



Grandson, Grandfather Pair Up to Volunteer

Field-checking trails brings generations together.

READ MORE ON PAGE 10 ▶



Get Updated Map for Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails

Features 100+ changes

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TRAIL WALKER

Spring 2012

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference – Connecting People with Nature since 1920

www.nynjtc.org

A Record Year for Maps

In what could be a historic “Year of Maps” for the Trail Conference—planned publication of a record seven revised map sets in 2012—staff cartographer Jeremy Apgar will certainly keep busy. But these won't be the only maps on Apgar's plate. He also has the satisfaction of creating maps for many other purposes that directly or indirectly serve the organization and hikers throughout the region.

Just this past January, the Bergen County (NJ) Police Department requested potentially life-saving trails data to aid in their emergency operations. In addition to helping countless thousands of hikers safely traverse over 1,800 miles of trails in the region, Apgar said it's always “great to hear” that his maps may have helped a lost hiker get home.

A Map Year for the Books

2012 is shaping up to be the most prolific calendar year for map publication since the Trail Conference began printing them in 1974. North Jersey and Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails are available now. Hudson Palisades, East Hudson, Kittatinny, West Hudson, and possibly Sterling Forest Trails will follow later this year.



Publications Committee Chair Daniel Chazin (front) and Cartographer Jeremy Apgar check a press proof of the new Harriman map.

The revised map sets, available at more than 70 retail outlets in the region and from the Trail Conference website (nynjtc.org/catalog/maps), offer improvements such as refined contour lines, added scenic views and points of interest, new parklands, and corrections to previously published maps. As an example, more than 20 viewpoints were added to the Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails maps at the suggestion of volunteers, including Bob Fuller and Daniel Chazin.

The Harriman maps, which took

continued on page 6

71 Miles of Long Path to Move This Year

Major changes are in store for the Long Path this year, the happy and long-awaited result of several big trail proposals long in the pipeline. Taken together, some 71 miles of the trail—about 20% of the existing end-to-end length—is to be relocated in three separate projects in three counties: Ulster, Sullivan, and Orange. Several long road walks will be eliminated or much reduced, and a long desired trail connection between the Shawangunks and Catskills will be established (almost).

Shawangunks to Catskills: New Trail Link to Open June 2

On National Trails Day, the Trail Conference will join with Minnewaska State Park Preserve to celebrate the opening of the new Mine Hole Trail in the northernmost part of the park. This 3.5-mile trail links the Berrypicker Trail to Berme Road and provides most of the long-sought green link to connect the Shawangunks to the Catskills.

The LP will follow its current course through Sam's Point Preserve to, heading northbound, the Verkeerder Kill Falls area (private land). There, instead of continuing on along the Scenic Trail past Mud Pond, Lake Awosting and along the Rainbow Falls Trail, Jenny Lane, and Old Minnewaska Trail to Rt. 44/55, the LP will turn north to co-align with the High Point Trail, continue on the Berrypicker Trail in Minnewaska, then turn onto the new Mine Hole Trail to Berme Road in Wawarsing. (See map 104, Shawangunk Trails, 2011 edition.)

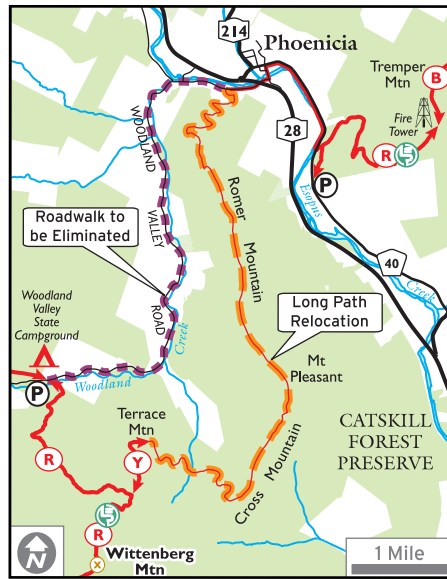
From Berme Road, it is a 2-mile road walk as the route follows Port Ben Road, crosses Rt. 209 and continues on Lundy Road to to Vernooey State Forest. One last regulatory hurdle remains to be crossed in order to blaze a route for the LP through that forest and the adjacent Sundown Wild Forest. Once the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) completes the Unit Management Plans for these two state forests, the trail will follow the west bank of the Vernooey Kill to Vernooey Falls, to rejoin the current route. (See map 146, Catskill Trails, 2010 edition.)

Until that time, the trail will follow Rogue Harbor Road to Upper Cherrytown Road, part of the current route from the Shawangunks to the Catskills.

The complete rerouting in this area involves 25.0 miles of LP.

Into the Woods in Southern Catskills

The LP route through the Slide Mountain Wilderness area currently includes a 5-mile walk on Woodland Valley Road. Fourteen years ago, thanks to the hard work of volunteers including Howie Dash, Dale Hughes, and Pete Senterman, DEC gave conceptual approval for a plan to relocate this stretch of LP into the forest. At last, the



Work will begin on one long-sought relocation of the LP in the Catskills.

agency has approved a specific route that complies with its guidelines of a slope of not more than 10% (very tough to meet in the Catskills!) and we plan to begin trail construction late this spring.

The general route, from south to north, has the LP leaving the Wittenberg-Cornell-Slide Trail at the junction with the Terrace Mountain Trail, follow the Terrace Mountain Trail to the Terrace Mountain Shelter, and continue over Cross Mountain, Mount Pleasant and Romer Mountain before descending to a new parking area at the end of Lane Street in Phoenicia. (See maps 143 and 141, Catskill Trails.)

As part of the layout and construction process, the Trail Conference will be offering



Andy Garrison flags a new trail route in the Catskills.

a number of Trail University workshops as part of the project. Courses will include Trail Layout and Design and the Tread and Drainage Workshops. Students will be able to work on the trail during the workshop and then join up with a trail crew that will be working on the construction of this trail for the entire season.

Long Path Co-chairs Andy Garrison and Jakob Franke, in partnership with our Southern Catskills Trails Chair Joe Herrod, will be organizing the work. If you are interested in helping take part in this trail construction project, please check out the Catskill Trail Crew schedule at nynjtc.org/content/catskill-trail-crews. For workshop information, check out the Trail University schedule at nynjtc.org/trailu

With enough volunteers, we hope to have the trail finished and open to hikers by the fall of 2012. DEC is expected to be working on the Lane St. parking lot during

this time, as well as overseeing trail progress.

The complete rerouting in this area involves 7.0 miles of current LP.

From Schunemunk to the Shawangunks

In Orange County, the original LP route went west from Schunemunk to the Wurtsboro Ridge northeast of Wurtsboro and included about 30 miles of roadwalking with no real prospect of improvement. Until now.

LP South Co-chairs Andy Garrison and Jakob Franke have identified a new route that cuts the road walk almost in half and offers the prospect of getting additional miles off of roads in the future. On Schunemunk Mountain, the new route will turn south at its intersection with the Jessup Trail instead of north. It will be co-aligned with the Jessup and Highlands Trails, and then follow the Heritage Trail (rail trail) to just east of Middletown. From there it will be mostly road walking to the Shawangunk Ridge in Mount Hope. The LP will then follow the current Shawangunk Ridge Trail north, along the Bashakill and to the Wurtsboro Ridge.

This reroute has all approvals in place. It requires only new blazing (and removal of LP blazes on the old route), which will begin when Orange County has completed construction of a new ball park in Gonzaga Park at the southern end of Schunemunk, through which the trail will pass. The timing of this is uncertain as of press time, but the park is expected to be completed before summer.

The complete rerouting in this area involves 39.5 miles of LP.

Collateral Changes

Trail users can expect additional changes to blaze colors and names of several of the trails that are due to become “former” Long Path routes. In particular, trails on Schunemunk Mountain and in Minnewaska State Park Preserve will get new colors in the months ahead. Decided as of the deadline for this issue: in Minnewaska: Scenic Trail-Violet; Rainbow Falls-Orange; Jenny Lane-Light Blue; Old Minnewaska Trail-Pink.

The Shawangunk Ridge Trail is to be extended from its current end point at Sam's Point, along much of the former route of the Long Path through Minnewaska. It will be co-aligned with the abovementioned trails and continue into the Mohonk Preserve where it will end, at least for now, at Old Clove Road. Stay tuned. Changes will be announced on our website as they happen.

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GEORGETTE WEIR
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Mission Statement

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

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

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Our Future HQ: Phase 1 Restoration Nears Completion

In March 2011, the Trail Conference celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony at its future headquarters, the Darlington Schoolhouse in Mahwah. One year later, Phase I rehabilitation and restoration work is nearly done, and planning has turned to Phase II construction, most likely to begin in 2013.

Some of the restoration work is apparent to motorists as they pass the Schoolhouse on Ramapo Valley Road, between Ramapo Valley County Reservation and Ramapo College of New Jersey. Most obvious is the new paint. The white wood shingles have been transformed to a warm chocolate brown, accented with orange and cream window trim. Architect Winston Perry, of Colgan Perry Lawler Aurell Architects in Tappan, NY, matched these colors to chips of original paint he found beneath layers of later paint choices.

For repairs to the exterior stone walls, Perry also took pains to match new mortar to the color of the original weathered mortar. He found that the best match included sand from nearby Darlington Brook, a likely source of sand for the original mortar recipe.



JOSH HOWARD

Windows have been upgraded with energy-saving panes and trimmed with paint of original color.

All windows were removed, carefully packaged, and shipped to Winchester Woodworking in Virginia. There, the existing single glass panes were replaced with insulating glass and weather stripping was added to the window sashes. These improvements to the reinstalled windows are expected to save the Trail Conference at least \$5,000 per year in energy costs.



JOSH HOWARD

Progress is made on our future offices.

Less visible repairs inside the Schoolhouse include structural bracing, woodwork and door repairs, and upgrades to heating, plumbing, and electrical services. Phase I construction is expected to be completed this spring, when electrical and natural gas services are connected.

The Darlington Schoolhouse was built in 1891 and donated to the community by Alfred B. Darling and Theodore Havemeyer. It now is owned by the Trail Conference and Township of Mahwah. To preserve the building's historical integrity during construction, the Trail Conference is collaborating with the Mahwah Historic Preservation Commission, New Jersey Historic Trust, and Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust.

This project is supported by donations to the Trail Conference and by matching grants, including \$428,000 from the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund and \$750,000 from the New Jersey Historic Trust/Garden State Historic Preservation Trust. During Phase II construction, the Schoolhouse interior will be adapted for offices and workspace in preparation for the Trail Conference to move in.

—Alice Luddington-Cantor

Alice Luddington-Cantor is a volunteer assisting with the Trail Conference on the Schoolhouse restoration project.

Letters to the Editor

Feedback

A Short History of the Walk Book

Trail Walker readers may be interested in knowing the early history of the *New York Walk Book*, following up George Petty's thoughtful essay in the Nov./Dec. 2011 issue about the future direction of the Trail Conference's publications program.

The first edition of the *Walk Book* was published and copyrighted in 1923 by the venerable American Geographical Society, or AGS (not to be confused with the National Geographic Society, publisher of the popular magazine). In his history of the AGS (*Geography in the Making: The American Geographical Society 1851-1951*, AGS 1952), geographer John Kirtland Wright referred to the book as "a trampler's guide to the vicinity of New York City," and to Dr. Robert L. Dickinson as "the inspirer" of the first edition, which was edited by Rave Roberts Platt of the AGS staff and authored by Raymond H. Torrey, Frank Place, Jr., and Dr. Dickinson. The marvelous illustrations—"pen sketches"—were also Robert Dickinson's work.

