



85th YEAR

# TRAIL WALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE — MAINTAINING OVER 1,600 MILES OF FOOT TRAILS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005

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## New Train-Accessible Trail In the Works in Dutchess



GEORGETTE WEIR

Kelly Dugan pushes a future rock step, Dave Webber pulls it, Denise Vitale secures the line, and crew chief Eddie Walsh (center, behind tree) works the winch.

A new 1.5-mile segment of the Hudson River Greenway Trail is being built by Trail Conference crews in the Dutchess County Town of Wappinger. The project, which also involves rehabilitation and cleanup of another 2.5 miles of existing trails and the creation and installation of interpretive signage, will result in an extensive network of trails on adjacent properties between Wappingers Creek and the Hudson River. When completed later in 2005, a new trailhead will be easily accessible in New Hamburg to Metro-North riders. Other trailheads will be at Dutchess County's Bowdoin Park (along the Hudson) and in the village of Wappingers Falls.

Trail work, organized by Eddie Walsh, Jr., got underway in October, and more than 30 volunteers turned out over consecutive fall weekends to move rocks for steps and sidehill a treadway up a steep slope. An extensive effort was made to recruit new volunteers, including from area colleges (Vassar, Marist, and SUNY-New Paltz), the local community (with flyers and tables at libraries, natural food stores, and community events), and even from New York City. Walsh noted that a notice on an Internet

event list sent to NYC subscribers yielded 30 interested volunteers, 12 of whom showed up on a cold and rainy Saturday ready to get down and dirty.

The project was commissioned by the Village of Wappingers Falls, which is one of three landowners of contiguous parcels along the Wappingers Creek. The others are the Audubon Society, which owns the creek-side Reese Nature Preserve, and Scenic Hudson, which owns land at the top of the ridge overlooking the creek. Existing trails in Bowdoin Park, a county park in the Town of Poughkeepsie that is across a road from the other parcels, will be linked to the expanded trail network.

The project was initiated by the Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee, whose members include representatives of the Village of Wappingers Falls, the towns of Wappinger and Poughkeepsie, and Dutchess County.

Work will resume in the spring and will include more sidehilling, rock-step projects, and building a small bridge. Contact Eddie Walsh at eddiewalsh@wildmail.com for more information or to volunteer.



## Congress Approves Highlands Conservation Act

Congress has approved the Highlands Conservation Act (previously referred to as the Highlands Stewardship Act), which would fund open space projects throughout the four-state, 3.5-million-acre Highlands region. The Senate passed the bill in October, the House approved the measure in November, and President Bush signed it into law November 30.

The Highlands Conservation Act authorizes \$100 million over the next 10 years for land conservation projects in the Highlands. The Highlands region extends from Pennsylvania to northern New Jersey and through southern New York and Connecticut.

The Highlands region has been and continues to be threatened by suburban sprawl. Large tracts of forest lands that make up the Highlands are a popular destination for outdoor recreational activities. The Highlands region is also a major water supply source for the region.

The act stipulates that Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, and New York would have to submit land-preservation projects to Congress each year for appropriations approval. The program requires that the states match the federal funds, thereby increasing the total funds available for land preservation to \$200 million.

The Trail Conference is a founding member of the Highlands Coalition, an alliance of over 100 organizations working to protect the region, which actively worked to secure passage of this legislation.

## On Our Way to Catskill Mountains LITE?

The following is excerpted from testimony last year by Trail Conference member Susanna Margolis during a hearing on the environmental review of the large-scale golf resort proposed for Belleayre Mountain in the central Catskills. The remarks were previously excerpted in the newsletter of member club AMC, New York-North Jersey Chapter.

To establish my hiking credentials, let me first say that I have been a member of the AMC for more than 30 years and of the Sierra Club for about the same, that I have hiked extensively with both organizations...and that I was regularly a volunteer hike leader for the New York-North Jersey Chapter of the AMC...I am a member of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, was a trail maintainer on the Wittenberg-Cornell-Slide Trail and on the Dry Brook Ridge Trail, and am currently the supervisor of the Dry Brook Ridge volunteer maintainers for the Trail Conference. I am the author of two books...One, entitled *Walking Europe from Top to Bottom*, is about a 1500-mile hike from the North Sea to the Mediterranean, a hike which—obviously—I did, and the other book, *Adventuring in the Pacific*, addresses hiking opportunities on the islands of Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia. I have hiked the mountains of five continents, from the Grand Canyon to the Himalayas, from the Andes to the

Atlas. I hope you'll agree that this qualifies me to say something very briefly about why people hike.

We don't do it to arrive someplace; there are far faster means of getting somewhere. We don't even do it for the so-called reward of a view from the top. We hike because doing so offers a quality of contact with a place that is simply not possible any other way. I will give myself permission to quote from my book about that 1500-mile hike down Europe and assert that an awareness of place *accumulates* in the hiker. Sights, sounds, smells, climate, landscape, experience are all gathered in "through the muscles, through the pores, and, mostly, through the feet. One step at a time."

Hiking therefore provides a unique acquaintance with the character of a place, and people hike in a place precisely because of its character. That makes hikers something akin to the canary in the mine when it comes to the well-being of a community's character, and right now, where the proposed Belleayre resort at Catskill Park is concerned, hikers smell danger... there are a very great number of people who are drawn to this area to hike, and there always have been.

I cannot emphasize too strongly what a miracle this place is for people from cities or suburbs—especially for city-dwellers who don't own cars. From the Port Authority Bus Terminal at the heart of the bustle

*continued on page 8*



### Sharing the Dream

The Trail Conference Annual Meeting in October at Skylands Manor in Ringwood State Park in New Jersey, was an extra special affair this year. Participants not only enjoyed a beautiful fall day of hiking, but were treated to sophisticated poster presentations highlighting recent TC achievements and detailing its ambitions for the future, all part of the kick-off for the "Share the Dream" capital campaign. Attendees also had a chance to purchase, hot off the presses and autographed, the newest volume in the TC list of publications, *Kittatinny Trails*. Publications Committee chair George Petty (left) celebrated the occasion with author Robert Boysen.

# TRAILWALKER

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GEORGETTE WEIR EDITOR  
LOUIS LEONARDIS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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## NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

### Mission Statement

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

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

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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is a federation of 91 hiking and outdoor groups, and 10,000 individuals.

## FROM THE CHAIR

# Hikers & Creativity

Your first reaction to the title of this column is likely to be, "hikers creative?" We like to be out walking in the woods. What's creative about that?

As it turns out, we may not be creative in the same way an artist or musician is, but we are creative. Two books that I have recently read deal with creativity in very different ways. Both had me rethinking my notions of creativity and made me realize that creativity, problem solving, and innovation are all related.

The first book, *The Medici Effect: Breakthrough Insights at the Intersection of Ideas, Concepts and Cultures* by Frans Johansson, deals with the intersection of ideas not usually associated with each other. Studying the foraging behavior of ants lends clues to problems like factory scheduling and telecom routing, for example. Or, relevant to our interests, land protection questions lead to library resources. The Land Use Center at the Mahopac Library is the result of my husband asking why a public library couldn't house books and materials of interest to local planners, zoning boards, and interested citizens. My association with him provided the means to achieve that type of collection. Being open to free association allows one to think outside the box and thus find solutions to problems.

On the other hand, *The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life* by Twyla Tharp is more about the creative process and how

to manage it. She offers stories and examples from dance, music, and art to show how to prepare to be creative, figure out how your creative DNA works, develop skills, or survive a rut. Her suggested exercises are broad and make you think. It made me think of the ways the Trail Conference is innovative and creative.

Bob Marshall got creative when he found he could not run all the work trips that needed to be scheduled. So, he took some of his well trained crew and made them crew leaders. His model is one that David Day, Monica Resor, and Denise Vitale emulate as they work in western New Jersey and West Hudson, north, respectively.

*It made me think of the ways the Trail Conference is innovative and creative.*



Trail design is creative; the land on which the trail will lie is like a canvas on which we paint, or, perhaps more appropriately since we are working in three dimensions, like a sculpture that we shape. And they reflect the individuality of the designers. Bob Marshall's trails have a gentle grade as they switchback up a hill, not surprising because Bob loves to build sidehills. On the other hand, Bob Reardon's trails have steps, which is a construction technique at which he excels.

John Myers exhibited creativity while starting up our land acquisition program. He pieces together small units to make larger ones that eventually the state or another not-for-profit organization will buy, and we are thus able to recycle the money to purchase other properties.

Ed Goodell, our executive director, realized that just repairing the trails, particularly the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain, was not enough. He worked to devise a project that will recruit and train volunteers and provide instruction to our sister organizations and local municipalities. They will gain valuable skills and we in turn will get much needed help. Partners are plentiful on this project, beginning with the National Park Service and the Appalachian Trail Conference, both of which have a vested interest in it. It is the integration of capacity building, trail design, instruction, interpretation of historical and natural resources, signage, and public awareness that gives this project an innovative and creative twist.

I have to be creative every time I write this column. As both authors point out, creativity does not just happen. The stage needs to be set. Organizations, such as the Trail Conference, that join people with like interests have a pool of people with a wide variety of work and education background as well as a range of skills and talents. It is a situation that allows for more opportunities for the intersection of ideas, for collaboration, and creativity. This diverse group of people is an inspiration to me and a pool from which I "fish" for ideas for a variety of situations.

—Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors

# Letters

## We See What We Love?

The September/October Science & Ecology article, "The Moran Effect," provided a warm reminder, in the person of John Moran, of the remarkable individuals who are NY-NJ Trail Conference volunteers. The piece also reminded me of Annie Dillard's chapter "Seeing," in her book *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. Dillard posits that the lover and the knowledgeable see what others cannot—and, as with the subject of your article, our observations are related to our expectations. She even extends her "seeing" discussion directly to Ed McGowan's subject, herpetology.

By the way, in those same Ramapo Mountains examined by Moran and McGowan, Boy Scouts of the 1930s, '40s, and '50s at times found rattlesnakes so common that they are the namesake of many "Rattlesnake Scout Patrols" still in existence today throughout northern New Jersey.

—Maureen K. Edelson  
Montclair, New Jersey

Ms. Edelson contributed the article "Mission: Possible," which appears on page 7 of this issue.

## Remembering Paul Leikin

As one of Paul Leikin's close friends, I was saddened by his death in 2004. Paul, Frank Bouton, and I hiked many miles together over a 30-year period. Now, both my friends are gone.

I was one of the Monday group, meeting at Paul's house to collate NY-NJ Trail Conference map sets for many years. The pay was fabulous: lunch gourmet, conversation stimulating. These incentives were what brought this group together. Paul even allowed us days off, and to arrive late and leave early on occasions with no cut in pay! What a supervisor.

Three of this group are now gone: Paul, Frank, and Don Hendrickson. They will be missed by all who knew them well.

—John Giuffrida  
Spring Valley, New York



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# Building a Better Trail Conference

From the Executive Director



The Trail Conference was created when New York City-based hiking clubs decided to work together to create a system of marked hiking trails at the invitation of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. Then as now, this was a completely voluntary association based on the shared desire to protect and enhance the opportunities for quality hiking experiences.

