg

MATCHING GIFTS COMPANIES

American Express Foundation, Earth Share New Jersey, Earth Share New York, Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program, Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts Program, REI, The New York Times Company Matching Gifts Program, UPS Foundation

HIKE-A-THON SPONSORS

Tony Abatemarco, Richard Abbott, John Baer Jr., Douglas Banta, Margaret Bartlett, Dr. George L. Becker Jr., William V. Beehler, Joanne Begane, Henri Begin, Raymond & Rose Begin, Amelia Black, Brian T. Buchbinder, Jerry Busse, Tom Carano, Regan Chichester, Margaret Cronan, Ellen M. Cronan, Mary Cronan, William & Muriel Davison, Alvin DeMaria, Mary-Jo Dervos, Astrith Deyrup, JoAnn & Paul Dolan, Nancy Dwyer Chapman, Robert Fine, Paul Forste, Georgette Weir & Jean Claude Fouere, Jakob Franke & Gely Franke, B. Harrison Frankel & Phyllis Frankel, Merrill Lee & Richard Fuchs, TJ Fuchs, Diane Fuchs, Rebecca Fuchs Stengel, Jesse Fuchs-Simon, Edward Fuller, Barbara & Gerard Gallagher, Matthew Garamone & Adrienne Booth, Chuck Gaw, Bernard & Ann Gersh, Larry Giacoletti, Veronica Glotzbach, Sandra D. Gogue, Steven & Karen Goldstein, Suzanne Goodell, Edward K. Goodell & Lynne S. Katzmann, Jerem Gordon, K. W. Hanson, Shirley Hartman, Kathleen Hickey, Liesl Hotaling, Robert Hynosky, Kelly & Tyrone Jackson, Valerie Johnson, J.A. Johnson, Karen Kamenetzky & Geoffrey Burgess, John Kuriger, Connie Lawless, Louis Leonadis, Richard R. Levine, Lalita Malik, Robert T. Maloney, Richard & Jane Marshall, Randall Martin, Lore Miller, Linda Moraski, Elizabeth Naldrett, Bob W. Novick, Rachel Parker, Toby & Tiffany Parker, Winston Perry & Betty Perry, Michael Phipps, Jimmy Pierce & Phyllis Meole, James Pittman, George Preteasa, Lawrence Randall & Marla Randall, Jocelyn Rodrigues, William Salvato, Melanie Sanborn, Gerald & Susan Savage, Sonja Schwartz, Ping She, Angus Shee, Kurt Sheppard, Ollie Simpson, Susanne Smith, Marianne Stengel, Amanda Swan, Richard Taylor & Marjorie Taylor, Jocelyn Thomas, Trevor G. Thomson & Laina Laeckie, Claudette Thornton, Margaret Vetare, Denise Vitale, Miriam Wexler, Eddie Williams, Kan Yu, Covidien Employee Matching Gift Program, ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter

DARLINGTON SCHOOLHOUSE

Eleanor Eilert, Don Fairbairn & Phyllis Fairbairn, Brian & Deborah Fisk, Robert D Simpson, Twinbrook Nurseries Inc.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL VAN ENGEL

Dr. George L. Becker Jr., Theodore & Marianne Beke, Edward & Joan Doherty, Ronnie Ebenstein, Michael & Robin Findling, Michael & Judith Gewitz, Edward K. Goodell & Lynne S. Katzmann, L. Eduardo & Candace Gutierrez, Hugo & Ruth Lijtmaer, Audrey & Lee Manners, Joachim & Lila Oppenheimer, Jules D. Royak, David P. Rudman, Edward & Barbara Solomon, Robert & Gayle Sussman, Larri Wolfson & Susan Rhea Wolfson

LAND ACQUISITION & STEWARDSHIP FUND

Dr. George L. Becker Jr.

