



# TRAIL WALKER

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference – Maintaining 1,666 Miles of Foot Trails

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## Trail Conference Opens New Trails in the Shawangunks

Seven miles of new trails in the southern Shawangunks, constructed and blazed by Trail Conference volunteers on land acquired for preservation by the Trail Conference, are now open for hiking. The new trail routes are divided between two Ridge areas in Orange County: a five-mile loop that connects the City of Port Jervis to the “bony and scenic Lenape Ridge” (as described by TC board and crew member Malcolm Spector), and a two-mile loop in the Town of Mount Hope that links the Shawangunk Ridge Trail to an old (now closed) fire tower.

The longer loop—comprising the new Lenape Ridge and Minisink Trails—is accessible via Metro North to Port Jervis and a connecting walk along the Delaware River Heritage Trail in Port Jervis. It is also accessible by car (see description on page 12). The two-mile loop in Mount Hope is accessible only from the Shawangunk Ridge Trail.

Jakob Franke leads the Long Path/Shawangunk Ridge Trail crew, which built the new trails and plans additional trail-building in the area this spring. (The Lenape Ridge Trail is to be extended two miles this year.) He describes both trails as scenic with “great views.” The trails are generally wooded, with some rock ledges, and offer opportunities for easy- to moderate-level hiking. The Ravine Trail in the Mount Hope section follows along a small stream.

These new trails are part of an ambitious Trail Conference plan to protect the 35-mile long Shawangunk Ridge Trail corridor and link it to communities and other protected open spaces.

The Trail Conference is negotiating with the state for permission to extend the Lenape Ridge Trail through Huckleberry

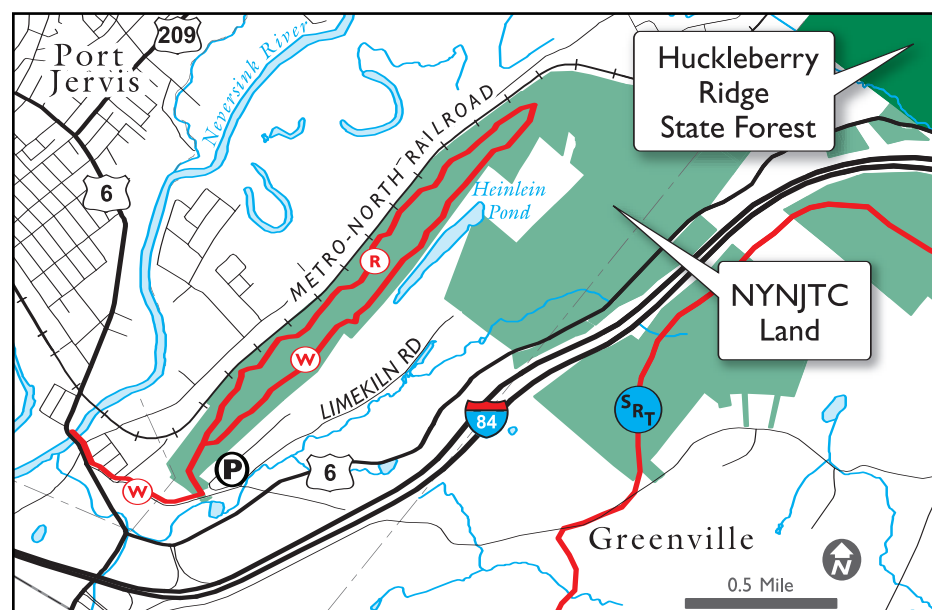
State Forest and a connection with the Shawangunk Ridge Trail. The Trail Conference also is working to transfer the lands it owns along the Ridge in Orange County to the state for addition to Huckleberry State Forest.

Detailed maps of the new hiking areas are not available. For more information about the new trails, please read the Favorite Hike feature on page 12.

Thanks to the following volunteers for their work on building the new trails: Judith Adams, Ken Flessner, Gely and Jakob Franke, Doug Furman, Andy Garrison, Toby Golick, Gary Haugland, Ryo Kiyan, Mike Knutson, Nikolay Kravchuk, Paul “Patagonius” Labounty, Eric and Sue Meyer, John Moran, and Malcolm Spector.



Volunteers have built two miles of new trail that link to the SRT in Mt. Hope.



Five miles of new trail are phase one in a project that will link Port Jervis with the SRT.

## TC Publishes New Guide to Hiking the Jersey Highlands

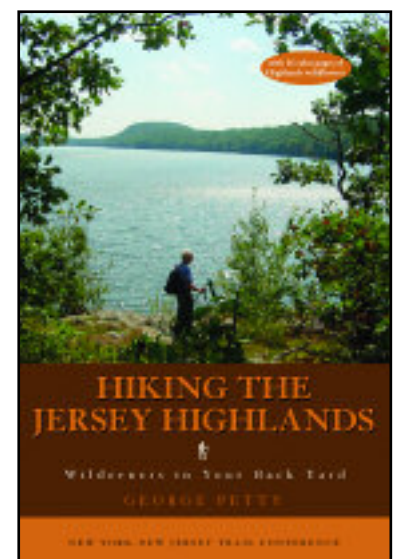
George Petty's exciting new book, *Hiking the Jersey Highlands*, will be available about the middle of May, just in time for your spring hiking in the Highlands! Under the leadership of Ruth Rosenthal, project manager, the Trail Conference Publications Committee has produced this informative 450-page guidebook to 35 hikes in the Jersey Highlands, organized by length and difficulty, with maps and detailed descriptions to guide your hiking experience.

Each hike is accompanied by a full-page map, as well as pictures illustrating the terrain and habitats covered by the hike.

The book also includes a 30-page detailed description of the New Jersey section of the Highlands Trail itself—89.3 blazed miles, extending from Big Beech Mountain to Black Brook Road.

Another added bonus is a 16-page color insert with photographs of more than 100 wildflowers. This will assist even novices in identifying the flora that may be seen along the hikes. The hike descriptions indicate where and when these wildflowers (as well as birds, other wildlife, and interesting geologic formations) may be encountered. The book also includes sections on the history, geology, habitats, wildlife, and flora of the Highlands.

Our thanks to the many members of the Trail Conference community, including the Publications Committee, trail supervisors, maintainers, office staff, and parks people who have contributed to making this publication possible.



To order *Hiking the Jersey Highlands*, see Hikers' Marketplace on page 9; call 201-512-9348, ext. 11; or visit [www.nynjtc.com](http://www.nynjtc.com).

## Member-Get-A-Member Campaign Ends May 31

You received the email. You read the letter. You photocopied your personalized new membership referral form. But have you asked anyone to join? If not, it is time to turn your hiking friends on to the Trail Conference!

The Member-Get-A-Member campaign is off to a great start. Many of our members have gone out and asked their friends to join the Trail Conference family with great success. We are predicting a close race for the three grand prizes to be awarded at the annual meeting in June. The campaign will come to a close on May 31, 2007, so make sure you don't miss your chance at winning the mountain getaways!

Remember, you are our best source for new members who could benefit from all the Trail Conference has to offer. For more information on the program, including membership forms, tips on recruitment, and rules, visit [www.nynjtc.org/mgm](http://www.nynjtc.org/mgm).

So come on, ask your friends, family, and fellow hikers to join the Trail Conference. As members, they will receive all the great benefits that you enjoy as a member: a free subscription to the *Trail Walker*, members-only discounts at leading outdoor retailers, a discount on Trail Conference maps, books, and other merchandise, and the satisfaction of supporting the organization that keeps the trails open for you year after year.

★★★★ Grand Prize ★★★★★  
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★★ 2nd Prize ★★  
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★ 3rd Prize ★  
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# TRAILWALKER

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## Mission Statement

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

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

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## From the Chair

# The Long Tail: Finding and Promoting Our Niche

There are interesting new concepts in business/economics that the Trail Conference may be wise to consider. One is described in the book *The Long Tail* by Chris Anderson. A related aspect is the topic in the February 25, 2007 issue of *Time* magazine: the gift economy.

To summarize Anderson's message: Commerce, particularly e-commerce, is no longer so heavily driven by "hits" like the top best-sellers and the 80/20 rule (80% of your business comes from 20% of your products). Instead, a significant part of the total business is in the "long tail" of niche products. Amazon and iTunes are examples of where an incredible choice of products—from best-sellers to niche items—is available to anyone via e-commerce. Physical book stores do not have the ability to carry the vast array of book titles that are available from these online sellers. But electronic ordering (and in some cases, electronic distribution) means that even a niche book can have the same availability as a best-seller.

Trail Conference publications are exam-

ples of niche market products. Ours is a small publishing account, offering books and maps of interest primarily to a special interest group within a defined region. Large book or outdoors stores want to minimize the number of accounts they have to deal with. Thus they do business with distributors, who, more often than not, are national companies with no interest in regional products. Furthermore, the stores have limited shelf space and a regional

Write an online review



product might not fit in with what they wish to carry. Our books and maps are in that "long tail" of the publishing business.