For the first 50 years, governance was provided solely by voting delegates of member clubs meeting in general assembly. More recently (~1970) the bylaws were changed allowing individual members, represented by delegates-at-large, and creating a board of directors, elected by the delegates to more efficiently manage the month-to-month affairs. While this enabled the Trail Conference to grow and to be more effective in stewardship and representing the interest of hikers, it has added a degree of separation between the work of the Trail Conference and the member clubs.

*“The next couple of decades are a critical time for shaping the opportunities for outdoor recreation in this region.”*

It is just as important today as it was in 1920 that we actively work to overcome this communication gap. We are much more effective working together than independently. There were 91 Club members of the Trail Conference in 2004, representing well over 100,000 individuals and covering areas from Montauk, Long Island, to the Finger Lakes, New York. The work of the Trail Conference continues to enable clubs and their members to become more involved in taking care of the recreational resources we all need and enjoy. If only 1% of club members would volunteer (beyond those who already do) it would more than double the number of Trail Conference volunteers.

Late last summer, we held an informal focus group with delegates and officers from some of our member clubs. Our goal

was to explore ways to more closely integrate club needs and capabilities with the work of the Trail Conference. The frank discussions highlighted club concerns about a range of issues from insurance to off-road vehicle damage. Overall, clubs expressed a desire to be more informed and “in-the-loop” about the Trail Conference’s wide ranging activities and initiatives.

One conclusion is that the current format of three, annual delegate meetings does not provide enough contact between member clubs to effectively communicate and build a working relationship. Therefore, starting with the February 2005 delegates meeting, we are taking some steps to improve the communications within the Trail Conference and provide a forum where people can come together and work on issues of mutual interests. (See February delegates meeting notice on this page.)

To do this effectively, the meeting will be a full day on a Saturday (February 26), ending with a short business meeting of voting delegates. The rest of the day will be devoted to a group brainstorming process (known, ironically, as *Open Space*) that was developed when someone noticed that the best ideas and discussions at a conference often occur during the coffee breaks.

Unlike a normal conference with a set program, the attending delegates’ perspectives and opinions will determine the topics for breakout groups and direction of the day’s discussion. Delegates will be asked to identify key issues they would like to discuss. A program of breakout sessions will be determined by putting these issues to a vote. Each breakout session will have a host and a neutral facilitator. At the end of the day, the breakout groups will summarize their discussions for all participants and make the case for their point of view. Where there is sufficient interest, task forces can be created to continue the work of the breakout groups. These task forces can recruit other club members, report progress at future delegates meetings, and seek direct assistance from the Trail Conference.

We are exploring ways to have more club members working together on issues that clubs care about. The next couple of decades are a critical time for shaping the opportunities for outdoor recreation in this region. Creating that synergy is what the Trail Conference is all about.

If you are a member of a hiking club, feel free to bring this opportunity to the attention of your club leadership. (Club contact information is at <http://www.nynjtc.org/clubs.html>.)

— Ed Goodell  
[goodell@nynjtc.org](mailto:goodell@nynjtc.org)

## Delegates Meeting Set for February 26

All Trail Conference members are invited to attend the next Delegates’ Meeting on Saturday, February 26, 2004, at the Fresh Air Fund’s Camp Mariah on the Sharpe Reservation, 436 Van Wyck Lake Rd., Fishkill, NY 12524 845-896-5910. The meeting is expected to run from 4:00-5:30 pm.

It will be preceded by a full-day brainstorming session starting at 10 am, which is open to all voting delegates. (See “From the Executive Director” above for details.) Feel free to contact your club delegate or the

Trail Conference office with general and specific issues for consideration during the brainstorming and business meetings.

Camp Mariah can be reached from I-84 via Exit 13 or via the Beacon train station. There are trails for snowshoeing on the property and overnight accommodations available for reservation in advance. Contact the office (201-512-9348) to RSVP; get directions, arrange for pick-up at the train station, and/or find out about carpool options.

## ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION



GEORGETTE WEIR

*Conservation of the four-state Highlands area will get federal support (see page 1).*

### DEC to Review Shawanga Lodge

In a move urged by the NY-NJ Trail Conference and other members of the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, the Mamakating Planning Board in November agreed to name the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) lead agency on the environmental review of a large resort proposed for the top of the ridge in the town. Developers of the project, dubbed Shawanga Lodge, propose a 250-room resort hotel, conference center, and sports complex, six-stories high, on 307 ridgetop acres in the Town of Mamakating. The DEC is owner/manager of adjacent forest lands.

### Open Space Funding Gets Broad Support

In addition to the monumental Highlands Preservation Act approved in New Jersey last summer, and the Highlands Conservation Act approved by the United States Congress in the fall (see page 1), a number of open space funding proposals in the New York-New Jersey region have been passed recently. (Information is from data compiled by the Trust for Public Land’s Landvote Database.)

In November, New Jersey voters okayed 31 of 44 funding bills put to them at county and local levels, a total of \$283,900,081 for open space protection. In New York, nine funding bills were proposed and seven were passed, totaling \$267,400,000 in funding.

In addition, in Orange County, NY, Executive Edward Diana and the legislature designated \$20 million in the capital budget to be spent over the next five years in protecting and acquiring open space. Of special interest in Orange County was the community of Chester, where citizens approved a proposal to borrow \$4.4 million to buy and preserve property near Sugarloaf Mountain to preserve a valued watershed and protect the local tourist and artisan businesses. In the neighboring town of Goshen, approval was given for borrowing \$5 million to buy development

rights on farmland and other open space.

PDR programs (purchase of development rights) are being explored as a way to preserve land. In a PDR scenario a town buys development rights on open land that remains in private ownership. The private owner receives payment in exchange for a written (and recorded) enforceable promise not to develop the land in the future. This restriction passes on to all subsequent owners. PDR programs allow towns to attain their open space goals—watershed, farmland, and recreation protection—at a cost less than purchase, thereby extending taxpayer funds. New Jersey’s towns and counties and the state’s Green Acres program run similar programs.

### NYS Legislative Agenda for 2005

The Trail Conference/Adirondack Mountain Club Partnership is already at work on trail-related budget issues in the 2005-2006 New York State budget. The partnership is strongly advocating for increased funds for land acquisition and stewardship and is requesting that New York significantly increase the land acquisition line item, which has been stagnant at approximately \$30 million. Examples of open space projects that are in need of funding include: Shawangunk Ridge parcels, Sterling Forest, and Long Path North parcels in Greene County just north of the Catskill Forest Preserve to ensure that the Long Path connects the Catskills to the Helderbergs.

In addition, the partnership is also strongly advocating that Governor Pataki increase stewardship funding in his executive budget proposal. Stewardship funding is essential for the preparation and maintenance of state land, including hiking trails, for public use.

The partnership will also continue to push for the passage of the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which would give towns the option to introduce a public referendum proposing an increase in the real estate transfer tax. The revenue from the transfer tax increase would be deposited into a Community Preservation Fund for local open space projects.

Passage of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail development and maintenance fund that would provide for ATV trail development on private land and prohibit use of the funds for ATV trail development on any kind of state land, state park land or the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves, is also a priority this year.

*Richard Benning, Neil Woodworth, and Marisa Iannacito contributed to this column.*

### Appalachian National Scenic Trail Needs Ridgerunners

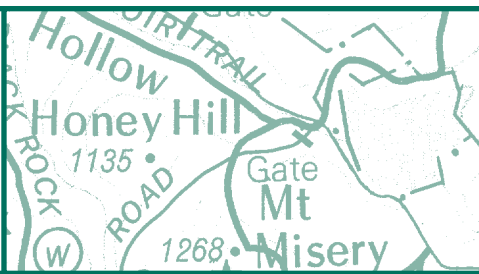
The Appalachian Trail Conference offers more than 20 seasonal PAID Ridgerunner and Caretaker positions, including several positions based in New Jersey. Join us in supporting the volunteer stewardship of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail!

Ridgerunners and Caretakers take steps to encourage the best behavior on the part of hikers, to facilitate a positive trail experience, and to elicit the support of AT neighbors. Positions are located in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maine. Seasons vary, stretching from March through October.

Go to the website [www.appalachiantrail.org](http://www.appalachiantrail.org) for the 2005 seasonal job application. For more information on the Ridgerunner program, contact Ian Nelson at 717-258-5771 or [inelson@atconf.org](mailto:inelson@atconf.org).

**Application deadline is January 15, 2005.**

# TRAIL NEWS



## Red Apple Parking Ends; New Access to Nurian Trail Set

Until further notice, there will be no free all-day parking for hikers at the Red Apple Rest parking lot in Southfields, along Route 17. The lot is still available as a meeting place and for short-term customer parking and continues to be an active bus stop. This parking area has been converted into a commuter parking lot for permit holders. There is no other public parking in the immediate area. In the past, the lot permitted easy access to the Nurian Trail in Harriman State Park.

The nearest parking for hikers is at Elk Pen, approximately 3/4 mile to the north. See NY-NJ Trail Conference Map #4, Northern Harriman-Bear Mtn. Trails.

For those utilizing the Elk Pen parking area to access the Nurian Trail, the Trail Conference has established an alternate route to it: the Stahahe Brook Trail (red stripe on white). It follows the Old Arden Road south for about 0.3 mile from where the Arden-Surebridge Trail (red triangle on white) leaves the road, then turns east after passing over a bridge and follows a woods road along the brook to reach the Nurian Trail (white) near the northern end of Lake Stahahe.

## Wildcat Mountain Lot Stays Open for Winter

The proposed paving of the Wildcat Mtn. trailhead parking lot (Route 17a) has been postponed by the Dept. of Transportation until approximately May 2005. Consequently, there will be no parking prohibition there over this winter. While drainage construction will be performed at the southern end of this lot, it will not prohibit trailhead parking at the northern end.

## Minnewaska Updates

Hikers may have encountered some restrictions at Minnewaska State Park this fall owing to the impact of severe late summer storms that damaged trails throughout the park. The storms washed out the footbridge that carries the High Peters Kill Trail over the Peters Kill, and caused that trail to be temporarily closed. The trail is now reopened thanks to the West Hudson North trail crew, which restored and repaired the bridge in October.

Also, park managers recently announced that the bridge over the Peters Kill at the main entrance to the park is in need of repair. Until repairs are completed, one lane will remain open only to pedestrians and cars; no trucks or service vehicles will be permitted to cross the bridge.

A reminder: The Hamilton Point Carriageway has been officially closed since the November 2002 ice and wind storm.

## Bridge Being Replaced Over Pine Meadow Brook

The bridge just below the Cascade of Slid across the Pine Meadow Brook in Harriman State Park is being replaced. The old bridge, which serves the Kakiat and the Stony Brook Trails, has been removed. The timetable for this project is uncertain, so check the Trail Conference website for details.

