



82nd Year

TRAILWALKER

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

JULY/AUGUST 2002

Ginseng Ridge: Walking New State Lands in Greene County

By Georgette Weir

I'd never much noticed boundary markers before, at least not ones that declared anything less subtle than NO TRESPASSING. But this was a hike with Douglas C. Haller, a land and claims adjuster with the Department of Environmental Conservation's Bureau of Real Property, Region 4, and boundaries and their changes were a good part of the point of our trek.

We were walking a stretch of the Long Path just north of the Catskill Preserve. Through these woods and over a continuation of the Catskill Escarpment known informally by many as Ginseng Ridge, the Long Path crosses numerous property lines—private and public. Haller, whose responsibilities include appraising land values of properties DEC would like to purchase, worked on the transition last year of five parcels along the Ginseng Ridge totalling some 400 acres from private to public ownership. The deals, which the Trail Conference helped effect by ne-



Looking toward Ginseng Ridge, crossed by the Long Path.

gotiating options and some outright purchases, help secure the integrity of the Long Path in this Greene County area.

We were on the ridge at perhaps the best time: early May. A hint of green colored the mountains here, where the elevations range from about 2,700 to 3,400 feet, but leafed-out trees didn't yet obscure beautiful views of the ridge and rolling farm-

land of Greene County. Even in mid-day, bird songs filled the air.

We followed the trail for some 6.5 miles, starting with a quick mile round-trip from a quarry up and down Mt. Pisgah. Here the Long Path makes use of and crosses old woods roads; the forest is patchy, with second-growth acres intermingled with open, glen-like spots and, at

continued on page 10

Trail Conference Sponsors Shawangunk Smart Growth Workshop

Despite a daunting downpour, more than 65 public officials, activists, and interested citizens converged on downtown Wurtsboro on a Saturday morning this May to learn more about how to respond to burgeoning growth in the Shawangunk Ridge region. The May 18 workshop, "Planning for the Coming Surge of Growth," rewarded attendees with tools that ridge-area towns in Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster counties can use to encourage sensible growth while controlling unwanted sprawl.

The recent rapid surge in development in the Shawangunk Ridge area is the result of the approval of gambling in



TC's John Myers leads planning talk.

Sullivan and Ulster counties, the coming conversion of Route 17 to Interstate 86, and the general wave of residential and commercial sprawl roaring up from further south in the Hudson Valley, noted John Myers, land acquisitions director of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

continued on page 8

Mombasha Creek Bridge Opens at Southfields Furnace in Sterling Forest



New Mombasha crossing celebrated at National Trails Day event.

Harriman and Sterling Forest State Parks for both family oriented and more strenuously inclined hikers alike.

Considering the events of the past year, it is especially gratifying to note that the trails have provided scenic and spiritual refuge to many New York City hikers, traveling via public bus transportation.

The Trail Conference is happy to announce further enhancement of the trails as a result of the collaborative efforts of Scenic Hudson and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

In April, a much improved means of connecting the noted trails was provided by the construction of a 35-foot, fiberglass and wood pedestrian bridge across the Mombasha Creek at a scenic spot just upstream of the Southfields Furnace. The grand opening of the bridge was marked with a celebration on National Trails Day,

June 1, by TC staff and volunteers.

Scenic Hudson paid for the cost of the bridge and NY-NJTC provided all the labor, including costs for the services of three members of the Adirondack Mountain Club's professional trail crew.

This new bridge not only provides a safe and scenic means of crossing the creek, it also eliminates a previously required .4-mile road walk along the Old Orange Turnpike, when combining all three trails on a continuous thru-hike.

NY-NJTC volunteers John Grob, Pete Heckler, Roy Messaros, Pete Tilgner, Maureen Walsh, Larry Wheelock, and Ed Goodell worked on bridge construction. Financing from Scenic Hudson was secured by Seth McKee, associate land preservation director at Scenic Hudson. Pete Heckler led, coordinated, and inspired the entire project. The Mombasha Bridge was one more reason Heckler was named New York State Volunteer of the Year by the American Hiking Society. For more about the award, turn to page 6.

Since their respective completions over the past three years, the Indian Hill and Furnace Loop Trails located on property owned by Scenic Hudson, and the Wildcat Mountain Trail on Palisades Interstate Park Commission lands, have quickly become popular recreational destinations in

Are Hikers Losing Ground on Public Lands?

The lines are being drawn in **New Jersey** as state policies are developed for off-road vehicle access to public lands.

In **New York**, the struggle is over the closing—for the third straight year—of a popular state park.

On page 3, Executive Director Ed Goodell outlines the issues and suggests what members can do to influence the outcome on these two battles of importance to hikers.

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The TRAIL WALKER (ISSN 0749-1352) is published bi-monthly by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference as a benefit of membership. Of membership dues, \$4 is allocated to a one-year subscription. 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 26 (Mar./Apr. Issue), March 25 (May/June issue), May 25 (July/Aug. Issue), July 26 (Sept./Oct. Issue), September 25 (Nov./Dec. Issue), November 26 (Jan./Feb. Issue). Unsolicited contributions cannot be acknowledged unless accompanied by SASE. For information on advertising rates, please write or call.

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**NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY
 TRAIL CONFERENCE**

Mission Statement

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

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

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

from the president's notepad...

Advocacy—How and Why

When the Trail Conference speaks up on behalf of open space protection and public access, it's important that our members and supporters do more than listen. It is one thing (and an important thing) for a director or staff person from an organization representing thousands of individuals and some 80 clubs to voice a policy recommendation to an agency head or elected official. It is quite another for that public official to hear directly from those individuals and groups. Take a moment to imagine a clean desk: on it, one letter, 10 letters, 100 letters, 1,000 letters. Or, at a public hearing: one voice, five voices, ten voices. Which images have the most impact?

It is important for people who care about issues—in our case hiking and trail issues—to stay informed and involved. Communication is our primary if not only route to influence. At the Trail Conference, our staff and dedicated volunteers work hard to keep up with policy changes and trail protection opportunities so they can let us know when our voices are needed.

It is the job of this publication, and of the TC website, to give us the tools and information we need to be effective advocates for hiking and trails. Ed Goodell tells us in his column on the facing page that our support is needed now on two issues, one each in New York and New Jersey. Being an advocate on these and other issues is easier than you may think.

Advocacy frequently starts with a simple letter, postcard, or, now, email. With email, getting a message to one's state senator, assembly person, or federal representative is far easier than it has been in the past. The advocacy button on our web page (www.nynjtc.org) will guide you to the right contacts for your area. Generally, letters should be short and to the point, making a maximum of three points. Make sure that you are clear about which side you want the law maker or policy maker to support! For those of you who do not have access to a computer, stop in your local public library and ask them to help you find out who and where your representatives are. When writing to officials at the federal level, be aware that since

the anthrax scare in October, mail to the federal government is fumigated first. A letter you send might be delayed.

Testifying at a public hearing is not hard either. If you are worried about speaking in public, you can read a prepared statement or even simply hand it in. I have noticed that the people conducting hearings expect Trail Conference officials to come, but they are impressed when people they have never or seldom seen take the time to testify. Young people who testify benefit in multiple ways. They not only see democracy in action, they gain experience and confidence through their participation and the chance to be seen and heard. And it gives them an opportunity to be on equal footing with adults—after all, everyone at the hearing has an equal amount of time to speak.

Enjoying the outdoors carries a responsibility that we each do all that we can to ensure that the experience can continue. When you do follow up on one of our requests for support, please let us know and send a copy of the letter.

—Jane Daniels, President

L · E · T · T · E · R · S

The Trail Walker welcomes letters to the editor. They may be edited for style and length. Send to tw@nynjtc.org or to Trail Walker, NYNJTC, 156 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430.

Enabling the Enemy?

The theme of the anti-ATV letters and editorial in the May/June *Trail Walker* was: How can we mobilize law enforcement? The consensus was that this would be close to impossible because of lack of resources.

Actually, we hikers are enabling the enemy: In the same issue was the congratulatory report on removing 195 blowdowns in Harriman alone.

Remember, one of the most attractive traits of ATVers is their laziness. Whenever I'm out I pull a few of the smaller blowdowns onto the trail. Think of what would happen if we just left the big ones alone or sawed a narrow passage. (Not to speak of building boardwalks with gaps running longitudinally—trail bikes are just one circle higher in hell.)

Self help is the best help.

Tom O'Flaherty
 New York, NY

A response from TC Trails Director Larry Wheelock:

A few blowdowns on a trail will not stop most ATV recreationists. With few exceptions hikers, mountain bikers, dirt bikers, and ATVers will simply route the trail around a blowdown, considerably increasing the impact on the environment. Cutting a small pass through the blowdown will help keep the hikers and maybe the mountain bikers on the trail, but not the others. Another reason to keep blowdowns off the trails is to help maintain a trail as a fire-break. When leaves gather up next to a downed tree they can conduct fire across the trail and so help spread a fire. At the bottom line: education of the public with stronger laws and enforcement will be necessary to bring this problem under control.

Thanks for the Workshop

The April Trail Maintenance Skills Workshop was a great success. The terrific weather enabled the trail crew volunteers to demonstrate construction of rock steps, stream crossings, and sidehilling, and in the process the workshop participants gained knowledge and skills as well as

enjoyment of a job well done.

Since they worked on "my" section of the Long Path [on Schunemunk Mountain], I am grateful to them all, with a special thanks to Monica Resor, David Day, and Claudia Ganz for their leadership.

Trail Maintenance 101 was enjoyable and resulted in a much improved section of the Highlands Trail, thanks to the organization by Larry Braun and the enthusiastic cooperation of the many participants.

Thanks also to the Hengsts of Hil-Mar Lodge for their gracious hospitality.

Joan James
 Salisbury Mills, NY

Thanks for Land Help

On behalf of the residents of Warwick, I want to offer our heartfelt thanks [for TC help with the addition of 10 acres to the town's Cascade Park]. This park is an invaluable resource that will be protected for all our future generations.