Dodd, Mead & Co. published the second edition in 1934, during the Depression. Nonprofit publication, again by the AGS, resumed with the third, 1951 edition, in which the Trail Conference was named as "co-sponsor." The Trail Conference role then evolved, from sharing co-sponsorship with the AGS in the fourth, 1971 edition (they held the copyright jointly), to the fifth, 1984 edition, attributed to the Trail Conference as sole sponsor and copyright holder.

We can be grateful to both the American Geographical Society and the Trail Conference for this precious volume—a treasure to delve into off as well as on the trail.

—Charlotte Fahn

The writer is a Life Member and Trail Conference Board Member. She worked in the Dept. of Exploration and Field Research at AGS 1959-1962 and 1966-1968.

Facebook Comments

Trail Blazes Q&A

January 25, 2012: Doug Weiss wrote:

My first complaint: there should be a rule about colors on trails. Like certain colors should not be duplicated. For instance, the teal color [should be] saved only for the Highlands Trail. Mahlon Dickenson uses teal on its rail trail. You probably already know where this is headed. Yup, 2 hours wasted hiking a dead end trail that was not the Highlands Trail.

Trail Conference response:

Here's the low-down on blaze colors: There are only so many colors that show up well in all four seasons, and when a long-distance trail like the Highlands Trails comes through a park that already has established blaze colors, sometimes the colors get duplicated or come very close to being identical. This is why long distance trails like the HT, Long Path and Appalachian Trail have different blaze shapes. The Highlands Trail, while teal in color, is a diamond, not a rectangle; it's also larger than the standard rectangular blaze; this way, no matter what parks the Highlands Trail goes through, even if they have teal-colored blazes on one of the pre-existing trails there, it can be differentiated.

Send Us a Letter

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

New Faces on Staff

Mark Hutchison

Operations Director



Mark Hutchison joined the staff in January as operations director. A Trail Conference member and volunteer since 2006, Mark maintains a section of the Appalachian Trail from Jacob's Ladder Trail to Route 206 in New Jersey. He resides in Sparta, NJ.

Jonathan Martin

New Jersey Program Coordinator



Jonathan comes to the Trail Conference by way of Washington state. He is originally from North Arlington, NJ, and has spent the past two years leading AmeriCorps trail crews in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Prior to his time out west he was a maintainer for us in Stokes and a Bear Mountain volunteer.

Jennis Watson

Membership and Development Associate



Jennis, of Suffern, NY, brings experience in fundraising and event management, grant-writing, and donor cultivation. She earned a Master of Science in Nonprofit Management with a Leadership Specialization from Northeastern University in 2011, and her B.A. in English from the University of Georgia in 2003.

Award Nominations

Members may nominate individuals for Trail Conference awards. Award winners are honored and recognized at our Annual Meeting. **Cut-off date for recommendations is July 1, 2012.** Please send nominations (with supporting statements) to the Volunteer Committee at awards@nynjtc.org. View awards and their descriptions as well as links to past winners at nynjtc.org/content/awards

Doug Weiss:

Well you could have explained that to me sooner, haha. I will just have to pay better attention. Once I got back on track, my New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Jersey Highlands map led me straight and true right to the summit I was looking for.

Thanks 1

Dec. 23, 2011: Stephen Harris wrote:

I've been hiking many, many trails in the NJ/NY area and appreciate the volunteers who keep the trails clear and clean. So much so...I am a new volunteer myself (with two trails under my watch). Giving something back! Thanks to the volunteers of NYNJTC.

Thanks 2

Dec. 30, 2011: Monmouth County Underdogs wrote:

We're a local NJ group who stumbled upon your organization while looking for additional trails in the NJ Shore area to walk our dogs. What a great group! Thank you for sharing your trails and providing such a great service.

From Local Trails to Kilimanjaro

January 26, 2012: Vishal Shah:

I have been a member of NY-NJ Trail Conference and I have done almost all the trails that you have beautifully maintained. With all the local hike practice, our group was able to reach Uhuru Peak at Kilimanjaro. Thank you NY-NJ Trail Conference Team. Local hikes are so well maintained, they certainly helped us to reach the summit. Mount Everest next.



From the Executive Director



The Renewable Energy That Powers Our Work

Three years ago, it seemed that optimism was a scarce commodity. I reported in our Annual Report for fiscal year 2009 about how the broad economic crisis had hit the Trail Conference hard. “We had to let staff members go, not fill other positions when they became vacant, and impose temporary furloughs on staff.” Hard choices and hard work were the watchwords, I cautioned, even while noting that our volunteers and staff already had “rolled up their sleeves and rolled with the punches.”

The greatest value of the Trail Conference is that it attracts volunteers year after year, decade after decade.

This issue of *Trail Walker* is filled with news of a vastly more positive nature:

- major reroutes of Long Path sections will move long stretches off roads and into the woods;
- a long-sought trail connection between the Shawangunk and Catskill mountains is to be opened on National Trails Day;
- the Shawangunk Ridge Trail is to be extended through the Mohonk Preserve;
- another piece of the Shawangunk Ridge greenway puzzle is preserved thanks to a cooperative effort between conservation groups and Orange County government;
- new trail crews and new, improved Trail U courses are being launched for trail maintainers and crew members at locations from New Jersey to the Catskills;
- celebrating the dedication on June 30 of Warwick, NY as an official Appalachian Trail Community and the July 1 opening of the Appalachian Trail bridge and boardwalk over the Swamp River in Pawling, NY (you can get there via Metro-North, which has a stop at the site);
- publication of seven revised editions of our popular map sets (North Jersey and Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails already available);
- publication of one, perhaps two, new books and a complete revision of *Walkable Westchester*;

- completion of the first phase of our project to restore an historic schoolhouse as our future headquarters in Mahwah, NJ;
- completion of the Universal Signage Project in West Milford, NJ, which is designed to provide better information for hikers and to promote the communities that host open space and trails;
- substantial completion of the Appalachian Trail relocation at Bear Mountain and beginning work on an interpretive gateway and trail education experience for millions of the park's annual visitors.

How is so much possible in times that continue to present such big challenges?

The secret lies in our power source—the renewable energy of volunteers, regular people like you and me who love the outdoors and are eager to help protect it and make it available to others now and in the future.

The fact that the Trail Conference is in its 92nd year with no signs of aging is a testament to the passionate commitment to trails by the people who use and love them. This commitment can be measured in the 1,300 active volunteers and the 69,000 hours contributed last year, or the 1,800 miles of trails maintained and the \$1,500,000 donated.

Perhaps the greatest value of the Trail Conference is not that it attracts this effort in any given year but that it does so year after year, decade after decade, providing a continuity of trail development and stewardship over time. The hiking just gets better and better.

Of course, we welcome new renewable energy sources—people like you! We are working hard to provide the training and volunteer opportunities that will make your Trail Conference experiences satisfying and fun. Visit nynjtc.org/trailu to see the ambitious list of workshops we are offering this spring from New Jersey through the Catskills. Check out nynjtc.org/volunteers to see current opportunities we have for volunteers. Or see nynjtc.org/calendar to find a crew outing or event to join. We'll be marking the successful conclusion of several big trail projects this spring with hikes and other activities.

Join us!

— Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org



TRAIL U

New Classes, More Campuses, Great Training

The Trail Conference is launching an expanded and revamped Trail University this spring. New intermediate level courses have been added, familiar introductory courses are being improved, and a sequence of core courses will be offered to volunteers in each of our four program regions. Advanced courses in such skills areas as rock shaping, rock moving, and stone crib building continue to be part of the curriculum.

In addition, we are creating a leadership training course in Trail U. This will provide educational opportunities to our existing leaders and will help develop new leaders for our trail crews, trail management positions and for all of the leadership positions that are available in the Trail Conference.

Four New Courses

Four completely new courses include: Trail Evaluation; Tread and Drainage Construction; Trail Structures Construction; and Trail Design and Layout. Along with our existing courses, these new courses will provide a robust education to volunteers who want to develop new skills to use on trails, either as maintainers or as members of trail crews.

Our popular Trail Maintenance 101, taught by Trail Conference members for over 20 years, are being updated and renamed Introduction to Trail Maintenance. It will continue to be one of our premier training and outreach programs for recruiting volunteers and introducing the Trail Conference to the public.

Most if not all of these new or improved courses will debut this spring, be evaluated and fine-tuned over the summer, then be offered in greater numbers in the fall and early 2013. If you want a head start on the new trainings, sign up early on our website!

Eligibility and Fee Schedule

Introductory and orientation courses are open to anyone and are free of any registration fees.

Our more advanced courses will require Trail Conference membership and a referral from a trail leader (trail chair, supervisor, crew chief, committee chair, or similar active member) or a staff member. Any Trail Conference member can register without a referral (space and prerequisites permitting) upon payment of the listed registration fee.

The review and development of our Trail U program is a collaborative project involving Trails Council, the Volunteer Committee, trails chairs, trail supervisors, crew chiefs, individual volunteers and staff. Staff member Jeff Senterman is coordinating the project and trails professional (and Trail Conference member) Eddie Walsh, principal of Tahawus Trails, is consolidating input and developing course materials.

See the workshop schedule on page 5 or, for the most up-to-date schedule and to register for a workshop, go to nynjtc.org/trailu.

Groups Partner to Protect Gunks Ridge Parcel

The Orange County Legislature, voting February 2, unanimously approved the sale of an 87-acre parcel in the Town of Greenville to several conservation groups—Open Space Institute (OSI), New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Orange County Land Trust, and The Nature Conservancy.

The parcel had been up for tax sale. The conservation groups will acquire the Greenville property for \$40,000, a price higher than taxes owed the county, with Open Space Conservancy, the land acquisition affiliate of Open Space Institute, taking title.

Located near Huckleberry Ridge State Park and along the southern portion of the Shawangunk Ridge, the Greenville property will be preserved as open space, accessible to the public for passive recreation. It comprises relatively undisturbed forest that will become part of a 25-mile, 10,000-acre greenway the Trail Conference envisages the ridge. This green corridor of open space and interconnecting trails—including the long-distance Shawangunk Ridge Trail—when complete, will stretch from the Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz to High Point State Park in New Jersey, and connect to the Appalachian Trail.

Ed Goodell, Trail Conference Executive Director, notes the planned greenway along the Shawangunk Ridge “will link to the two largest tracts of protected lands in the region—the 330,000-acre Catskill Park and the 140,000-acre Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. “We are delighted to be able to add this 87-acre property towards our goal of creating this green corridor for public recreation and enjoyment,” Goodell says. The ultimate goal is for the

property to be added to the Huckleberry Ridge State Forest.

The Trail Conference was instrumental in creating the now 1,500-acre Huckleberry Ridge State Forest, also in the Town of Greenville, transferring 389 acres to the State of New York last June. The organization worked closely with the Trust for Public Land and the NYS DEC on the first 527 acres nearly ten years ago, then purchased and transferred an additional 980 acres to the state. The Trail Conference focus is to protect a green corridor for the Shawangunk Ridge Trail.

The most recent acquisition in Greenville appeared on the 2011 Orange County Tax Sale auction roll for nonpayment of property taxes but did not receive any bid offers. It was then pulled from the auction roll by Orange County Executive Ed Diana, in keeping with legislation enacted in 2010 at the request of Orange County Land Trust. Under this legislation, properties with high conservation, recreational or scenic value that appear on the county auction list can be pulled by the county executive and offered for sale, with legislative approval, to local, regional and/or national conservation organizations.

“This is an innovative way for the county to help protect the recreational open space needed to complete the Shawangunk Greenway,” said Melissa Bonacic, Orange County legislative leader and district 2 representative, which includes the Shawangunk Ridge.

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Regional Field Notes

Catskills

Jeff Senterman,
Catskills Program Coordinator
jsenterman@nynjtc.org



This spring brings a lot of very cool trail improvements and opportunities for volunteers to improve trails in the Catskill region.