## AT Detour at Wallkill River Wildlife Refuge

A section of the Appalachian Trail in the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge will be temporarily rerouted during the Liberty Marsh Restoration Project. The work, in New Jersey, was scheduled to begin in late November/early December 2004 and expected to last two months, depending upon weather. This work will involve rehabilitation of the dike that comprises the south and west sections of the refuge's Liberty Loop Trail, which is co-aligned with the AT. To preserve public safety, the refuge will post signs to detour hikers to the north and east sections of Liberty Loop Trail away from construction areas for the duration of the project.

## Hasenclever Iron Trail Stays Open

The last issue of *Trail Walker* reported that a section of the recently opened Hasenclever Trail in Ringwood State Park in New Jersey had to be closed owing to the discovery of an industrial dump site near the trail. The Dept. of Environmental Protection quickly determined, however, that the trail could remain open. They noted that a temporary closure may be required in the future in order to excavate the site, but that waste drums discovered there pose no imminent danger.

## Tiorati Changes

To eliminate a swampy area and a short road walk through Tiorati Circle via Arden Valley and Tiorati Brook Roads, a portion of the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail (RD, red dot on white) has been rerouted. This section has been reestablished on a combination of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and old woods roads that circumvent the Tiorati Plateau Group Campground.

Also, a 0.3-mile blue-blazed trail, utilizing an old woods road, now provides safe off-road access between the Tiorati Circle parking lot and the AT & RD trails at Arden Valley Road.

## Dunnfield Creek Bridge and Trail Closed

The devastation wrought on the Dunnfield Creek Trail by Hurricane Ivan (reported in the last issue) now officially includes the bridge crossing nearest the parking lot. That bridge was the only one still existing after the storm, though it was damaged. The bridge has since been closed. The Dunnfield Creek Trail is also now closed.

Hikers seeking access to the Appalachian and other trails from the parking area should use recently installed stepping stones just upstream from the damaged bridge.

# Crew Notes

## A Year with the West Jersey Crew

By Monica Resor and David Day

Once again, in 2004, the West Jersey Crew got to work in most of the parks in the region: High Point State Park, Worthington State Forest, Wawayanda State Park, Stokes State Forest—and a new one for us, Jenny Jump State Park.

The spring season began with a return to Worthington to work on some long-needed repairs of the Blue Dot Trail. In the



Bob Sickley repairs a waterbar on the AT to Sunfish Pond.

course of our two trips to the site, we defined and constructed a relocation to remove the trail from what had become a waist-deep eroded ditch. By the end of the second trip, we had placed 16 stone steps, two waterbars, and 35 feet of retaining wall-leveled treadway. During the work, we treated a number of hikers to the spectacle of 300-pound step rocks flying 15 feet in the air, as we brought them the 200 feet through the woods from the "quarry."

Next, we moved north to the Appalachian Trail in High Point S.P., where we put the finishing touches on the stepping stones we began the prior fall season. We also placed several water bars on the very steep climb between the wet area and the AT's intersection with the Iris Trail.

Returning to Wawayanda for our next trip, we began the replacement of about 200 feet of defunct wooden puncheon with stepping stones on an area of the Terrace Pond South Trail that collects foot-deep water every spring and rainy summer. In the two trips to this site, we "flew in" and placed 27 stepping stones; as well as another 25 feet of turnpike.

In June, the crew relocated about a quarter-mile of the Howell Trail in Stokes S.F. This relocation was done to take the trail off an old roadbed that had become so badly eroded as to be nearly impassable. When we finished, we collected rocks, logs, stumps, and other forest debris and did our best to fill in the worst of the old washed-out trail. The material thrown into the ditches will act to slow down water as it flows, collecting silt and leaves and such, eventually filling in the old ditches.

For our final trip of the season, we had a "spring cleaning" trip on the Appalachian Trail in Worthington S.F. This section of the AT gets an amazing amount of use and needs constant attention. Our project was to clean, repair and generally refurbish all the drainage structures we could between I-80 and Sunfish Pond. So, armed with mattocks, shovels, and the odd clipper or two, the crew leap-frogged its way up—digging and cleaning as we went. By the end of the day we had fixed up, rebuilt, or built 34 waterbars and 10 check dams. It's a good thing we did, but more on that later!

Our first trip of the fall season was to complete the work on the Terrace Pond South Trail in Wawayanda. With the placement of the last eight step stones at the original site, a small stream crossing, and another six step stones near that, we declared that area of the trail to be done.

Then came Hurricane Ivan. The rain gauge at Yard's Creek (just north of Sunfish Pond on the Kittatinny Ridge) recorded 11.5 inches of rain in about 2.5 hours that morning. Dunnfield Creek, which drains the valley through which the AT passes, ran so high that I-80 had to be closed because the water was flowing onto the road surface instead of under the bridge! By the time it was over, five of the seven bridges over Dunnfield Creek were destroyed, and the one carrying the AT was damaged so badly it has been condemned.

Since we were already scheduled to work on the AT in Worthington for our next trip, we shifted into clearing and repair mode after a call from the park superintendent. With two chainsaw teams, we cleared our way up the AT to Sunfish Pond and then back down the Dunnfield Creek



Don Griffin and Jerry Losowjy pry loose a "perfect" rock.

Trail (or what was left of it). Meanwhile another team pulled together a rudimentary bridge from a couple of downed trees and salvaged deck boards at the major stream crossing, and then continued upstream making two more basic step-stone crossings out of the demolished bridge footings.

As an aside: I was very happy to note that the three dozen waterbars and drainage

*continued on page 6*

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# WANTED

## Donate Your Old External Frame Pack

Wanted: that old external frame backpack in the back of your closet. To be used by the trail crews for carrying tools (particularly grip hoist equipment and accessories) to and from work sites. Please contact David Day & Monica Resor at [westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com](mailto:westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com).

# SCIENCE & ECOLOGY

## Winter Woods

By Edwin McGowan, Science Director, PhD

About this time each year, bird enthusiasts across the nation brave whatever winter throws at them to take part in the annual Christmas bird count. Thousands of birders contribute to the count in a typical year, a tradition reaching back over 100 years.

At Bear Mountain and Harriman State Parks, naturalists have gathered each winter since 1946 (excepting a lapse from 1974-1979) for a similar effort, the annual Winter Bird and Wildlife Census, one of the oldest censuses of its kind. A truly remarkable record, census results track the steady presence of common winter residents (e.g., American tree sparrow, seen

Moreover, the census reveals the diversity of wildlife present and viewable in a landscape that often appears frozen, dormant, and downright inhospitable. Over the years, 151 animal species have been documented, including 122 bird, 26 mammal, 1 reptile, 1 amphibian, and 1 fish species. Interestingly, the reptile (a snapping turtle) and the amphibian (a spring peeper, a kind of tree frog) were noted only since 1998, perhaps yet another indication that our climate is changing.

Clearly, winter woods offer rewards to naturalists willing to deal with brisk winds, icy footing, and shortened days. They also

in summer forests. Just about everything that moves across snow, from pygmy shrews to porcupines, leaves a tell-tale track for the observant naturalist.



DAVID BAKER

Join the bald eagle survey this winter.

Winter is also a time when various animals aggregate—deer form small herds and “yard up” in northern areas while many birds form seasonal flocks—facilitating counts. Lastly, visibility is greatly increased once our deciduous forests shed their leafy cover each year. This makes viewing what remains much easier. I am also always amazed at how much shorter a well-known section of trail becomes once the leaves are down.

### TC Monitoring Projects

This winter, TC environmental monitors will be taking advantage of what the season offers—snow for tracking, flocking behavior in birds, and increased visibility, respectively, for the following citizen science projects:

- 1. NJ Bobcat Track Survey:** With a little luck, we will have ample snow to search for bobcat tracks intersecting our hiking trails in northern New Jersey. This denizen of forests, swamps, and brushlands occurs at low densities and is rarely seen; it is on the state's list of endangered species. Using our trails as survey transects, volunteers will attempt to document bobcat tracks, snow permitting. This effort will complement a concurrent New Jersey Dept.

of Environmental Protection bobcat census employing scent posts and camera traps in the same general areas.

- 2. Bald Eagle Roost Survey:** We will again be surveying bald eagles as they form flocks at evening roost sites along the lower Hudson River. Building on last year's count of over 130 eagles on one early February eve, we will hold counts on three dates in January and February.

- 3. Baseline Mapping of Invasive Plants:** Winter is actually a good time to record and map certain invasive plants, namely ones that remain conspicuous and recognizable, such as common reed or phragmites. This plant is perhaps most visible in winter, when reed colonies stand out like dried corn stalks against a backdrop of deeper browns. This project will focus on the inland marshes of Harriman and



EDWIN MCGOWAN

Phragmites will be mapped in parks.

Sterling Forest State Parks, where phragmites has made some inroads but is not yet a ubiquitous wetland species. Our near-term goal is to map its current distribution, but with an eye toward future management.

Each of these projects is open to members and will require member participation to be successful. To learn more about them and how to become an environmental monitor, visit the science page at our website ([nynjtc.org](http://nynjtc.org)) or call me at 201-512-9348.



EDWIN MCGOWAN

The snow recorded the passage of a coyote at Bear Mountain.

every year since 1946), the arrival of new winter residents (e.g., black vulture, first noted in 1997), and the apparent disappearance of others (e.g., American coot, seen every fourth year or so through 1980).

present unique opportunities for environmental monitoring. For example, snow cover records the tracks and thereby exposes the movements of reclusive fauna—animals that go mostly unnoticed

## Sudden Oak Death: The Latest Threat to Our Forests

Sudden oak death—the mere name sounds terrifying. Like something in a Hollywood horror movie, the image of a new disease spreading over the landscape and destroying the most abundant trees in the forest does indeed strike terror into ecologists, forest managers, and nature lovers. But this is not a creation of screen writers; this is a real problem, not yet here on the east coast, but rampant on the west coast, and likely to appear here sooner or later.

In 1994, forest managers in California began to find their oak trees, including coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), and tanoaks (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*), dying, succumbing rapidly to a set of symptoms never before observed. Careful scientific sleuthing by biologists at the University of California at Davis identified a species of the fungal genus *Phytophthora* (*P. ramorum*) that was new to America as the cause of the disease. This genus of plant pathogens includes the organism that caused the Irish potato blight in the mid-1800s, and many other important plant pathogens, including the root rots that affect everything from forest trees to garden tomatoes. While the sudden oak death fungus appears to be

similar to strains isolated from European trees, there are subtle differences in the fungi, and it is not yet clearly known from where this new fungus has come.

The fungus causes two types of problems in susceptible plants. It can cause large cankers on the main trunk of the tree and on the larger branches, which cause the plant to die rapidly once the canker appears. On the western oaks, the canker “bleeds” burgundy-red to tar-black thick sap. Alternatively, the fungus can affect just the leaves and twigs, causing spotting and blackening of parts of the leaves, and dieback of the twigs. These



EDWIN MCGOWAN

Northern red oaks may be fungal target.

symptoms do not cause the death of the plant; however, they do provide a source of spores that can be spread to more susceptible plants in the forest.