EAST HUDSON COMMUNITY TRAIL PROGRAM

Stanley Fahn & Charlotte Fahn, Lucy R. Waletzky

CAPACITY CHALLENGE GRANT

John & Marianne Gunzler

CAMPAIGN TRAILS

James H. Robbins, John Schweighardt

TRIBUTES

In honor of George Petty's 80th Birthday

Lloyd & Beatrice Frank, Emily Anhalt, Ruth Rosen, Howard & Phyllis Schwartz

In memory of Albert Rosen

Carole Russo

In memory of Harry Bott

David Sutter & Naomi Sutter

In memory of JP Morgan who bought out and closed the Carpenter Brothers Quarry in Fort Lee
Menachem Daum

In memory of Tom Dunn
James Brown & Gail Brown

In memory of Zoey
Leon S. Maleson

In memory of a dear friend Bertha Pritchard
Eileen T. Mahler

In honor of George "Uncle" Spadafino
John Spadafino and Annalisa Spadafino

In honor of Larry Spinner's 50th Birthday
David Sutter and Naomi Sutter

In the name of Margaret Frejfeld "Thank You"
David Sutter and Naomi Sutter

In the name of: Harry, Anna, Billy, Jean, Buddy, Harry, Roseann, Charlie, Mary, Joey, Rita and Don Faravell
Sharon Seamon

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

I N M E M O R I A M



Robert Augello

Robert Augello, a 12-year member of the Trail Conference and legal counsel on all of the TC's New York land acquisitions, died November 25, 2008. Bob represented the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and Scenic Hudson, as well as the Orange County Land Trust, of which he was a founding member, in numerous land preservation transactions in our region. He first became interested in land protection during the struggle to preserve Sterling Forest.

John Myers, former land acquisitions director for the Trail Conference, writes: "Over the years, Bob and I did dozen of deals together, and got to know each other well. He was easy to work with, and I always had a lot of respect for him. I will miss him greatly, but his efforts will live on in all the beautiful tracts of land he helped the Trail Conference to protect."

Bob was also the long-time lawyer for the Middletown Industrial Development Agency. He is survived by his wife Joan and sons Peter and Charles.

Harry Bott

Harry F. Bott, a long-time trail maintainer in both Harriman and Minnewaska State Parks, died on October 16, 2008, at Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ. He was 90. Mr. Bott was born in the Bronx, NY, and lived in Westwood, NJ, before moving to New Providence in 1957.

Harry loved the outdoors and was active in canoeing, hiking, and trail maintenance, and was a member and former officer of the Adirondack Mountain Club and the Appalachian Mountain Club. For years he maintained trails in Harriman State Park and, with TC member Dorothy Jessup of New Paltz, co-maintained the Gertrude's Nose Trail at Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

"He was very attentive to details," Dorothy recalls, "such as putting all the blazes on one side of a trail. And he was very concerned about protecting the natural appearance of the trail—not cutting the blueberries back too far, for example, but not leaving the trail too narrow. Harry was a very dedicated trail maintainer who always kept the interests of hikers in mind when he worked."

He is survived by two sons, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

Another Way to Give

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

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

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

For more information, please contact Joshua Howard at josh@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348, ext. 13.



Ramsey Outdoor
is your source for
quality products from:

Eureka!

Silva.

10% discount to NY & NJ Trail Conference members with proof of membership.

Come in and compare our excellent service & competitive pricing!

www.ramseyoutdoor.com

RAMSEY OUTDOOR

Rt. 17 N. Paramus 201-261-5000
Rt. 17 S. Ramsey 201-327-8141
Rt. 46 Ledgewood 973-584-7799

New Titles Now Available from Hikers' Marketplace

See Hikers' Marketplace on page 12 for ordering details.

Old Croton Aqueduct, Westchester County

Published by the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, this is the second edition of this full-color map and guide to the 26.2-mile Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park. Includes brief descriptions of 55 points of interest along the way.