Michael P. Sweeton
 Supervisor, Town of Warwick

Note: TC Lands Acquisitions Director John Myers gave the town technical advice on the purchase.



Ed Goodell helps reshape a trail during the May workshop for maintainers.

from the Executive Director

Losing Ground on Public Lands?

The Trail Conference has a strong tradition of advocacy and grass roots organizing to ensure that our region's trail lands remain pristine and accessible to the public. This story of foresight and battles hard-won by individuals from all walks of life is chronicled beautifully in former Palisades Interstate Park Commission Director Bob Binnewies's book *The Palisades* as well as in the Trail Conference's own *Vistas & Vision* by Glenn Scherer. It is important to stop and consider that every day there are Trail Conference members hiking on lands that former members took the time to fight for—the Palisades, Storm King, Minnewaska and Sam's Point, the Kittatinnies, Pyramid Mountain, etc.

We can also look to these places and realize that there are no guarantees that protection and accessibility are forever, that we need to be ever ready to marshal our forces and advocate our interests. In the variety of forums where public access issues are discussed and decided, our influence is dependent on two things: 1) The facts and merits of our position; and 2) Most important of all in a democratic society, the number of concerned and active citizens we represent.

The Trail Conference now faces a number of pressing access issues for which we

need your visible show of support in the form of letters and attendance at public meetings. At the top of our list:

- Reopening Storm King Mountain
- Developing a sound policy on off-road vehicles (ORV) in New Jersey.

Storm King Mountain

In 1999, the heat of forest fires detonated old, unexploded ordnance in the soils of Storm King. A subsequent investigation revealed that the military had once tested artillery and artillery shells by shooting them from West Point lands into the vicinity of Storm King Mountain. The park was closed for all recreation while the Army Corps of Engineers accessed the problem. Three years later, it is still closed, despite the fact that after scanning the area with sophisticated devices, the Army Corps of Engineers reports that all the trails and a buffer 25 feet on either side of them are clear of unexploded ordnance. In fact, the Corps reports that only one 400-acre section due east of Route 9W may contain as many as one unexploded ordnance per acre, and that the remaining 1,488 acres are safe for public use.

Even so, the PIPC has not yet agreed to reopen the park to hikers because they are unwilling to risk the liability of a hiker straying off the trail and becoming injured.

This is in spite of the fact that in more than 70 years as a popular hiking destination, no one has been hurt by ordnance at Storm King. Faced with the indefinite closure of a favorite, popular hiking area, the Trail Conference is doing everything it can to convince the government agencies to make reopening Storm King State Park a high priority.

We need your help. Government officials need to know that real people care about the reopening of this popular hiking area. Your phone calls, emails, and especially letters or postcards to the agency officials and elected representatives listed below are urgently needed. With no end in sight to the park closure, it's time for hikers who love this area to fight back.

As we go to press, a public hearing is scheduled for June 25. By the time you read this, we will have posted the results and outcome of that hearing on our website—www.nynjtc.org. You can also call the office to get an update faxed or mailed to you.

New Jersey ORV Policy

In New Jersey, there's a move afoot to release a new policy governing usage of off-road vehicles in State Parks and Dept.

of Environmental Protection lands. While it is too early to say exactly what that policy will look like, those who care for the environment are urged to scrutinize whatever is released. Pro-ORV advocates have reportedly delivered thousands of letters in support of ORVs on state lands over the last six months.

It is time for us hikers, birders, fishermen, hunters, and naturalists of all ilk to let

their opposition be heard.

At a symposium on motorized off-road vehicle use on state lands of New York-New Jersey convened by the Trail Conference in April, there was overwhelming evidence presented about the rampant and increasing devastation caused by irresponsible and illegal ORV users. This symposium looked at the scope of the problem, the lessons learned elsewhere, and the components of an effective enforcement effort. Several things were made clear:

1. The damage from illegal ORV use has increased dramatically over the last 10 years.

2. The ORV industry is pursuing a nationwide campaign of opening public lands to motorized ORV use and New Jersey is a high priority target.

3. A successful enforcement campaign will certainly include education but must also involve updated legislation that would provide enforcement officials with the tools they need to bring the irresponsible and illegal ORV users to justice.

The New York State Outdoor Recreational Vehicle Association estimates that there are some million ORVs in New York and New Jersey and that less than 25% are legally registered and bearing license

plates. Dealers seldom tell purchasers of ORVs of how few legal riding opportunities there are. There's no point-of-sale registration and licensing requirement as there is for other motor vehicles. Accordingly, many ORVs encountered illegally on public lands cannot be traced because they lack license plates. Anecdotal evidence indi-

cates many riders know they are riding illegally on public lands but figure they won't get caught and, if they do, the penalty for trespassing is trivial compared to their investment in their machines.

As a result, Trail Conference maintainers and hikers in general are seeing more and more ORV tracks in cherished hiking lands.

What you can do

1. As soon as you read this, check the Trail Conference website www.nynjtc.org or call the office for information about the current situation in New Jersey.

2. Write or email or fax to Governor McGreevey your thoughts about motorized off-road vehicles on state conservation lands.

a. Urge the Governor to issue a clear ban on all ORV use in state parks, Green Acres Open Space, and other conservation and trail lands.

b. Support requirement of point-of-sale registration and highly visible front and back license plates for all ORVs.

c. Urge a closed loop funding program for licensing registration and ID plate fees with the fees applied to enforcement, restoration, and education.

—Edward Goodell

Advocacy Contacts

STORM KING

Contact the Trail Conference office for an update after the June 25th public meeting and to find out what further action is needed.

ORV

Governor James E. McGreevey
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

◆ New Parcels Added to Sterling Forest State Park

New York State increased the size of Sterling Forest State Park by 634 acres with its May acquisition of two additional parcels in the Hudson Highlands. The two parcels are 490-acre Indian Hill, purchased for \$2.25 million through the Scenic Hudson Land Trust, and 144 acres (out of 477) of the Arrow Farm Park, bought for \$750,000 through the Orange County Land Trust. Monies used were from settlement of a pair enforcement cases with companies over hazardous-waste disposal, officials said. Indian Hill lies at the convergence of the Appalachian Trail and Sterling Forest and Harriman State Parks.

◆ NYS Budget Restores EPF Money

New York's 2002 budget agreement was reached in mid-May with the governor and

legislature agreeing to fully fund the Environmental Protection Fund for both last year and this year. Partisan politics and later a decision by the governor to husband state funds following September 11, last year kept the legislature from appropriating or authorizing for spending funds collected in the dedicated EPF account. As a result, money for land acquisition, state parks, and Forest Preserve projects and trail maintenance dried up. With the new agreement, \$76 million will be available for purchasing land in 2002. About \$12.5 million will be available for land and park stewardship by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for fiscal year 2002-2003. Intense and sustained advocacy by land preservation groups, including the Trail Conference and Adirondack Mountain Club, bolstered by hundreds of letters written by the groups'

members, helped ensure this success.

On the down side, the agreement also authorizes a \$235 million dollar withdrawal from uncommitted EPF cash reserves for relief of the state's General Fund. These monies are sums over and above the \$250 million pledged for EPF projects. The Trail Conference and ADK fought this withdrawal as a violation of the principle of a "locked box" dedicated environmental fund. However, in the end, the very large revenue shortfall and a severe shortage of local school aid resulted in the legislature agreeing with the governor to authorize this hopefully "one-time" cash withdrawal.

TC and ADK counsel Neil Woodworth and his colleague Meg Everett contributed to this report.

continued on page 8



TRAIL NEWS

Three Historic Trails in Harriman State Park Made Official

Three trails in Harriman State Park, well known to the hiking community for many years, were recently made official by the park management. These are the Dean Trail from the William Brien Memorial Shelter on the AT south to the Red Cross Trail; the Buck Trail, which runs north along the top of Conklin Mountain from the Seven Hills Trail to a split where two legs descend to join ski trails; and the Stony Brook Trail, running from the Pine Meadow Trail about .4 mile north of the Reeves Brook Visitors Center north along the Stony Brook to join the Hillburn-Torne-Sebago Trail.

Work to bring these trails up to standard and complete the blazing will be done in the near future.

Trail at Pyramid Mountain Closed

Due to new home construction at the Pyramid Mountain Natural Historical Area, the southern section of the Butler-Montville Trail beyond the Red Dot Trail is temporarily closed. For additional information or updates, call 973-334-3130.

Ice Caves Open at Sam's Point

As of May 4 the Ice Caves at Sam's Point Preserve, managed by the Nature Conservancy and owned by the Open Space Institute, are once again open to hikers and other visitors. Boardwalks, ladders, and railings have been repaired by staff and volunteers, including TC members. At least one change from the reported past: snow and ice will no longer be imported to keep the "ice" in the ice caves through July and August. As of the opening weekend, in fact, visitors had to look hard to find any sign of winter in the caves. Cold air, on the other hand, was plentiful on a hot day. A visitors center for the preserve is in the planning stages, with construction anticipated to begin in the fall.

Fractured Rock Gives Way Claiming Hiker's Life on Schunemunk Mountain

A rock separated from a larger rockface on Schunemunk Mountain May 22 and claimed the life of one experienced hiker and seriously injured two others.

Nick Stryanovski, 76, of Astoria, New York, was fatally injured in the accident.



Nick Stryanovski

Daniel O'Rourke, 62, of Congers, and Gunvar Satrai, 70, of Wayne, NJ, were airlifted to Westchester Medical Center Hospital in serious condition.

Several other individuals suffered minor injuries, including some of the rescue party. Emergency personnel, summoned by one of the hikers carrying a cell phone, responded quickly and in difficult conditions.

Nick Stryanovski was in a familiar role

at the time of the accident, guiding a contingent of an informal group known as the Wednesday Hikers, when a rock came loose, striking several people, including Nick. The accident occurred at an escarpment above a talus slope off the Dark Hollow Trail near the woods road marked on the map most of the way up the mountain. His party was one of two the Wednesday group fielded on the mountain that day, and was hiking off-trail, trying to avoid crossing a stream at high water on their way to a woods road.