With these constraints, and the fact that so many people order books via the internet, we must work to ensure that our products are visible online. One component that drives sales in the "long tail" is the

use of reviews and recommendations. For example, on Amazon.com people can submit a review of a book or a list of books on a topic. Others can comment on those reviews. All these reviewers and commentators are working for free, and they help drive the economic engine. The donated reviews on Amazon.com drive sales. Both Anderson and *Time* magazine call this type of donation the "gift economy."

The Trail Conference may not be able to compete with major publishers for shelf space for our books, but we can make sure our niche products are visible online in the long tail. Visibility is driven by search engines and by the reviews and recommendations that draw attention to our products. So become part of the gift economy and become an online reviewer! If you have questions or would like to let us know you are helping, please contact me at boardchair@nynjtc.org.

—Jane Daniels

Chair, Board of Directors  
 Chair, Ramapo 2007

## New PIPC Head To Speak at Delegates' Meeting June 14

Come to the Trail Conference's June 14 Delegates' Meeting at Ross Dock in Fort Lee, NJ, and meet Jim Hall, the new executive director of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. Mr. Hall will give a presentation starting at 7pm. His talk will be preceded by a social hour at 6 and will be followed by the business meeting. All members of the Trail Conference are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP to office@nynjtc.org or call 201-512-9348.

For directions to Ross Dock, go to [www.njpalisades.org/direct.htm#RD](http://www.njpalisades.org/direct.htm#RD).



Meeting site at Ross Dock

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## Ann & John Grob Honored Before Moving to Florida

Ann and John Grob have been Trail Conference stalwarts for decades. Unfortunately for our region's trails community, in April they moved permanently from Morristown, NJ, to Florida. Rather than wait until the Annual Meeting in October to acknowledge with awards the Grobs' outstanding contributions, the Trail Conference Board of Directors voted to honor them before they headed south.

In March, at a small dinner event, Board Chair Jane Daniels presented the Paul Leikin Extra Mile Award to Ann and the William Hoferlin Award to John. (The Leikin Award is made to those volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to a 3-5 year project such as a book, map, or advocacy project. The Hoferlin Award recognizes Trail Conference volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.)

Ann Grob volunteered for trails, but not with pick-axe and shovel. She was a regular helper in the TC office, both in Mahwah and, earlier, in New York City (to which she commuted weekly from her home in Morristown). For years Ann served as a "volunteer" volunteer coordinator. She was invaluable in organizing files and equipment when the Trail Conference moved from New York to New Jersey. She planned and supervised the preparation, servicing, and

cleanup of several Annual Meetings and other special events. Ann's organizing abilities and dedication will be sorely missed.

John Grob was a Trail Conference jack-of-all-trades: active as a maintainer, crew member, and supervisor; a whiz with phone lines and setting up email systems; and generous in sharing his expertise.

John was instrumental in connecting the Trail Conference with the Morristown National Historical Park, in particular, with Jockey Hollow. Beginning as a volunteer on the Jockey Hollow trail system, John eventu-

**Board Chair Jane Daniels presented the Paul Leikin Extra Mile Award to Ann and the William Hoferlin Award to John.**

ally organized the site's volunteers into a self-sufficient trail crew that maintains the trails, builds bridges, sets out location maps, and completes other trail related projects—all within the constraints imposed by historic preservation regulations.

John was active with the North Jersey Trail Crew, helping on technical problems encountered in rock work, blow-down removal, and bridge construction. He enjoyed introducing new tools and techniques to trail work, and Crew Chief Sandy Parr notes that the North Jersey crew "would be much less able without his expertise." New Jersey trails are easier to navigate and more pleasant to walk thanks to John's input.

John put in many hours GPSing trails for the trails database, and he was frequently seen at the office with his tool belt on, doing work to keep Trail Conference phone lines coordinated; in fact, he wired the phones when the Trail Conference moved into the Mahwah office. Being a former phone company worker, John knew better than most how to keep lines of all kinds from getting crossed.

## Call for Candidates for Trail Conference Board, Delegates

The Trail Conference Nominating Committee seeks nominations for the board of directors and delegates-at-large. We are looking for board members with a background of skills in communication, fundraising, environmental science, and government.

Self nomination is encouraged. You can also suggest others if they meet the requirements and might be willing to serve if nominated.

**Send nominations with resume**

**(if possible) to:**

nominations@nynjtc.org, "Nominating Committee" in subject line.

Nominating committee members: George Becker, Jr, Chair; John Gunzler, Malcolm Spector, Josie Gray, Denise Vitale



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## From the Executive Director

## Note to Self



There is something deliciously renewing about spring hiking. The sap rising into the unfurling leaves of the forest feels like it is moving straight through me. There is movement in the landscape, too – flitting birds, opening flowers, waving grass – that is a startling contrast to the silent and severely beautiful, snow-covered woodlands of a few months ago.

For the enthusiasts among us, spring is just another season in the hiking life, part of the merry-go-round of opportunities to explore the out-of-doors. But I imagine there are many others who, due to time, personal responsibilities, and other constraints, may let this season pass without sampling its pleasures.

For those of you in this latter category, I must be a scold. Get outside and do it now!

If you are reading this, you are most likely a member/supporter of the Trail Conference's efforts to provide high quality hiking opportunities for all to enjoy. But if you are not enjoying those opportunities yourself, well, plan your next hike and do it now!

If your schedule is like mine, you need to get out your calendar and set aside a date certain for a hike (and don't forget an alternate bad weather date, too). Check out the organized hikes that our member organizations offer. The sampling of hikes offered to the public in the Hikers' Almanac is just the tip of the iceberg. Our 100+ member organizations (listed at [www.nynjtc.org/clubs.html](http://www.nynjtc.org/clubs.html)) do a superb job of programming outdoor excursions to satisfy every taste.

Bring a friend hiking. We need more people to appreciate the new open space that has been acquired with public funds. More people need to viscerally enjoy our public open space if we are to continue to add to the inventory and manage it wisely. Avid hikers are strong advocates for quality-of-life issues. (And, while we are talking about hiking with friends, don't forget to sign friends up as Trail Conference mem-

bers through our Member-Get-A-Member program and qualify for prizes. See page 1 for details.)

With a spring hike(s) firmly in your calendar, you should be in a self-congratulatory mood. Perhaps you are also in the mood to be of service, to contribute to the hiking community. If so, then do we have some deals for you!

Please check our website for Trail Crew schedules (Click on Trail Crews/Work Trips in the navigation bar on the left of

the home page). Work trips involve hands-on learning from experienced crew members. Trail University workshops at Bear Mountain (and elsewhere) provide more formal training, but hands-on learning from experienced instructors is still the key. If you are interested in working with rocks, large and small, this is a good place to go. (See [www.nynjtc.org/workshops](http://www.nynjtc.org/workshops).) And if rocks and trails aren't your thing, learn how to identify and monitor invasive species in our Volunteer Invasive Plant

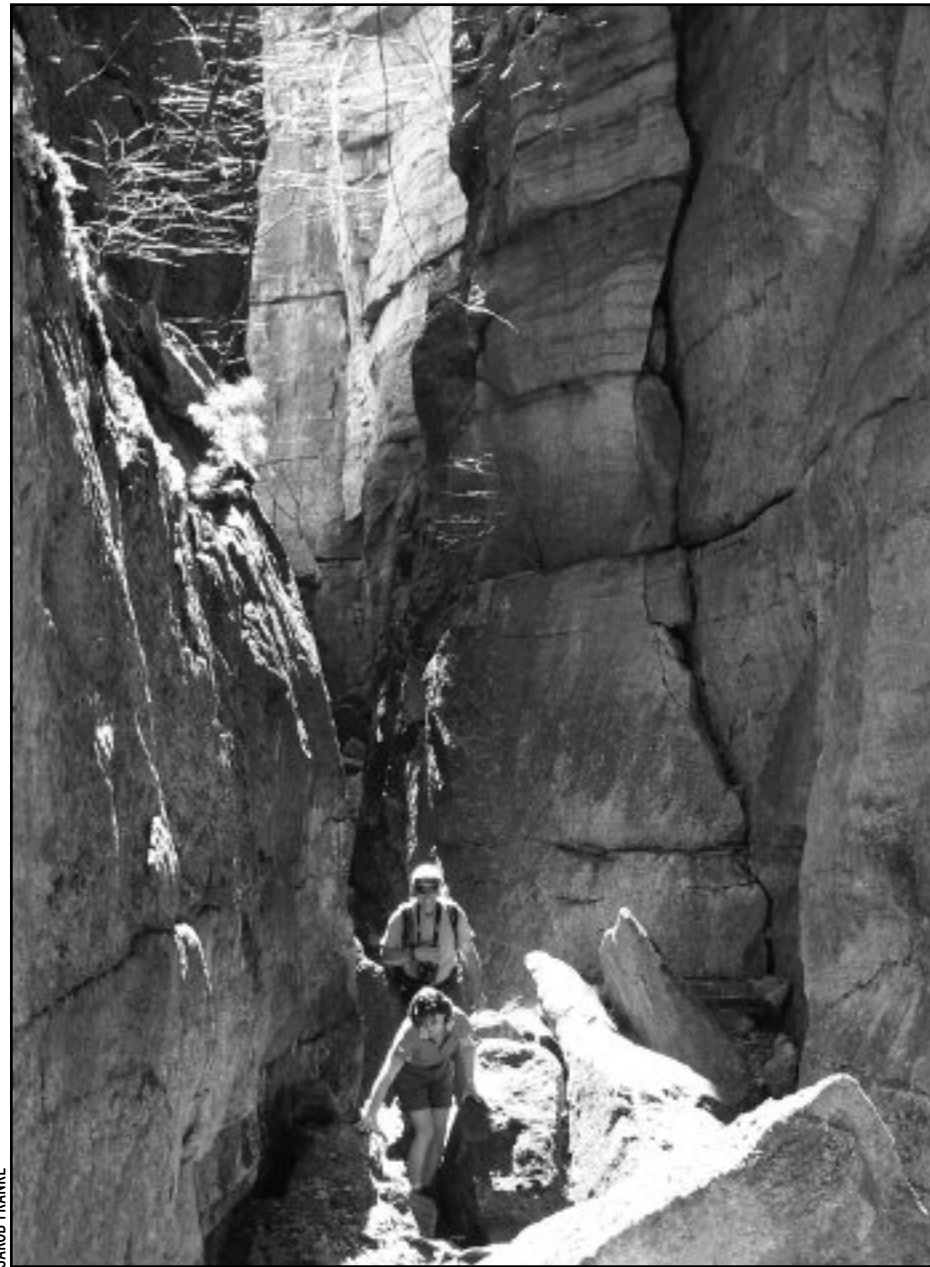
Survey (see page 7).