West Milford Baker's Dozen

By Don Weise
Subtitled, A Hiker's Guide to Climbing the Heart of the Highlands' 13 Greatest Peaks, this book by an avid hiker plots a course for local adventure over some surprisingly rugged New Jersey terrain.

HILLTOP ACRES RESORT
Small resort near Hunter Mountain in Northern Catskills. Beautiful mountain view. Private lake & woods. Ideal for hiking, skiing or relaxing getaway. Central European cuisine. Modestly priced. Open all year. Box 87, Jewett, NY 12444/Tel: 518-734-4580
www.windham-area.com/hilltopacres.htm

CAMP MOR
www.campmor.com
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE GEAR
• BACKPACKING • TRAVEL
• FAMILY CAMPING • CLIMBING
• RUGGED CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR & OUTERWEAR
• MOUNTAIN BIKES
• CANOES & KAYAKS
• BACKCOUNTRY & X-C SKIING
Visit our Retail Store:
810 Route 17N, Paramus, NJ
(201) 445-5000
For a Free Catalog, Call
1-800-CAMP MOR
(1-800-226-7667)
10% DISCOUNT on IN-STORE PURCHASES for NY/NJ Trail Conference Members (proof of membership required at time of purchase)

Now in Stock! Fourth edition of the Sterling Forest Trails Map and revised edition of Harriman Bear Mountain Map Set!

See Hikers' Marketplace on page 12 for ordering details.

The Sterling Forest Map includes a significant number of updates and improvements. Elevation contour lines have been increased from 50-foot to 20-foot intervals. Contour shading has been eliminated and the color scheme simplified to improve clarity and readability. Current, multi-colored trail blaze configurations are accurately described.

The Harriman Bear Mountain Map Set includes minor revisions to the 2007 edition, which was a quick sell-out for the Trail Conference—our most popular map package!

THE MORRIS CANAL TRAIL

continued from page 1

change of 1,674 feet from end to end. Though inclined planes were implemented to some extent in Europe and Asia, none of them compared to the engineering marvel that was the Morris Canal.

Abandoned around 1926 after nearly a century of service, a grassroots effort came about to save the canal as a linear greenway

old canal, for example. But to many people like myself, that just isn't good enough. Many canal advocates envision a trail stretching the entire length of the canal, following nearest parallel roads where necessary to connect preserved sections.

To help promote the canal, I recently began a hike series to cover the entire canal's route from Phillipsburg to Jersey City. I am dedicating the last Sunday of



BRENDA HOLZINGER

Remnants of an inclined plane, a technology that, with locks, comprised the Morris Canal.

much like the D&R Canal, but the plan never came to fruition and the canal was dismantled. Large sections of it were built over and lost forever.

Still, many sections of the canal towpath and prism (canal trench) remain and are recognizable, as are many other reminders of its former glorious past. A few small sections have even been converted to recreational trails, as if only to tease us about what might have been. Hugh Force Park in Wharton comprises a section of the

every month to leading groups on roughly 15 mile sections of the former canal until I have covered the entire canal's route. My first hike, Phillipsburg to Washington area, was a great success and attracted a large group. Anyone interested in joining the series should contact me at sneezehorse@hotmail.com.



Don't Be Shy...

The next time you're out for a hike or a maintenance trip, please take a moment to remind the first hiker you see who it is who maintains and protects the trail you're on.

- Inform them that it's through the efforts of over 1,100 volunteers that the trails stay open and accessible.
- Remind them that the Trail Conference is not a federally funded agency or an extension of the state park system.
- Encourage them to join the Trail Conference to support our efforts. As a member, they will receive the same great benefits that you have

come to enjoy: 25% discounts on publications and clothing purchased directly from the Trail Conference, 10% discounts at local outdoor stores, like Campmor and Ramsey Outdoor, free subscription to our bi-monthly *Trail Walker*, and much more.