Trail Projects

• **Kaaterskill Rail Trail:** Work has continued on this joint effort to open the 1.5-mile section of the abandoned Ulster &

Delaware Railroad between the Mountain Top Historical Society property in Haines Falls and Forest Preserve land at the end of Laurel House Road. Easements and approvals are being finalized and trail work will begin this spring. We anticipate opening the trail for public use by summer.

• **Woodland Valley/Romer Mountain Long Path Relocation:** This year, we plan to remove the final, long road walk from the Long Path's route through the Catskills (see article, page 1) by building a new trail over Cross Mountain, Mount Pleasant, and Romer Mountain. We hope to open the trail for hikers by the end of the 2012 work season.

• **Little Pond Trail Relocation:** Sections of this popular trail behind the Little Pond State Campground suffer from serious erosion. The Trail Conference has helped the DEC flag a half-mile relocation and, following final approval, we hope to construct it this year. The relocation will offer a more pleasant climb to the extraordinary fields near the top of the trail that provide views of the entire Beaverkill Valley.

Lean-to Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

We hope to work on a number of lean-tos this season. We are working with DEC staff to identify a new location for the German Hollow Lean-to, which was destroyed a few years ago by falling trees, and to agree on shelters that need to be replaced. The Trail Conference list

includes the Shandaken Brook and Biscuit Brook Lean-tos. We plan to put a new roof and floor in the Devil's Acre Lean-to on Hunter Mountain.

Training, Outreach and Coordination

Trail University courses to be offered in the Catskills this year include Intro to Trail Maintenance, Intro to Shelter Care-taking, and several trail layout and construction courses. Check the workshop schedule on the Trail Conference's website for all the details and to sign up.

Finally, plan to meet us at Kenco Outfitter's Second Annual Trails Fest, on Saturday, May 19. And watch the Trail Conference's website for more outreach events throughout the season!

New Jersey

Jonathan Martin,
New Jersey Program Coordinator
jmartin@nynjtc.org



Two New Crews Launch

The North Jersey Chain Gang, a roving chainsaw crew, plans to schedule work trips several times a month during the spring and fall seasons. The crew has been recruiting members throughout the winter and has already led several trips in northern New Jersey. The crew will be led by seasoned sawyers Pete Zuroff and Tom Carr. While only certified chain sawyers are allowed to operate a saw on this crew, those interested in helping out or apprenticing as a "swamper" to eventually get certified may do so by contacting the crew leaders at njchaingang@gmail.com.

Mountain Pinks is a new all-woman light maintenance trail crew initiated by North Jersey Trails Co-chair Karen Schoof. The crew is open to members and non-members and will take on light trail work throughout the North Jersey region. Training will happen on the job. Outings will be scheduled one or two weeks in advance. To get on Karen's email list, contact her at karen@kaysweb.com.

Franklin Lakes Trails Adopted

The Trail Conference is proud to announce its adoption of the trails at the Franklin Lakes Nature Preserve (formerly known as the Haledon Reservoir). Special thanks to North Jersey Trails Chair John Moran for all his hard work over the past couple of months to reroute portions of the existing trail network, tack up blazes, and help broker the adoption between the Trail Conference and the Borough of Franklin Lakes, allowing for the Preserve



Hikers enjoy new trails at Franklin Lakes Nature Preserve.

Loop and Island Bridges Trails to be open and accessible to the public. Both trails offer excellent loop opportunities that tour through lakeside vistas and easy terrain for an excellent early morning or after work hike. The parking lot for this preserve is located off of High Mountain Road in Franklin Lakes, NJ.

Goodbye, Hello

Chris Ingui, our New Jersey Program Coordinator since 2009, bid the Trail Conference both goodbye and hello in March. He has taken a job with the local trail building company Tahawus Trails, which will make him a Trail Conference partner on large trail construction projects such as those at Bear Mountain State Park. He also plans to continue as volunteer crew chief for the Jolly Rovers stone work crew. "The Trail Conference has been very good to me over the past four years, and without this organization I would never have been introduced to this work in the first place. I especially want to thank all the volunteers who have spent their time over the years working with me and sharing their knowledge of our trails so freely." Chris's replacement, Jonathan Martin, joined the staff in March.

East Hudson

Leigh Draper,
East Hudson Program Coordinator
draper@nynjtc.org



AT Boardwalk in Pawling Nears Completion

The almost-finished Appalachian Trail boardwalk and bridge across the Swamp River and wetland in Pawling, NY was the destination for members of the Oblong Land Conservancy in January. Noland Hisey, a member of the Putnam County-based conservancy and a volunteer on the boardwalk project with more than 1,000 hours on the crew, led the tour. The 1800-foot boardwalk, which extends across the wetland just west (south-bound) of Metro-North railroad's AT stop, still needs a few finishing touches but it is almost ready for a grand opening this spring. The project has been a major focus for our Dutchess-Putnam AT Management Committee, under the leadership of Jim Hagggett of Poughkeepsie, for three years.



The Oblong Conservancy of Putnam County enjoyed a preview of the new AT boardwalk in Pawling. The boardwalk will open with ceremony on July 1.

EH Community Trail Maintenance Crew

A new trail maintenance crew has formed in the East Hudson region based around Teatown Lake Reservation. Similar to the Ward Pound Ridge Preserve Crew, which meets every Friday, the Teatown group will hold weekly work trips. What is different is about the crew is that it will

move around the area to different parks in the East Hudson Community Trails region to tackle larger maintenance projects. The crew will meet every Wednesday and one Saturday a month. To confirm the next date and location, contact East Hudson Program Coordinator Leigh Draper.

Recruiting Trail Volunteers on Staten Island

More than a dozen people interested in maintaining trails on Staten Island attended an open house at the High Rock Visitor's Center. Greenbelt Volunteer Coordinator Jeanne Paliswiat and Trail Conference Supervisor Mark Kusick answered questions about the park and trail work. Many people signed up to attend the March 24 Intro to Trail Maintenance course we are offering.

Eagle Fest

The 8th Annual EagleFest sponsored in February by Teatown Lake Reservation, our East Hudson Community Trails partner, attracted more than 4,000 people to two Hudson River locations in Westchester. The Trail Conference was represented at both, selling maps and books, recruiting new volunteers, and letting people know about our work. Mark your calendar for EagleFest 2013: Saturday, February 2.

West Hudson

Larry Wheelock,
West Hudson Program Coordinator
wheelock@nynjtc.org



Key words for this region in the coming season will be volunteer opportunities and training! We've planned two Intro to Trail Maintenance workshops—one on May 12 in Port Jervis and another on May 19 to be held at Hil-Mar Lodge in Salisbury Mills and on trails on Schunemunk Mountain. You can sign up for these and many

other workshops on our web site at nynjtc.org/view/workshops.

The Bear Mountain Appalachian Trail project is moving into its last stages with this season's work focused on completing the new route of the AT on the upper east face of the mountain. This spectacular section is, to me, the jewel in the crown, affording one magnificent view after another with a lightly forested, open understory. We hope to complete this section all the way to Perkins Tower by early next year.

We also will continue work on what is to be an interpretive demonstration trail, behind the Inn and near the unused stone building (formerly rest rooms) next to

Hessian Lake. The area around the stone building will start to take shape as a trail educational plaza, affording visitors an introduction to why, how, and when this region became a focus for some of the country's most important public trails and outdoor recreational facilities. The building itself is destined to become part of this trail education center in the near future. If you have attended a Bear Mountain Project Orientation and at least two of the required workshops and you'd like to put some time in on this project, please get in touch with me at wheelock@nynjtc.org.

In other activity, we will be offering a series of workshops so trail crew mem-

bers can enhance their skills building timber and stone structures, and designing and assessing trails. Keep an eye out for upcoming workshops in Minnewaska State Park, Harriman/Bear Mountain State Park and elsewhere. Check the workshops list at the web page mentioned above.

One of the most important events in our region will be the June 2 National Trails Day grand opening of the Long Path connection from the Shawangunk Ridge to the Catskills when the final bit of the Mine Hole Trail is completed to Berme Road in Warwarsing. (See page 1 article.)



See complete calendar at nynjtc.org/calendar



TRAIL UNIVERSITY

nynjtc.org/view/workshops
Register for Trail U workshops online or call 201-512-9348.



We thank REI for its support of Trail University!

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOPS

Open to all; membership not required. No prerequisites. No fee.

Saturday, April 14

Intro to Trail Building: Workshop #563

Location: Ramapo Valley County Reservation, Mahwah, NJ
9am-5pm

Sunday, April 15

Trail Repair: Workshop #571

Location: Ward Pound Ridge Preserve, Cross River, NY
9:30am-4pm

Saturday, May 5

Intro to Trail Maintenance: Workshop #572

Location: Mountain Top Historical Society Campus, Haines Falls, NY (Catskills)
10am-4pm

Saturday, May 12

Intro to Trail Maintenance: Workshop #558

Location: Port Jervis Library, Port Jervis, NY
9:30am-4pm

Sunday, May 20

Intro to Trail Maintenance: Workshop #559

Location: Schunemunk Mountain/Hil-Mar Lodge, Salisbury Mills, NY
10am-4pm

Sunday, May 20

Intro to Trail Maintenance: Workshop #545

Location: Stamford, NY (Catskills)
10am-3pm

Saturday, June 9

Trail Repair: Workshop #568

Location: Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY
9:30am-3:30pm

Saturday, June 9

Intro to Invasive Strike Force Training: Workshop #576

Location: Oxford, NJ
9am-4pm
Learn how to identify 14 common invasive plants, collect data for the ISF, and use a GPS unit.

Sunday, June 10

Intro to Invasive Strike Force Training: Workshop #570

Location: Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY
9am-4pm
See June 9 description.

Saturday, June 16

Intro to Invasive Strike Force Training: Workshop #577

Location: Mahwah, NJ
9am-4pm
See June 9 description.

Saturday, June 23

Intro to Invasive Strike Force Training: Workshop #578

Location: Mahwah, NJ
9am-4pm
See June 9 description.

Sunday, June 30

Intro to Invasive Strike Force Training: Workshop #569

Location: Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY
9am-4pm
See June 9 description.

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED WORKSHOPS

Membership in the Trail Conference is required. Some may have prerequisites. Participation requires recommendation by trails chair, supervisor or staff member or payment of a fee.

Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8

Trail Layout and Design NEW COURSE: Workshop #573

Location: Bear Mountain, NY
9am to 4pm both days

Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15

Trail Layout and Design NEW COURSE: Workshop #574

Location: Phoenicia, NY
9am to 4pm both days



TRAIL CREW SERVICE PROJECTS

nynjtc.org/view/trail-crew-outings

West Jersey Crew

Contact: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com or 732-937-9098

Saturday, April 21

Saturday, April 28

AT relocation at Delaware Water Gap

Saturday, May 12

Swartwood S.P.

Saturday, May 19

Saturday, June 2

Worthington S.F.

Saturday, June 9

High Point State Park

Saturday, June 23

Pochuck Boardwalk

Saturday, June 30

TBD

North Jersey Bear Claw Crew

Contact: bearc Clawtrailcrew@gmail.com

Dates set as needed.

North Jersey Mountain Pinks Crew

Contact: karen@kaysweb.com

Light maintenance as needed.

Orange-Rockland Long Distance Trails Crew

Contact: creyling42@verizon.net or 914-428-9878

Projects will be on AT, Long Path, and Highlands Trail.