Nick was a longtime member of the NY-NJ Trail Conference and Appalachian Mountain Club. He is survived by his daughter Tina, his granddaughter Mia (five months old), and his brother Myron. His wife recently passed away. Nick had hiked with the Wednesday Hikers since its beginning 37 years ago. He loved hiking, the out-of-doors, and helping others get out hiking.

Committees Improve Conference Maps

Greater accuracy and swifter updates of Trail Conference maps are in the works. Volunteers on the Publications and Technology Committees plan to take advantage of advances in technology to improve maps and make wider use of web capabilities for communicating trail news.

Faster Updates

An informal TC management group recommends that trail updates be publicized on the TC web site. George Petty, Publications Committee chair, Larry Wheelock, Trails Director, and Walter Daniels, TC computer adviser, agree the Conference has adequate reporting systems in place, but needs to improve its response time to trail changes, and distribute information efficiently to the appropriate agency, committee, or individual for prompt action.

"Hikers look to us for the latest accurate trails information," Petty says. "That's our main organization mission. So we want to be able to publicize trails updates using web technology. But though computers act fast, they can't give prompt news until the web site manager has the information in hand."

Larry Wheelock explained there are many different agencies managing public lands, each with different goals and chains of command, and all of them understaffed. "It's hard for us to know quickly when they close a trail, or decide to reroute. Notifying us is not at the top of their list of things to do." Some TC trail supervisors have set up good communications with agency people, Wheelock says, but personnel changes and unclear management responsibilities often make this difficult.

"We want to offer TC office communications help for our trail supervisors where they think it would be useful," he says. "The important thing is to get the trails information promptly so we can put it on the web site."

Wheelock also indicates that he will seek feedback from the Trails Council at its next meeting on how to improve reporting procedures. "We may need to find ways to reduce paperwork, or expand interactive reporting on our web site."

Walt Daniels plans to set up a database to compile and make available incoming data from the present reporting system to the appropriate TC management. "The database should record everything from whole new trail systems to reports of blow downs that need a chain-saw crew's attention," Wheelock notes. "Then those without ready data access are kept up to date in a timely way."

User Input Is Essential

"Hi-tech mapping and communications can't help us unless we get the updated

information from the people on the trails," Petty notes. "It's vital that everyone who uses our maps or books to walk the trails contribute their observations of discrepancies to the publications web pages (<http://www.nynjtc.org/pubs.html>), or to our Trails Director, Larry Wheelock, at the Mahwah Office" (201-512-9348, or wheelock@nynjtc.org). These pages contain news about current trails updates, and will provide forms on which to submit information about errors in maps or publications. These reports will be added to the updates page after verification.

Digitizing Map Production

The production of TC maps will be converted to digital processes as maps are updated. Petty notes the maps will retain their familiar appearance, but will be more accurate

Petty says the committee wants to use computer technology to provide the most accurate trails information possible. "With increasing use of the trails every day," he said, "trail construction, closing, and rerouting happens frequently. We need help

TC PARTNERS WITH RAMSEY OUTDOOR

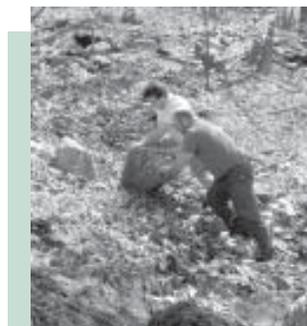
The Trail Conference would like to thank Ramsey Outdoor and Fred De Burg for another successful outreach event. On Saturday, May 18 at the Ramsey Outdoor located at 240 RT 17N, Paramus, NJ, store customers received in-store discounts, free door prizes, raffles prizes and complimentary Trail Conference memberships.

"This event was a great way for the store and the Trail Conference to give something back to the hiking community," said Josh Erdsneker, the Volunteer Projects Director at the TC. In addition to the TC, representatives from Timberland, MSR, Marmot, and other major gear manufacturers were in attendance performing product demonstrations and providing information for store customers. Keep an eye out in the *Trail Walker* for future events at Ramsey Outdoor and other outfitters.

from our members and other users of our publications to publicize these changes quickly." The Publications Committee also decided to include in map packets when necessary an insert describing important changes to trail systems.

The first map set to be digitized under the new policies will be the East Hudson maps. That revised set is due out in the fall. Herb Chong, chair of the Map Subcommittee, notes the initial digitized revision will cost more, but will be easier and less expensive to update the next time.

Executive Director Ed Goodell says the new policies "are part of a broader effort to more tightly integrate our Trail Council maintenance and monitoring functions with our technology-enhanced trail mapping operations, and will provide map users with the most up-to-date trail information available."



Maintenance Workshop

Some 80 new and experienced trail maintainers attended the April 27 workshop on Schunemunk Mountain. Classes were offered in Maintenance 101, led by Larry Braun; Construction and Restoration, led by Monica Resor and David Day with help from Claudia Ganz, Chris Ezzo, and Brian Buchbinder; and Trail Layout and Design, conducted by TC Trails Director Larry Wheelock. Thanks go to all who participated and to the Hengsts, owners of Hill-Mar Lodge, for their gracious hospitality in hosting the day's events.

Rocks Do Give Way

A Reflection on Risk and Caution

By Joachim Oppenheimer

In my hiking years I have made close friends who are no longer here, and I have missed every one with whom I formed bonds extending beyond hiking. Most recently Hal Cohen's death left a large void. We expect death from illness in life, but Nick Stryanovski's death seems doubly tragic because, on the surface at least, it seems more preventable. Yet, was it really? That is the question that has been asked in the wake of the tragic accident on Schunemunk Mountain: Could we learn from and prevent such tragedy again? Paradoxically, Nick's death was perhaps less preventable than that of some of my hiking friends who died of what we call "natural causes," where environmental circumstances induced their adverse effects gradually.

Rocks give way. I first saw this dramatically when a huge boulder high up in Shingle Gully at the Ice Caves in the Gunks picked that particular moment in history to roll down and cover, like the lid of a sarcophagus, a terrified young woman as she fell between boulders that had come to rest in the gully perhaps 10,000 years ago. After many anxious and tedious hours of rescue work, we helped her emerge from what we all thought surely was her coffin. When I took off her pack and checked for internal injuries, I saw that her Hershey bar had been pulverized to pure powder. But, except for a few bruises, she suffered no internal injuries. Earlier this year, as I drove away from the parking area outside the gate to Greenbrook Nature Sanctuary, I saw a chunk of the Palisades come tumbling down, all on its own. Nick did the right thing in using the rock as he did. But who can know the vicissitudes of nature?

The Schunemunk accident happened off trail. Does that mean bushwacking should be avoided? I would decidedly prefer to see hikes that are led for groups be designed for trails without *planned* bushwacks, but there are times when bushwacking is absolutely unavoidable. That is how June Slade, my wife Lila, and I once found ourselves accidentally on the West Point firing range. We were so lost that I dreamed for a map of West Point I obviously did not have. It seemed as if my wish reached Valhalla; the gods Thor or Odin were dispatched to help us before the Romans could send Mars to our aid. Right there on the ground and at my feet I saw a map some future five-star general dropped in his haste for lunch. (I still have that map; I was afraid, during the height of the Cold War, to turn it in for fear of being suspected as a Communist. June can verify that adventure, our necklaces of 50 caliber bandoliers and all).

Aside from inattention while hiking on the trail and then going astray (who, me?), we have a situation with disappearing trail markings—trees come down with their blazings or snow covers markers. I can recall winters in the Adirondacks where one habitually looked for the markers at one's feet, not ten feet up, and having to judge whether a slight depression in the snow-covered ground was, indeed, the trail. Lately, too, there has been a fair amount of vandalizing of markers by neighbors hostile to hikers; specifically, on Schunemunk, we once caught a hunter where hunting was not legal, taking down a trail marker. We did not argue with his rifle and later reported his license plate at the trailhead.

Nick would have my head if I suggested banning bushwacking. Besides, one can't ban something that cannot be avoided unless one bans hiking altogether.

What then can be done to avoid simi-

lar tragedies to that which befell Nick and Dan O'Rourke and Gunvar Satrai? Less than one may think. There are techniques in safety taught in climbing schools and Nick observed the cardinal one, that you don't grab onto "vegetable holds," bushes and trees, but depend for support on rocks, the anchors to earth. What makes the Schunemunk events such a tragedy is precisely that nothing was done wrong. Even when things are done correctly, terrible things can still happen because there is a very finite limit to what we can do to control our destiny.

I can make a few suggestions for increasing hiking safety, but not as a consequence of May 22. Whatever suggestions I can make pale against this: The greatest risk is not the hike itself but the ride home. I know with absolute certainty that I am not the only hiker who has ever fallen asleep at the wheel coming home from a hike. The fatigue, even after an easy hike, the road rhythm, the sun, whatever else blows the sandman's sand into our eyes, gets to us. We can doze off for an instant, and that's all it takes, one lousy yawn. As I write this, Memorial Day weekend, there will be 250 highway fatalities in our country. As a group we have been very fortu-

nate, but our good luck will not continue unless we take a very serious look at this issue. Caffeine and other stimulants may perk us up getting into the car, but closer to home the rebound effect could make us even more vulnerable to zonking. I see the ride home as more threatening to safety than all the ticks, rattlers, and trail obstacles.

We can honor Nick's memory no better way than to take an oath of Caution, to carry on his creed of helpfulness, and assess risk probabilities realistically without undue and irrational alarm. I recall the wisdom of Henry Young, a dear friend of Nick's as well as mine. He always knew how long it would take to get off the mountain or out of the woods from wherever he was. He always paid attention to the winds and the sky for changes in the weather. The hills will be there tomorrow, he would say. Nick would, too. 🍃

■ Joachim Oppenheimer is a medical doctor and member of the Wednesday Hikers. This essay is excerpted from a longer letter he posted to the Trail Conference web site in the wake of the accident on Schunemunk Mountain and Nick Stryanovski's death.