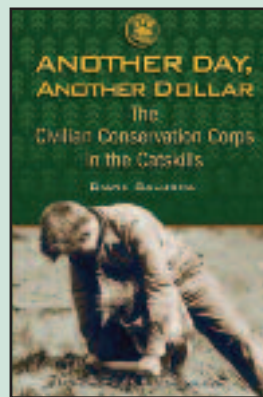
A strong membership is the foundation for all that the Trail Conference accomplishes. Please help us strengthen that foundation by promoting our organization and inviting others to join the TC today!

If you would like some membership brochures to hand out when you hike, please contact Hedy Abad at abad@nynjtc.org or 201-512-9348 ext. 17.

Book Review

Another Day, Another Dollar *The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Catskills*

By Diane Galusha



Black Dome Press, 2008

Reviewed by Georgette Weir

Who hasn't visited state park or forest land and been impressed by the enduring handiwork of projects—from bridges to firetowers, campgrounds to trails, dams to rows of trees—built between 1933 and 1942 by young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps? In *Another Day, Another Dollar* author Diane Galusha gives readers a lively account of this storied era of American history, with the Catskills as her focus.

Galusha starts with some background: Franklin Roosevelt's love of trees and commitment to reforestation. On his own estate in Hyde Park, FDR oversaw the

planting of more than 500,000 trees over four decades; as governor of New York, he initiated the Reforestation Act in 1929. Thousands of acres of land—much of it abandoned farmland—were acquired to become state forest land; hundreds of thousands of trees were planted on public and private properties. This state program, Galusha notes, became the model for the national CCC, inaugurated in 1932.

Through extensive research, including legislative records, newspaper archives, and interviews with CCC alumni, Galusha has compiled a comprehensive picture of the CCC's work in the Catskill region. Her presentation is informative and lively, interesting and to the point. Wonderful historical photos are on almost every page spread, and frequent sidebars focus on story details or introduce characters in more depth.

Another Day, Another Dollar is a very readable piece of regional history that will be of interest to anyone who enjoys the Catskills. Given today's economic and environmental crises—with park facilities among our nation's deteriorating infrastructure—it is no surprise that some are calling for reprise of the CCC or something like it (see William O'Hearn's column on page 4). Galusha's new book is perhaps unexpectedly timely.



Diane Galusha

Leave a Legacy

You can join the special individuals whose legacies ensure the Trail Conference will continue to connect people with nature for generations to come by putting the Trail Conference in your will. It's easy to do and won't affect your current cash flow. By naming the Trail Conference as a beneficiary of your estate, you will help secure our future. Your gift is private and not made public until your death (or you can request your gift remain anonymous) and can be designated for a specific program or be an unrestricted gift. You can choose to donate a specific sum from your estate, for example \$10,000, or you may allocate a percentage of your estate. Please contact Deputy Executive Director Joshua Howard for bequest language or with any questions you may have at 201-512-9348, ext. 13, or josh@nynjtc.org.

The Trail Conference recommends you contact an accountant or lawyer for professional assistance.

Park Services Cut in New York & New Jersey

New York State Park Reductions

On November 3, Carol Ash, Director of NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), announced spending reduction plans for parks across the state. The reductions are to be in effect at least through March, the end of the state's fiscal year.

In our area, reduced services include the following:

- Reduce cross country skiing services at Minnewaska State Park. Just 10 rather than the normal 20 miles of trails will be groomed. Also, no attendant will be hired for the entry gate, and so no fees—parking or skiing—will be charged at Minnewaska through the end of the fiscal year. During times of significant snowfall, ungroomed carriageways and the trails that are accessed from them will be closed.
- Sebago Beach section of Harriman is closed.
- Lake Welch section of Harriman is closed.
- Service reductions in winter operations and comfort stations at Rockland Lake State Park; all comfort stations closed December 1.
- Reduce day-use services at Tallman Mountain and Harriman State Parks
- Reduce services by 2/3 at Fort Montgomery State Historic Site
- Reduce services by 2/3 at Knox Headquarters State Historic Site
- Reduce services by 2/3 at New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site
- Reduce services by 2/3 at Senate House State Historic Site
- Reduce services by 2/3 at Stony Point Battlefield State Historic Site
- Reduce services by 2/3 at Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site