Sunday, April 1

Sunday, April 8

Sunday, April 22

Sunday, May 13

Sunday, May 20

West Hudson South Crew

Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park

Thursdays, April 19 & May 3

Contact: rfmarshall@webtv.net or 914-737-4792

Saturday, April 21

Contact: brian@grandrenovation.com or 718-599-0061

Sunday, April 29

Contact: musicbynumbers59@yahoo.com

Saturday, May 19

Contact: cglanz@earthlink.net or 212-633-1324

Saturday, June 16

Contact: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com or 732-937-909

Saturday, June 16

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TRAIL EVENTS

nynjtc.org/calendar

Saturday, May 5

I Love My Park Day at Minnewaska State Park Preserve

Join the Trail Conference and park staff on several trail projects; for all levels and ages. "I love My Park Day" is an initiative of Parks & Trails NY.
10am-2pm

I Love My Park Day Events at Yorktown Trails

Find details at ilovemyparksyorktown.org

Tuesday, May 15

We Make the Maps

Trail Conference presentation
REI Yonkers

Saturday, May 19

Trails Fest in Kingston

Join the Trail Conference at Kenco Outfitters' 2nd Annual Trail Fest
11am-4pm

Saturday, June 2

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Trail Opening: Mine Hole Trail at Minnewaska State Park

This new trail will lead to a connection between the Shawangunks and Catskills. Hike+; details TBA.

Wednesday, June 6

We Make the Maps

Trail Conference presentation
REI Paramus

Saturday, June 9

Meeting of Delegates and Members

9:30am-3:00pm
Camp Glen Gray in Mahwah, NJ
Hikes, meeting, tour of our future headquarters, more.

(Note: This meeting was previously scheduled for June 2.)

Thursday, June 14

We Make the Maps

Trail Conference presentation
REI SoHo

Saturday, June 30

AT Community Celebration

Warwick, NY
Join our AT volunteers as we mark Warwick's designation as an Appalachian Trail Community. Hikes and more. Find details at nynjtc.org/calendar

Sunday, July 1

AT Boardwalk & Bridge Opening

Swamp River, Pawling, NY
Details will be posted at nynjtc.org/calendar

Jolly Rovers Stone Work Crew

For information about this crew and how to join, see nynjtc.org/content/roving-trail-crew-jolly-rovers

Unexpected pleasures while maintaining a trail

Wild Flowers on the Batavia Kill Trail

By Martha and Lon Maletta, Trail Maintenance Volunteers



Red trillium (*Trillium erectum*) blooming in the Catskills.

May 23, 2011. Our tools are packed and we embark on our first-ever trail maintenance effort for the Trail Conference, looking forward to putting to use what we learned at a spring training session. What a satisfying day it turned out to be on our assigned trail, the Batavia Kill Trail, a gentle 0.95-mile climb between the Black Dome and Escarpment Trails in the northern Catskills. And the day's unanticipated bonus: the wildflowers along the way.

Most spectacular, in spite of the plant's small size, were the carpets of foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*, 6-12 inches), whose delicate clusters of white flowers created a visual reminder of snow finally gone from the forested slopes. There were violets, always a welcome sign of spring. Common blue violet (*Viola papilionacea*) shared the trail-sides with northern white violet (*V. pallens*). These two species are typical-looking violet plants with heart-shaped basal leaves only. Canada violet (*V. canadensis*) has white flowers, the center splashed with yellow and the back of the petals usually tinted with violet. Smooth yellow violet (*V. pennsylvanica*), as expected, has yellow blossoms, bright sparks in the greening forest floor. The heart-shaped leaves and flowers of these two species are arrayed along upright stems.

Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*, 3-9 inches) is a small gem. The 5-9 pointed petals of the delicate white flowers earn the plant its name. The 5-9 pointed leaves form a dis-

tinctive whorl mirroring the flowers above. Toothwort or crinkleroot (*Dentaria diphylla*, 8-15 inches) sports a cluster of small, four-petaled white blossoms above a pair of three-leaflet leaves.

We encountered four species in the diverse lily family. The greenish-yellow, downward facing flowers of yellow clintonia or bluebead (*Clintonia borealis*, 6-12 inches) rise in a small cluster above the lily-of-the-valley-like leaves. Roseybells or rose twisted stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*, 1-3 feet) reminded us of Solomon's seal, the leaves arrayed along an arching stem. Small pink bell-like flowers hang below on a twisted or bent stalk—rather unique.

And there were the trilliums with their distinctive three whorled leaves that show off the single three-petal flower. The blossom of purple or red trillium (*Trillium erectum*, 6-20 inches), also called wake-robin, is deep burgundy or maroon. We were delighted to see painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*, 8-20 inches) – a rarity in our experience, its white flower "painted" with streaks of crimson. Both of these trillium species are classified as "...exploitably vulnerable...likely to become threatened in the near future..." in NYS environmental conservation law.

As we head out to begin maintenance work this spring, we will hope to see all of these native wild flowers, and more, along "our trail," the Batavia Kill.

Trails to Great Photography: Springtime Waterfalls and Cascades

A Workshop for Trail Conference Members

Destination: Van Campens Glen, Delaware Water Gap

When: May 12, 6am-12pm

Experience level: all levels
Group size will be limited to 6

Cost: \$100; Trail Conference members only

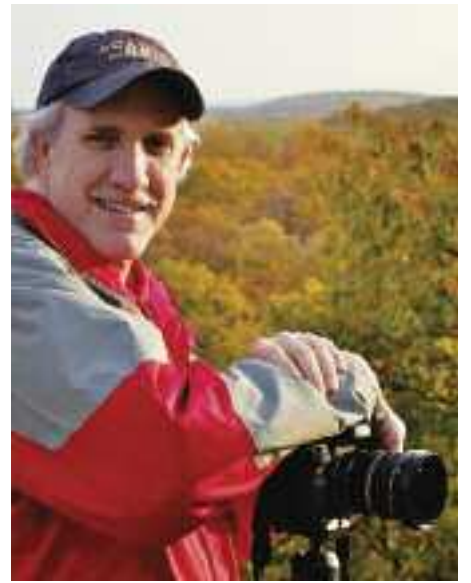
Join professional photographer Larry Zink on this very special photo workshop in the field.

The Delaware Water Gap is one of the prime outdoor destinations in New Jersey. Within the Gap are quiet small photographic treasures waiting to be explored. Off the beaten path and away from the crowds is Van Campens Glen. The group will hike into the glen and shoot the beautiful forest, cascades, and waterfalls. During the workshop various compositional techniques will be taught in order to create dynamic images. The instructor will also demonstrate how best to use the camera and its technology to get well exposed files. Personal instruction and guidance will lead to beautiful and exciting images.

Recommended Equipment

Photo Equipment: DSLR, Tripod, Cable Release

Clothing: There will be a small amount of hiking involved. It will be less than a mile and fairly easy. Please plan accordingly. Shoots will be in and around water, so also consider waterproof sandals and clothing.



Workshop Leader: Larry Zink

Larry Zink has been a professional photographer for the past 30 years. He graduated from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University with a BFA in photography and graphic design. Having photographed for various clients throughout his career, for the past 15 years and currently, he has served as vice president of creative services for Macy's. His responsibilities include managing a large advertising photo studio, retouching, and pre-press department. Landscape photography has become a passion for the past six years. This passion will culminate in a book about New Jersey coming out in the Spring of 2012. His images have been featured on the front cover and inside a monthly digital magazine distributed by Landscapephotography-magazine.com. See more of his work at www.larryzinkphotography.com.



Spring time along Van Campen's Brook, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

RECORD YEAR FOR MAPS

continued from page 1

about 80 hours for Apgar to complete and countless volunteer hours by project manager John Mack and other field-checkers, include more than 100 changes from the 2010 edition. The alterations range from added bus stops to major relocations of the Appalachian Trail to information on bridges washed out by Hurricane Irene (see story on page 9). About 12,000 copies of the map sets were printed for sale.

Apgar, a 29-year-old resident of Andover, NJ, has eight years of experience making maps, including four with the Trail Conference and an award for Best Cartographic Design from the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection. He previously did mapping work as a graduate student at Lehigh University measuring snowmelt in the Yukon Territory of Canada.

Some of the larger Trail Conference mapping projects Apgar has worked on include the Kittatinny and Catskill map sets, as well as the new Jersey Highlands Trails: Central North Region map set. This first new Trail Conference map in 11 years required more than 500 hours of cartography time, including the careful placement of more than 2,700 individual symbol and text items.

From Hand-Drawn to Digital

Trail Conference map making has come a long way since the first North Jersey Trails map was hand drawn in 1974. GPS technology was first used in the early 1990s, when Dan Chazin GPSed all the trails for the Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails map set, and the transition from hand drawing to digital production was made over the past 15 years. Apgar now produces maps using the latest ArcView and Adobe Illustrator computer software.

"Many people's first contact with the Trail Conference is through our maps."

"When we started the digital cartography program eight years ago as part of our campaign promise, we were mostly focused on increasing the accuracy and reducing the time it took to create a new map edition," Trail Conference Executive Director Edward Goodell says. "What I didn't realize is how many people's first contact with the Trail Conference is through our maps and how the good impression they give often translates into a new supporting member."

While map-making technology has

improved dramatically, the significant role of volunteers in producing accurate trail maps has remained constant. For any given map set, anywhere from 5 to 50 volunteers contribute their time and effort. Their contributions include managing the maps, collecting GPS data, field-checking and reviewing maps, and writing and editing text for the map backs. Care is also taken to work with park partners to ensure their parks are represented accurately.

"I'm very detail oriented," Apgar says. "I like taking data and creating visually appealing graphics that are also helpful. Piecing together the different components of a map is a very creative process, and I enjoy being able to provide a useful tool to people who love to hike."

Cartography needs for the Trail Conference extend far beyond the published trail maps, though. From maps used to promote conservation and advocacy efforts, to maps of scouted trails, to maps on the Trail Conference website showing trail relocations, accurate trail maps are an important component of many Trail Conference activities.

Ultimately, Apgar hopes that Trail Conference maps enhance the outdoor experiences of hikers and their appreciation of the beauty of nature.

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or call 845-831-6767

Jack—or is it Jacqueline?—in the Pulpit

The unique sex life of a common forest plant

By Edna Greig

When you're in the moister parts of the woods this spring, be on the lookout for Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), a common and easily identified understory plant that's native to eastern North America. But this common plant has some not-so-common adaptations for reproduction.



This common spring flower has unusual adaptations.

Jack-in-the-pulpit flowers

Jack-in-the-pulpit blooms in late April or early May with an unusual flowering structure that gives it its name. It has a club-like spadix ("Jack") that rises within and above the opening of a leaf-like spathe ("the pulpit"). The upper part of the spathe curves forward and downward, acting as an umbrella to prevent water from flooding the 30 to 60 tiny flowers that are hidden at the base of the spadix. Individual plants have either male or female flowers—botanists call this *dioecy*.

Pollination and the fate of pollinators

Jack-in-the-pulpit needs pollinators to transfer pollen from male plants to female plants, but its tiny, hidden flowers can't attract bees or butterflies. Instead, the spadix emits a fungus-like odor which attracts the fungus gnats that are its primary pollinators. Fungus gnats that approach the spadix often tumble to the bottom of the spathe and cannot crawl upward because of its slippery sides. The gnats scurry about the tiny flowers seeking a way out of the spathe.

Gnats that have fallen into male Jack-in-the-pulpits may be lucky enough to squeeze through a small "escape hatch" at the base of the male spathe—by the time it escapes, the gnat is usually loaded with pollen. Gnats that have fallen into female Jack-in-the-pulpits aren't so lucky since the females don't have an escape hatch. Gnats usually remain trapped and die within females, often along with valuable pollen that they've picked up from an earlier visit to a male. If pollen was successfully transferred, the female will produce a cluster of berries that start out bright green and then mature to a bright red in late summer.

continued on page 11

Help Protect Our Native Plants!