The most worrisome aspects of this new

disease are two-fold. First, many kinds of oaks appear to be susceptible, based on laboratory tests. These include most oaks in the “red oak” section of the group—those oaks with “bristle tips,” sharp-pointed ends to the lobes of the leaves. Species in the “white oak” section—those oaks with rounded lobes, with no bristle-tips—do not appear to be susceptible (although some studies suggest they can harbor the fungus in sub-lethal form).

Among the susceptible trees are our northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), one of the most common (and beautiful) canopy trees in our forests, and pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), a common denizen of swamps and wet places throughout our region. A recent study has also shown that a variety of other eastern oaks can become infected, although it is not yet known whether these infections would prove fatal. Thus, should the disease become established in the east, it could wreak havoc in our forests. It is estimated that in California, in the 14 coastal counties in which the disease has been confirmed, thousands of oaks have died.

The second threat comes from the fact that the fungus can infect, but not cause pathology, in a wide range of other plants, including many that are cultivated and sold for horticultural use. These include several types of *Rhododendron*, blueberries, maples, viburnums, blackberries, and several kinds

of trees that are common in the west and sometimes planted horticulturally in the east, including Douglas fir and redwoods. The fungus can be spread in the soil and by water, and has now spread up the west coast to Oregon.

The spread into Oregon caused a new problem, as many of the plants grown for the nursery trade are produced there. The fungus has been detected in the soil and tissues of many of these plants, and through these, has been spreading through the United States. Fortunately, it appears that infected plants are being detected at nursery businesses, and there are no known occurrences yet of the spread of the disease into natural forests. However, this requires continuous vigilance. The USDA Agricultural Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has instituted stringent controls and inspections for nursery stock; nevertheless, infected plants do escape detection with some regularity. Last spring, infected nursery plants were found in Cape May, New Jersey; a rapid and vigorous search for all plants sold by the nursery where the infection was found apparently led to the destruction of all infected plants.

Infected nursery plants have also been found (and destroyed) in 21 states and in Britain. However, there is clearly a potential for an infected plant to introduce the fun-

*continued on page 10*

# Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

Are you looking for new challenges and opportunities to get involved with Trail Conference activities? Please review the *TC Volunteer Classifieds* for exciting and interesting ways for members to become involved with the Conference's efforts. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. Become an active part of our family and get more involved. If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and do not see an opportunity that suits you, contact Volunteer Projects Director Joshua Erdsneker, either by email [vol@nynjtc.org](mailto:vol@nynjtc.org) or call the office 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

## Metro Trail Crew

Our Metro Trails Committee is looking for trail crew volunteers to help do rehabilitation work on Staten Island's principal trail. The Staten Island Greenbelt trail needs work beyond simple maintenance to improve its condition and return it to the pleasant and surprisingly wild experience it offers. People interested in doing some erosion control and rock work should contact Trails Director Larry Wheelock ([wheelock@nynjtc.org](mailto:wheelock@nynjtc.org); phone, 201-512-9348), or Bob Ward ([Robert.ward31@verizon.net](mailto:Robert.ward31@verizon.net); phone, 718-471-7036). We hope that this call will result in a core of volunteer trail crew members who would be willing to work throughout the city on trails that the Metro Trails Committee has been bringing under its wing.

## A National Treasure Needs You

The nation's greatest historic footpath needs a motivated volunteer to coordinate and manage the men and women who maintain the Appalachian Trail from the

NY-NJ border to Route 17. The Orange/Rockland Appalachian Trail Overseer position needs immediate filling. Qualified candidates need to be well organized, detail oriented, good communicators, and have a passion for the AT. Be a part of the team that maintains one of the most diverse and intriguing sections of the Appalachian Trail. If you are interested in this position, please contact Larry Wheelock at 201-512-9348 or [wheelock@nynjtc.org](mailto:wheelock@nynjtc.org).

## New Jersey Mid-Week Crew

Are you tired of watching day-time TV? Looking for a change of pace? Why not get out and join a mid-week trail crew? As we adopt more trails, our trail crews have more work than ever. Our New Jersey trail committees are organizing a mid-week trail crew to tackle a variety of exciting projects throughout the state. We are looking for motivated trip leaders and crew members ready to tackle challenging and exciting projects. If you are interested in this position, please contact Larry Wheelock at 201-512-9348 or [wheelock@nynjtc.org](mailto:wheelock@nynjtc.org).

## Trail Volunteer Patch Coordinator

Every year, the Trail Conference recognizes the men and women who have generously donated their time to keeping the trails we hike maintained. You can help recognize these volunteers by coordinating our patch program this year. Interested persons should be familiar with Microsoft Excel and willing to assist with data entry.

## ATC 2007 Biennial Meeting

In 2007, the TC will be hosting the Appalachian Trail Conference's biennial meeting. This week-long conference offers

hikers and hiking organizations a multitude of activities, from hikes and educational workshops to commercial exhibits. The planning for this amazing week has already begun and there are several exciting ways you can get involved. The steering committee is looking for individuals with planning and scheduling skills, good communication skills, and the ability to multitask. The steering committee has four openings that need immediate filling. For more information, please contact Jane Daniels at [jdhiker@optonline.net](mailto:jdhiker@optonline.net) or call the TC office at 201-512-9348.

**Business Manager/Financial Officer:** Develop a budget, receive and disburse funds, prepare and distribute periodic financial reports, and submit a final financial summary.

**Workshop Coordinator:** Select topics, secure presenters/trainers, and schedule a workshop.

**Exhibit Coordinator:** Recruit exhibitors from the ATC's maintaining clubs and commercial venues, plan exhibit space, and coordinate exhibits during the meeting.

**Hike Coordinator:** Plan hikes, secure leaders, communicate leadership standards for the hiking programs, and provide overall coordination for the hiking events.

## Other Opportunities:

- Membership Committee members
- Office volunteers
- Book reviewers
- Publications committee members
- Volunteer profilers
- Librarian

## CREW NOTES

*continued from page 4*

structures we had refurbished in the spring had worked—in spades; there was gratifyingly little new erosion on the whole length of the AT up to Sunfish Pond. And the new work we had done on the Blue Dot had

held up fine. Last year's 1,000-pound stepping stones up near the headwater of Dunnfield Creek, however, were gone without a trace.

The following pair of trips was a back-to-back Saturday and Sunday affair at the Terrace Pond outlet stream crossing in Wawayanda S.P. What had been about 20 feet wide when we scouted it last spring was now over 90 feet wide from all the rain. Using the highline, we mined a dozen stepping stones from the cliff-face, high above the work area. We then placed them on a section of the boggy area that had not been trod into a mire, providing a solid stepping surface on the south approach to the main channel crossing.

Our next trip was back to Worthington S.P. to create an alternative stream crossing to the condemned bridge used by the AT and several other trails. Once again, large rocks were in flight as we sought out another collection of the ever-elusive "perfect" rocks. We did manage to locate, transport, and place the required number of beauties. We know people will use them—they were crossing on them before we had even finished!

The next to last trip of the season was to Jenny Jump State Park, a delightful, small park tucked in between I-80 and Route 46 near Hope, NJ. Here we were back to "regular" trail work: constructing two large water bars, a couple of check steps, and a

number of stepped terraces in an eroded area. We will be back to this area, as there is plenty more to do.

For our final trip of the year, the crew embarked on a major blowdown clearing project in Stokes S.F. Despite a steady drizzle, we fielded three sawyers and, joined by six scouts and two leaders from Troop 63 of Greenwich Township, NJ, we cleared several dozen blowdowns on seven different trails in the park.

## Thanks to all who volunteered with the West Jersey Crew in 2004:

Alan Abramowitz, Jack Baccaglini, Larry Bernstein, Susan Bernstein, Ian Blundell, Bob Boyle, Bob Boysen, Roland Breault, Harry Byrne, Geraldine Byrne, Gordon Campbell, Joan Campbell, Marc Cohen, Bill Darling, Arturo Diaz, Paul Dutton, Josh Erdsneker, Bill Fisher, Dick Gerien, Mike Gerien, Don Griffin, Joan James, Tom Kirchofer, Peter Kohlberger, Jerry Losowyj, Gay Mayer, Marshall McKnight, Sarah McKnight, Bob Messerschmidt, Mitch Morrison, Sara Morrison, Bob Sickley, Larry Wheelock, and BSA Troop 63.

Thanks also to our DEP partners: Supt. Ernie Kabert at Worthington and Jenny Jump, Supt. Paul Stern at Stokes, Supt. John Keator at High Point, and Supt. Bill Foley at Wawayanda, and to all their staff.

## Who's Counting

### New Trails Adopted

Six miles of new trails in Forest Park in Queens have been adopted by the Trail Conference at the recommendation of the Metro Area Trails Committee. A ranger in the park is to coordinate a group of volunteers organized as the Forest Park Trust, which will be responsible for maintenance. The total number of trails maintained by Trail Conference members is more than 1,600.

### New Clubs Join TC

The **Forest Park Trust** mentioned above was one of nine clubs that were welcomed to TC membership this fall. The other new organizational members are:

- **Catskill Mountain Club:** based at the Catskill Center, the club will adopt trails in the Catskills.
- **Bellvale School, NY:** maintains a section of the Appalachian Trail.
- **Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference:** a returning member club.
- **North Haven Trails Association:** a partner organization that maintains private trails in Sag Harbor, NY.
- **Boy Scout Troop 273 (Middletown, NY):** plans to adopt a trail.
- **Boy Scout Troop 2 (Middleburgh, NY):** plans to adopt a lean-to.
- **Camp Deer Run (Pine Bush, NY):** maintains trails on their own property which are open to the public.
- **New Haven Hiking Club, Guilford, CT:** maintains trails in the Taconic region and leads hikes in Connecticut and New York.

The number of organizational members of the Trail Conference now totals 91, representing more than 100,000 hikers.

## New Web Features



Two new features have been added to the Trail Conference website ([www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org)): an easier online donation mechanism and simple polls.

Most people should find the new "Donate Now" button, located at the top of the left-hand menu column on the home page, easy to use and navigate. A single click on this button will bring you to a secure page where you can make your gift to the Trail Conference.



Scroll to the bottom of that same home-page column to find simple one question polls. As with most online polls, the best that can be said about the results is that they may be indicative. They are certainly not statistically significant because the participants are self-selected and nothing is known about their demographics.

View and vote in our polls (including in older polls until we close them). You can also suggest new polls (hiking related only). We plan to change the polls fairly often, so come back to the web frequently.

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# MISSION: Possible and Awesome

By Maureen Edelson



PAUL KAZAROV

A rigorous training schedule brought Scouts and leaders to the summit of Schunemunk.

"It's impossible!" some people said of my idea. "Teenagers don't get up early on Sunday mornings, don't hike in 4-degree weather, and don't stick with anything for six months." But have you ever noticed...



MAUREEN EDELSON

The boys ascend to the Long Path.

magic happens when bright stars are aligned?

My sons' Boy Scout Troop 13 (Upper Montclair, NJ) scheduled a high-adventure trip to the 137,000-acre Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico for late June 2004. Anticipating Philmont's daily hikes of up to 15 miles at average elevations of 10,000 feet, and with Troop 13's emphasis on youth leadership, the most important factors in preparing for the trip were physical training and team-building.