The complete list of reduced services at NYS parks is posted at www.nysparks.com/news/press/view.asp?pressID=709 (Publications)

New Jersey State Park Reductions

Administrative offices at certain New Jersey parks and forests will be open on a shorter, five-day schedule through March 31. These include Cheesequake State Park, Hopatcong State Park, Jenny Jump State Forest, Kittatinny Valley State Park, Stokes State Forest, Swartswood State Park, Wawayanda State Park, and Worthington State Forest. Administrative facilities often include bathrooms, phones, and area information.

"The public will still be able to enjoy full, seven-day-a-week access to these outdoors opportunities at our parks and forests and the many wonderful programs they offer during the fall and winter," said Lisa Jackson, DEP Commissioner at the time of the announcement. "This new schedule affects only administrative offices, and is in line with the way many national and state parks operate during months of lower visitation."

Offices at affected parks and forests will be open Monday through Friday until March 31, 2009, when they will resume seven-day schedules. Offices at nine parks and forests in various regions of the state will remain open seven days a week to provide administrative support to those that are closed on the weekends.

Among the facilities where administrative facilities are scheduled to remain open seven days a week are High Point State Park, Ringwood State Park and the Batso Visitors Center in Wharton State Forest.

State-operated historic sites and nature centers will maintain normal hours of operation, and will continue to host programs and special events on weekends.

Detailed information on the schedule changes is available at park and state forest offices or by going to www.njparksandforests.org.

Featured Hike



By Georgette Weir

New Bridge Permits Reopening of Trail on Storm King

No longer do those climbing the Stillman Trail (and co-aligned Highlands Trail) in Storm King State Park from the trailhead on Mountain Road have to peril their way across a rickety bridge, then grasp the roots of a dying hemlock to scramble up a ledge to continue on their way. That dangerous situation actually caused park managers to close the section of trail a few years ago.

This past fall, however, the section reopened when Trail Conference volunteers put the finishing touches on a brand-new bridge. The project spanned two years and was a complex affair involving securing posts into rock. It was designed by Eddie Walsh, TC trail construction consultant and volunteer, approved by park managers, and successfully carried out by volunteers with the West Hudson North Trail Crew under the direction of crew chief Denise Vitale.



Volunteers line up on the completed Stillman Bridge.

The Stillman Trail offers a good, strenuous hike that includes 13 spectacular Hudson River viewpoints

The bridge restores the integrity of the trail that ascends the north side of Storm King Mountain, often sidehilling its way across steep slopes. The Stillman Trail offers a good, strenuous hike that includes 13 spectacular Hudson River viewpoints that are strung along the 3.3-mile stretch between the Mountain Road trailhead in Cornwall and the underpass that takes the trail west of Route 9W.

Trailhead parking is at 460 feet; the high-est viewpoint along the trail is at 1340 feet—so you can get a good workout with

lots of places to stop and enjoy splendid scenery up and down the Hudson Valley.

Mountain Road intersects with Route 9W in Cornwall. Trailhead parking (limited) is about 0.7 mile northeast of 9W, marked by two stone pillars on the right. The trail (yellow blazes for Stillman Trail and teal blazes of the co-aligned Highlands Trail) heads east into the woods, initially following a rocky woods road. After about half a mile, the trail leaves the woods road toward the north and reaches the first viewpoint; it then loops back toward the woods road, and begins a steady ascent. At a junction with the Bluebird Trail (blue and red) in just under one mile from the start, the Stillman Trail turns left (southeast) cutting across the steep and wooded slope of the mountain.

It is along this segment of trail that you will come to the new bridge. Take a moment to appreciate it and the labor of the volunteers. They not only built the bridge, but hand-carried the heavy slabs of

black locust more than a quarter-mile into the work site. Continue on the trail upward to views and a network of trails at the top of the mountain.