Invasives Strike Force Seeks Volunteers for 2012

By Linda Rohleder

The Trail Conference's Invasive Strike Force (ISF) is introducing an environmental stewardship component to our trail maintenance services by monitoring and removing invasive plants along trails. After a very successful first year, we will be expanding our program this year. Our goal is to double the number of miles of trail surveyed, double our volunteer force, and dramatically increase the number of ISF trail crew workdays.

Volunteer ISF monitors learn to identify 14 common invasive plants and survey a 2-mile section of trail in the park of their choice. Surveying the trails helps us gain an understanding of where invasions have not yet gained a foothold and where they have overrun the native communities. Once we have this knowledge we can work to prevent invasions from moving along the trails into the native communities. Over the next three to four years, we aim to map invasion along all the trails that the Trail Conference maintains.

Volunteer ISF trail crew members help us remove invasives along the trails at several locations across the NY-NJ region where they are starting to move into intact areas. Over time, by using our monitoring data, we can track the success of our efforts at protecting the native communities.

In the lower Hudson Valley area of New York we will be holding training sessions for ISF monitoring volunteers at Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining. We are also going to be partnering with Scenic Hudson to survey trails on Fishkill Ridge (scenicudson.org/parks/fishkillridge), a beautiful area of the Hudson Highlands. In addition, ISF trail crew work is planned on Bear Mountain.

In northeastern New Jersey, the ISF trail crew will continue work in Norvin Green State Forest, and new ISF monitoring volunteers can attend training at the Trail Conference office in Mahwah.

In western New Jersey, ISF monitoring volunteers can attend training at the Pequest Trout Hatchery in Oxford, and ISF trail crew work is planned in Worthington State Forest.

Please go to the web site (nynjtc.org/invasives) to read more about the program, see details on the training workshops and trail crew workdays, view the list of parks in which you can survey a trail, and sign up for the volunteer mailing list.

Come join us in making a difference!

—Linda Rohleder
ISF Program Coordinator

Invasives Strike Force Trail Crew

The Invasives Strike Force trail crew will be busy in 2012. We have workdays planned throughout the region to remove targeted invasive plants along the trails that are encroaching on native communities.

Lower Hudson Valley, NY: ISF trail crew work is planned on Bear Mountain

Northeastern New Jersey: ISF trail crew will continue work in Norvin Green State Forest

Western New Jersey: ISF trail crew work is planned in Worthington State Forest

Anyone can participate in this trail crew; attendance at a training workshop is not required and you do not need to know how to identify the plants. See the website at nynjtc.org/invasives for more details on the workdays.

Contact crew leader, Linda Rohleder, lrohleder@nynjtc.org, to join the ISF Trail Crew.

Trail Conference member Linda Rohleder is a PhD candidate at Rutgers University in the Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources.



Science & Ecology

Can They Get Here from There?

Ecological corridors and connectivity

By Kate Pavlis

Black Rock Forest Consortium Research Associate and Environmental Educator

As nature enthusiasts, we enjoy walking trails and catching glimpses of the wildlife species our forests have to offer. If lucky, we may stumble upon a bear, fox, or rattlesnake, and if luckier still, we may even see a bobcat or otter. But, if we don't see these things, we can still take pleasure in the numerous plants and other animals we encounter on our journey through the woods.



Otters on the move at night were photographed at Black Rock Forest.

To what extent, however, do our "trail corridors" also function as ecological corridors? In fact, this is an active area of research. Some animals, such as bobcats, tend to avoid trails with high levels of human activity, and avoidance increases if dogs are also allowed on trails. Yet, many other animals are hardly fazed by the human presence. We often see tracks of wildlife following trails as humans do. So what is the difference between an ecological corridor and a trail corridor?

An ecological corridor is a swath of land used by wildlife to get from one piece of "prime habitat" to another. In general, animals spend less time within a corridor and use it much like humans use a road. Corridor design differs depending on the species of interest. However, "the wider the better" is often the approach taken because more species can be accommodated.

Ecological corridors help mitigate the effects of habitat fragmentation, one of the major threats to biodiversity, and are especially important here in the densely populated east. Habitat fragmentation leads to isolated populations, thereby decreasing genetic diversity and increasing the chance of local extinctions. The full effects of habitat fragmentation can take decades or longer to appear and may not be readily observed. Some populations may not be isolated now, but with development could become isolated in the future. If we keep habitat connectivity in mind and maintain it through corridors and stepping stones (small patches of suitable habitat), our wildlife will have a greater chance of surviving in perpetuity.

The biggest threats to connectivity in our region are the numerous barriers which prevent animals from moving across the landscape. These barriers include roads and highways, high density developments, and man-made structures such as fences. If we identify trouble spots we can take measures to mitigate barriers with crossing structures (overpasses and underpasses) designed for animal movement or by using fences to re-route animal paths to desired locations. Increasing human awareness of high collision areas via road signs can also be a simple and effective way to aid wildlife crossings. Maintaining and enhancing wildlife connectivity is complicated and time consuming work far beyond the reach of any single organization. Effective partnerships are essential.

For the past 20 years, such partnerships have been forming across the country to work on ecological connectivity projects.

One of the most famous is the Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) initiative, which aims "to ensure that the world-renowned wilderness, wildlife, native plants, and natural processes of the Yellowstone to Yukon region continue to function as an interconnected web of life, capable of supporting all of its natural and human communities, for now and for future generations." This mission reflects the overall goal of human and wildlife coexistence that we should also strive for here in the east.

In fact, there are many connectivity projects like Y2Y currently happening in the New York-New Jersey region. The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition (SRC)—founded by the Trail Conference and including Open Space Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Basha Kill Area Association, Mohonk Preserve, Friends of the Shawangunks, and others launched a series of meetings

focused on protecting and enhancing ecological connectivity between the Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains. The group seeks to build on the decades-long effort by the Trail Conference and Open Space Institute to create protected trail corridors from the Catskills to the Delaware National Recreation Area via the Shawangunk Ridge.

"The primary goal of the Trail Conference in protecting these corridors is to preserve natural and safe connections to nature for people and wildlife," says Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell. "And we know that animals also use these corridors. Fishers (*Martes pinnanti*), reintroduced into the Catskills by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, have been documented along the Shawangunk and Kittatinny ridges, reintroducing themselves to New Jersey!"

The Nature Conservancy's Shawangunk Ridge Program Director Cara Lee, adds, "Connectivity is important because it allows animals to maintain viable populations and move or adapt to climate change while often enhancing recreation and strengthening communities."

In a somewhat more populated area, Black Rock Forest Consortium, the Open Space Institute (OSI), Orange County Land Trust, and Hudson Highlands Land Trust have been working to preserve ecological connectivity between the Highlands and Schunemunk Mountain. Over the past two years OSI acquired 183 acres, which will be conserved and protected for wildlife by the partners.

Even the New York City Parks department is taking connectivity into account. Bram Gunther, Chief of Forestry, Horticulture, and Natural Resources for NYC Parks & Recreation, says, "In our natural areas restoration work in New York City we are focused on habitat corridors as a way to increase biodiversity, increase green space, and stabilize our ecosystems. The connectivity we are trying to create in New York City also applies regionally, in our relationships with adjacent counties and states."

These collaborative projects are important to bolster community support and understanding of the environment, and to maintain healthy ecosystems, and can also ensure the hiking enjoyment of future generations.

Kate Pavlis earned a master's degree in conservation biology from Columbia University for work researching habitat connectivity in an isolated population of Italian Brown Bears.



HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes
Sponsored by Member Clubs

Find many more hikes at www.nynjtc.org. Click on Scheduled Hikes under Go Hiking!

April

Sunday, April 1

WTA. Colonial Greenway of Westchester County, NY. Leaders: Jane and Walt Daniels, 914-245-1250, jdhikes@gmail.com. Meet: 9:30am at North White Plains RR station for shuttle, or 9:45am at Weinberg Nature Center, Scarsdale, NY. Easy to moderate 8.5 miles.

OC. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, NY. Leader: Bob Ward. Meet: call 718-471-7036 one week in advance for meeting time. Meet outside Broad Channel subway station (take Far Rockaway-bound A train). Easy 2 miles in the only national park completely within New York City.

IHC. Silvermine Circular, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Roy Williams, 570-828-6207, royhiker@aol.com. Meet: 9am at Silvermine Parking, Seven Lakes Dr. Moderately strenuous hike on Menomine, Stockbridge Mountain trails to Lake Tiorati; out on RD and Menomine. Bad weather cancels.

Saturday, April 7

PM. Valhalla Falls, Morris County, NJ. Leader: for more information and to register call 973-334-3130. Meet: 10am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Boonton, NJ. Moderate hike for ages 7 & up. Enjoy a hike out to Valhalla Brook Falls to see the roaring results of the stormy spring.

AMC-NYNJ. Rockefeller Preserve, Westchester County, NY. Leader: Dorothy Lourdou, 212-685-6443. Meet: Contact leader for meeting place and time. Public transit available. Easy 8 miles.

SW. Appalachian Trail, Bellvale, NY. Leader: Nick DiNapoli, 201-406-4549, nicholasdinapoli@hotmail.com. Call to confirm hike is still on. Meet: take 7:30 NJ Transit Bus from Port Authority to Bellvale, where leader will meet the bus. 10 miles, with some rock scrambling and walking on rock ledges at dizzying heights.

IHC. The Palisades and Giant Stairs, NJ. Leader: Chris Davis, chrisdavis08558@yahoo.com. Meet: 9am at Alpine Boat Basin, Alpine, NJ. Moderately strenuous 8 miles. Hike north along Shore Path, scramble over Giant Stairs, then ascend cliff to Long Path for return. Bad weather cancels.

Sunday, April 8

AMC-NYNJ. Holiday Hike in Central Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Jane Levenson, 212-534-7806; call before 9pm. Meet: Contact leader for meeting place and time. Moderate 8 miles with great views on the RD trail. Bring holiday spirit and celebrate Easter and Passover in the woods. Leader will bring treats to share, and hopes others will too. Steady rain cancels.

WTA. Catfish Pond, Fahnestock State Park, NY. Leader: Howard Millman, hwarmillman@aol.com. Meet: 10am at Bird and Bottle Restaurant parking lot, off Rt. 9W in Garrison for shuttle. Pleasant 3-4 hours with gentle hills. Hike through variety of landscapes: forested, meadow, occasionally rocky.

NYHC. South Ferry to Upper East Side, Manhattan, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 10:30am in front of Staten Island Ferry Terminal, Manhattan side. Moderate 6-7 mile walk on path along the East River with scenic views of bridges, Brooklyn, and Queens; frequent drop-off points.

Saturday, April 14

FPB. Trail Maintenance at Hunter Island, Pelham Bay Park, NY. Leader: Clinton Robinson, cl.robinson@verizon.net; www.pelhambaypark.org. Meet: 10 am at northeast corner of the Orchard Beach Parking Lot. Catwalk re-enforcement and shoreline clean up; till 2pm.

WEC. Weis Women's Hike, Passaic County, NJ. Leader: for information and to register, call 973-835-2160. Meet: 8am; register for location. Moderately paced 3 miles; out by 10am. Join the ladies of Weis on their early morning hike; carpool possible. \$5 fee. Event repeats on May 19 and June 16.

WTA. Teatown-Kitchawan Trail, Westchester County, NY. Leader: Jane Smalley, 914-276-0413, jsmallpt@aol.com. Meet: Contact leader to register for meeting place and time. Easy to moderate 6.5 miles. Hike this new trail from Kitchawan Preserve to Teatown Lake Reservation. Climb Bald Mountain for a stunning view of Croton Reservoir. Short shuttle.

SW. Cherry Blossoms and Five Bridges, Newark, NJ. Leader: Craig Nunn, 551-206-6823, dystopicnj@gmail.com. Meet: contact leader starting Tuesday before for information. 10-14 flat miles on paths and streets. Bad weather cancels.