ECOLOGY FOR HIKERS

It's Small, Secretive, Rare, and It's in Our Hiking Region

By Laura Newgard and David Moskowitz

The bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*), a diminutive and secretive inhabitant of wetlands, is North America's rarest turtle. Its rarity recently led to its being listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as "threatened" on a national level, and it is also listed as "threatened" or "endangered" in all the states where it occurs, including in New York and New Jersey. These listings reflect significant population losses, habitat degradation, and fragmentation of many of the remaining bog turtle sites. In addition, the small, attractive turtle is often illegally captured and sold to collectors. Two distinct populations of the bog turtle are separated by a few hundred miles: a northeastern population ranges from New York south through Maryland, while a southeastern population occurs from Virginia south through Georgia. The region covered by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is near the center of the turtle's northeast stronghold.

The bog turtle is one of North America's smallest turtles. Its carapace (top shell) is usually less than 100 millimeters (four inches) long. The bog turtle is best identified by its lightly sculpted carapace and bright orange, often hourglass-shaped



The bog turtle is only 4 inches long.

marking on each side of its head. The carapace is generally dark brown to ebony in coloration, while the plastron (bottom shell) varies in color.

As their name implies, bog turtles live in swamps or marshes with lush herbaceous vegetation that includes hummock-forming tussocks, rich muck soils, and flowing, clean, clear water, although the sediments may be discolored by heavy iron deposits. Bog turtle habitats are a very specific combination of these features and even minor changes can significantly affect their suitability as turtle environment.

The water in bog turtle habitats typically originates from groundwater seeps and springs that flow into small rivulets. These rivulets are a critical element of bog turtle habitat and the turtles spend a great deal of time feeding, traveling, and basking in them. Such groundwater sources are particularly susceptible to alteration from upslope development and the protection of a large area around them is often necessary to protect their integrity.

A great deal of attention is being focused upon the bog turtle and conservation efforts are underway to protect the

species. The USFWS recently issued a recovery plan outlining the strategy to protect the remaining populations (available from the agency or online at <http://www.fws.gov>) and state governments and nongovernment organizations are actively involved in these conservation efforts. The recovery plan focuses on the protection of all known populations and their surrounding habitat, and the identification and protection of as yet undiscovered populations. Bog turtle surveys by USFWS-qualified bog turtle surveyors are now routinely required by wetland review agencies and the USFWS as part of development applications where potential appropriate habitat exists, and specific survey protocols have been developed to insure consistency in these efforts. Ongoing surveys of appropriate habitats by state wildlife agencies also continue to identify new populations.

Trail Conference members and hikers can help this effort by keeping an eye out for suitable wetland sites, and by noting changes in the vegetation or water flow that may make them unsuitable for bog turtles. The information can be supplied to the USFWS at <http://www.fws.gov>.

With determination, a concerted effort, and a bit of luck, perhaps in the future the bog turtle will no longer have the dubious distinction of being North America's rarest turtle. 🍃

■ Laura Newgard and David Moskowitz are USFWS qualified bog turtle surveyors.

Suggested additional reading:
The Year of the Turtle: A Natural History by David Carroll, 1996, St. Martin's Press.

Our Members

❖ Viewers of the Bill Moyer's special four-hour documentary on the Hudson River (broadcast in April) saw TC members **Fred and Anne Osborn** (Anne is also a member of the TC board of directors) filmed at their home talking about the role of prominent families, including theirs, in protecting the landscape from development.

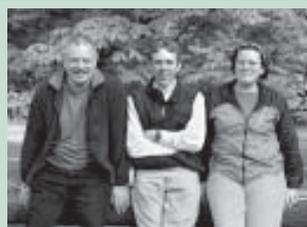
❖ The late **George Zobelein**, president of the Trail Conference from 1965 to 1970, was posthumously given the Rockland County Executive's Outstanding Environmental Award in April at an Earth Day ceremony at Kennedy-Dells County Park in New City. Zobelein was remembered by friends at the event as a hiker and fierce advocate for trail preservation. Zobelein, an accountant, also served as president of the Appalachian Trail Conference and was an active citizen in his local community. He edited three editions of the *New York Walk Book* and wrote the chapter on Rockland County for the 2001 edition.

❖ Congratulations to member **Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff**, an attorney from High-

land Falls, NY, who in May received the Ottaway Medal from the Orange County Citizens Foundation. Sidamon-Eristoff has expertise in open space preservation, infrastructure development and environmental law, and brought that knowledge to his work on the recent revision of the county's master plan. From 1989 to 1993, he served as regional administrator for the federal Environmental Protection Agency and was a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for 15 years.

❖ Reminiscent of Raymond Torrey, one of the Trail Conference's founders, long-time volunteer and officer **Daniel Chazin**, of Teaneck, NJ, is now writing a weekly hiking column. Appearing every Thursday, Chazin's column can be found in the "Get Set!" section of *The Record*, northern New Jersey largest newspaper.

Chazin's hiking suggestions have covered a wide area including Turkey Mountain in Kinnelon, Hudson Highlands State Park, Sterling Forest, and Schunemunk Mountain. In addition to detailed trail descriptions and a map, the articles also promote the Trail Conference's activities, maps, and other publications.



2002 AT Ridge Runners

This year's Ridge Runners on the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey are, left to right, **Garth Fisher**, **Mathew Moore** (both repeats from last year), and **Dayla Dintelmann**—a fresh recruit! Ridge Runners monitor AT use, educate hikers on good trail practices, and care for the backpacker campsite in Worthington State Forest. The program in New Jersey, established in 1992, is cosponsored by NY-NJTC along with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the National Park Service, and the Appalachian Trail Conference.

Hike with the Editor of the New Long Path Guide, 5th Edition

Herb Chong, editor of the newly published *Long Path Guide*, 5th edition, will lead a hike along one of the stretches of the trail detailed in the new book.

Place: Sam's Point Preserve parking lot at Sam's Point Preserve in Cragmoor. Meeting time: 10:30 am on July 13, with a rain date of July 20.

The hike will be from the parking lot to the newly re-opened Ice Caves, then to Verkeerder Falls, on to High Point, and then returning to the parking lot along the High Point Carriage Road. Total distance of 9.5 miles with an elevation gain of approximately 1,100 feet. More details will be announced on the TC web site as they are available.

Sunset Hiking Series at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center

Take a beginner's hike along the trails and through the forest at the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center in Englewood, NJ. The hikes will be every Tuesday evening in June, July, and August and begin at 6:30 pm. Hikes are 2 to 3 miles in length, depending on the group's pace. Meet outside the main building at the parking lot gazebo. The program is for adults only and is free for Nature Center members, \$3 for non-members. No pre-registration is needed. For more information call 201-567-1265 or go to www.flatrockbrook.org.

Sterling Forest Day Set for Sept. 21

Sterling Forest Partnership will hold its 15th Annual Sterling Forest Conservation Day Saturday, September 15 from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Nature walks, hikes, and map and compass training will be among the activities planned for all ages. Activity registration will begin at 10 am; \$10 fee for nature walks and hikes; free for children 15 and under. Additional \$10 fee (\$5 for those 15 and under) for afternoon barbeque. To pre-register, call 845-258-4564.

Hudson Valley Ramble Sept. 21-22

The Third Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble will happen September 21-22 and is set to feature 100 guided walking, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, biking, and equestrian events throughout the 150-mile length of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Events will be offered on every ability level, from easy to challenging and include many that are well suited for families. Most are offered free. For program booklet or information: 800-453-6665/845-334-9574 or www.hvnet.com.

Ride the Carousel at Bear Mountain State Park

Inside the rustic Pavilion at Bear Mountain, the Carousel goes round again. Besides the usual colorful horses, the Bear Mountain Carousel features bears and turkeys and other wildlife that is indigenous to the area. Rides are \$1.

Members Gather at TC Open House June 2



Rob Segal, at left, supervisor of Sam's Point trail system, and **Larry Braun**, Minnewaska trails supervisor, examine a map of the Shawangunk Ridge project during the Second Annual Open House at the Trail Conference headquarters in Mahwah, New Jersey. The June 2 event brought together Conference volunteers and staff for an afternoon of socializing and informal exchanges of trail news.

New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members: **Joseph J. Larusso**, **John J. Janis, Jr.**, **John J. Kindred, III**, **Ann Guarino**, and **Peter L. Kennard**.

A Life Membership to the NY-NJ Trail Conference is a wonderful gift to yourself or a loved one, and to the Trail Conference. An individual life membership is just \$500; a joint life membership (two adults at the same address) is \$750. The next time you renew, please consider becoming a Trail Conference "lifer."

TC Member Is NY Volunteer of the Year

West Hudson Trails Chair Peter Heckler was named the 2002 New York Trail Volunteer of the Year by the American Hiking Society. Peter joins some 43 others getting the award around the country. Since the 1980s, Peter



Pete Heckler accepts his award from Jane Daniels.

has overseen the maintenance and development of hundreds of miles of hiking trails in Harriman, Bear Mountain, Sterling Forest, Minnewaska, and Storm King State Parks as well as Schunemunk Mountain and Black Rock Forest. His most recent effort, a major trail bridge over Mombasha Creek in Sterling Forest, was opened on National Trails Day, June 1, 2002.

Former NY-NJTC President Neil Zimmerman, who nominated Heckler for the award, said: "Peter has been a backbone of our trails programs for many

years. The trails in his area are our most popular, and he has done a magnificent job in making sure they are well marked and maintained. I don't know what I would have done without him" NY-NJ Trail Conference Executive Director Edward Goodell noted: "On the Mombasha Bridge project, Pete single-handedly brought all the parties (Scenic Hudson, PIPC, Trail Conference, the bridge manufacturer, ADK trail crew, etc.) together and forged a working solution. He pushed this through to its successful conclusion completely on his own. He epitomizes the definition of the ideal volunteer."