Almost every day during April, May, and most of June, there is a workshop and/or a work trip being offered somewhere in the region. This is wonderful way to learn some new skills, make the acquaintance of fun and dedicated people, and gain a much deeper appreciation for the care needed to build and maintain quality hiking trails.

I guarantee that a day in field will both provide you with a more profound connection to nature and, through the trails you create, help to connect other people to nature. Whether it is through recreational hiking or active service, don't let this season pass without enjoying the out-of-doors experience that your Trail Conference membership supports.

See you there!

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



Hikers explore Lost City at the Mohonk Preserve in Ulster County.

Let's not be too busy to enjoy the fruits of our labors. Get out and enjoy a hike—now!

## National Trails Day June 2, 2007!

All events are scheduled for Saturday, June 2, except where noted.

We hope that all of our clubs, crews, maintainers, and volunteers will go out and put our work on display to the public! Below is a sample of NTD activities in our region. If you are interested in participating in an event or want to post your event online, go to [www.nynjtc.org/events/ntd](http://www.nynjtc.org/events/ntd).

Take a Hike!  
Harriman State Park

Contact: [Katy Dieters, dieters@nynjtc.org](mailto:KatyDieters@nynjtc.org)  
Meet 9:30am in the Anthony Wayne North Parking Lot for a 7.5 mile-loop in Harriman. This hike is sponsored by ADK Ramapo and led by NY-NJ TC member Pete Tilgner. Only heavy rain cancels.

Family Friendly Trail Work  
Alley Pond Park, Queens, NY  
Contact: [Metro Crew Chief Joe Gindoff, joeghker@aol.com](mailto:MetroCrewChiefJoeGindoff@joeghker@aol.com)

Come help with trail repair and plantings. Families and youth welcome.

Trail Work for Beginners  
Port Jervis, NY

Trail University: Maintenance 101  
Contact: [Heidi Adami, adami@nynjtc.org](mailto:HeidiAdami@nynjtc.org)  
Learn the basics of building and maintaining hiking trails! The workshop will consist of three hours of classroom activity in the Port Jervis Library and proceed to work in groups and visit nearby trails and do hands-on trail work.

Build a Bridge!  
Storm King State Park

Contact: [Denise Vitale, WHNTrails@aol.com](mailto:DeniseVitale@WHNTrails@aol.com) or 845-738-2126  
The Stillman Trail, east of the Mountain Road parking lot, has been closed for over a year because of the bridge that has deteriorated. The West Hudson North Crew will be rebuilding the bridge this spring. We could use a small army on National Trails Day to help us carry in the building materials, lay the decking across the bridge span, and attach the railings. No experience is necessary. Cordless drills and socket wrenches (for 5/8" and 1/2" bolts) will be the tools of the day.

Junior Rangers and Others:  
Celebrate the Appalachian Trail  
Contact: [Gene Giordano at trailwork@appalachiantrail-nj.org](mailto:GeneGiordano@trailwork@appalachiantrail-nj.org) for more information or to receive a full listing of locations for the day's events.

A full day of events to celebrate the Appalachian Trail will include both long and short hikes on the AT and connected trails, a slide show presentation about the AT, and the kick-off in our area of the National Park Service's Appalachian Trail Junior Ranger Program. The day's events will begin at 10am at various locations in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area adjacent to the Appalachian Trail. Co-sponsored by the NY-NJ Trail Conference NJ Appalachian Trail Management Committee, the National Park Service, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Highlands Trail Hits Hudson  
Contact: [Gary Haugland, 845-534-5053](mailto:GaryHaugland@845-534-5053)

Celebrate the recent completion of the final mile of the Highlands Trail in Orange County, NY, which now connects the existing trail on Storm King Mountain with the Hudson River. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and inaugural hike are scheduled for Sunday June 3 at 1pm at the riverfront in the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson.

Teatown Trail Day, Ossining, NY  
Contact: [Teatown Lake Reservation, Beth Rhines](mailto:TeatownLakeReservation) at 914-762-2912, ext. 115 or [brhines@teatown.org](mailto:brhines@teatown.org). To make a reservation, call 914-762-2912, ext. 110.

Help Teatown maintain some of its 15 miles of trails. Learn trail maintenance basics; projects will vary according to activity and skill levels. Lunch will be provided. Ages 14 and up. Free. 9 am – 12 noon.

Try-A-Trail-Crew Day!  
Warren Trail, Jenny Jump  
State Forest, NJ

Contact: [Monica and Dave Day, 732-937-9098](mailto:MonicaandDaveDay@732-937-9098) Cell: 908-307-5049 or [westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com](mailto:westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com)  
Come out and experience trail work first hand. Learn side-hill construction and other basic trail building techniques. No experience is required; tools, training and fun will be provided. 9am meeting time.

Watchung Ramble & Trail Work Day, with the Union County Hiking Club, NJ  
Contact: [Call Trailside Nature & Science Center](mailto:CallTrailsideNature&ScienceCenter@908-789-3670) at 908-789-3670, ext. 3420 for info and to register.

Here's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our trails, socialize with fellow hikers, and give something back to the trails. No experience needed; tools provided. 8:30am to 2:30 pm; lunch will be provided to all pre-registered trail work participants.

# Conservation & Advocacy



From the Conservation & Advocacy Director:  
William P. O'Hearn

## Conservation Requires Potential + Patience + Persistence

As I was working on a review of Ann Botshon's book on Sterling Forest [see page 11], I was struck by the twists and turns of the political process—joy followed by despair followed by satisfaction followed by more work, etc.—that the environmental community went through as we lurched toward the finish line of bringing in the \$17.5 million in federal funding for this land in 1996.

The process dragged on for years. Some activists dropped out as they simply ran out of gas, moved out of the area, started a family, or otherwise stepped out of the struggle. Others, like marathoners, endured for the long haul.

The lesson I take from this is a reminder that in conservation and advocacy, there is no substitute for simple endurance, the ability to take some setbacks but remain committed to winning in the end, even if we are not sure exactly how we are going to get there.

This is worth remembering as, at press time, we are dealing with disappointing news in both states, in particular the removal of the Bigger Better Bottle Bill from the New York State budget and the threat that the Garden State Preservation Trust referendum on open space funding may be pushed back to 2008.

The lesson is also worth remembering as we struggle with our LaFarge property in New York's Sullivan County.

LaFarge is a rails-to-trails site that we purchased in 2005 along Route 209 in the Town of Mamakating along the Shawangunk Ridge. These 140 acres were a strategic acquisition because the Delaware and Hudson Canal; New York, Ontario, & Western Railway (O&W); and the Port Jervis, Monticello, and Summitville Railroad all crossed on this property. The O&W rail bed extends several miles through Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest all the way down to just above the Route 17 highway.

These parcels were also a disaster, containing countless piles of debris scattered all over the site and perhaps the worst all-terrain vehicle (ATV) damage I have ever encountered. Some wide stretches of the land were literally beach-like, huge flat circles of exposed sand and soil, with burned-out cars and a boat perched atop them like outdoor sculptures gone bad.