So what magic had to be wrought? Simply, my job was to prepare the guys for a successful trip. The stars aligned in my universe were our Scouts: 10 strong, smart, and thoroughly hilarious teenagers; Assistant Scoutmasters and men-of-steel Todd Edelson and Doug McGilvray, who would also accompany the fellows to Philmont; the fascinating terrain of the New York-New Jersey metro region; and the exceptional resources of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

I had grown up summers in the shadow of Orange County's Schunemunk Mountain with a well-thumbed copy of the *New York Walk Book* on the cabin bookshelf.

Lately, I'd been hiking with the Appalachian Mountain Club and recognized the Trail Conference's fine work

throughout the region. The quality of the Conference's publications and its excellent trail maintenance combined with the region's resources meant that I could confidently "entertain" the guys for 26 weeks.

Our plan was to start hiking on the first Sunday in January and continue each weekend, excepting holidays, through June. Hikes and packs would become more challenging as the months went by.

Snow came early last winter, and by the time our first outing arrived, we were climbing through Essex County's Eagle Rock Reservation in 4-degree weather and several inches of snow. Anyone who missed religious services for this hike certainly had a sense of awe after one mile of sharp elevation to the summit, just after sunrise, facing east. A misty pink and steel Gotham was beyond us and the First Watchung Mountains were beside us.

As a mentor, you get your shot to influence the young. The Scouts' parents had years ago put their kids' ingredients in the simmering family pot, and community members like Todd, Doug, Scoutmaster Merle Gehman, and I get a lucky chance to stir once or twice. Soon, though, each of these young men would be on his own, adding his own choice of spices to a personal recipe.

## Don't we want the dish to turn out really well?

So it's only fair to teach them that, when they have an apartment in Fort Washington, they can walk across the George Washington Bridge up the Long Path to the state line, or live in the exurbs and work trail maintenance on Storm King Moun-



PHIL CANTOR PHOTOGRAPHY

On top of Mt. Baldy

tain twice a year. We often focus on teaching our kids what not to do, but through hiking and exploration they would learn what to do—for recreation, conservation, and stewardship. "Fun with a purpose," as the Boy Scouts say.

Despite the adult theorizing, the frigid weather, and a 7:30 a.m. departure following a teenager's Saturday night, the Philmont guys, as they came to be known, showed up the second week for a hike and continued every week through their departure in late June.

They hiked Essex, Passaic, and Bergen counties and were out on the GW Bridge. They explored the newly blazed trails around Camp Glen Gray, where their troop has been camping since 1917, and have a deeper appreciation of what the Ramapos offer. They virtually ran the Long Path from Fort Lee to Alpine, and, under the fine leadership of John Kolp of the Adirondack Mountain Club, ascended the 1,664' summit of Schunemunk Mountain, rewarded by swimming and barbecue at that old cabin I mentioned. With every step, NY-NJ Trail Conference maps were in our hands.

Of course, food is critical when you're dealing with teenaged guys. Calories evaporate, and most weeks the return trip to my dining room table became known as the "B-CC Trail"—the Bagel-Coffee Cake Trail. It was around the table, too, that much necessary bantering, sorting, and organizing took place. By early May, leaders had emerged, roles and jobs were assigned, and the group's gears were meshed.

## The ultimate "magic" was the most successful Philmont trek possible.

Stamina, strength, map-reading, orienteering, a solid team, and a sense of fun and wonder—all these were firmly in place and resulted in an awesome experience for each young man. When the Scouts returned, I asked them how their local training had prepared them for the trek. With the confident cavaliness I love in teenagers, they replied, "Mrs. Edelson, we hiked our guide into the ground."



## New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new Life Members:

Jan A. Summers  
Marilyn Adair

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



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# GEAR CHECK

An occasional series that will review gear appropriate for hiking.

## Cambelbak Rim Runner Hydration System

Reviewed by Josh Erdsneker



Hikers beware; we no longer have to stuff our packs with water bottles or clip them to our packs after the mesh pockets have ripped. The Camelbak Rim Runner makes hiking as easy as fill, pack, and walk! With a 100-ounce reservoir, it holds plenty of water for those long day hikes and hot summer days spent in the woods. The bladders are easy to fill and clean, with a large mouth opening and ergonomic screw-top.

In the fall, there is plenty of room for an extra fleece and your lunch in the 1,526 cubic inches of space. The dual-side mesh pockets and an outside compartment for your smaller items allows you to organize your gear for quick access.

During an eight-mile hike up to the Ramapo Torne, the pack fit me well, and with an adjustable sternum strap and waist belt to hold it steady, I forgot I was even wearing it at times. I especially enjoyed not having to stop moving when I needed a drink.

For those hikers reluctant to toss aside your Nalgene's, give the new generation of hydration bladders a chance. With my water more accessible, I find that I stay better hydrated and have more energy during my hikes.

Rating: 4 boots out of 5



# So, What is GIS?

By Eric Yadlovski

Perhaps the most frequently asked question to those in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) field, and probably the most difficult to answer in a clear and concise manner, is, "What is GIS?"

A geographic information system is an attempt to accurately model reality. It is an information system that links geographic data (spatial data) with database information (attribute data) and enables users to visualize patterns, relationships, and trends. In the most simplistic form, a GIS functions as a tool for computer-based mapping, allowing maps to be produced quickly and efficiently. Although computer-based mapping is an essential and important component of GIS, the real power is the ability to use spatial and statistical methods to perform analysis on geographic and attribute data.

A geographic information system comprises three major components: software, hardware, and data. Software provides the functions and tools users need to store, analyze, and display geographical information. The hardware consists of computers on which the GIS operates, printers, scanners, etc. There are two distinct types of data: spatial data and attribute data. Spatial data is the location and shape of geographic features. An attribute is information about a geographic feature, usually stored in a database. For example, a road is considered spatial data; attributes of the road might include the name, length, and speed limit.

Much of what the Trail Conference (TC) does requires spatial information. A geographic information system greatly improves the TC's ability to serve its members and achieve its goals. The TC

currently maintains GIS parcel data, which contains information such as ownership, address, acreage, and section-block-lot. This data can be retrieved and visually represented at any time. This allows the TC to identify key parcels and evaluate which parcels require immediate acquisition.

As the Trail Conference continues with digital map production, the need for maintaining accurate GIS data for each of the



map sets increases. All the data necessary to produce a publication map is stored in our GIS. This data includes but is not limited to boundaries of public open spaces, roads, woods roads, marked trails, un-maintained trails, viewpoints, parking, shelters, lakes, streams, and contour lines. This data allows maps to be produced more accurately and on a more frequent basis.

*Eric Yadlovski is the Trail Conference staff GIS specialist. For more information on geographic information systems please visit the following websites: [www.esri.com](http://www.esri.com), [www.gis.com](http://www.gis.com).*



## New Catskill Mountain Club Welcomes Members

The 100th anniversary of the Catskill Forest Preserve has inspired the launch of the Catskill Mountain Club (CMC), devoted to outdoor stewardship, education, hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, biking, and other non-motorized nature-related pursuits in the Catskill Mountains. For more information and to print out a membership application, visit [www.catskillmountainclub.org](http://www.catskillmountainclub.org).



### CATSKILL MOUNTAINS LITE? *continued from page 1*

and noise of midtown Manhattan, it is three hours to this mountain community—a haven of natural resources that we have been assured is protected by our state government. Undermine the existing character of this community, as the proposed resort would do, and the nearest "replacement," so-called, for the hikers who come here now is eight hours away, or 12 hours, or a plane ride—no longer possible for a day trip or even a weekend.

But the fact is there is no replacement for hiking in the Catskills. The experience is unique because the character of the place is unique, and to anyone who has hiked here, that character is absolutely distinct and absolutely recognizable... Nor is it just the mountains and trails that define the character of this mountain community. There are the villages where hikers and backpackers stock up on supplies, ply the shops, patronize the restaurants and hostels. All of this defines the very specific community character that brings people here to hike.

And the particular part of the community where the developers propose to situate their resort is at the very heart of it, right smack dab in the middle of the "high peaks" region, just exactly at the focal point to which hikers are drawn. Clearly, the size, scale, purpose, and manner of the resort will have a most consequential impact on the existing community character.

I went up the mountain from Rider Hollow—in late April or early May, as best I recall. There were still patches of snow, and the trees were not leafed out. On a prior trip up that trail, I had spotted a red fox. This time, the only wildlife I saw was a young couple and their baby, who was riding high in a backpack on her father's shoulders. There's a rock outcrop at about where the trail pitches up to a level place, and we stood there together looking east past Balsam to the Slide-Panther wilderness; at that point, we were also staring north/northeast right onto the ridge where this resort would be built. Please do not tell me that the resort will not be visible from state-owned trails. It will.

The view is not all it would ruin, and others have testified... to the many adverse impacts on our natural resources. Yes, it will kill the night sky, so that backpackers like me will never again really be sleeping out under the stars here, but even more fundamentally than these negatives, the proposed resort is a direct threat to the

quintessential character of this community, to the very specific sense of place I've talked about. It would so profoundly alter the character of these mountains as to destroy that character once and for all. The loss will be irretrievable. Once you have blasted a mountain apart, you cannot piece it together again. Once you have undermined the character of a community, sapping the very thing it is based on, there's nothing on which to re-build. That is true whether you can see the resort or not.

No one has said it better than a man from New Jersey named Richard Wolff, a veteran hiker and skier who has been leading trips here for AMC since 1964—probably more than a hundred trips, by his estimate. He leads three every summer, including this summer, and four or more trips in fall and winter. On seeing the plan for the resort, Dick said, and I quote: "That's not a resort; it's a city. If they build it, I simply won't come here any more."

I wonder, Your Honor, how many times we need to learn the lesson of what environmental degradation can do to a place. There are examples of mountain towns from New Hampshire to Colorado to California, where the once unique sense of place has been diminished at best, destroyed at worst by cookie-cutter "destination resorts"... I wonder if such a loss is worth yet another upmarket retail mall selling scented candles and high-priced casual wear. I think it is not. Golf courses abound in this part of the world; together, Delaware, Greene, and Ulster counties boast more than 40. Must a mountain be broken and a sense of place destroyed to build yet another?

That is precisely what the proposed resort, quite simply and quite fundamentally, will do: it will destroy the sense of place of the Catskills. It will wreck the existing unique character of this community that now derives organically from the protected natural resources here. Instead, it will give us an imposed, artificial, easy-to-replicate gloss on our mountains—Mountains Lite, mountains-as-theme-park, mountains as pretty backdrop for golfing or gambling or whatever ends up here.

Such an impact is indeed adverse. It deserves to be considered in this environmental quality review.