Sunday, April 15

AFW. Bare Rock, Sterling Forest State Park, NY. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 9:30am; register for meeting place. Moderate hike; out by 2pm.

AMC-NYNJ. Search for Dater Mine, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Tom Parliment, 845-634-4116, tparliment@verizon.net. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time. Moderate 9 miles. Visit one of the more interesting mines in Harriman and learn about its history. We'll also learn about Claudius Smith's den and enjoy fine views of the Catskills. Rain cancels.

UHC. Hartshorne Woods Park, Monmouth County, NJ. Leader: Jay Dibble, 908-289-8813. Meet: 10am; call for location. Moderate 5 miles with hilly terrain.

Saturday, April 21

PM. Spring Wildflower Hike, Morris County, NJ. Leader: for more information and to register call 973-334-3130. Meet: 10am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Boonton, NJ. Moderate hike for ages 12 & up. Hike to view the lovely short-lived spring wildflowers.

WTA. Moneyhole Mountain View, Fahnestock State Park, NY. Leader: Margaret Douglas. Contact Eileen West at eileen1000@yahoo.com for information. Meet: 9:30am at Sunk Mine Rd. lot off Dennytown Rd. Easy 4-5 miles. 3-4 hour hike to a wonderful vista. Bad weather cancels.

Sunday, April 22

AMC-NYNJ. Rockefeller Preserve with Camera or Sketchpad, Westchester County, NY. Leaders: Barry and Kathy Skura, 914-779-0936, barry.skura@gmail.com. Meet: email leaders for meeting place and time. Moderate 7 miles. Visit Eagle Hill, Overlook Trail, a giant glacial erratic, and Spook Rock. Pointers on photo composition and sketching.

IHC. Raymondskill Falls, PA. Leader: Ursula & Patrick Davis, 973-786-7087. Meet: 9am at Chatterbox restaurant, Rt. 206 & 15, Augusta, NJ. Shuttle required. Moderately strenuous 7 miles. Spectacular waterfall (highest in PA) and Milford Cliff Trail above the Delaware River to Milford Knob Overlook. Bad weather cancels.

Saturday, April 28

AMC-NYNJ. East Hudson Highlands, NY. Leader: Minu Chaudhuri, 914-941-6408, minu1@optonline.net. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time. Hilly 7 miles at a moderate pace. Garrison to Anthony's Nose via Sugarloaf South, Osborn Loop, and along the AT to a spectacular view.

WTA. Pine Mountain, Ridgefield, CT. Leader: Barbro Thelemarck, 914-277-4026. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time. Easy to moderate 4-5 miles. About 4 hours with two fairly steep hills, lunch with a breathtaking view.

RWV. Shaupeneak Ridge, Ulster County, NY. Leader: call 845-246-4590 for more information. Meet: 9am, call for location. Easy to moderate 4.5 mile hike, about 5 hours.

Sunday, April 29

AFW. Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am; register for meeting place. Strenuous hike at a moderate pace; out by 4pm.

UHC. Stokes State Forest, Branchville, NJ. Leader: Gregg Hudis, 551-404-5461, grhudis@verizon.net. Meet: 10am at AT parking on Sunrise Mountain Rd.; call for directions. Moderate 6 miles, about 4 hours. AT to Stony Brook Trail to the lake. Heavy rain cancels.

May

Saturday, May 5

SW. The Great Saunter, Manhattan, NY. Leader: register in advance at www.shorewalkers.org and avoid registration lines. Meet: Various points in Manhattan. Join us on our annual 32-mile walk around Manhattan's rim.

AFW. Baldpate Mountain, Mercer County, NJ. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 11am; register for meeting place. Easy hike at a leisurely pace; out by 2pm.

WTA. North Peak of Crows Nest, Storm King State Park, NY. Leader: Kathie Laug, 203-238-3993, kfriedmanlaug@optonline.net. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time. Moderate to strenuous 8 miles. Multiple views with unsurpassed panoramas of

the Catskills and Hudson Valley.

IHC. Split Rock Reservoir, Morris County, NJ. Leader: Pete Beck, 201-274-4471, petebeck_00@yahoo.com. Meet: 9:30am at parking area, 100 Timberbrook Rd., Rockaway, NJ. See ruins of an early 19th-century forge on this moderate hike to Indian Cliff and Durham Pond, pausing for trail maintenance if needed.

Sunday, May 6

PM. Butler Reservoir, Morris County, NJ. Leader: for more information and to register call 973-334-3130. Meet: 9am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Boonton, NJ. Strenuous 10-mile hike for experienced hikers ages 16 & up. Spectacular views of the reservoir; out by 2:30pm.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Marcia Sheldon, 732-574-1144. Meet: 10am at Trailside Nature Center parking, Coles Ave. Walk on woods roads in the shade; pace dependent on weather. Steady rain cancels.

Saturday, May 12

FPB. Trail Maintenance at Hunter Island, Pelham Bay Park, NY. Leader: Clinton Robinson, cl.robinson@verizon.net; www.pelhambaypark.org. Meet: 10 am at northeast corner of the Orchard Beach Parking Lot. Pine Grove branch and invasive removal; till 2pm.

WTA. Pawling Nature Reserve, Putnam County, NY. Leader: Barbro Thelemarck, 914-277-4026. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time. Easy to moderate 4-5 miles. Morning hike in Nature Conservancy property, partly on the Appalachian Trail.

SW. Walk Across NJ, Part III: Princeton to Kendall Park, NJ. Leader: Craig Nunn, 551-206-6823, dystopicnj@gmail.com. Meet: contact leader week before for information. 10-14 basically flat miles, on trails and streets, D&R Canal, towpath, and grassland preserves. Bad weather cancels.

Sunday, May 13

CMC. Mother's Day Wildflower Hike at Kelly Hollow, Margaretville, NY. Leader: Howard Raab, howardjraab@gmail.com. Meet: 11am; contact leader to register and for meeting place. Limited to 12 people; dogs welcome. Easy to moderate 4-mile loop on one of the most beautiful short trails in the Catskills.

GS. Mom's Day Out, Morris County, NJ. Leader: for more information and to register call 973-635-6629. Meet: 2pm at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Celebrate with mom on this easy guided nature walk for all ages.

OC. Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Long Island, NY. Leader: Bob Ward, 718-471-7036. Meet: call leader one week in advance after 8pm for meeting time and place. Easy 3 miles. Visit this lovely tree park on Long Island's south shore. Travel on the LIRR, return late afternoon.

WEC. Mother's Day Family Hike, Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: for more information and to register, call 973-835-2160. Meet: 11am; register for location. Easy 3 miles. A Weis naturalist will lead the group to the top of Wyanoike High Point for a 365-degree view of spring's return to Norvin Green. Recommended for families with elementary-school aged kids and older. Limited to 20; \$8 fee, mothers hike free. Out by 2pm.

Saturday, May 19

NYR. Brooklyn Old & New, NY. Leader: Anna Marynowska, 718-384-2908, a.marynowska@gmail.com; co-leader Camille Cooper. Meet: 9:45am in front of Wendy's, intersection of Empire Blvd., Flatbush and Ocean Aves. (B or Q to Prospect Park subway station). Explore the paths of Brooklyn's Prospect Park and Botanic Garden.

RWV. Franny Reese Park and Walkway Over the Hudson, NY. Leader: for more information call 845-246-2945. Meet: 9am, call for meeting place. Easy to moderate 5 mile hike, about 5 hours.

WTA. Garrison and East Hudson Highlands, NY. Leader: Marvin Malater, 718-376-3608. Meet: 10am at Garrison RR station (8:47am train from Grand Central Terminal). Moderate 11 miles with climbs. Climb Sugarloaf South, take Appalachian Trail to Curry Pond traverse, return from West Point Lookout at Arden Point.

Sunday, May 20

AFW. Buttermilk Falls, Rockland County, NY. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 9:30am; register for meeting place. Moderate hike at a moderate pace; out by 2pm.

FOCA. Old Croton Aqueduct Walk, NY. Leader: call 914-478-3961 for further information. Meet: 9:45am at back of parking lot of the Eldorado West Diner, 460 S. Broadway, Tarrytown (can take taxi from Metro North Tarrytown RR station). 3-4 miles, mostly level on and off the Aqueduct. Riverwalk-Lyndhurst/South Tarrytown-Gracemere loop, with sweeping views of the Hudson River and New York City.

Saturday, May 26

PM. Birding Hike, Morris County, NJ. Leader: for more information and to register call 973-334-3130. Meet: 8am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 472A Boonton Ave., Boonton, NJ. Moderate hike for ages 12 & up; \$2 fee. Bring your binoculars or borrow ours on this morning stroll for the birds. Out by 10am.

IHC. Sam's Point Preserve to Minnewaska State Park, NY. Leader: Chris Davis, chrisdavis08558@yahoo.com. Meet: 7:30am at Harriman RR station, Rt. 17, Arden, NY. Strenuous 12 miles; shuttle required. Long Path, Ice Caves, Verkeerderkill Falls, and Lake Awosting with possible swim, Jenny Lane to return. Late return probable; optional dinner in New Paltz.

Sunday, May 27

WTA. SBM Trail, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Carol Ann Benton, aquarius2950@hotmail.com. Meet: contact leader for

meeting time and place. Moderately strenuous 6-7 miles. Head north over mountains, enjoy fire tower views, learn history of the Orak Ruins. Shuttle required; bad weather cancels.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Essex County, NJ. Leader: Gail Waimon, 973-467-4761. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove parking, Glen Ave., across from Millburn RR station. Brisk 4-5 miles with some rocky sections, possibly one steep up at the start. Rain cancels.

June

Saturday, June 2 (National Trails Day)

NYNJTC & MH-ADK. New Mine Hole Trail, Minnewaska State Park Preserve, NY. Leader: Jean-Claude Fouere, jcfouere@gmail.com. Join us as we hike on the new Mine Hole Trail at Minnewaska. In addition to providing a new route to the Shawangunk Ridge, the trail will provide a new route for the Long Path connection to the Catskills.

CMC. Slide Mountain, Catskills, NY. Leader: register at info@catskillmountainclub.org; group size limited. Meet: 9am; register for meeting place. Moderate to difficult 8 miles. We'll be joined by a biologist as we ascend the highest peak in the Catskills, one of the few breeding locations of the rare Bicknell's Thrush. Learn about threats to this elusive bird and research being done to help prevent their decline.

OC. Hike the Heights, NY. Leader: Bob Ward, call 718-471-7036 to register and select walk. Meet: 10:30am at 110 St. & CPW for moderate 2 mile walk; or 11am at 190 St. & Overlook Terrace for easy 2 miles. In collaboration with C.L.I.M.B. (City Living Is Moving Bodies) in their "Hike the Heights," a service of Columbia University, School of Public Health. Joint with other clubs.

FOCA. Old Croton Aqueduct Walk, NY. Leader: call 914-693-0529 for further information. Meet: 10am at north parking lot of Sleepy Hollow High School, 200 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, NY. 5 mile ramble through an area rich in history. From Sleepy Hollow north on the Aqueduct into Rockefeller State Park.

Saturday, June 9

GS. Birds and Blooms Walk, Morris County, NJ. Leader: for more information and to register call 973-635-6629. Meet: 9am at Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ. Morning stroll for ages 8 & up to look for colorful migrating birds and spring wildflowers; fee \$3. Out by 10:30am.

UHC. Sunfish Pond, Delaware Water Gap, NJ. Leader: Pat Horsch, 908-693-8331. Meet: 10am at Dunnfield Creek/AT parking. Up to Sunfish Pond along scenic Dunnfield Creek, return on AT. About 4 hours, some rugged areas and several stream crossings but only one steep hill. Steady rain cancels.