The 25-year-old American Hiking Society created National Trails Day 10 years ago to celebrate our nation's wealth of recreation trails. The Volunteer of the Year Awards acknowledge the nation's top volunteers based on their contributions to trail maintenance and improvements. Trail advocates throughout the country nominate their colleagues, and one Volunteer of the Year is chosen for each state.

For New Jersey, Brian Snyder of Keyport was named Volunteer of the Year for his volunteer work with the Monmouth County Park Commission.

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PAUL LEIKIN

Without Him, Our Maps Would Be Lost

When Paul Leikin dedicates himself to something, he sticks with it.

Take hiking, for instance; Paul has enjoyed it for eight decades (give or take a few



Paul (standing) surrounded by the map crew

years). He qualified for the Catskill 3500 Club not just once, but twice. The second time, he climbed all 35 peaks over 3500 feet in elevation after celebrating his 80th birthday. Paul's love affair with the Hudson Valley region began when he was 12, when he would travel from the Upper East Side in New York City to hike along the river and explore parts of what is now Harriman State Park. Today Paul can still be seen trekking along the river, enjoying its magnificence, still astonished that such natural beauty and scenery is just 50 miles from Times Square.

And then there is his volunteer work. Paul has handled various jobs for the Trail Conference—including, for many years, selling ads for this publication. But to many at the office he is best known as the Conference map keeper—a title he has held for 18 years.

Each time a Trail Conference map is sold, the organization owes a “thank you” to Paul. The maps published by the TC are all shipped from the printing press di-

rectly to Paul's house, where they are stored in his garage. On Monday mornings at 10, the map crew gathers. Paul brews coffee, warms the bagels, and prepares for another

day of camaraderie with his fellow Trail Conference volunteers. The crew assembles and packages the map sets, placing them into plastic sleeves with the appropriate cover sheet and inserts, and boxes, inventories, and schleps them to storage in Paul's basement. When the maps are needed, Paul arranges their delivery. More often than not, he delivers them himself to a store or the TC office.

He is a doer, an achiever, and an inspiration to many. Paul Leikin is, says one of the map crew members, Pete Heckler, “truly one of a kind, a Catskill eagle” as defined by Herman Melville in his book *Moby Dick*: “[T]here is a Catskill eagle in some souls that can alike dive down into the blackest gorges, and soar out of them again and become invisible in the sunny spaces. And even if he forever flies within the gorge, that gorge is in the mountains; so that even in his lowest swoop the mountain eagle is still higher than the other birds upon the plain, even though they soar.”

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers Needed

The Trail Conference has several new volunteer positions and projects that need your support. If you have an interest in and the ability to participate in any of the following projects or positions, please contact Joshua Erdsneker (josh@nynjtc.org) at the Trail Conference office 201-512-9348.

Press Release Coordinator

Responsible for writing a press release every other month and informing the office staff what media agencies should receive the release. When possible, the Press Release Coordinator will make follow-up phone calls to establish a working relationship with various media agencies.

Presentation Designer

We are looking for volunteers who have experience creating presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint. The TC is looking to create a series of presentations for outreach events, public presentations, and other occasions at which the TC will be presenting information to a variety of audiences.

Store Contact Coordinators

Volunteers are needed to visit stores and resellers who carry our books and maps. These visits do not need to be frequent, but will require knowledge of our publications and some simple people skills. The store coordinators act as liaisons between the TC and the resellers to expedite the sale of our materials. Responsibilities will include product display evaluation, publication ordering, expanding publications sold by resellers, and helping the store's marketing efforts of our publications.

Erdsneker Joins Staff As Volunteer Projects Director



The Trail Conference welcomes Joshua Erdsneker to the position of Volunteer Projects Director. Joshua graduated in 2000 from the University of Miami with an MBA and concentrations in international business and leadership. He spent the last five years working for the University of Miami as a computer trainer and help desk administrator.

Joshua has enjoyed exploring Everglades National Forest, hiking the Presidential Range in New Hampshire, mountain climbing in Red Rocks Canyon, Nevada, and touring the Blue Mountains in North Carolina. The highlight of his adventures began on July 14, 2001. From atop Mt. Katahdin, Joshua embarked on a remarkable journey: a five-month and five-day southbound thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail. During his 2,168-mile odyssey, he rediscovered his passion for the outdoors. His experiences along the AT motivated him to become more involved in protecting and maintaining the trails and trail lands he had just hiked through.

Having grown up in Rockland County, NY, Joshua's return to the area is more of a homecoming than a new beginning. He is very excited to have the opportunity to be a part of the Trail Conference's efforts to help protect and maintain the natural resources and trail lands in New York and New Jersey.

TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES



For the latest schedules, check <http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trvolop.html#crew>

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

WEST JERSEY CREW

Leaders: David Day and Monica Resor - 732-937-9098; westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com If possible, please notify the leaders that you are coming, so they will know how many people to plan work for.

July 20-21

Final Pochuck Wetlands Fling!

NJ HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW

Contact the leader for details, no more than one week before the scheduled work date. Leader: Bob Moss - 973-743-5203 Tentative Schedule: (all Sundays) July 14; July 28; August 11; August 25

North Jersey

Leaders: Sandy Parr, 732-469-5109; Dick Warner, 201-327-4945 Second Sunday of each month. Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in northern New Jersey.

EAST HUDSON CREW

Contact the leader for details. Train pickups can be arranged. Leader: Walt Daniels 914-245-1250; wdaniels@bestweb.net July 13, 9 am - Call leader August 10, 9am - Call leader

SAM'S POINT CREW

Leader: Jeff Lougee, 845-647-7989 (Let him know you're coming.) All trips begin at 10:00 am and end at 2:00 pm. Meet at the Sam's Point Preserve parking lot in Cragmoor.

July 8 Sat

Root out non-native “intruders,” such as barberry and phragmites, which are threatening the native flora on the Shawangunk Ridge. Bring loppers, pruning shears, and other sharp instruments.

Trail Crews and Maintainers Recognition Patches



The Trail Conference is in the process of updating its records and we need your help. We would like to acknowledge all the great work you have volunteered on the trails, and in order to do so, we need your assistance. If you currently maintain a section of trail or are a member of a Trail Crew, we would like to know about it. Please complete and mail us the following survey. To accurately update our records, your participation in this survey is essential.

Trail Maintainers and Trail Crew Survey Please Print.

Return completed form to: NY/NJ TC, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430, Attention: Joshua Erdsneker

Name _____ Phone (Day) _____
Address _____ Phone (Evening) _____
City/State/Zip _____ Email _____

Trail	Section: From -To	Start Date of Maintenance	Trail Crew Name & Time Period
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____

Please attach a separate sheet of paper to list any additional trails maintained or Trail Crew participation.

Have you received a Trail Conference Maintainer Patch? Yes No
If yes, when: _____

Have you received a Trail Conference Maintainer Rocker? Yes No
If yes, when: _____

SHAWANGUNK SMART GROWTH WORKSHOP

continued from page 1

and conference organizer. While large tracts of the northern Gunks have been protected, he pointed out, most of the three-county portion of the ridge from Route 52 south to the New Jersey state line is still without protective zoning or significant land acquisitions. This beautiful area, an attraction for local residents and a cherished destination for hikers, bikers, birders, and other outdoors lovers from throughout the New York metropolitan area, is thus threatened by major changes.

Planning strategies

At the workshop, Patricia Salkin, associate dean and director of the Government Law Center of Albany Law School, described a number of the many planning and zoning tools available to help encour-

“WE CAN’T JUST TAKE THE RIDGE AND ITS BEAUTIFUL VALLEYS FOR GRANTED.”

age well-planned development while protecting important resources like the Shawangunk Ridge, the Bashakill wetlands, and the region’s aquifers. Kevin Crawford, counsel of the Association of Towns of New York State, reported on planners’ new emphasis on coordination between municipalities in order to make coherent regional development a reality. And Graham Cox, coordinator of forest and wetland programs for Audubon New York, promoted the idea of boosting local

economies by encouraging a wide diversity of businesses and nurturing a region’s natural and cultural assets. David Church, the new Orange County Commissioner of Planning, moderated.

A second set of speakers focused on approaches specific to the Shawangunk region. Fred Harding, Supervisor of the Town of Mamakating, pointed out the economic wisdom of encouraging small businesses, which, he said, are and should continue to be the mainstays of the Hudson Valley economy. Other panelists addressed policies that encourage restoration of village downtowns, a greater focus on the needs of the area’s vital ecosystems, and grassroots activism that crosses town and county boundaries.

The half-day event was sponsored by the Town of Mamakating and the Trail Conference, along with the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Audubon New York, the Appalachian Mountain Club, Friends of the Shawangunks, the Basha Kill Area Association, and the Nature Conservancy.

The workshop was an outgrowth of the Trail Conference’s intensifying land preservation efforts on the Shawangunk Ridge. Over the past year the Conference has spearheaded formation of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, whose goal is creation of a protected corridor along the entire 50-mile length of the ridge. The coalition will continue to support acquisition of lands along the ridgetop while encouraging good planning and zoning in the 14 towns and villages bordering or containing ridge lands.

The workshop appeared to energize its diverse audience. “This was a great way to get local people and officials focused on the ridge,” said Supervisor Harding. “It’s a resource we need to actively protect and defend—everybody got the message that with all the growth coming this way, we can’t just take the ridge and its beautiful valleys for granted.”

—Ann Botshon

■ Ann Botshon, of the Orange County Land Trust, was an attendee and speaker at the workshop.

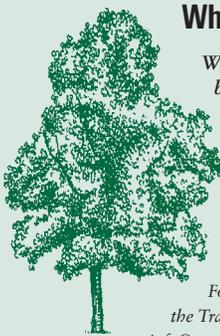
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For confidential information and legal language, contact the Trail Conference at 201-512-9348, or by email: info@nynjtc.org.