*The Belleayre resort project is currently in the midst of fact-finding review and decision-making by an administrative law judge.*



## Author's Query

Carol White, author of ADK's *Catskill Hikes for All Seasons* and editor of ADK's *Guide to Catskills Trails*, third edition, requests submissions of stories about Catskill hiking misadventures, interesting situations of all kinds, what you learn on the trail, accidents or other challenges,

observations, notable encounters (animal or human), humorous moments, reflections, peak experiences, and why you're out there. Write to her at [ccswhite@juno.com](mailto:ccswhite@juno.com) or 28 Mulberry St., Clinton, NY 13323.



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## Gifts of securities and other appreciated property are accepted by the Trail Conference.

Should you decide to make a gift in this manner, please contact Lisa Cargill at the TC office, 201-512-9348 regarding the type of stock and number of shares being transferred, so that you are properly credited for your gift!



## Award Winning "The Cabin Builders"



*The Cabin Builders* by Craig Pfalzgraf is a heart warming and funny story about how a New Yorker drops his high paced management consulting career and builds a cabin in the southern Adirondack Park

Craig shares not only how to build a Cabin but also how his new neighbors, family and friends all came together to help

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Black Fly Publishing



## Jay Schwarz Lives On In Bequest to Trail Conference

Jay Schwarz was a "super hiker." He loved the outdoors and shared this passion with all who knew him for the last 50 years. Jay spent his years hiking and skiing with groups like Miramar Ski Club, Mosaic Outdoor Club, the New York Ramblers, and of course, as a life member with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

It seems everyone has his or her own fond memories of Jay. Richard Wolff, Trail Conference member and good friend, recalled Jay's huge appetite recently when he told the story of Miramar Ski Club members wanting to (jokingly) charge Jay a surcharge for all of the food he lovingly devoured on their trips! Richard also recalled how easy it was for Jay to make new friends, introducing himself to strangers, who immediately felt at ease with him.

When Jay wasn't hiking, he was traveling to exotic destinations and sharing his adventures with friends and peers. He was chairman of the slide program at AMC, where he organized slide shows at social gatherings, showing off his slides from all of his travels.

Jay passed away in March 2004, leaving behind family and friends who have their own stories about how Jay touched their lives. Now, the NY-NJ Trail Conference too has its own story to share. Jay Schwarz designated the Trail Conference as a beneficiary of his estate, leaving the Trail Conference 1/3 of his assets. As his friend Frank Bamberger says, Jay's memory and spirit continue to live on through this generous gift.

By Lisa Cargill

If you are interested in benefiting the Trail Conference through an estate gift, please contact Executive Director Edward Goodell. He will be happy to discuss planned giving options with you, along with providing the legal language for your attorney to include in your will, life insurance, or retirement plan. Remember, besides knowing that your gift will be used in ways that you designate and plan for, there are immediate tax and personal benefits to making a bequest.

Should you be interested in making the Trail Conference a beneficiary in your will, following is an example of the language needed in your will to make such a gift:

*I bequeath to the NY-NJ Trail Conference, a not-for-profit organization, with its principal offices located at 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ, a \_\_\_\_% of my residuary estate or the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_.*

However, before making any decision regarding your estate, we strongly urge you to contact an attorney or tax professional to discuss both the legal and financial consequences of your gift.

Frank Bamberger summed up the full effect of Jay Schwarz's lasting legacy, "He simply wanted to continue helping the Trail Conference save and maintain trails. His love of the outdoors continues through his gift."



## Annual Meeting/ Capital Campaign Kickoff Event Thank You

The Trail Conference Board of Directors and staff would like to thank the following individuals for the time they spent preparing for and volunteering at the Annual Meeting/Capital Campaign Kickoff event on October 31, 2004, at Skylands Manor. Without their hard work and dedication, the day would not have been possible.

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### Graphic Design

Michael Billy  
Michael McGraw, *The McGraw Group*

### Donations

Fred DeBergh, *Ramsey Outdoor*,  
Cliff Bar, Power Bar, Leisure Time Water

**Special Thanks** to TC staff member and GIS specialist Eric Yadlovski, who made all of our maps and presentations a reality!

## Make Your Gift to the Campaign


The Trail Conference accepts gifts in many forms, but the most common forms are:

- Cash or check
- Appreciated securities
- Planned Gifts including charitable annuities, trusts, and bequests
- Real estate
- Life insurance

We encourage donors to make pledges with payment periods of 3 to 5 years.

Contact: Lisa Cargill,  
Development Associate  
cargill@nynjtc.org

## Hike the Path of Asset Protection with a Charitable Gift Annuity to the Trail Conference.

For information, contact Lisa Cargill at the Trail Conference office, 201-512-9348. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential. 

## Capital Campaign Reaches \$1.7 Million

New Donors  
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*In memory of Donald Hendrickson*  
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*To the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition*  
ADK Ramapo Chapter, Stephen Bachop, Peter Bienstock, Penny Davis, Raymond L. Greenberg

*To the Science Fund*  
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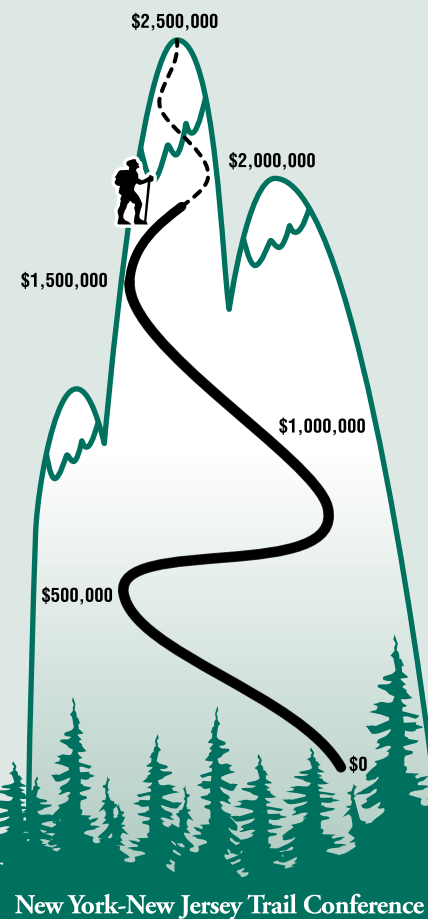
*To the Marketing Fund*  
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*In honor of John and Marianne Gunzler*  
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*In honor of her mother Hattie's 90th birthday and her father Nason*  
Suzan Gordon\*

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Share  
the  
Dream



# FAVORITE HIKE



By Georgette Weir

## Mineral Spring Falls to Jupiter's Boulder

**Location:** Mountainville, Orange County  
**Length:** 2.8-mile round-trip from road to Jupiter's Boulder  
**Rating:** Moderate

**Features:** A cascading waterfall, classic woods stream, hemlock groves, viewpoints, and the trail network of Black Rock Forest make this an appealing hike in any season.

**Terrain:** one steep slope, rocky footpaths

**How to get there:** Heading north on Route 32, look for Angola Road on right in Mountainville. Watch for Mineral Spring Road on right (about 2 miles) and take it. Then look for Old Mineral Spring Road on left (about 3 miles) and take it. (This short road has two end points on Mineral Spring Road less than one mile apart.) There is a parking area at the southern end of Old Mineral Spring Road (OMSR). Walk back north on OMSR and look for dirt road with gate and white Scenic Trail and teal Highlands Trail blazes heading right, into the woods.

**Watch out for:** Portions of the trail are often wet, and several small streams will be crossed, so be prepared.

**Hike Description:** The trail almost immediately enters Black Rock Forest and you will soon approach a kiosk that offers information. Just beyond (.3 mile from the road) is Mineral Spring Falls, a hemlock-shaded cascade whose character changes stunningly with the seasons, light, and water level. The falls offers the most drama in winter. Its shifting layers of ice and snow constantly change the scene; reflected light is sometimes gray, sometimes blinding in its brightness.

This can be a short but satisfying outing even if you turn around here. But if you are willing to climb the ravine's steep slope to reach the terrain above, you will enjoy a beautiful streamside walk through hemlocks before entering a typical Highlands deciduous forest. Caution: the stream needs to be crossed and there is no bridge. This can be tricky in high water, especially so in winter. Use care.

You can continue on the trail to a viewpoint at Jupiter's Boulder (1.4 miles). If you continue on, you will arrive at a trail junction; the yellow-blazed Ryerson Trail breaks off to the right. If you want to continue your hike from here, it is a good idea to have a map of the area (NY-NJ Trail Conference map 7, West Hudson Trails), as Black Rock Forest's trails and woods roads are many and interconnecting.



GEORGETTE WEIR

Mineral Springs Falls in Black Rock Forest is a worthwhile destination in any season.

# BOOKNOTES



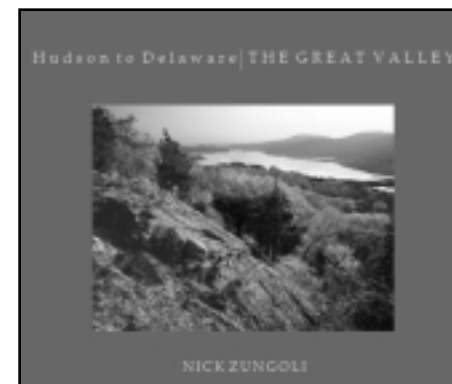
## *The Great Valley on Your Coffee Table*

A new coffee-table book by nationally recognized landscape photographer Nick Zungoli not only celebrates much of the region encompassed by the NY-NJ Trail Conference, but also includes contributions by several noted TC members.

*Hudson to Delaware: The Great Valley* includes 140 of Zungoli's color nature photographs, taken over 25 years. Trail Conference author/editor Daniel Chazin contributed chapter essays, and illustrator Jack Fagan created a regional map for the book. The preface was co-written by JoAnn Dolan, former executive director of the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and her husband Paul, executive director of ABC News International.

The images are organized into four chapters: "The Hudson and Palisades," "The NJ-NY Highlands," "The Great Valley," and "The Delaware and Kittatinny-Shawangunk Ridge."

The Dolans write: "The genius of Nick's work in this book is that he shows the connectedness of great landscapes from the



Hudson to the Delaware. He is not interested in isolated parks and preserves, but instead sees through his camera's lens the interrelationship of the Highlands, the Kittatinny Mountains, the Shawangunks, and the Great Valley. Nick Zungoli's work captures the universal and primordial appeal of nature and of light itself."

For more information, see Hikers' Marketplace on page 12, visit [www.nynjtc.org/store](http://www.nynjtc.org/store), or call the Trail Conference, 201-512-9348.

## SUDDEN OAK DEATH

*continued from page 5*

gus into our area and to escape detection until the fungus is out in the wild. There is no way, at present, to estimate how much damage to our native forests might result.

What can you do? First, before buying any plants for your yard, especially rhododendrons and viburnums, find out where the plants come from and ensure that they are certified free of SOD. Second, find out more about the disease and its symptoms, and keep an eye out for oaks with weeping cankers in the woods. If you see any, report them to the NJ Bureau of Forestry (609-292-2520). There are several websites, including [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org) and <http://cemarin.ucdavis.edu/index2.html>, that can give you a wealth of additional information about the disease, and the APHIS website ([www.aphis.gov](http://www.aphis.gov)) can lead you to information about safe nursery practice.