And it went downhill from there as we tried to manage and remediate the property. Stones placed by a local contractor to deter ATVs were rolled away. Our future buyer, New York State DEC, informed us that all the railroad ties would have to be excavated and removed from the site, and the railroad beds would have to be tested for hazardous waste materials. New dumping took place, and the town served us with a summons to ensure that we would clean it up, which we did—twice.

*continued on page 9*

## Conservation & Advocacy News Notes

### Bottle Bill Bummer

The Bigger Better Bottle Bill will not be in the New York state budget this year. As of the deadline for this issue of TW, the BBBB was excluded from the final budget despite support from Governor Spitzer and the New York State Assembly; opposition in the Senate doomed the proposal. The BBBB aimed to increase container recycling in the state and generate—through state collection of unpaid bottle deposits—new funds for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

There was good news from the budget negotiations. Despite the failure of the BBBB, the EPF was slated to increase to \$250 million from last year's \$225 million, and funding was approved to add 109 staff positions at DEC. The Governor, Assembly, and Senate have said they would continue negotiations on the BBBB outside of the budget process. The fight is not yet over!

### DEC Gets Grannis, New Staff

Alexander "Pete" Grannis has been confirmed as Commissioner of NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Grannis, a state assemblyman from Manhattan since 1974, has a solid environmental record in the state assembly. He will be taking over an agency decimated by cutbacks that reduced staff by 25% during the Pataki administration. The state's newly approved budget, however, funds the addition of 109 jobs to the department.

### Feds Allocate \$1.9 Million For NJ Highlands Conservation

In late March, the federal government allocated \$1.98 million for land preservation in the New Jersey Highlands. The allocation was made under the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act of 2004, which authorized spending \$100 million over 10 years for watershed protection in the Highlands of New Jersey and New York. The funding is for preservation projects along the wooded ridges west of the Wanaque Reservoir, including Saddle Mountain, a 424-acre tract in Ringwood and West Milford owned by a rock quarrying company, and a nearby tract where a developer sought to build housing on steep slopes with streams that flow to the reservoir.

### NJ Major Policy Plans Are Delayed

- The long-awaited draft of the New Jersey State Trails Plan was recently pushed back "indefinitely" from its proposed March 31 release date.
- After some debate the New Jersey Highlands Council decided to move its deadline for accepting changes to the Draft Regional Master Plan from April 2 to May 11. At press time, a new executive director has not yet been announced.

### Cleaner Air on the Way?

A US Supreme Court decision announced April 2 is good news for the Adirondacks and other mountain areas in the Northeast affected by smog produced by power plants in the Midwest. In a unanimous decision, the justices ruled that the New Source Review Act requires plants to install the latest pollution controls technologies when improvements to the plants result in increases in emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. New York State, with the support of ADK, a TC member club, filed suit against Duke Energy Co., which modernized its plants and increased pollutants without installing scrubbers. The court's decision clears the way to win these lawsuits and force a major clean-up of the some 70 coal burning power plants that produce an estimated 80% of the acid rain in the Adirondacks.



## Trail News

### New Shawangunk Ridge Trail Loop in Mount Hope

A new loop trail in the town of Mount Hope connects the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT) with the Graham Fire Tower on top of the ridge. The tower is currently closed. The new loop is accessed from the SRT.

**The hike:** Starting from Guymard Turnpike, hike 1.8 miles north on the SRT, here aligned on the former corridor of the Ontario & Western railroad, to the two new trails that comprise a mountainside figure-8 route. Each trail is approximately one mile long. The white-blazed Ravine Trail (RT) climbs up a rather steep and rocky ravine (easy boulder hops). Part of the ravine is green with ferns and moss-covered rocks. A nice little cascading stream is crossed once, easily. At the top of the ravine the trail heads south, passes a seasonal viewpoint, crosses a woods road (the red-blazed Graham Fire Tower Trail), and continues to the top of the ridge, ending at the now-closed fire tower.

On top, the RT again meets the Graham



The new Ravine Trail leads to this fire tower.

Fire Tower Trail, which is a series of old woods roads that can be followed back to your starting point on the SRT. Along this return route, look for the remnants of an old mine at the left of the first junction with another woods road. There used to be a lead smelter off the Guymard Turnpike, close to the old RR bed. A chimney of the old smelter is still standing.

**Access by car:** From Route 6, go north on Route 35 to Guymard Turnpike; west on Guymard to rail line; park along road near rail bridge.

## TC Proposes a New Hiking Trail in NJ

If all goes well, in another year or two the hiking community should have an additional 30 miles of hiking trail—presently dubbed the Iron Belt Trail—on the westernmost ridge of the Highlands corridor in New Jersey.

A close study of the newly published North Jersey Trail Map 116 reveals an abundance of publicly owned land in the region, but very few trails for hikers.

From the dramatic crest of Wawayanda Mountain (traversed by the Appalachian Trail) in Wawayanda State Park in the north, to the Pequannock Watershed, owned by the city of Newark, to the Hamburg Mountain Wildlife Management Area, contiguous public open spaces protect a vast area of wetlands and rocky knobs, peaks over 1400 feet and lakes, ridges and forests.

There is additional public land south of the area covered by the map. New Jersey DEP, Division of Fish and Wildlife manages public land south of Route 23 and west of Lake Gerard and Beaver Lake; furthermore, that land abuts the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The latter includes the Edison Pond area with its his-



Karen Goldstein and Al Slaninka helped to whack a new trail at a Queens park.

### New Marsh Trail at Idlewild Preserve in Queens

A short new trail at Idlewild Park Preserve in Queens takes walkers to a salt marsh and opportunities to enjoy an abundance of wildlife, particularly migratory birds. At the invitation of park administrator Barbara Brown, more than 30 volunteers, including the Trail Conference's Metro Trail Crew, cut a quarter-mile long, eight-foot wide swath through tall grass to the marsh and another path around a pond on the site.

The marsh trail provides access for the public, particularly for young students who frequent the park on field trips and take water and soil samples. It must be maintained at eight-feet wide so that guardians can see their charges while they are on the trail. The crew has also been asked to help build a bridge system in the park, a National Park Service Rivers and Trails project that is scheduled to get underway this year.

Idlewild Park Preserve is a Forever Wild Management Area of the New York City Parks department. It comprises 187 level acres just north of JFK Airport. The Environmental Action Coalition at Adelphi University currently maintains the new marsh trail.

For more information about the park, including directions, go to <http://nycgovparks.org>.

torical trail network. A few miles further south is Mahlon Dickerson Reservation.

For two years Trail Conference volunteers Malcolm Spector, Ellen Cronan, and John Mack have been exploring all these lands and scouting a route for a proposed trail that would connect the AT on top of Wawayanda Mountain with the Highlands Trail, over 30 miles to the south, in Mahlon Dickerson Reservation.

Much of the proposed route of this trail is shown on Map 116 as a dashed red line. The proposed trail combines some existing trails, some abandoned trails, some woods roads, and quite a bit of new trail. At the south end of the envisioned route, a few parcels of land are being acquired through the Green Acres program to permit the trail to connect the area around Edison Pond to Mahlon Dickerson Reservation on an abandoned rail bed.

The Trail Conference has made formal requests for trail approval to the state landowners and land managers. Once these approvals are obtained, more detailed and intensive scouting will identify the best route through each area, and the trail will be flagged, cleared, and blazed. Anyone interested in helping to build this trail should "watch this space" for announcements.



# TRAIL U

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

Unless otherwise noted, register by contacting: Heidi Adami, Volunteer Coordinator, at 201-512-9348 ext. 26, adami@nynjtc.org.

### May 13 (Sunday) TU 186 Stone Step Construction @ Bear Mountain

Using natural and cut stone, participants in this workshop will build a stone staircase using the overlap and tuck-behind method. This workshop is designed for all skill levels. Register by May 7. No fee.

### June 2 (Saturday, National Trails Day) TU 187 Trail Maintenance 101 @ Port Jervis

This one-day training session teaches maintenance techniques, trail standards, and what problems to expect on the trails and how to solve them. If you are interested in becoming a maintainer or enhancing your maintenance skills, this is the perfect workshop for you. No previous experience is necessary and beginners are welcome. Students will spend the morning in a classroom environment and then head out into woods for a hands-on exercise. No fee.

### June 3 (Sunday) TU 188 Turnpike / Causeway Construction @ Bear Mountain

In this workshop participants will learn how to build raised earthen treadways as a means to create dry and durable trails across wet areas. Turnpikes (a.k.a. Causeways or Rock boxes) are an alternative to stepping stones, puncheon, and boardwalk and, as participants in this workshop will find out, they are relatively easy to build. This is a perfect workshop for first-time trail workers. Register by May 28. No fee.

## New to Trail Work? Come join the West Jersey Crew on their Try-a-Trail-Crew workdays!

On May 5, May 19, and June 2, the West Jersey Crew welcomes anyone who is interested in trail crew work to come see what it is all about! These are regularly scheduled work days where we invite newcomers to the trail for training. No experience is required; training, tools and fun are provided! Check the Crew Schedule for details. For more information and to register, contact Dave and Monica Day at westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com.