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In memory of Irwin Butensky

Ruth and Wally Cowan

In memory of Ken Lloyd & Steve Klein Jr.

Robert F. Busha

ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

continued from page 3

◆ Meanwhile, in New Jersey

The Trail Conference is joining with other open space organizations in New Jersey to oppose state diversion of land preservation funding to other uses. In March, \$35 million in open-space funds—about \$15 million from farmland preservation and Green Acres bonds and \$20 million from the Green Acres revolving loan fund—were instead used for deficit reduction in fiscal year 2002. More recently, a proposed accounting change would further reduce annual state spending for open space by millions of dollars. Administrative costs of New Jersey’s open space protection efforts that previously were paid out of the state’s General Fund, are, according to McGreevey administration proposals, to come out of the funds for open space spending that voters approved in a constitutional

amendment. This proposal would reallocate \$7.5 million to administration costs out of the \$98 million voters approved for open-space funding.

◆ More Long Path Protection in Rockland County

The Long Path’s route through Nyack has been further secured by Rockland County’s acquisition of two parcels totaling 12 acres—including nine acres from the Nyack School district. The Trail Conference worked with the county over several years to complete this project.

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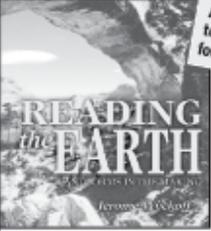
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HIKERS' BOOKSHOP



Long Distance Hiking on the Appalachian Trail for the Older Adventurer

By David Ryan

New Mountain Books, 2002

Reviewed by Edward J. Walsb

The author finished a thru-hike on the Appalachian Trail at the age of 51 and wrote this book to advise older hikers who plan on hiking a long-distance trail. Despite the title, this book is not just for older AT hikers. In fact, I found very little advice that applies solely to older hikers. Instead, the book is a well-written introduction to long-distance hiking for someone who is contemplating a long hike but has little or no experience. The book takes the reader through the whole process of a long-distance hike, from the planning stages to what to expect on the hike itself. It includes a typical equipment list as well as a section on hiking attitude.

The author doesn't try to teach you everything you need to know about an AT thru-hike, but he will point you in the right direction. If you have never backpacked before, this book will give you an idea of what a long distance hike is all about, but if you are seriously planning a long hike you would probably benefit from reading one of the more detailed introductions to backpacking as well.

The Pure Life

By Dante Paradiso

Xlibris, 2001

Reviewed by Jim Gardineer

"Relaxing, calming"
"a solid story... enjoyable to read."

No, these aren't the words of an urban literary critic, or the Book-of-the-Month club review, nor are they printed on the inside cover of Dante Paradiso's novel, *The Pure Life*. What these words do represent is this reviewer's opinion of a re-

cently acquired Trail Conference holding that describes one man's journey of self-discovery on a trail crew in the Pacific Northwest. If you're looking for high drama and mighty struggles this is not the book for you. On the other hand, if life at times seems a bit too hectic and you're tired of being stressed out and look forward to sitting down with a good book at the end of the day, *The Pure Life* is a novel worth reading.

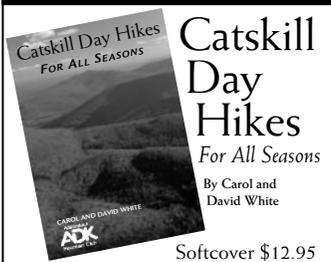
The book's central character, Jack Paradise, decides on a whim to put off his law school studies, and instead join the California Conservation Corps (CCC) for a year of trail work. As a neophyte maintainer and a university graduate, Jack doesn't fit the CCC stereotype. The story of his trials and tribulations are seamlessly blended with vivid descriptions of magnificent outdoor settings. Any hiker or trail maintainer will appreciate the discussion of the various work projects that Jack participates in. However, this is not a book about trail maintenance. It instead describes Jack's maturation, his reluctance to assume the responsibility of leadership and his involvement with the other members of his (Corps) group. Paradiso deftly describes the landscapes in which Jack lives and works, and the pages beckon the reader to recall days spent outdoors; better yet, they inspire the reader to dream of future wilderness excursions.

The Pure Life is an enjoyable and satisfying read. This novel won't keep you up at night wondering what's causing the floor to creak, but it will move you to daydream about the wind in the pines, and the loneliness of a campfire.

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GINSENG RIDGE

continued from page 1

the top, a dense plantation grove of spruce. This new state land is surrounded by and now part of the state's Greene County Re-forestation Area.

We got back in the car and drove around one of the new state-owned parcels that protects about a half-mile of trail

Map from Long Path Guide, 5th Edition



as it passes through low-lying woods. We picked it up again where it begins its ascent to Mt. Nebo, then down and up to Mt. Hayden, down again through Barlow Notch, up again to Ginseng Mountain, then down again to Jennie Notch, near which we had spotted a car. Not counting Mt. Pissgah, we walked the lands of eight different owners. One is now New York State, one (11 acres) is the Trail Conference, on two others the TC owns conservation easements for the LP.

Along the Ginseng Ridge, Haller notes, the primary impetus for state acquisition was protection of the the Long Path trail corridor. "It's a priority of the state's open space plan," he says. Still, hikers here shouldn't be surprised to find the environs of the Long Path changing over the years. Unlike the Forest Preserve, which is "forever wild" and where nature is the manager, State Forest land is actively managed for multiple uses by state officials. Those uses include watershed protection, timber harvest, wildlife cultivation, and recreation. Snowmobiles are welcome in season; ATVs are not permitted at all.

Peter Innes, Regional Forester for the 90,000-acre Greene County Re-forestation Area, notes that on the Ginseng Ridge, the presence of the Long Path will

influence how the land surrounding it will be managed. "When we conduct timber harvests, the loggers can't use the trail to skid logs; they have to keep the trail open and not leave debris in it. To protect the aesthetics of the trail, we'll usually require a buffer, but not always. If the trail is going through a plantation, you can't leave just a few trees standing—they'll fall down.

"Occasionally, we may also consider the educational aspect of the trail and will cut right up to it. Reforestation areas are managed for timber. We want people to be exposed to what happens in that process, how areas change, the process of succession."

The precise route the Long Path takes in the area will likely change as well. As we hiked, Haller kept pointing out orange and yellow ribbons on trees that had nothing to do, he said, with boundary markers. Both he and area forester Bob Cross read them as signs that the Long Path North Club had been out scouting possible reroutes for the trail off of private land and onto state territory. Cross also noted that hikers may find some new views opened up on Mt. Pisgah by the end of the summer. "There should be some great 180-degree views looking toward Ginseng Mountain," he said.

More detailed hiking directions are available in section 24 of the new Long Path Guide, 5th edition (2002) available from the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

NY-NJTC Gets Grant for AT Maintenance Purchase

The New York–New Jersey Trail Conference has a new "Griphoist" Winch system to assist with heavy rockwork and such projects as bridge building, thanks to a grant of \$1,200 from the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC). The grant was made from ATC's Grants-to-Clubs program, which supports the maintenance of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and connecting trails in the New Jersey area. The NY-NJTC is an affiliate member of

the ATC, the private nonprofit federation of hiking clubs, individuals, and corporate members responsible for the management and protection of the Appalachian Trail.

ATC's "Grants to Clubs" program was this year funded at \$20,000 thanks to a contribution to the ATC by L.L. Bean, Inc. The outdoors-oriented mail-order retailer has been a corporate supporter of the ATC for more than a decade and has been the primary funding source for this Grants-to-Clubs program for the past six years. Since 1979, ATC has awarded more than a quarter-million dollars in modest grants through this program to support various club projects.

Volunteers from the 31 clubs that comprise the ATC are responsible for most of the actual physical maintenance of the 2,167-mile trail, facilities, and connecting trails.

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Outdoor Emergency Care Course Offered

The New Jersey Region of the National Ski Patrol will be offering an Outdoor Emergency Care course to anyone interested in an advanced first-aid course specifically tailored to the needs of outdoor recreationists.

The course is a sequenced, competency-based education program that parallels the EMT-B course content. It prepares students without previous first aid or EMT training to handle the emergency care problems seen in the non-urban environment. The knowledge and skills learned are oriented toward the wilderness setting, with special emphasis on common outdoor injuries, high altitude and cold and hot weather illness, wilderness extrications, and the special equipment needed for emergency care and transportation in the outdoor environment.

The course is nationally recognized; those who complete it participate as an auxiliary ski patroller. It is also recognized by the New Jersey State First Aid Council as one of the requirements to be an ambulance attendant.

For more information please contact: Jim Cowell at jc@warwick.net or 973-764-1594; or Greg France at bgfrance@warwick.net, 845-557-3340.



continued from page 12

OUT. Liberty State Park. Leader: Salvatore Varbero, 718-420-9569 (8-10 pm). 6 miles, moderate pace, mostly level. Meet 10:30 am at 34th St. and 6th Ave. \$3 non-members, plus transit.

SUNDAY, JULY 28

IHC. Sterling Forest Fire Tower Circular. Leader: Ann Gilabert, 973-839-0292. Meet: 9 am at municipal parking lot at Rts. 202 & 59, Suffern, NY; car pool to trailhead. Moderately strenuous hike on the Lake to Lake trail and Sterling Ridge Trail to the fire tower. Rain cancels.

UHC. Rifle Camp Park Ramble. Leader: Walter Koenig, 973-694-5528. Meet: 10 am at the first parking lot from the park entrance. Go west on Route 46, 1.9 miles from GSP, Exit 154, to Great Notch exit, turn right on Rifle Camp Road, go 1.4 miles. Nice views about midway in this circular hike at a moderate pace. Option of lunch at the famous Libby's Diner in Paterson with a trip to the Paterson Falls.