Map: Trail Conference Map 113, West Hudson map set

Volunteers (signed in; others, including passing hikers, were recruited to help): Denise Vitale, Dave Webber, Eddie Walsh, Jim Gebhard, Henry Atterbury, Gary Curasi, Andrew Steever,

Joan James, Steve Zubarik, Mary Hillely, Tom Durkin, Chris Connolly, Tom Spence, John Kerkney, Geri Wildenberg, Bill Carroll, Jon Paulson, Ed Goodell, Georgette Weir, Jean-Claude Fouere, Matt Townsend, Melissa Shumer, Sharon Raphael, Artie Raphael, Tonda Highley, Eric Friedman, Sue Donnelly, Stephin Unger, Carusso Ferrer, Sheldon Edwards, Ollie Simpson, Jack Baccaglioni, Andrea Vogel, Larry Braun, Larry Wheelock, John Kenney



Hikers' Marketplace



NY-NJ TC member? YES NO JOINING NOW Member # _____

Please order by circling price Retail Member P/H Total

Maps (TC published except where noted. Discounted shipping available for orders of 8 or more.)

Catskill Trails (2005) & see combo	\$14.95	\$11.21	+\$1.65	_____
NEW!! East Hudson Trails (2008)	\$10.95	\$ 8.21	+\$1.50	_____
Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails (2008) & see combo	\$ 9.95	\$ 7.46	+\$1.50	_____
Hudson Palisades Trails (2005)	\$ 8.95	\$ 6.71	+\$1.50	_____
Kittatinny Trails (2005) & see combo	\$12.95	\$ 9.71	+\$1.65	_____
North Jersey Trails (2007)	\$ 9.95	\$ 7.46	+\$1.50	_____
NEW!! Shawangunk Trails (2008) & see combo	\$10.95	\$ 8.21	+\$1.50	_____
South Taconic Trails (2006)	\$ 4.95	\$ 3.71	+\$1.10	_____
NEW!! Sterling Forest Trails (2008)	\$ 7.95	\$ 5.96	+\$1.30	_____
West Hudson Trails (2006)	\$ 8.95	\$ 6.71	+\$1.50	_____
NEW!! Old Croton Aqueduct (Friends of OCA, 2008)	\$ 4.95	\$ 3.71	\$1.00	_____

Books

Appalachian Trail Guide to New York & New Jersey (2007)	\$19.95	\$14.96	+\$3.00	_____
Hiking the Jersey Highlands (2007)	\$22.95	\$17.21	+\$3.50	_____
New York Walk Book (2005) & see combo	\$22.95	\$17.21	+\$3.50	_____
New Jersey Walk Book (2004) & see combo	\$19.95	\$14.96	+\$3.50	_____
Circuit Hikes in Northern New Jersey (2003)	\$11.95	\$ 8.96	+\$2.50	_____
Day Walker (2002)	\$16.95	\$12.71	+\$3.00	_____
Harriman Trails Guide (1999) & see combo	\$16.95	\$12.71	+\$3.50	_____
NEW!! Hiking Long Island (2008)	\$22.95	\$17.21	+\$3.50	_____
Iron Mine Trails: NY/NJ Highlands (1996, rev. 1999)	\$ 8.95	\$ 6.71	+\$2.50	_____
Kittatinny Trails (2004) & see combo	\$18.95	\$14.21	+\$3.00	_____
Long Path Guide to NY/NJ (2005)	\$16.95	\$12.71	+\$3.00	_____
Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (2006) & see combo	\$13.95	\$10.46	+\$3.00	_____
Doodletown: Hiking Through History in a Vanishing Hamlet on the Hudson (1996)	\$12.95	\$ 9.71	+\$3.00	_____
Nature Walks in New Jersey (2003)	\$14.95	\$11.21	+\$3.00	_____
AMC Catskill Mountain Guide (2002)	\$19.95	\$14.96	+\$3.00	_____
NEW!! ADK Catskill Trails (2008) & see combo	\$19.95	\$14.96	+\$3.00	_____
ADK Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons (2002)	\$12.95	\$ 9.71	+\$3.00	_____
Shawangunks Trail Companion (2003)	\$18.95	\$14.21	+\$3.50	_____
Moon Take a Hike NYC (2006)	\$16.95	\$12.71	+\$3.00	_____
Walking Manhattan's Rim (2003)	\$13.95	\$10.46	+\$3.00	_____
NEW!! 50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley (2008)	\$16.95	\$12.71	+\$3.50	_____
50 Hikes in New Jersey (2006)	\$16.95	\$12.71	+\$3.50	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in New Jersey (2005)	\$15.95	\$11.96	+\$3.00	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills & Hudson River Valley (2002)	\$14.95	\$11.21	+\$3.00	_____
Hudson to Delaware: The Great Valley (2004)	\$75.00	\$56.25	+\$5.50	_____
NEW!! West Milford's Bakers Dozen (2008)	\$ 9.95	\$ 7.46	\$2.50	_____