## C & A Thanks...

The Conservation & Advocacy staff would like to recognize and thank these individuals:

- **Ed Galto**, President of Omdex Inc., for donating a much needed map hanger for all our maps.
- **Chris Connolly**, Trail Conference Board Member and Counsel, for patiently wading through all our archived files and identifying the important documents.
- Our New Jersey and New York **advocacy committee volunteers** for attending public hearings, writing letters, and making phone calls to support us in our advocacy work.

# Trail Crew Schedules

## May - June 2007

For the latest schedules and additional details, go to [nynjtc.org](http://nynjtc.org) and click on "Trail crews/Work trips."

TBD = To Be Determined

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

### NORTH JERSEY WEEKEND CREW Leader: Sandy Parr, 732-469-5109

Tackle a variety of projects ranging from trail repair to bridge building in northern New Jersey. Trips start at 9:30am; call for location and details during the week before the scheduled trip day. To be included in leader's email notification list, email him at [parr2@bellatlantic.net](mailto:parr2@bellatlantic.net) and put "NJ Trail Crew" in the subject line.

### Sunday, May 20 Second Sunday of each month thereafter

### NORTH JERSEY WEEKDAY CREW Leader: John Moran, [johnmoran@earthlink.net](mailto:johnmoran@earthlink.net)

This crew will cover the NJ Ramapos, Ringwood S. P., northern Wyonokies, and NJ Palisades, among other areas. Its purpose is to respond quickly to immediate needs, rather than to schedule definite events far in advance. If you're interested in being on call for this work, contact John Moran by email.

### WEST JERSEY TRAIL CREW Leader: Monica and David Day Phone: 732-937-9098 Cell: 908-307-5049 Email: [westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com](mailto:westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com) Website: [www.trailstobuild.com](http://www.trailstobuild.com)

All tools, materials and training will be provided

All events begin at 9am. There is usually a walk to the work site, so please be there on time. Call or email leaders for meeting place details and other questions. Rain cancels - if in doubt, call leaders between 6 and 6:30 that morning.

**May 5 (Saturday)  
Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Park**  
Try a Trail Crew Day!  
We will begin work constructing a reinforced side-hill tread for the trail as it descends Jenny Jump Mountain below Rt. 611.  
Meeting place: Scenic overlook on Highway 611

**May 19 (Saturday)  
Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Park**  
Try a Trail Crew Day!  
We will continue work constructing a reinforced side-hill tread for the trail as it descends Jenny Jump Mountain below Rt. 611.  
Meeting place: Scenic overlook on Highway 611

**June 2 (Saturday)  
Warren Trail, Jenny Jump State Park**  
Try a Trail Crew Day!  
We will continue work constructing a reinforced side-hill tread for the trail as it descends Jenny Jump Mountain below Rt. 611.  
Meeting place: Scenic overlook on Highway 611

**June 9 (Saturday)  
Dunnfield Creek Trail, Worthington State Forest**  
We will begin work on the abutments for a bridge over Dunnfield Creek (near the Holly Springs Trail), to replace a bridge destroyed by Hurricane Ivan.  
Meeting place: Dunnfield Creek parking lot

**June 10 (Sunday)  
Dunnfield Creek Trail, Worthington State Forest**  
We will continue work on the abutments for a bridge over Dunnfield Creek (near the Holly Springs Trail), to replace a bridge destroyed by Hurricane Ivan.  
Meeting place: Dunnfield Creek parking lot

**June 23 (Saturday)  
Beaver Brook Trail,  
Weldon Brook Wildlife Management Area**  
We will rehabilitate a bridge over the Beaver Brook.  
Meeting place: To be determined

### NJ HIGHLANDS CREW Leader: Glenn Oleksak, 973-283-0306, [glenno@nji.com](mailto:glenno@nji.com)

**First Sunday of each month +**  
Additional Saturday or Sunday trips are often scheduled. We tackle a variety of projects on the Highlands Trail in NJ. Details and directions are posted on the NY-NJ TC website calendar or contact the leader.

### METRO TRAILS CREW Leader: Joe Gindoff, 914-760-3568, [joeghiker@aol.com](mailto:joeghiker@aol.com)

**Third Saturday of each month**  
Trips start at 9am, locations TBA. Call or email for details. We serve parks from Pelham Park in the Bronx, to the Staten Island Greenbelt. To get more info on the many trips held throughout the seasons, contact us, and get onto our mailing list.

### LONG PATH/SHAWANGUNK RIDGE CREW Leader: Jakob Franke: 201-768-3612 (home), 212-342-0178 (work), 201-638-0582 (cell)

**May 6 (Sunday)  
New South Gully Trail, Sam's Point Preserve**  
Meet: 10 am, Preserve parking lot in Cragmoor

**May 12 (Saturday)  
New South Gully Trail, Sam's Point Preserve**  
Meet: 10 am, Preserve parking lot in Cragmoor

### WEST HUDSON SOUTH CREW Leaders: Chris Ezzo (Crew Chief): 516-431-1148, [musicbynumbers59@yahoo.com](mailto:musicbynumbers59@yahoo.com) Brian Buchbinder: 718-218-7563, [brian@grandrenovation.com](mailto:brian@grandrenovation.com) Claudia Ganz: 212-633-1324, [clganz@earthlink.net](mailto:clganz@earthlink.net) Robert Marshall: 914-737-4792, [rmarshall@webtv.net](mailto:rmarshall@webtv.net)

**May 10 (Thursday)  
Pine Meadow extension, Bear Mountain State Park**  
Leader: Bob Marshall

**May 12 (Saturday)  
Pine Meadow extension, Bear Mountain State Park**  
Leader: Monica Day

**May 19 (Saturday)  
Appalachian Trail, West Mountain**  
Leader: Chris Ezzo

**June 9 (Saturday)  
Appalachian Trail, West Mountain**  
Leader: Claudia Ganz

**June 14 (Thursday)  
Major Welch Trail, Bear Mountain State Park**  
Leader: Bob Marshall

**June 16 (Saturday)  
Appalachian Trail, West Mountain**  
Leader: Chris Ezzo

**June 23 (Saturday)  
Appalachian Trail, West Mountain**  
Leader: Brian Buchbinder

### WEST HUDSON NORTH CREW Leaders: Denise Vitale, crew chief: 845-738-2126, [WHNTrails@aol.com](mailto:WHNTrails@aol.com) Dave Webber: H: 845-452-7238, [webberd1@yahoo.com](mailto:webberd1@yahoo.com)

We are rebuilding the Stillman Trail bridge in Storm King State Park this season. This isn't a typical bridge across water. We are crossing a land breach beside a cliff. In addition to the bridge, we are building steps to scale a near-by ledge. The project is both exciting and challenging, requiring special rigging and inventive thinking. We will be using rock shaping/drilling and carpentry skills as well as some traditional stone footing and stair building skills. Rock climbing harnesses and rigging will be needed during some phases of construction. There are also project tasks that can be accomplished by all skill levels.

**May TBD  
Stillman Trail Bridge, Storm King State Park**  
Cut wood for bridge and stairs

**May 26, 27, 28 (Memorial Day weekend)  
Stillman Trail Bridge, Storm King State Park**  
Carry in equipment and materials. Bridge layout. Set rigging. Prepare bedrock for bridge supports. Build traditional rock footing for bridge. Build bridge sub-structure. Excavate area for stair footings. Stair layout.  
Meet: 9:30, Mountain Road parking lot



Among this season's projects: replacing this bridge on the Stillman Trail in Storm King State Park.

**June 2 (Saturday)  
Stillman Trail Bridge, Storm King State Park**  
Bring in materials. Set decking and rails.  
Meet: 9:30, Mountain Road parking lot

**June 16 (Saturday)  
Stillman Trail Bridge, Storm King State Park**  
Build sub-structure for stairs.  
Meet: 9:30, Mountain Road parking lot

**June 23 & 24 (Saturday, Sunday)  
Stillman Trail Bridge, Storm King State Park**  
Build stairs.  
Meet: 9:30, Mountain Road parking lot

**EAST HUDSON CREW**  
If you are coming by train, let the leader know so we wait for the train.

**Leaders: Michael Bongar, 914-788-0616,  
[michael@michaelbongar.com](mailto:michael@michaelbongar.com)  
Josie Gray, 845-831-5786, [jospira@verizon.net](mailto:jospira@verizon.net)  
Alan King, 914-763-9643, [ajking@mac.com](mailto:ajking@mac.com)**

**May 12 (Saturday)  
Hudson Highlands State Park**  
Leader: Josie Gray

**June 2 (Saturday)  
Hudson Highlands State Park**  
Leader: Alan King

**NEW JERSEY APPALACHIAN TRAIL FIELD CREW**  
Leader: Gene Giordano,  
[trailwork@appalachiantrail-nj.org](mailto:trailwork@appalachiantrail-nj.org)  
Email Gene Giordano if you would like to be placed on email notification list.