Sunday, June 10

IHC. Appalachian Trail, High Point, NJ to Unionville, NY. Leaders: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9am at AT crossing on Rt. 284, Sussex, NJ. Moderately strenuous 9 miles; shuttle required.

Saturday, June 16

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: John Jurasek, 845-519-4247. Meet: 10am at Trailside Nature Center, Coles Ave. Walk on woods roads in the shade at a moderate pace. Steady rain cancels.

Sunday, June 17

WEC. Father's Day Family Hike, Norvin Green State Forest, NJ. Leader: more information and to register, call 973-835-2160. Meet: 11am; register for location. Easy 3 miles led by a Weis naturalist and recommended for families with elementary-school aged kids and older. Limited to 25; \$8 fee, fathers hike free. Out by 2pm.

AFW. Sunfish Pond, Delaware Water Gap, NJ. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am; register for meeting place. Moderately strenuous hike at a moderate pace; out by 4pm.

Saturday, June 23

UHC. Copperas Ridge, Rockaway Township, NJ. Leader: Jean Fletcher, 973-285-5263. Meet: 10am at Split Rock Reservoir Fish & Game parking, 5 miles at moderate pace with some rocky spots. Gradual ascent to top of the ridge, then down to Timberbrook Pond, with views of reservoir; mountain laurel could be in bloom. Out by 3pm. Rain cancels.

Sunday, June 24

AFW. Storm King Mountain, NY. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 9:30am; register for meeting place. Strenuous hike at a moderate pace; out by 2pm.

IHC. Clinton Reservoir, Pequannock Watershed, NJ. Leader: Jim McKay, 973-538-0756, jrmckay@verizon.net. Meet: 9:30am at lot #P7, 1373 Clinton Rd., West Milford, NJ. Moderate 6-7 miles; shuttle required. Old Coal Trail, Bearfort Waters-Clinton Trail (newly relocated around Buckbear Pond), and Clinton West Trail.

Saturday, June 30

FOCA. Old Croton Aqueduct Walk, NY. Leader: call 914-693-0529 for further information. Meet: 10am at top of driveway of Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, NY (short walk from Metro North Glenwood RR station). 4-5 miles. Walk north for scenic Hudson River views and into Untermyer Park's elegant gardens.

UHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ. Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10am; call for directions. Moderate hike through lovely park with wildflowers. 2 hours, some hills. Steady rain cancels.

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

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

Club Codes

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

AFW	Adventures for Women	NYR	New York Ramblers
AMC-NYNJ	Appalachian Mountain Club, New York-North Jersey Chapter	OC	Outdoors Club
CMC	Catskill Mountain Club	PM	Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area
FOCA	Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct	RWV	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
FPB	Friends of Pelham Bay	SW	Shorewalkers
GS	Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center	UHC	Union County Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	WEC	Weis Ecology Center
NYHC	New York Hiking 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 Summer issue is May 15.



Wonder Lake State Park, NY

The Trail Conference volunteers at Wonder Lake State Park in Putnam County, led by Trail Supervisor Andrew Seirup, completed the new Orchard Hill Trail this winter. This new one-mile trail links to existing trails in the park and makes possible a 5.1-mile circuit that follows the shore of scenic Wonder Lake and pristine Laurel Pond and passes an interesting hemlock grove. (See Featured Hike, page 12.) This new trail brings the total number of miles of trail in the park to 8.7 miles.

Trail Changes Coming on Schunemunk and at Minnewaska

In connection with major relocations of Long Path segments set to happen this summer, a number of trails on Schunemunk Mountain and at Minnewaska State Park Preserve will get new blaze colors. See page 1 story and stay tuned for updates on our website.

UPDATES ON FALL STORM-RELATED CLOSINGS

New Jersey

- Black Creek Bridge on AT near Canal Road has been reset and is now open.
- Long House Creek Bridge on AT near Bearfort Mountain/Greenwood Lake was still out as of the deadline for this issue.
- Green Brook Bridge near Warwick Turnpike on Terrace Pond North Trail was still out as of the deadline for this issue.
- Long Pond Bridge over the Wanaque River at Hasenclever/Sterling Ridge/Highlands Trails is washed out. The Trail Conference has applied for funding from the Recreational Trails Program to replace this bridge.

West Hudson

Minnewaska State Park Preserve: All four trail bridges at Minnewaska State Park Preserve—Mossy Glen, Blueberry Run, and two over the Peterskill—are yet to be replaced as of this deadline. Trail Conference representatives met with Park staff in February to begin planning for their replacement. The goal is to have all four crossings back in place this year, but the timetable is indefinite. Watch our website for updates (nynjtc.org/park/minnewaska-state-park)

Harriman-Bear Mountain State Parks: Eight of the 12 stream crossings that were washed out or damaged last fall are expected to be out for an extended time, several perhaps permanently. These problem crossings are indicated on the newest edition of the Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails maps (see story on page 11). Park managers are reviewing options for replacing the bridges and/or rerouting some trails.

Esthetic requirements for the bridges—that they be built of trees in the area and not of water resistant commercial planks—are proving difficult if not impossible to meet, given the increasing scarcity of durable, appropriately sized trees in the forest.

- Popolopen Gorge: Replacing this bridge will be a major project and is not likely to occur for more than a year. The bridge carries the Timp-Torne, 1777E & 1779 Trails. (Closely related, the aqueduct work which has closed the Popolopen Gorge Trail on the south side of the gorge is on schedule for completion in May. The trail will be closed until the work is finished.)

- Bridges that we understand are to be replaced and repaired by the park in the months ahead (no timetable as of this deadline) include two of the several bridges reached from the Reeves Meadow Visitor Center on Seven Lakes Drive: the bridge carrying the Hillburn-Torne Sebago Trail just upstream of the Cascade of Slid and the bridge that carries only the Kakiat Trail over Stony Brook.

- Replacement of the bridge further upstream that formerly carried the Pine Meadow, Kakiat, and Seven Hills Trails is under review.

- The Nurian Trail bridge over the Ramapo River west of the NYS Thruway, is expected to be repaired by the park as soon as their sawmill can provide the materials.

- The bridge over Stahahe Brook on the Old Arden Road south of the Elk Pen may never be replaced.

Some good news: the park has approved rebuilding the bridge that carries the Long Path over Horse Chock Brook near Call Hollow Road, and the bridge carrying the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail south of the Anthony Wayne Recreation area. We hope to recruit volunteers to rebuild these bridges during the spring season.

East Hudson

Bridges on School Mountain Road in Fahnestock State Park have not been replaced, however crossings can generally be made by careful footing.

Catskills

A number of trail bridges that were lost during Hurricane Irene have been rebuilt by the NYS DEC Trail Crews in Ulster and Greene County. The crews (volunteers are not permitted to build bridges in the Catskill Park) worked through the winter and will continue through the spring.

West Jersey Crew Bridge Capers

West Jersey Crew members call it their Boxing Day Bridge Caper. On December 26 (Boxing Day), 2011, eight members of the crew undertook to repair and replace the Appalachian Trail bridge over the old alignment of Wawayanda Creek in northern New Jersey. Hurricane Irene and her sibling storm Lee had generated extraordinary flooding in the area that caused all three sections of the bridge to float up and off their pilings. Fortunately, though scattered and battered, they remained relatively intact. But the crew faced additional challenges: the channel left by receding water was surprisingly deep and surrounded by an area of very problematic mud flats. Crew members combined brains, winches, skylines, and muscles to successfully reassemble the bridge by day's end. Huge thanks to Lee Mott, James Mott, Steve Reiss, Bill Taggart, Linda Taggart, Pete Zuroff and crew leaders Monica and David Day. The project is documented in a slide show at trailstobuild.com/gallerys/boxingdaybridgecaper.



The Appalachian Trail bridge over Wawayanda Creek after flood damage last fall.



West Jersey Crew members move a bridge segment back into place.



After one hard day's work by eight crew members, the bridge was ready for hikers.

Lenape Trail Update

The Lenape Trail Committee is developing bollards and signage inserts to "brand" the trail as it travels through roughly 20 heavily used suburban parks in Essex County, NJ. The project is a joint effort between the Trail Conference and the Essex County Department of Parks and Recreation. The bollards were designed by Steve Marano and Ed Goodell with graphics by Lou Leonardis. Ron Luna fabricated these lightweight (hollow) full-size prototypes.

The prototypes will be used in the upcoming months to help plan locations for installation. The bollards will be used in situations where there isn't an appropriate tree or pole to put a blaze on. They also will draw attention to the trail and educate people about the trail and trail blazes. The large 6-foot bollard is designed for locations where the trail enters/exits a park; the shorter version is to be used within a park.



Steve Marano (left) and Ron Luna with prototypes of new Lenape Trail bollards.

Appalachian Trail Ambassador Will Promote Community Ties



The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has named Mike Fraatz of Poughkeepsie, NY, as AT Ambassador to trail communities in our region. In this one-year, stipend-supported volunteer position, Mike will work with local Trail Conference volunteers to promote volunteerism and stewardship of the Appalachian Trail.

Towns, counties, and communities along the AT's corridor are considered assets by hikers, and many of these towns act as good friends and neighbors to the Trail. Some are designated by ATC as official AT Communities. The program serves to assist communities with local initiatives such as sustainable economic development through

tourism and outdoor recreation, while preserving and protecting the AT. The Town of Warwick in Orange County plans to mark its designation as an AT Community in a day of celebration Saturday, June 30.

Mike's particular focus will be on nurturing the AT Community Program in New York. He will help with plans for Warwick to celebrate and take advantage the program and will also cultivate interest in the program among other communities.

Mike earned his degree in wildlife conservation in 2010 from the University of Delaware and is currently pursuing a graduate degree at Pace University. He has most recently worked with the New York AmeriCorps' Student Conservation Association in Poughkeepsie.

Volunteering Unites Generations Zachary Gold & Ken Bitz



Zachary Gold and his grandfather, Ken Bitz, are field-checking trails for Walkable Westchester.

Zachary Gold, of Scarsdale, NY, was in need of a mitzvah project. Age 12 and preparing for his September 1, 2012 bar mitzvah, Zachary sought to satisfy the community service requirement by taking on a project with an environmental focus. Finding the right project proved more difficult than he expected; for most, he was considered too young.

Then his grandmother saw a note in *Trail Walker* about volunteer opportunities to field check trails in Westchester County for the planned revision of the Trail Conference book *Walkable Westchester*. It proved to be the perfect project for not only Zachary, but also for his grandfather, Ken Bitz, of Kinnelon, NJ. Beginning in September 2011, Zachary and Ken have been hiking, collecting, and reporting trails data to authors Jane and Walt Daniels, with Ken making the two-hour round-trip drive from his New Jersey home for each excursion. As of the deadline for this issue, they had covered more than 21 miles of trails in four parks together.

Says Jane Daniels: "My reaction when Zach first expressed interest in helping was, Wow, an intergenerational team—what a great idea. Then Zach told me he is the one in charge of reporting back, and that was even more impressive. He and his grandfa-

ther are an important part of my team of field checkers. Zach's reports are accurate and returned quickly. Then they are off on their next assignment, exploring a place to hike together."

The experience, says Ken, has given him a great opportunity to bond with his grandson. "We really enjoy the peacefulness of being out on the trail," he says. "We talk about many things and have found something meaningful to share. There are many grandfathers out there," he adds. "I really urge them to consider an activity like this."

For his part, Zachary says the experience has reinforced his interest in nature. "I definitely want to get out and hike, and to share the beauty and to improve it." He looks forward to graduating to trail work one day. "I enjoy it for myself and I want to help other people do the same."