MJO. Minnewaska Swim Hike. Leader: Howard Israel, 718-639-0123; 9-11 pm only. Meet: Call leader by Sat., July 27. A hike with brilliant views and 11 moderate miles with one or two steep climbs. We will spend about 1 hour by a glacial lake called Lake Awesting; expect to get out late. Bring lunch and 3 liters of water. Easily accessible by public transportation; short car shuttle necessary. Approximate \$6 parking fee per car. Non-members \$10.

MONDAY, JULY 29

RIP. Twin Mt Loop. Leader: For more information call 845-246-7616. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Moderate hike of 5 miles. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

FVTW. Painter's Point, South Mountain Reservation. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call leader. Easy 3-mile favorite along the Rahway River.

TUESDAY, JULY 30

FVTW. Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, Jefferson Township. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10 am; call leader. 6-7 miles with views, a lake, hemlock and a swamp.

WTA. Rockefeller Park Preserve, NY. Leader: Irwin and Paula Levine, 914-478-3093. Meet: 9 am; call leader for location. Easy 4 miles.

AUGUST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

WTA. Surprise Hike. Leader: Barry Kaplan, 914-946-2869. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Let's go some place other than our usual. Distance and difficulty commensurate with heat. Bring swim suit 'just in case.'

UHC. Turkey Mountain. Leader: Terry Kulman, 908-665-2672. Meet: 10 am at Pyramid Mountain Visitor's Center parking lot; call leader for directions. This is a 6-mile hike at a moderate pace on the Yellow trail. Lunch at a scenic overlook. Rain cancels.

UHC. Tourne Park Ramble. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 am Take Rt. 80 west to exit 42B, Parsippany/Rt. 46. At Rt. 46, turn left (west) and go 1.3 miles to traffic light at street marked Boulevard (PNC Bank on corner). Turn right, go 1 block to Pocono Road (traffic light). Turn left. Follow Pocono Road approx. 0.7 miles to Norris Road. Turn right. Go 1.4 miles (name changes to Old Boonton Rd.) to park entrance on right. Make the second left into the parking lot. This will be a moderate hike by a stream and lake and a stop to see the boiling springs. Steady rain cancels.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

UHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am at the Trailside Nature and Science Center on Coles Ave. where it intersects with New Providence Rd. Enjoy a brisk ramble on marked and unmarked trails. Steady rain cancels.

GAHC. Swimming at Wildwood State Park, Wading River, Long Island. Leader: Henry Loddiges, 718-899-1052. Meet: 10 am at Wildwood parking lot; take IJ exit 68, Rt. 46 north, Rt. 25A east.

WTA. Old Croton Aqueduct. Leader: Marcia Cohen, 914-478-7074. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Easy 5 miles from Dobbs Ferry to Tarrytown, NY, including traverse of the elegant Lyndhurst estate. Transportation contribution.

IHC. Terrapins in Terrace Pond? Leader: Patricia Wexler, 201-792-1939. Meet: 9 am at A&P post office parking, Wanwick Tpk., Hewitt, NJ; shuttle required. Shall we bask? Moderate hike; dappled shade, boulders, and sparkling water bring us back to this treasure tucked among the laurel.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

FVTW. Copper Mine Trail, Delaware Water Gap. Leader: Carol O'Keefe, 973-328-7395. Meet: 10 am; call leader. 6-7 miles through beautiful hemlock gorge on AT to Yards Creek overlook, then down to copper mine.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

FVTW. Lewis Morris Park. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call leader. 5 miles on meandering trails past Sunrise Lake, mica mines, and campsites.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

WTA. Undercliff Trail - Mt. Taurus Circular. Leader: Ellie Carren, 914-591-7038. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. Strenuous-moderate 6 miles in Hudson Highlands State Park, Cold Spring, NY. Many beautiful Hudson River views; avoid the steep climb up Mt. Taurus but get the same splendid views. \$4 transportation contribution.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832. Call before 9 pm. Meet: 10 am in Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. A brisk 5-mile ramble with steep "up" at the beginning. Steady rain cancels.

RIP. Windham High Peak (3524'). For information call: 845-246-4145. Meet: 8 am. From Rt. 23. Moderate + hike: 6.6 miles, 4 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties. Inclement weather date, following Saturday. For information call: 845-246-4145.

OUT. Delaware & Raritan Canal. Leader: Salvatore Varbero, 718-420-9569 (8-10 pm). 8 miles. Meet 9 am at NJ Transit train ticket windows in Penn Station. \$3 non-members, plus transit.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

WTA. Bronx River Parkway. Leader: Jeanette Dunn, 914-476-0089. Meet: 9 am; call leader for location. Easy 7 miles of shady, level hiking from Scarsdale to Bronxville; lunch in Malcolm Wilson Park. \$1 transportation contribution.

IHC. Long Path Project #7; Lake Skannatati to Nawahunta (Harriman State Park). Leader: Joel McKenzie, 973-694-3056. Meet: 9 am at Silvermine Picnic Area, Seven Lakes Drive; shuttle required. Moderately strenuous hike past the Hogencamp mine, Times Square, Surebridge mine, and Hippo rock. Rain cancels.

MJO. Delaware Water Gap. Leader: Michael, 212-678-7881; call before 9 pm. Meet: Call leader by Mon. 8/5 6 pm to reserve; limited to 30 people. 9+ strenuous miles on terrain of moderate difficulty with some challenging hills. Rain cancels. Car-pooling (reserve early). Non-members \$10.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

WTA. Fire Island National Seashore. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. Easy walk; enjoy the beach and Sunken Forest; will linger late into evening to enjoy the sunset, have a restaurant supper and lighter traffic home. \$5 transportation contribution, plus ferry ticket (just regard this as a 1-day vacation).

FVTW. High Point Monument, Sussex County. Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 am at High Point State Park. 6-mile hike featuring views and a beautiful lake stop for lunch. Steady rain cancels.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

FVTW. Dismal Harmony, Mendham. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call leader. 5 moderate miles on the Patriots Path.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

FVTW. Johnsonstown Circular, Harriman State Park. Leader: Joe Brownlee, 973-635-1171. Meet: 10 am at Johnsonstown Road Circle; call leader for directions. 8 miles with a lake and views from Parker Cabin Mountain and the hilly Blue Disc Trail.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

IHC. The Shawangunks, Mohonk Preserve. Leader: Charlie & Anita Kientzer, 973-835-1060. Meet: 8:00 am at Municipal Parking Lot, Rt. 202 & 59, Suffern, NY; shuttle required. Moderately strenuous hike visiting Giant's Workshop, Eagle Cliff, The Great Crevice and Sky Top. Hiking fee collected by Mohonk Preserve. At the end of the day, early supper at local restaurant.

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

WTA. Old Croton Aqueduct State Park. Leader: Ellie Carren, 914-591-7038. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. All-weather hike; 4-5 miles depending on the weather. Hudson River panorama from Rockwood Hill site; indoor space for lunch if raining. \$1.50 transportation contribution.

MJO. Greenwood Lake. Leader: Herb Gecht, 718-743-5825; 7-9:45 pm only. Meet: Call leader Mon. 8/11 to Thurs. 8/14. An 8-mile moderately strenuous hike along the Appalachian Trail to Prospect Rock. Scenic views of Greenwood Lake. Accessible by public transportation. Rain cancels. Non-members \$10.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

GAHC. Lake Sebago Hike/Swim/Canoe, Harriman State Park. Leader: Brian Kassenbrock, 718-478-0624; call leader before 8/14. Meet: 9:15 am at Sloetsburg, NY, railroad station parking. \$8 per person entrance fee; potluck picnic.

ADK. JOHNSONTOWN CIRCULAR I. Leader: 845-357-2620. Call for meeting time and place. 9.2 miles.

WTA. Island Pond, Harriman State Park. Leader: Catharine Allen, 914-948-4061. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. Moderate 6 miles, with a lingering stop at lunch to cool off (bring appropriate garb). Return on the Appalachian Trail. \$4 transportation contribution.

UHC. Garrett Mountain Ramble. Leader: Walter Koenig, 973-694-5528. Meet: 10 am. Take Valley Road 2 miles north of Route 46 to second light, which is Fenner Ave. Take a sharp left up the hill on Tourne Park Road and go 0.5 miles to the park entrance on the right. Go 0.7 miles and meet at the first parking area on the left. This will be a moderate circular in this park with splendid views of historic Paterson. There will be an optional visit to Lambert Castle after hike.

IHC. Campgaw Mountain. Leader: Phellis Swan, 973-835-4513. Meet: 10 am at Campgaw County Preservation, Mahwah, NJ. Easy hike through the woods; wide-angle view from top of ski slope at lunch; home early.

MJO. Mombasha Point. Leader: Michael, 212-678-7881; call before 9 pm. Meet: Call leader by Mon. 8/12 6 pm to reserve; limited to 30 people. 7.3 mile hike on terrain of moderate difficulty with some hilly sections. Rain cancels. Car-pooling (reserve early). Non-members \$10.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

FVTW. Deer Paddock, South Mountain Reservation. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call leader. Easy, fairly level 3-mile hike to Washington Rock.

RIP. Long Path. For information call, 845-247-8756. Palenville to Palenville Lookout to North Lake to Malden Turnpike (with car spot). Strenuous hike plus swim at North Lake: all-day event. Meet: Sawyer

Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, 7:00 am. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

WTA. Fire Island National Seashore. Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-582-1237. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. Easy walk; enjoy the beach and Sunken Forest; will linger late into evening to enjoy the sunset, have a restaurant supper and lighter traffic home. \$5 transportation contribution, plus ferry ticket (just regard this as a 1-day vacation).

FVTW. Wyanokie Circular, Ringwood, NJ. Leader: Mary Dell Morrison, 908-684-1173. Meet: 10 am at Weis Ecology Center. 6-7 mile hike including Chikahokie Falls and Otter Hole.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

UHC. Pyramid Mountain Ramble. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0788. Meet: 10 am at the visitor center; call leader for directions. The moderate ramble begins with a gentle ascent but then levels off until we reach interesting glacial erratics known as Tripod Rock and Bear Rock. Rain cancels.