Joan Ehrenfeld is a professor in the Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Cook College, Rutgers University, and is a member of the Trail Conference Science Committee.



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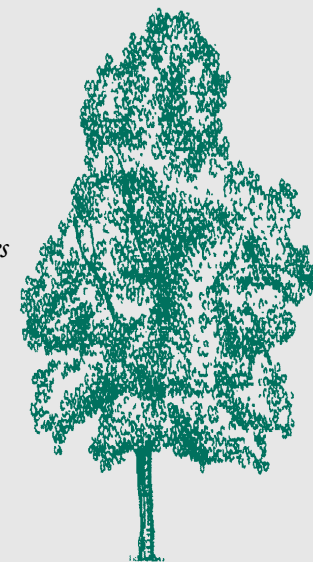
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## Where there's a Will, there's a Trail

*When we build them, you hike them. We've been building and protecting trails for at least four generations of hikers since 1920. That's 1,600 miles in New York and New Jersey to date. Help us keep building for the next generation by naming the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in your will. A bequest makes a wonderful gift, and it lasts beyond one lifetime.*

*For confidential information and legal language, contact the Trail Conference at 201-512-9348, or by email; [info@nynjtc.org](mailto:info@nynjtc.org).*



# HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs



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

More than 85 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers' Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

## Club Codes

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

ADK-R	ADK Ramapo	OUT	Outdoors Club
AMC-NYNoJ	Appalachian Mountain Club, New York-North Jersey Chapter	PMNHA	Pyramid Mtn. Natural Historic Area
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	RVW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	TLR	Teatown Lake Reservation
NYR	New York Ramblers	UHC	Union County Hiking Club

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to [tw@nynjtc.org](mailto:tw@nynjtc.org) or to the Trail Conference Office. The deadline for the March/April issue is January 15, 2005.

## January

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

**IHC. New Years in Harriman, NY.** Leader: Dave Sutter, dsuttr@aol.com. Meet: 9:35 am at Elk Pen parking lot, Arden Valley Rd., Arden. Start that New Year's resolution now—come out and enjoy the winter. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes. Moderately strenuous.

**PMNHA. New Year's Hike, NJ.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mt. Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Strenuous hike to burn off a few extra calories.

**UHC. New Year's Day at South Mountain Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Call 973-746-4319, between 9 am and 9 pm, for more information. Meet: 10 am at Tulip Springs parking, Brookside Ave., Millburn. Moderate hike through pine forest to Hemlock Falls.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

**ADK-R. 7 Hills Saunter.** Leader: Call 201-816-9465. Meet: Call leader for information. Moderate 6-8 miles in Harriman State Park.

**UHC. Watchung Reservation, NY.** Leader: Call 973-746-4319, from 9 am to 9 pm, for more information. Meet: 10 am at Trailside parking, Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd. Moderate, 2-hour hike; rain or snow cancels.

**IHC. Pine Meadow Lake Back Door, NY.** Leader: Hank Perrine, 212-666-0694. Meet: 9:00 am at Kakiat County Park, Rt. 202, Suffern. Moderately strenuous hike to and around Pine Meadow Lake from the east side of Harriman State Park. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 3

**RVW. Cole/Black Dome/Blackhead Mountains, Catskills.** Leader: Call 845-246-1823 for more information. Meet: 8 am in Saugerties, NY. Very strenuous Catskills hiking; snowshoes and crampons required.

**RVW. Taconics.** Leader: Call 845-246-4145 for more information. Meet: 8 am in Saugerties, NY. Moderately strenuous 4.5 miles up Mt. Everett and to Guilder Pond; snowshoes and crampons required.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

**UHC. Ramapo Mt. State Forest, NJ.** Leader: Carol O'Keefe, 973-328-7395. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate 6 miles, to the castle and around the lake. If there is a lot of snow, we'll snowshoe.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

**UHC. Tourne, Boonton Twp., NJ.** Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Pleasant hike up and down, possibly one steep hill; for experienced hikers.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

**ADK-R. North Breakneck Ramble, NY.** Leader: Call 914-779-6233. Meet: Call leader for information. Moderate 8 miles in Hudson Highlands, NY.

**UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ.** Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderate 4-5 miles, mixture of level and hills with possibly some muddy or icy terrain. Bring skis if too much snow on ground for hiking.

**ADK-R. Ramapo Mt. Adventure, NJ.** Leader: Call 845-354-0738. Meet: Call leader for information. Easy 4 miles.

**OUT. Connetquot River State Park, Long Island.** Leader: Paul Devellet, 516-488-5232. Meet: Leader will meet group at the Great River train station (LIRR) at 10:37 arrival of train (take 9:13 train from Penn Station). 8 miles, moderate pace, easy terrain along lakes and a river from Great River to the fish hatchery. Nonmembers, \$3.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

**GAHC. Palisades & Hudson Shore, NJ.** Leader: Helly deLiz, 201-592-6377. Meet: 10 am at Linwood Park Shopping Center, Rt. 9W, Fort Lee, NJ. Easy and moderate hikes.

**NYR. New City to New Hempstead, NY.** Leader: Clive Morrill, 212-242-0931. Meet: 8 am at Port Authority Bus Terminal, to take 8:16 Red & Tan bus to New City. Various new trails through Rockland County parks to the Long Path near Nyack, NY, then over Hook Mtn., through Long Clove and over High Tor to Mt. Ivy. Out to New Hempstead will be on right-of-way of former NJ&NY Railroad.

**IHC. Wawayanda Winter Wonderland, NJ.** Leader: Carolyn Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 9:00 am at A&P/Hewitt Post Office, Warwick Tpk., Hewitt, NJ. Moderate hike to Lookout Lake for lunch. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

**UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ.** Leader: Mary Dell Morrison, 908-684-5175. Meet: 10 am at visitors center; call for directions. Scenic 4-5 mile hike in this historic national park. \$4 entrance fee per person. Steady rain, snow, or ice cancels.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 10

**RVW. Black Dome Mountain (3980'), Catskills.** Leader: Call 845-246-7616 for more information. Meet: 8 am in Saugerties, NY. Very strenuous 4.7 miles; snowshoes and crampons required.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

**UHC. Black River Gorge, NJ.** Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 am at Cooper Mill, Chester, NJ; call for directions. 6.5 miles past Kay Environmental Center and back through Black River Gorge.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

**UHC. Ringwood Circular, NJ.** Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 am at Ringwood Manor; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 8-9 mile hike.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

**TLR. Welcome the New Year, NY.** Leader: Call 914-762-2912, ext. 10, to register (required). Meet: 10 am at Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY. Easy hike to look for ice formations along Bailey Brook and signs of wildlife around the lake. Afterwards, toast the new year with a cup of hot apple cider. Nonmembers \$3.

**IHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking lot, across from Millburn RR station. Moderate 6 miles through pine forest to Hemlock Falls; expect a somewhat hilly terrain.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

**PMNHA. Winter Views Hike, NJ.** Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mtn. Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Moderate; without the foliage our overlooks should be spectacular.

**UHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ.** Leader: Ed Leibowitz, 973-724-2542 (w). Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking, across from Millburn RR station; call for directions. 2-4 miles at moderate pace; suitable for beginner hikers. Rain, snow, or ice storm cancels; bring crampons if snow or ice on ground.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 17

**RVW. Minnewaska State Park, NY.** Leader: Call 845-246-6949 for more information. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Moderate 5 miles from Trapps trailhead to Millbrook Mtn. Snowshoes and crampons required.

**UHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Cherryll Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am at Deer Paddock; call for directions. 3 level miles to Washington Rock.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

**PMNHA. Morning Hike, NJ.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 to register (required). Meet: 10 am. Moderate hike at Pyramid Mtn. for adults only.

**UHC. Old Troy Park, Parsippany, NJ.** Leader: Jim & Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 am at Old Troy Park; call for directions. 4.5 miles through the park and then around Bee Meadow Pond.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

**UHC. Minnewaska State Park, NY.** Leader: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10 am at Lake Minnewaska upper lot; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 10 miles on wide choice of scenic trails and carriage roads. Parking fee \$6 per car.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

**AMC-NYNoJ. New Hiker Orientation in Central Park.** Leader: Nancy & Art Tollefson, 212-727-8961; no calls after 9:30 pm. Meet: 9 am at park entrance, 103rd St. and Central Park West. Easy 5 miles. Tour our favorite parts of Central Park while learning about hiking: clothing and boots, gear, staying warm, local parks, hiking with a group. Comfortable walking shoes/appropriate clothing. Rain/sleet cancels.

**PMNHA. Winter Hiking Skills, NJ.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mtn. Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Moderate; learn how to prepare for a successful cold weather hike.

**RVW. Winter Clove County Rd., NJ.** Leader: call 845-246-2945 for more information. Meet: 10 am at Sawyer Savings Bank, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Easy 5 miles.

**UHC. Jockey Hollow, Morristown, NJ.** Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 am at visitors center; shuttle required. Casual 4-mile hike in this historic national park; \$4 per person entrance fee. Steady rain, ice, or snow cancels.

**OUT. Welwyn Preserve, Long Island.** Leader: Rolande Chapeau. Meet: Take IRT #7 train to last stop in Flushing and meet at bus pole N21 past Macy's. Bus leaves at 10:57 am, arrives 12:07 at Glen Cove (Pratt Blvd./Bridge St.; cars may park there. 6 easy miles. A circular all-day hike through beautiful trails with evergreen and big trees in the forest and on the shore. Bring lunch and hot drink. Nonmembers \$3.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

**IHC. Ramapo State Forest, NJ.** Leader: Carol O'Keefe, 973-328-7395. Meet: 9 am at Ramapo State Forest, Skyline Dr., upper lot. Moderate 7-8 miles. Possible snowshoe around the lake; call leader if in doubt.

**GAHC. John F. Kennedy Bird Sanctuary, Tobay Beach, Long Island.** Leader: Gunter Georgi, 516-883-2336. Meet: 10 am; please call leader. Easy hike, possible cross-country skiing.

**UHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call 9 am-9 pm. Meet: 10 am at Turtleback Rock parking in West Orange, NJ; call for directions. Moderate 4+ miles in nicely wooded area; some rough spots. See the Turtle Rock.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 24

**RVW. Big Indian Mtn. (3700'), Catskills.** Leader: Call 845-246-7616 for more information. Meet: 8 am in Saugerties, NY. Very strenuous 10 miles; snowshoes and crampons required.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

**UHC. Wawayanda in Winter Coats, NJ.** Leader: Carolyn & Jim Canfield, 973-728-974. Meet: 10 am at beach parking lot; call for directions. 6 miles; if swamp is frozen, possibly Pumphouse loop around the lake.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

**UHC. Loantaka Brook, Morris Twp., NJ.** Leader: Cherryll Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am at Kitchell Rd. parking area; call for directions. 4-5 miles where you can talk and not watch your feet.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

**UHC. Ringwood State Park, NJ.** Leader: Al Leigh, 973-471-7528. Meet: 10 am at Ringwood Manor; call for directions. 8 miles at moderate pace; circular trail from Skylands to Bear Swamp Lake in Ramapo Reservation, including full circle of the Shore Trail.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

**AMC-NYNoJ. Tuxedo, Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Nancy Tollefson, 212-727-8961; no calls after 9:30 pm. Meet: 9:15 am at Tuxedo RR station, Rt. 17, NY (can take 8:15 am Shortline bus from Port Authority). Moderate 7 miles; suitable for first-time winter hikers. Crampons may be needed, depending on conditions. If in doubt regarding weather, call 7:30 pm-9:30 pm eve before hike.