**Second Saturday of each month through November**  
Work begins at 9am and is finished before 4pm. Covers the entire NJ section of the AT, blue-blazed side trails, and shelters. Supplements work by our individual maintainers as requested and for special work projects. Workers bring gloves, lunch, and water; all tools, equipment and training provided.

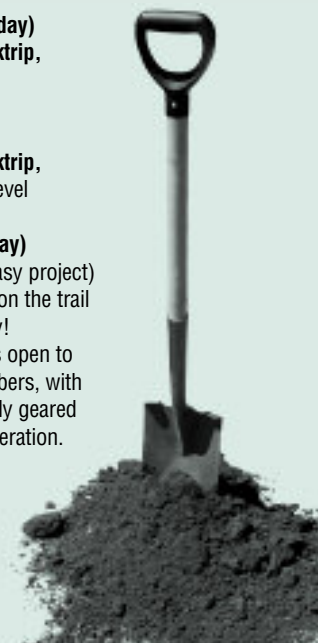
**BEAR MOUNTAIN TRAILS PROJECT**  
Contact: Heidi Adami  
[adami@nynjtc.org](mailto:adami@nynjtc.org) or  
201-512-9348, ext. 26

**Every Friday through Tuesday**  
In addition to the work trips below, crews are active Fridays through Tuesdays. Individuals as well as organized groups are welcome, regardless of experience level. To get involved, register online or contact the Trail Conference Office at 201-512-9348, ext. 26.

**May 12 (Saturday)  
Women's Worktrip,  
Beginner Level**

**May 13  
Women's Worktrip,  
Intermediate Level**

**June 17 (Sunday)  
Family Day (easy project)**  
Join your Dad on the trail on Father's Day! "Family Day" is open to all family members, with work specifically geared to the next generation.



## Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!

If you are interested in volunteering with the TC and do not see an opportunity that suits you, contact Heidi Adami, either by email, [volunteers@nynjtc.org](mailto:volunteers@nynjtc.org) or phone, 201-512-9348, ext. 26, and she will find a way to get you involved.

### Trail Maintainers

We are looking for individuals, couples, and families who are willing to adopt a section of trail. Maintainers are expected to visit their assigned section a minimum of twice a year, keeping it passable by cutting back brush, ensuring it is well marked and free of trash, and submitting semi-annual reports of their work. We have openings on several of our Trail Committees. Contact: Heidi Adami, [volunteers@nynjtc.org](mailto:volunteers@nynjtc.org), or 201-512-9348, ext. 26.

### Appalachian Trail Corridor Monitor

Looking to get off the beaten path? Monitors are needed to patrol and watch the Appalachian Trail Corridor to protect against misuse and illegal activities. Responsibilities include: walking the corridor boundaries two to four times per year, verifying boundary markers along the corridor boundary, reporting evidence of trespassing and misuse such as dumping, logging, ATVs, etc.; assisting Corridor Manager in handling problems discovered; and meeting trail neighbors and easement holders annually. Contact: Heidi Adami, [volunteers@nynjtc.org](mailto:volunteers@nynjtc.org), or 201-512-9348, ext. 26.

### Can You Spare a Few Hours a Week?

Join the fun at our Mahwah office and assist with the packing of map and book orders, shipping membership cards, and processing membership renewals. Keep the Trail Conference's Orders and Fulfillment Department on track by lending us a hand. With a boom in memberships and book and map orders, we need your help. Interested persons should be comfortable working on a computer. Contact Gary Willick, either by email [orders@nynjtc.org](mailto:orders@nynjtc.org), or phone, 201-512-9348, ext. 11.

### Appalachian Trail Natural Heritage Monitors

Every summer and fall, Trail Conference volunteers head out to selected sites along the AT to monitor rare, threatened, or endangered plant species. Similar to trail maintainers, the AT natural heritage mon-

itors visit the sites assigned to them at least twice per year. We are seeking new volunteers to participate in this project! Interested persons should contact Heidi Adami, [volunteers@nynjtc.org](mailto:volunteers@nynjtc.org), or 201-512-9348, ext. 26.

### Event Planner

Are you a good host/hostess? Do you enjoy bringing people together for festivities, food, and fun? If so, the Trail Conference needs your planning expertise to assist in the coordination of recognition events and Delegate meetings. As an event planner you will help locate and secure the venue, organize the catering, and coordinate activities such as hikes. Contact: Joshua Howard at [josh@nynjtc.org](mailto:josh@nynjtc.org) or 201-512-9348, ext. 13.

### Outreach Representatives Needed!

Outreach representatives are needed to attend health fairs, work at information tables, and share information about the Trail Conference to the public. If you are interested in bringing new people to the Trail Conference and informing the public of our work, please contact Katy Dieters at [dieters@nynjtc.org](mailto:dieters@nynjtc.org).

### Conservation & Advocacy Map Organizer

We seek a creative and organized volunteer to organize our map collection. We have a newly donated hanging-map holder and at least 50 maps that need to be labeled, organized, and hung. Many of these maps are ones created by the Trail Conference that we use regularly in the course of our conservation and advocacy work. We need help putting them into a user friendly organizational format! This is a one-time project with an estimated completion time of about 25 hours. Contact: Brenda Holzinger, [holzinger@nynjtc.org](mailto:holzinger@nynjtc.org), 201-512-9348, ext. 25.

### Conservation & Advocacy Paralegal/Legal Administrator

We seek a volunteer with some legal background who could assist C&A staff with administrative support in the office. Specifically, we have real property tax work and other tasks associated with land acquisition and stewardship, but there are also many other tasks that occur regularly. Ideally, we would like a volunteer who is able to work independently and commit

to a regular weekly or biweekly time slot with some flexibility. Contact: Brenda Holzinger, [holzinger@nynjtc.org](mailto:holzinger@nynjtc.org), 201-512-9348, ext. 25.

### Conservation & Advocacy Stewardship Organizer

We seek a volunteer or intern to create and organize "field binders" for properties owned by the Trail Council. This position will require organizing some existing files, extracting the important information for the field binder, and visiting the properties as part of our general stewardship activities. This is a great summer project that will allow you to hike Trail Conference properties along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and the Long Path. Contact: Brenda Holzinger, [holzinger@nynjtc.org](mailto:holzinger@nynjtc.org), 201-512-9348, ext. 25.

### Conservation & Advocacy Archive Indexer

We seek a volunteer or intern to index our archives. We have approximately 25 boxes of archived files that need to be indexed. Some boxes need to be better organized, but some boxes are ready to be indexed. This is a one-time project with an estimated completion time of about 25 hours. Contact: Brenda Holzinger, [holzinger@nynjtc.org](mailto:holzinger@nynjtc.org), 201-512-9348, ext. 25.



### Front Desk Volunteer

The Trail Conference prides itself on being a resource for hikers in our area. We provide information and support in so many ways, including by phone calls and the availability to walk in to our Mahwah office and talk with people about hiking. To ensure we can provide these services we need your help. The Trail Conference is seeking "trail smart" people to work at our front desk to help answer phones, assist walk-in customers and varied other office duties. We specifically need folks on Mondays and late afternoons most week days.

If you like sharing your hiking knowledge and would like to help us out, please contact Liz at [bleiweiss@nynjtc.org](mailto:bleiweiss@nynjtc.org) or 201-512-9348, ext. 23.

### Trail Structures Researcher

Are you a budding engineer who is willing to research the different types of bridges that might be built for trails and provide reference material for designing and building them? Same for privies, kiosks, trail register boxes, signs, and other structures? A volunteer with sufficient starting knowledge might do this job in 40 hours. Contact: Larry Wheelock, [wheelock@nynjtc.org](mailto:wheelock@nynjtc.org), 201-512-9348, ext. 16.

### Trail Standards Researcher

We need a more up-to-date and extensive trail design and building, and trail standards reference manual; might be combined with Trail Structures Research, above. Trail Standards research would focus on ADA compliancy, multi-use, liability issues, front country vs. back country design and construction, and general trail standards. 40 to 100 hours. Contact: Larry Wheelock, [wheelock@nynjtc.org](mailto:wheelock@nynjtc.org), 201-512-9348, ext. 16.

### Trails Files Organizer

Help us organize our trails files. Requirements: need to recognize what's important material and be able to re-file into a system functional to staff and volunteers. Probably 10 to 12 hours initially (can be spread over several weeks), with regular updating and follow-up for the long term. Contact: Larry Wheelock, [wheelock@nynjtc.org](mailto:wheelock@nynjtc.org), 201-512-9348, ext. 16.

### Photography Cataloguer

We could use someone who could begin to catalogue, scan, and generally organize (digitally) our extensive file of photographs. Contact: Larry Wheelock, [wheelock@nynjtc.org](mailto:wheelock@nynjtc.org), 201-512-9348, ext. 16.