ADK. RAMAPO ADVENTURE II. Leader: 845-354-0738. Call for meeting time and place. 6-7 miles.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

UHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble. Leader: Bob Laudati, 908-322-7762. Meet: 10 am at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. where it intersects with New Providence Rd. This will be a steady moderate pace of 4 to 5 miles.

MJO. Bear and West Mountain. Leader: Ira Haironson, 718-854-4470; no calls on Shabbat. Meet: Call leader by Thurs. 8/22. Enjoy the summer with a moderately paced but strenuous 8-mile (over 2,000 feet elevation gain) hike on Bear and West Mountains. Sensational views of the surrounding mountains and Hudson River. *This is a challenging hike - no beginners please.* 3 quarts of water and hiking boots required. Public transportation is available. Non-members \$10.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

FVTW. Tourne, Boonton Township. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call leader. Easy 3-mile hike to pretty Birchwood and Crystal Lake.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

FVTW. Pyramid Mountain. Leader: Dave Hognanauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am; call leader. 6-7 mile hike; see Tripod Rock and other glacial erratics.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

FVTW. Liberty State Park. Leader: Bob and Jean Smith, 201-992-4530. Meet: 10 am at visitors center refreshment area. Easy walk in the first urban park, rich in NJ and US history. Walk the trails; possible ferry to Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

FVTW. Echo Lake to Wyanokie. Leader: Jim and Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 9:30 am at Weis Ecology Center; call leader for directions. 8-9 miles on the Highlands and Otter Hole Trails.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

UHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am at Bramhall Terrace parking lot on Crest Drive, 0.35 miles from entrance on South Orange Ave from Brookside Dr./Cherry Lane head east. Entrance is on right at top of hill. Enjoy a brisk ramble of 5-6 miles. Steady rain cancels.



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HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs

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

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

Club Codes

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

ADK	Adirondack Mountain Club-Ramapo	OUT	Outdoors Club
FVTW	Frost Valley Trailwalkers	RIP	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
GAHC	German American Hiking Club	TC	NY-NJ Trail Conference
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	UHC	Union County Hiking Club
MJO	Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Mountain Club	WTA	Westchester Trails Association

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 September/October issue is July 15, 2002.

JULY

SATURDAY, JULY 6

UHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble, Mountainside. Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10 am at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. where it intersects with New Providence Rd. A steady brisk pace of 5 to 6 miles, 2.5 to 3 hours long.

RIP. Halcott Mountain. Leader: For more information call 845-246-4145. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Moderate bushwhack of 5 miles; 5 hours with ascent of 1500'. Inclement weather date is following Saturday.

MJO. Minnevaska Swim Hike. Leader: Howard Israel, 617-639-0123; 9-11 pm only. Meet: Call leader by Fri., July 5. A hike with brilliant views and 11 moderate miles with one or two steep climbs. We will spend about 1+ hours by a glacial lake called Lake Avosting; expect to get out late. Bring lunch and 3 liters of water. Easily accessible by public transportation; short car shuttle necessary. Approximate \$6 parking fee per car. Non-members \$10.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

IHC. Hike to Victory. Leader: Ise Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am at Red Apple restaurant on Rt. 17 in Southfields, NY (park in rear; car shuttle). Moderate climbs up Tom Jones and Parker Cabin Mountains, then down the Victory trail to Lake Sebago for a swim.

UHC. Pyramid Mountain Ramble. Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-

239-0788. Meet: 10 am at the visitor center; call leader for directions. The moderate ramble begins with a gentle ascent but then levels off until we reach interesting glacial erratics known as Tripod Rock and Bear Rock. Rain cancels.

MONDAY, JULY 8

RIP. Two Plus (optional) Two Hike. Leader: For more information call 845-246-7987. Meet: 7 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Peekamoose and Table Mts. and then Lone and Rocky Mts. (bushwhack). Very strenuous hike. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

FVTW. Eagle Rock Reservation. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call leader. Level 3-mile hike in Cecil's playground.

TUESDAY, JULY 9

WTA. Hudson River Shore Path. Leader: Herb Hochberg, 914-472-3525. Meet: 9 am at Fisher Lane, outside the parking lot for North White Plains RR station (call leader to meet at trailhead). 7 moderate miles along the shore path from Alpine, NJ, to the George Washington Bridge (car shuttle required). \$3 transportation contribution.

THURSDAY, JULY 11

FVTW. Peguannock Watershed Circular. Leader: Jim and Theresa McKay, 973-638-0756. Meet: 10 am; call leader. A hike of about

8-9 miles.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

TC. Sam's Point Preserve. Hike with the editor of the just published Long Path Guide, 5th edition (NY-NJTC, 2002). Leader/Editor: Herb Chong; for details, www.nynjtc.org. Meet: 10:30 am, parking lot of Sam's Point Preserve. Strenuous 9.5 mile loop hike to include Verkeederkoff Falls and High Point. Book signing. Rain date, July 20. Parking fee.

ADK. MENOMINE. Leader: 201-816-9465. Call for meeting time and place. 7.5 miles; Long Path and Appalachian Trail circular.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble. Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832. Call before 9 pm. Meet: 10 am in Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. A brisk 5-mile ramble with steep "up" at the beginning. Steady rain cancels.

OUT. Old Croton Aqueduct. Leader: Salvatore Varbero, 718-420-9569 (8-10 pm). 6 miles to Tibbetts Brook Park. Meet 11 am at 242nd St. and Broadway park slide. \$3 nonmembers, plus transit.

SUNDAY, JULY 14

WTA. Bronx River Path South. Leader: Mary Finnerty, 914-683-0895. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Easy 5 mile walk along the river to Scarsdale and return.

IHC. Arden Mine Tour Circular, Harriman State Park. Leader: Roy Williams, 973-283-9756. Meet: 9 am at Elk Pen Parking in Arden; call leader for location. 12+ strenuous miles, passing numerous abandoned mines along the way; will stop by Island Pond in the afternoon if we have time.

MJO. West Mountain and Nuclear Lake. Leader: Michael, 212-678-7881; call before 9 pm. Meet: Call leader to reserve; limited to 30 people. Two options (7.4 or 12 miles) on terrain of moderate difficulty with some hilly sections. Rain cancels. Car-pooling (reserve early). Non-members \$10.

MONDAY, JULY 15

RIP. Rochester Hollow (Rt. 28, Shandaken, NY). Leader: For more information call 845-246-5670. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Moderate hike of 6 miles. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

FVTW. Lake Skannatati Circular, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: George Pullman, 973-773-2678. Meet: 10 am at Skannatati parking; call leader for directions. 7-10 miles in an area with many crisscrossing trails, iron mines, and the Leron Squeezer.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

WTA. Fahnestock 'Moneyhole.' Leader: Lore Jungster, 914-669-5777. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Moderate 5 miles along marked trails and abandoned farm roads, leading to a lunchtime view. \$4 transportation contribution.

RIP. Clermont Historic Site, Along the Hudson. Leader: For more information call 845-246-4145. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Hike carriage trails and

(optional) tour of Manor House. Easy 4 mile hike. Inclement weather date is following Saturday.

MJO. Fitzgerald Falls. Leader: Herb Gecht, 718-743-5825. Meet: Call leader Mon. 7/15 to Thurs. 7/18. An 8 mile moderate hike along Appalachian Trail to Fitzgerald Falls. Public transportation available. Non-members \$10.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

IHC. Bearfoot Ridge/Surprise Lake. Leader: Gail Stocks, 973-839-9038. Meet: 9 am at A&P (post office parking, Warwick Tpk., Hewitt, NJ. Moderately strenuous ridgetop hike with views of Greenwood Lake. Visit Surprise Lake, a glacial pond nestled on top of the mountain.

WTA. Northern Trailway, Baldwin Place to Croton Heights, Westchester Co. Leader: Barry Kaplan, 914-946-2869. Meet: 10 am; call leader for location. Easy/moderate 8 miles; mostly downslope and good footway even if wet. Car shuttle. \$3 transportation contribution.

UHC. Watchung Reservation Ramble. Leader: Bob Laudati, 908-322-7762. Meet: 10 am at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. where it intersects with New Providence Rd. This will be a steady moderate pace of 4 to 5 miles.

MJO. Breakneck Ridge to Cold Spring Via Mt. Taurus. Leader: Barney Brodie, 212-627-7254; no calls on Shabbat. Meet: Call leader by Thurs. 7/19. Enjoy the summer with a moderately paced but strenuous 7 mile hike, including a scramble up the face of Breakneck Ridge, on steep terrain (over 2,000 feet elevation gain) with incredible views of the Hudson Valley (and enough time to enjoy them!). End up in Cold Spring for ice cream and antique shopping. *This is a challenging hike - no beginners please.* 3 quarts of water and hiking boots required. Public transportation available. Non-members: \$10.

MONDAY, JULY 22

RIP. Bearpen and Vly Mts. Leader: For more information call 845-246-8546. Meet: 7 am at Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Strenuous hike of 9.3 miles; 6.5 hours. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

FVTW. Buttermilk Falls, India Brook. Leader: For information call Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am; call leader. 3.5 mile walk, including a lovely waterfall, bluebird boxes and wild raspberry bushes along the way.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

UHC. South Mountain Reservation Ramble. Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10 am in Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. This will be a brisk ramble of 5-6 miles.

ADK. RAMAPO ADVENTURE I. Leader: 845-354-0738. Call for meeting time and place. 6-7 miles.

WTA. Sunken Forest on Fire Island. Leader: Albert Jacomowitz, 914-779-8999. Meet: 9:30 am; call leader for location. Easy walk; joint interpretive walk by park ranger at about 1 pm. Mostly shady route through the forest with ocean breezes. \$5 transportation contribution, plus ferry from Sayville, Long Island.

continued on page 11

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TRAIL WALKER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

Volume XXIX, Number 4

ISSN 0749-1352

July/August 2002