**ADK-R. Sapphire Trail, NY.** Leader: Call 845-359-2465. Meet: Call leader for information. Easy 6 miles in Sterling Forest.

**TLR. Snowshoe Exploration, NY.** Leader: Call 914-762-2912, ext. 10, to register (required). Meet: 1:30 pm at Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY. Easy snowshoe outing; snowshoes provided. Not suitable for children under 8. Nonmembers \$3.

**UHC. Watchung Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Joan Lepselter, 908-273-4188. Meet: 10 am at Trailside parking, Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd., Mountainside; call for directions. Brisk 4+ miles, some rocky and muddy trails; suitable for strong beginners. Steady rain cancels.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

**PMNHA. Snowshoe Extravaganza, NJ.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 to register (required). Meet: 10 am. Join us for discussion and treks; limited number of demos available.

**IHC. Mines of Harriman, NY.** Leader: Dave Sutter, dsuttr@aol.com. Meet: 9:30 am at Lake Skannatati parking, Seven Lakes Dr., Harriman State Park. Moderately strenuous 7 miles to rarely visited sites. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

**UHC. Jockey Hollow, NJ.** Leader: Mary Doyle, 908-580-1778. Meet: 10 am at visitors center; call for directions. Moderate 4 miles; \$4 per person admission fee. Steady rain cancels.

### MONDAY, JANUARY 31

**RVW. Thatcher Park and Thompson's Lake, NY.** Leader: call 845-246-4145 for more information. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Moderate 5 miles; depending on conditions, snowshoes and crampons or cross-country skis required.

## February

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**UHC. Lewis Morris Park, NJ.** Leader: Betty Mills, 973-538-4922. Meet: 10 am at Sugarloaf parking area; call for directions. Easy to moderate 5-6 miles.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**UHC. Beyond Dater's Mine; Harriman State Park NY.** Leader: Dave & Naomi Sutter, dsuttr@aol.com. Meet: 10 am at Johnsontown Rd. circle; call for directions. 8 moderately strenuous miles from here to there over obscure routes; beautiful vistas at every turn.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

**ADK-R. Harriman Adventure, NY.** Leader: Call 845-354-0738. Meet: Call leader for information. Moderate 6 miles in Harriman State Park.

**PMNHA. Singles Hike, NJ.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mtn. Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Moderate; designed for those who are unattached, but all are welcome.

**TLR. Shadow Lake Hike, NY.** Leader: call 914-762-2912, ext. 10, to register (required). Meet: 10 am at Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY. Enjoy the winter views on this easy uphill hike on our newest trail; look for animal tracks. Nonmembers \$3.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

**ADK-R. Snowshoe Ramble.** Leader: Call 845-362-8470. Meet: Call leader for information. Moderate 6 miles.

**IHC. Lewis Morris to Jockey Hollow, NJ.** Leader: Jennifer and Guy Percival, 973-984-1005. Meet: 9 am at Sunrise Lake parking, Lewis Morris County Park, Morris Twp. Strenuous hike on Patriots' Path; lunch near Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring binoculars to search for woodpeckers and owls. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

**UHC. Rifle Camp Park, West Paterson, NJ.** Leader: Walter Koenig, 973-684-5528. Meet: 10 am at park; call for directions. Nice views in this circular hike at a moderate pace.

**OUT. Marshland Conservancy, Rye, NY.** Leader: Rolande Chapeau. Meet: Board the New Haven Line train from Grand Central at 10:37 to Harriman. Leader boards from Fordham at 10:54, arriving at 11:19 (times change, check schedule). Moderate 8 miles; all-day hike through the woods and along the bay. Scenic views from the L.I. Sound. Continue along the shore and return from Rye. Bring lunch, hot drink. Heavy snow/icy conditions cancel. No smoking. Nonmembers \$3.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**UHC. Watchung Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10 am at Trailside Museum; call for directions. About 5 miles on scenic footpaths above Blue Brook-Surprise Lake, Sierra Trail.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

**UHC. Bear Mountain/Popolopen Gorge, NY.** Leader: Arnie Seymour-Jones, 201-768-3864. Meet: 10 am at Bear Mountain Inn. Moderately strenuous hike up Bear Mountain and return through the gorge.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**TLR. Northwest Trail Hike, NY.** Leader: call 914-762-2912, ext. 10, to register (required). Meet: 10 am at Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY. From top of Teatown Hill down to Griffin Swamp, search the highs and lows of Teatown terrain for first signs of a new season. Nonmembers \$3.

**UHC. Lambertville Beer Walk.** Leader: Bob Hagon, 908-788-8360. Meet: 10 am at Flemington Circle shopping center, Flemington, NJ, for car shuttle. 7 mile, flat all-day walk from Lambertville to Stockton and New Hope, PA, then back to Lambertville, where we will sample the wares at River Horse Brewery (cost \$1). Rain or snow cancels; snow on ground okay.

Continued on back

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**OUT. Croton to Peekskill, NY.** Leader: Oliver Wayne, 201-840-4145. Meet: 8 am at the info booth at Grand Central Terminal for 8:20 train to Croton (check schedule for possible time change); return is from Peekskill. 13 miles along the Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail. If even slightly icy, bring ice creepers or crampons. Those without either will be turned away. Nonmembers, \$3.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

**IHC. Osborn Loop, NY.** Leader: Jane Egan, 973-636-0809; no calls after 9 pm. Meet: 9 am at Anthony Wayne parking area (north), Harriman State Park. Lovely moderate Hudson Valley hike of 6 miles on carriage roads; one steep ascent at start. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

**ADK-R. Skannatati Saunter, NY.** Leader: Call 201-816-9465. Meet: Call leader for information. Moderate 6-8 miles in Harriman State Park.

**PMNHA. Snowshoe Hike, NJ.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mtn. Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Moderate; hope for snow so we can trek up Turkey Mtn.

**TLR. Festival of Eagles Walk, NY.** Leader: Call 914-762-2912, ext. 10, to register (required). Meet: 9 am at Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY. Walk to bald eagle spotting areas to celebrate the annual return of these spectacular birds of prey; live eagles and special presentations at Teatown.

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Call 973-746-4319 for information between 9 am and 9 pm. Meet: 10 am at Locust Grove parking, across from Millburn RR station. Moderate 4-5 mile hike.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 am at Tulip Springs parking; call for directions. 6 miles at a moderate pace, with a few rugged areas. To Washington Rock on the Lenape Trail.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

**UCHC. Turkey Mountain, NJ.** Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10 am; call to register. Moderately strenuous 7 miles to a waterfall, return down the 100 steps on Turkey Mountain. Snow or rain may cancel.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

**AMC-NYNoJ. Tuxedo, Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Nancy & Art Tollefson, 212-727-8961; no calls after 9:30 pm. Meet: 9:15 am at Tuxedo RR station, Rt. 17, NY (can take 8:15 am Shortline bus from Port Authority). Moderate 8 miles; suitable for first-time winter hikers. Crampons may be needed, depending on conditions. If in doubt regarding weather, call 7:30 pm-9:30 pm eve before hike.

**PMNHA. Animal Tracks Hike, NJ.** Leader: Call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mtn. Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Easy; let's look for signs of wildlife that's been around.

**ADK-R. Stockbridge Circular, NY.** Leader: Call 845-359-2465. Meet: Call leader for information. Easy 6 miles.

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Call 973-746-4319, between 9 am and 9 pm, for more information. Meet: 10 am at Tulip Springs parking, Brookside Ave., Millburn, NJ. Moderate hike through pine forest to Hemlock Falls.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

**IHC. Tiorati Circular, Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Pete Rigotti, 718-769-3814; call only 9 pm-9:30 pm. Meet: 9 am at Lake Tiorati Circle parking, Harriman. Moderate hike; leader will go with the wind direction; early finish. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call 9 am-9 pm. Meet: 10 am at Turtleback rock parking; call for directions. Moderate 4+ miles in nicely wooded area; see the Turtle Rock.

**OUT. Hastings to Tarrytown, NY.** Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-9457, between 7 and 8 am. Meet: Grand Central Terminal upper level info booth at 10 am to take 10:20 train to Hastings. 5-mile easy hike on the Old Croton Aqueduct. Joint with other clubs. Nonmembers \$3.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

**PMNHA. Morning Hike, NJ.** Leader: call 973-334-3130 to register (required). Meet: 10 am. Moderate hike for adults only.

**UCHC. Kay Environmental Center, Chester, NJ.** Leader: Barbara Loke, 908-234-0486. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. About 5 miles; lunch along the Black River in this beautiful wooded park.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

**UCHC. Pequannock Watershed, NJ.** Leader: Al Leigh, 973-471-7528. Meet: 10 am; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 8-9 miles exploring such dandies as Old Cole, Bearfort Waters, Two Brooks, Fire Tower West (good views) and Terrace Pond.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

**TLR. Full Moon Hike, NY.** Leader: Call 914-762-2912, ext. 10, to register (required). Meet: 9 pm at Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining, NY. The full moon will be rising as we make our way to Hidden Valley Meadow. Out by 11 pm; hot chocolate will be served in the nature center after the hike. Nonmembers \$3.

**UCHC. Watchung Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10 am at Trailside parking on Coles Ave. at New Providence Rd.; call for directions. Moderate 4-5 miles with mixture of easy, level walking and some hills on possibly muddy or icy terrain. It there is too much snow, we may ski instead. Steady rain cancels.

**OUT. Byram River Gorge, CT.** Leader: Mayer Wiesen, 516-671-2095 until 10:30 pm. Meet: Jerome & Bainbridge Aves, Bronx, street level at 9 am sharp for train. (7 pm return.) 6 moderate miles. See a green hemlock gorge in Greenwich. Bring an extra pair of socks for a muddy trail. No smoking on trip. Joint with NY Hiking Club and Shorewalkers. Nonmembers \$3.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

**IHC. Island Pond, Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Ilse Dunham, 973-838-8031. Meet: 9 am at Tuxedo RR station, Rt. 17, NY. Moderate hike to and around Island Pond; enjoy an invigorating day. Conditions may require crampons or snowshoes.

**PMNHA. Winter Birds Hike, NJ.** Leader: call 973-334-3130 for information. Meet: 1 pm at Pyramid Mtn. Natural Historic Area Visitors Center, 472A Boonton Ave., Montville Twp. Moderate; bring your binoculars so we can study winter residents.

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Call 973-746-4319 for more information between 9 am and 9 pm. Meet: 10 am at Tulip Springs parking lot in Millburn, NJ; call for directions. Moderate hike through pine forest to Hemlock Falls and beyond.

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