Combo-Packs

Catskill (5-map set & ADK book)	\$30.35	\$22.69	+\$3.00	_____
Harriman (2-map set & book)	\$23.40	\$17.55	+\$3.50	_____
NY & NJ Walk Books	\$38.60	\$30.95	+\$4.50	_____
Shawangunk (3-map set & Scenes & Walks book)	\$21.65	\$16.23	+\$3.00	_____
Kittatinny (4-map set & book)	\$27.80	\$20.85	+\$3.00	_____

The Personal Touch

Note Cards: TC Collection	\$12.00	\$ 9.00	+\$3.00	_____
Long-sleeve Denim Shirt Circle: M L	\$29.90	\$22.43	+\$5.50	_____
Polo Shirt (Forest Green) Circle: S M L XL	\$19.90	\$14.93	+\$5.50	_____
Trail Conference Baseball Cap	\$ 5.00	\$ 3.75	+\$2.10	_____
Trail Conference Logo Patch	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50	postpaid	_____
Long Path Logo Patch	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.75	postpaid	_____
Trail Conference Logo Decal Circle: Inside Outside	\$.85	\$.85	postpaid	_____

Subtotal _____
Postage/handling from above _____
New Jersey residents add 7% tax* _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Method of Payment:
 Check or money order enclosed
 Visa Mastercard Amex
Card # _____
Exp. Date: ____/____/____
Signature: _____

Make check or money order payable to NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430. For a full descriptive catalog, please write or call 201-512-9348.

*Tax must be paid on books, maps, misc., but not on clothing or shipping, by customers with NJ ship-to (not billing) addresses. Prices are subject to change. (1/09)

YOU CAN ALSO ORDER AT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NYNJTC.ORG

Don't wait any longer! Become a member now!

1,700 miles of trails; your membership helps us expand our horizons.

Included with membership, Trail Walker, 10% discount on purchases at most outdoor stores, and 25% discount on all Trail Conference maps and books purchased directly from the Trail Conference.

Save time and a tree by joining or renewing online at www.nynjtc.org. Just click on the Join/Renew button.



MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	DUES
Supporter	\$30
Family	\$40
*Sponsor Individual	\$60
*Sponsor Family	\$75
*Benefactor Individual	\$120
*Benefactor Family	\$150
*Life Individual	\$1,000
*Life Joint	\$1,500
Senior Individual (65+)	\$25
Senior Family (65+)	\$30

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____
E-MAIL _____

Check or money order enclosed Visa Mastercard Amex
Card # _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____

Make check or money order payable to the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430.

*New Sponsor, Benefactor, and Life Members may elect to receive a Trail Conference cap. Check here if you would like us to send you a cap.

Tax-deductible. Dues are not refundable.