The project has had the unexpected benefit of introducing the whole Gold family to previously unfamiliar natural areas close to home. "I love that it's so local," Zachary says. "Just a 10-minute drive and you're at nature's door."

Find Volunteer Opportunities
That Are Right For You at
nynjtc.org/Volunteer

Nominations for Board, Delegates-at-Large

The Trail Conference Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for membership on the Board of Directors and Delegates-at-Large. The qualifications for Board of Directors are current membership in the Trail Conference and service participation in trails maintenance or on a Trail Conference committee. The qualification for Delegate-at-Large is current membership in the Trail Conference. Self-nominations for Delegate-at-Large and Board of Directors are appropriate and welcome.

Please email your nomination to nominations@nynjtc.org. The deadline for receipt of nominations is Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

TRAIL CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

volunteers@nynjtc.org

Nov. 22, 2011 – Feb. 10, 2012

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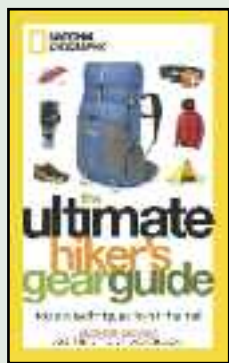
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Book Review

The Ultimate Hiker's Gear Guide

By Andrew Skurka



National Geographic, 2012
Reviewed by Howard E. Friedman DPM

Andrew Skurka, 30 years old, has been backpacking across the United States and Canada as well as in South Africa and Iceland, covering 30,000 miles in the past 10 years. He thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail while a student in Duke University. He followed it up by hiking the Sea-to-Sea route, a 7,775-mile behemoth beginning in Cape Gaspe, Quebec and ending in Cape Alava, WA, 11 months later. Then he hiked the 2,663-mile Pacific Crest Trail, averaging 38 miles a day.

His most acclaimed adventure was his Alaska-Yukon Expedition in 2011, funded in part by National Geographic, a 4,700-mile circumnavigation of Alaska and part of the Yukon Territory. He traveled on some existing trails, like the Iditarod dog-sled race trail, and along rivers and off-trail routes he selected after careful study of topographic maps.

If anyone is qualified to write a guide for hikers and backpackers, it is Skurka.

The Ultimate Hiker's Gear Guide is Skurka's first book, a 224-page reference, with text supplemented by 150 color photos, graphs, tables, charts, and sidebars. Skurka writes the way he hikes: efficiently and with purpose. His compendium is 600 pages shorter than the reigning bible of hiking and backpacking, *The Complete Walker IV* by Colin Fletcher and Chip Rawlins published in 2002.

Skurka presents the pros and cons of various types of jackets, tents, tarps, sleeping bags and stoves based on their differing material, properties, and weights—getting into details that separate the casual hiker from the gear geek. Much of this may be more than the day hiker wants to know, but understanding the advantages of fleece over wool as an insulator could help keep a hiker warmer with less weight and at a lower cost.

The author is not shy about stating his opinions and preferences. They appear in side-bars called "Skurka's Picks" in which he outlines what type of gear he favors for a particular scenario and his rationale based on tens of thousands of miles of use.

The core of the book is about gear, but it covers more. Skurka begins with the case for his mantra, "lighter, faster, further." He makes a cogent argument why even a day hiker or occasional over-night short-mileage backpacker should consider lightening their load. Lighter is more comfortable; comfort is conducive to longer hikes; longer hikes lead one to see more in the wilderness.

Skurka takes the reader through his method of trip preparation: study the maps, gather historical weather information for the time of year of the planned trip, collect information on water availability on the trail—then prepare spreadsheets. These help the hiker manage the weight of their backpack by listing each item to be carried or worn and tabulating the total weight to be carried. He applies his method to five sample trips in the final chapter.

Reading through Skurka's trip preparations should enable the reader to see how a more precise understanding of hiking gear can translate into a lighter, faster, and further next trip.

Howard E. Friedman, DPM, is an avid hiker, a podiatrist in Suffern, NY, and a frequent contributor to Trail Walker. Find many of his articles on our website at nynjtc.org/news/health-news.



JACK-OR IS IT JACQUELINE?

continued from page 7

A multiple sex-changer

Jack-in-the-pulpit is unique because an individual plant can change sex each year from male to female or vice versa throughout its 20-year lifespan. Only a few species of plants are known to change sex. Plants will be female when they have reached a sufficient size to provide stored resources to support flower and berry production, but will revert to being male or nonflowering if stored resources are depleted. Sex also may fluctuate with environmental resources like moisture and nutrients.

So how exactly does that Jack-in-the-pulpit in your local woodland decide if it should be male or female this year?

Jack-in-the-pulpit has been the most widely studied of the sex changing plants, and these studies have shown that, basically, size matters. The sex of the current year's plant is determined by the size of the previous year's root storage structure, called a corm. Larger corms yield larger female plants, while smaller corms yield males or

nonflowering plants. Corm size will be reduced in females that produce a lot of berries, and those plants often will be male in the following year.

Corm size also can be reduced if the leaves are eaten or otherwise damaged, which reduces the leaves' ability to photosynthesize. Slugs and caterpillars feed on Jack-in-the-pulpit leaves and can cause enough damage to reduce corm size. Deer also will feed on Jack-in-the-pulpit, even though the plants contain acrid, distasteful substances called oxalate crystals. In areas of high deer density, there may be few female Jack-in-the-pulpit plants.

If you see some Jack-in-the-pulpits this spring, take a closer look at the odd flowering structures and try to tell the "Jacks" from the "Jacquelines."

Edna Greig is a Trail Conference member and regular contributor to Trail Walker. She now also writes the blog *Eye on Nature*: eyeonature.wordpress.com.



View from the top of Claudius Smith Rock, Harriman State Park

Newly Revised Maps for Harriman-Bear Mountain Show Trail Changes, More Viewpoints

A new edition of our most popular map set is now available. The two-map Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails—the 14th edition—shows 235 miles of trails throughout these state parks, including the Appalachian Trail and Long Path, as well as other surrounding parklands. It features an improved inset map of Bear Mountain that now shows all the trails on the summit, including an up-to-date configuration of the Appalachian Trail. A new relocation of the Appalachian Trail is now shown on West Mountain.

Several other updates have also been incorporated, including new protected lands in southern Harriman State Park and northern Bear Mountain State Park, additional scenic viewpoints throughout the parks, and more accurate parking symbols that distinguish between parking lots and roadside parking areas. The maps also indicate areas where stream crossings may be difficult due to bridges that were destroyed by storms in 2011.

Price: \$9.95 (\$7.46 for Trail Conference members). Purchase it online at nynjtc.org, call 201-512-9348, or stop in at the Trail Conference office. Visit trailpubs.nynjtc.org and click on the Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails cover panel for additional resources, including suggested hikes, park contact information, and much more!

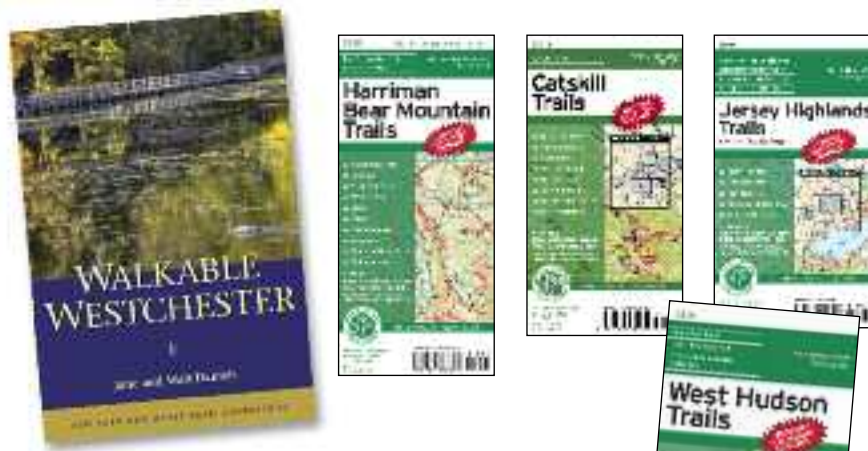
The map set was produced with support from Campmor, an outdoor store and retail partner of the Trail Conference.



The purchase of this map set supports trail maintenance in the region!

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Featured Hike



New Loop at Wonder Lake

In February, Trail Conference volunteers took advantage of the unseasonably good weather to finish work on a new, one-mile trail at little-known Wonder Lake State Park in northeastern Putnam County. The blue-blazed Orchard Hill Trail makes possible a nice loop hike in the nearly 1200-acre park, which now features 8.7 miles of trails, including the first blazed section of the Highlands Trail east of the Hudson River. This loop hike follows the shore of scenic Wonder Lake and pristine Laurel Pond.

Volunteers: Andrew Seirup (Supervisor), Tom Buckley, Dave Dvorsky, Gayle Edgerton, Sally Lake, Barry Leibowitz, Ted Marzilli, Paul Waclawski, and Tad Waclawski.

Length: About 5.1 miles

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Time: 3.5 hours

Map: Find a free, downloadable trail map at nynjtc.org/view/maps

Dogs: Permitted on leash

Driving: Take I-84 East to Exit 17. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto Ludingtonville Road and continue for 1.6 miles to the parking area for Wonder Lake State Park, on the left. GPS address: 380 Ludingtonville Road, Holmes, NY 12531.

From the parking area, you'll see a post with a yellow blaze (for the Yellow Trail) and a teal diamond blaze (for the Highlands Trail). Follow these trails uphill, and you'll soon reach a junction. The Yellow Trail goes off to the left, but you should bear right to continue on the (HT), which you will follow for most of this hike.

The HT will take you to and around Wonder Lake. The route is moderately up-and-down, includes minor stream crossings, passes numerous stone walls, and intersects with several other trails.

At the southeast corner of Wonder Lake, the trail crosses a dam and wooden footbridge over the lake's outlet. A white-blazed

trail begins on the north side of the dam, but you should bear left to continue along the Highlands Trail. After crossing a woods road (the route of the Yellow Trail), the trail turns away from the lake. It climbs a little, then begins a steady descent and follows along the edge of an escarpment, with a beautiful hemlock grove in the ravine below.

With Laurel Pond visible through the trees ahead, the HT turns sharply right and continues to descend on a switchback. At the base of the descent, it crosses a woods road and proceeds to pristine Laurel Pond. The trail crosses a concrete spillway over a secondary outlet and follows along the pond. After crossing a stone dam and wooden footbridge over the pond's main outlet, the trail heads uphill, following a woods road.

At a T-intersection at the crest of the rise, the Highlands Trail continues ahead onto a footpath, which loops around and soon reaches another woods road. The trail turns right and follows the road, which soon begins to climb. Be alert for a turn, just before the start of a steeper climb, where the Highlands Trail turns right and continues on a footpath.

After crossing an intermittent stream, the trail continues along the side of a hill and soon begins to descend. In a short distance, three blue blazes on the left mark the start of the blue-blazed Orchard Hill Trail. Turn left and follow the Orchard Hill Trail, which climbs gradually to the crest of a rise, then descends and continues across gentle, rolling terrain.

After another gradual climb and descent, the Orchard Hill Trail ends at a junction with the white-blazed North Spillway Trail. Follow this for about 150 feet to its terminus on the HT, then turn right and follow the teal diamond blazes, retracing your steps back to the parking area.

This description is adapted from Daniel Chazin's more detailed article, which can be found at nynjtc.org/hike/wonder-lake-laurel-pond-loop-hike



ANDREW SEIRUP

Trail Conference volunteers have finished a new trail at Wonder Lake State Park that make possible a nice loop hike to and around the lake.



LEIGH DRAPER

Download a Wonder Lake trail map at nynjtc.org/view/maps



GEORGETTE WEIR

The Highlands Trail also passes Laurel Pond at Wonder Lake State Park.

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