## Member Club Profile

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



Club members prepare a meal after a tending Wiley Shelter in Dutchess.

### ADK Mid-Hudson

April 21, 2007 offered some tough choices for members of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Mid-Hudson Chapter (ADK-MH). There was a hike on the AT in Dutchess County to Nuclear Lake, or trail work on the AT at Bear Mountain in Rockland; there was a paddle on the Wallkill River in Ulster County or a clean-up of a park on the Hudson River in Orange County; there was a weekend backpack in Pennsylvania or one in a series of bridge-building work-days scheduled for the RPH Shelter on the AT in Hopewell Junction.

Admittedly, the ADK-MH's Earth Day agenda was busier than usual. Still, Lalita Malik, the club's current president, notes that typically two outings are scheduled each weekend, with another offered on alternate Thursdays. In addition, a core of volunteers lead outings for teenagers in a program developed by the club and now administered by the local Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County 4-H Youth Development Program.

This year the club celebrates its 60th anniversary. Its membership, based primarily in Dutchess, Ulster, and Columbia Counties, is growing and numbers about 700, with another 260 associate members

(ADK members in other chapters who pay an additional small fee to get the Mid-Hudson chapter's quarterly newsletter). Outings focus on hikes, paddles, backpacks, and trail work. There are monthly meetings where education mixes with socialization. There is a young members group. And there is an active conservation committee.

ADK-MH provides the volunteers who maintain the AT and four shelters in Dutchess County and an adjoining section in Connecticut. They are helping to build new trails in a new park owned by Scenic Hudson overlooking the Hudson River in Ulster County. They are supporting the Bear Mountain Trails Project by scheduling club work trips to the site.

Ms. Malik is proud of the club's level of activity. "We are not only enjoying the outdoors," she says, "we are giving back something to the community by working on trails, by leading outings for high school students and sharing our skills and helping them to learn to appreciate the environment. I'm really proud of the fact that we've been getting new people out on the trails and involved."

For more information about the group, visit [www.midhudsonadk.org](http://www.midhudsonadk.org).

## Science &amp; Ecology

Butterflies  
along the Trail

By David Moskowitz

A late spring or summer walk along the Appalachian Trail offers a wonderful opportunity to observe butterflies. Finding butterflies is really pretty easy, once you know a little about their basic behaviors and train yourself to be observant.

First, know that butterflies prefer sunny, warm and calm days, so clouds, rain, or wind will diminish your chances of finding them. Although some butterflies will be obvious as they fly around, others will be inconspicuous as they perch quietly on the trail or in nearby vegetation. Many butterflies are cryptically colored or camouflaged, designed to blend in seamlessly with the environment to avoid predators. Some butterflies are large and fly quickly in the tree canopy, and others are small and fly weakly through low grasses.

The greater the variety of habitats that you visit, the greater the variety of species of butterflies you are likely to find. A trail such as the Appalachian Trail may cross from upland woods to forested wetlands, to streams and meadows, barren rock outcrops, and beaver swamps in a relatively short stretch. Each habitat offers the chance to see different butterflies.

There are seasonal considerations to butterfly-watching as well. Warm days in early spring are the realm of butterflies like the Mourning Cloak, the Comma, the Question Mark, and the Spring Azure. The first three spend the winter as adults, waiting for a warm spring day to emerge from the shelter of a loose piece of bark or rotten log or tree hollow. The Spring Azure winters as a chrysalis. Among the compounds found in the blood of some butterflies are glycerol and sorbitol, which act as natural

antifreezes, allowing the insects to hibernate through the cold winter months.

As the days get warmer, and spring progresses into summer, more and more butterflies are on the wing, and finding 20 species or more on a day hike would not be a surprise at all.

Spring is also the time to search along the trail for one of North America's newest described species, the Appalachian Tiger Swallowtail. Although suspected for some



The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail is as big as one's hand.

time as being a unique species, this butterfly was only recently separated from the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail based on technical characteristics and DNA analysis. It is now thought to be the more common of the two tiger swallowtails in early spring and can be distinguished from the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail by its much larger size. At present, it is thought to be more common in the southern Appalachians, but its northern limits are not yet known, providing a wonderful opportunity for everyone to aid science through careful observations about the locations and times it is seen.

These two butterflies are unmistakable – they are bright yellow, with black stripes, and are nearly as large as a hand.

A trail hike may also offer a glimpse into two common butterfly behaviors: *hill topping* and *puddling*. *Hill-topping* describes the tendency of many butterflies to ascend slopes and gather on high points on the landscape, like hikers seeking great views. In the case of butterflies, hill topping is thought to ease their hunt for mates by

In recent years, butterfly watching has been enhanced by inexpensive close-focusing binoculars and wonderful photograph-based field guides. These have largely replaced the traditional tools of nets and killing jars. I guarantee, that once you start looking for butterflies and begin to notice how common they are along trails, these “flying flowers” and “winged jewels” will add a wonderful dimension to your hike.



Look for Mourning Cloaks in early spring.

David Moskowitz is a graduate student in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Rutgers.

## Recommended Reading:

*Butterflies through Binoculars: The East A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Eastern North America* by Jeff Galsberg

Pavulaan H and Wright DM. 2002. *Prerourus appalachiensis (Papilionidae: Papilioninae), a new swallowtail butterfly from the Appalachian region of the United States*. The Taxonomic Report of the International Lepidoptera Survey 3(7): 1-20.

Binoculars101.com  
*Choosing Binoculars for Butterfly Watching*  
www.binoculars101.com

## Walk with the Butterflies

Saturday, June 23, 10am – 11:30am

At Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining, NY

Take a walk on one of the first days of summer to look for one of nature's most wondrous creatures. Find out how important butterflies are to a vibrant ecosystem. Walk will be led by Teatown trustee, naturalist Charlie Roberto. Free. All ages welcome. Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Road, Ossining. www.teatown.org; e-mail Teatown@teatown.org. To make a reservation, call 914-762-2912, ext.110.

Last Chance  
to Participate!  
Tracking the  
Wild Invasives  
- Year Two

In the last issue of the *Trail Walker* you read about the second year of a three-year project supported by the USDA, which aims to better understand the spread of invasive plants in forested parklands...and you answered the call to participate in this exciting opportunity! The NY-NJ Trail Conference and Rutgers University were seeking 45 hikers interested in participating in this study to help identify common invasive species and track the occurrences using GPS units. We have just a few spots left open! So don't delay, call today to ensure your place in one of the upcoming training dates:

1. June 2
2. June 3
3. June 6

You will be offered extensive training in plant identification and the proper use and care of GPS devices. Contact Heidi Adami at 201-512-9348, ext. 26, or adami@nynjtc.org for more information.

'Tis the Season  
For Teens, Trail  
Work, and Fun

Gear up for National Trails Day and join other young men and women aged 14-20 (high school and above) in Hike'n'Serve Venturing Crew #100, a unit of the Boy Scouts of America. Hike and have fun with new friends from the Greater New York metro region, and enjoy service on the trails. Active monthly program, plus meetings at the Trail Conference office. Joining fee: \$75. Contact Maureen Edelson, 973-632-4895 or maureenedelson@hotmail.com. Adult volunteers always welcome—training provided.



Will (14) and Bob Barkalow of Hike'n'Serve Venturing Crew #100, improve the Hewitt-Butler Trail with new blazes.

www.nynjtc.org

Putting Trail Work Skills  
To Work on the Home Front

By Lalita Malik



"My handiwork was a success."

In 2006, I decided I was going to get involved with trail maintenance. Little did I realize that the skills I learned would eventually help me solve erosion problems at home and save me a lot of money!

I participated in trail work weekends organized by my club, ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter. I learned how to build water bars and check dams to prevent erosion caused by water runoff and drainage ditches to channel water. While inspecting water bars, I heard discussions about self-cleaning dams, which reduce maintenance. It suddenly occurred to me to use the same techniques in my yard to solve water drainage problems.

My water problems stemmed from the town-maintained road near my home. Water from heavy rains flowed into my yard instead of the rain drain, and the highway department had not been able to solve the problem. During heavy rains, my walkway became a stream bed, causing serious erosion. A landscaper suggested I increase the swales in the yard by digging trenches and adding top soil to channel water away from the house. In other words, spend money and get a muddy yard. I decided to use the skills I had learned doing trail work to solve the problems at home.

I looked for small trees and large branches that had toppled over and dragged them next to the road. I found large rocks and shale, got some concrete blocks, and started working. I used the logs to build a check dam near the curb to channel the water into the rain drain. The shale was used to build water bars to divert the water away from my yard. I built a check dam to divert water away from my walkway.

My handiwork was a success. I no longer have runoff in my yard. I solved a problem that the highway crew did not, and I did not have to hire a landscaper to dig up my yard!

Lalita Malik chairs the ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter and is now a regular on the club's trail work outings. This article is adapted from one first printed in the group's newsletter.

# HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes  
Sponsored by Member Clubs

## May

### Saturday, May 5

**UCHC. Watchung Trail Maintenance, NJ.** Leader: register by calling Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside, NJ; 908-789-3670, ext. 3420. Meet: 9:30am; work until noon. Have fun and meet new people while giving back a little to the trails; no experience needed. Bring gloves, bag for trash, and clippers or loppers (if you have them).

**UCHC. Cooper Mill to Kay Environmental Center, Chester, NJ.** Leader: John Gilris, 973-386-1168. Meet: 10am at Cooper Mill, off Rt. 206. Moderate 4+ miles suitable for beginners. Hike along the Black River, mostly flat, optional extension of 2 miles. Rain cancels.

**ADK-MH. Mohonk Preserve, NY.** Leader: Carol Gray, 845-471-1168, outdoorcarol@aol.com. Meet: 9am at New Paltz Diner parking lot on Rt. 299 just West of the Thruway. There is a day visitor charge except for Mohonk Preserve members. Moderate hike, Rhododendron Bridge and beyond.

**ADK-MH. Blackhead Range, Catskills, NY.** Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan, erd@wilsey.net, 845-657-7057. Meet: contact leader for details. A one-day, 11.5-mile traverse of the rugged peaks of the northern Catskills—Windham High Peak, Black Head, Black Dome, and Thomas Cole—starting at Rt. 23 and ending at Barnum Road. A car shuttle will be required. Moderate pace, 8-9-hour hike, with a climbing elevation of 4200 feet, with corresponding elevation loss. It should only be attempted by those in very good physical condition. Those in attendance should carry a minimum of 2 liters of water, etc. As this is a scenic hike, if the weather does not oblige, we will reschedule.

**TEA. Hidden Valley Treasures, Ossining, NY.** Leader: Teatown trustee and expert naturalist Charlie Roberto. Meet: 8am. To make a reservation, call 914-762-2912, ext.110. The May woods are bursting with the flitting of colorful warblers overhead and early wildflowers underfoot. Enjoy and learn about the treasures a walk in Hidden Valley can reveal. Free. All ages welcome.

**UOC. Dismal Swamp and Triple-C Ranch, Edison, NJ.** Leader: Chris Meadows, 732-745-9074; call by April 30. Easy walk. This is a visit to the largest wildlife refuge in northern Middlesex County. There are wetlands, forest, a freshwater pond with birds, bullfrogs, and turtles. \$5 donation. Bring lunch and water.

### Sunday, May 6

**IHC. Pocono Environmental & Education Center, PA.** Leader: Neil Weiss, 973-625-0078. Meet: 9am at park and ride lot, Rt. 206 at Rt. 15, Augusta, NJ. Moderate 7.5 miles. Visit a very nice waterfall and climb down a fixed rope to get past a rock face (it's fun).

**WEIS. Bearfort Mountain, NJ.** Leader: Don Weise. Contact Weis Ecology Center for more info and to register; 973-835-2160. Meet: 9:30am. Strenuous hike across the watershed; out by 2:30pm. Cost: Non-members \$8.

**GAHC. Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Mathias Wuethrich, 908-253-9042; call to register. Meet: 9am. Easy to moderate hikes in the Sloatsburg area.

**UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ.** Leader: MaryDell Morrison, 908-684-5175. Meet: 10am at visitor center. Enjoy a scenic 4-5 mile moderate hike.

**ADK-MH. Take the Kids Hike, Esopus, NY.** Leader: Catrine Moore and Gino (8-year-old son); call 845-691-2310 if any questions. Explore the new trails around Lake Louisa at the top of the Shaupeak Ridge. Hike is for anyone who would like to come, but is specifically geared for parents and/or grandparents to get their 7-10 year-olds out. Length will be from 3-5 miles depending on which trails we take, with minimal elevation changes. Bring lunch and water. Plan on meeting at 9:30 at the park and ride at the intersection of Rt. 299 and Rt. 9W in Highland. Heavy rain will cancel.

**TNC. Spring Family Nature Walks, Tenafly, NJ.** Call: 201-568-6093. Meet: 3pm at Tenafly Nature Center. Look for migrating birds and seasonal changes during a 1-hour walk along the trails led by a TNC environmental educator. Inclement weather will cancel the program. No strollers, please. Advance registration is not required, but is requested. Family walks are free to members; \$5 each for non-members.

### Monday, May 7

**RVW. Lake Awosting, NY.** Call 845-255-0614 for information. Meet: 8am. Moderate hike. A new look at the carriage trails through less familiar territory. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

### Wednesday, May 9

**RVW. Delaware Hudson Canal, NY.** Leader: Call 845-246-2945 for information. Meet: 9am at Sawyer Savings Bank, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Easy 4 miles; 3-hour walk.

**UCHC. Sourland Mtn. Preserve, Somerset Co., NJ.** Leader: Leo Shnitzer and Norma Cohen, 732-499-9176. Meet: 10am; call for directions. About 5 moderately paced miles. Enjoy the beauty: steep slopes, dark woodlands, boulder fields, vistas, and rocky trails.

**ADK-MH. Bear Mountain Walkabout, NY.** Leader: Lou Ruidisch III, 845-896-9332. Meet: 9am, Rt. 9D, just north of east side of Bear Mtn. Bridge. A moderate hike of about 5 miles. We will walk across the Bear Mtn. Bridge and two bridges crossing the Popolopen Creek, enjoy the Trailside Museum (nominal charge), Fort Montgomery museum, and Hessian Lake. Bring lunch, water, and sturdy footwear. Please note that extreme heights will be encountered on the bridges.

### Thursday, May 10

**UCHC. Hewitt State Forest, Bearfort Ridge, NJ.** Leader: Eric Singer, 973-744-7147. Meet: 10am at A&P, Hewitt, NJ, for short shuttle to trailhead. 8+ miles at a steady pace; for experienced hikers. Strenuous at the start, then moderately strenuous.

### Saturday, May 12

**IHC. Sugarloaf, Along the Devil's Path, NY.** Leader: Carolyn and Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 8am at Harriman RR station, Rt. 17, Arden, NY. Strenuous 7 miles in the Catskills, from Pecoy Notch to Mink Hollow Notch; rock scrambling over Sugarloaf Mountain on Long Path. Car shuttle required.

**AMC-NYNJ. BYOB Hike (Binoculars, That Is), Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Nancy Tollefson, 212-727-8961. Meet: 9:15am at commuter parking on E. Village Dr., Tuxedo, NY. Moderate pace (with stops to view migrating warblers) with some hills; about 5 miles. Lake Skenonto area of Harriman State Park. Forecast of heavy rain cancels.

**UCHC. Farney Highlands, NJ.** Leader: Al Verdi, 973-263-8569. Meet: 10am at Fisherman's parking on Split Rock Rd.; call for directions. Four Birds and Split Rock Trails past reservoir, cross Beaver Brook, then climb rocky trail back to reservoir. About 3 hours to complete; for experienced hikers.

### Sunday, May 13

**UCHC. Willowood/Bamboo Brook, Morris/Somerset Co., NJ.** Leader: Lynn Gale, 973-763-7230. Meet: 10am at Willowood parking; call for directions. Easy 3-4 miles through two estates with interesting gardens, woods, and fields. Steady rain cancels.

**TNC. Mother's Day Hike, Tenafly, NJ.** Call 201-568-6093. Meet: 10am at Tenafly Nature Center. Mothers and children are invited to join a TNC naturalist from 10am-12pm, to examine how plant and animal mothers contribute to the lives of their offspring. Craft and hiking activities are planned for rain or sunshine. Advance registration is required. The program is free to mothers and members; \$5 each for non-members.

### Monday, May 14

**RVW. Trail Maintenance on the Long Path (Kaaterskill High Peak), NY.** Call 607-363-7267 for information. Rain date is May 21.

### Tuesday, May 15

**UCHC. Terrace Pond, NJ.** Leader: Carolyn and Jim Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10am at Clinton Rd. trailhead. 7 miles at a moderate pace; for experienced hikers. Loop to Terrace Pond; hope for spring flowers.

### Wednesday, May 16

**UCHC. Whittingham Wildlife Mgt. Area, NJ.** Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10am at Fredon Rd., Springdale; call for directions. About 5 miles. Non-strenuous hike with interesting mixture of woodland, rocky ridges, open fields, ponds and streams. Wildflowers!

**TEA. Central Park Ramble, NYC.** Leader: Teatown trustee and expert naturalist Charlie Roberto. To make a reservation, call 914-762-2912, ext.110. Meet: 6:30 am at Teatown or 7:30 am at the W. 77th St entrance to Central Park (across from the American Museum of Natural History). Central Park's Ramble is a 38-acre "wild garden"; its varied terrain and location on the Atlantic Flyway make it an ideal stopover for many bird species flying northward during spring migration; it is one of the top 15 birding sites in the entire US. All participants must register in advance. Be ready to carpool to 77th St. and Central Park West. Bring binoculars and wear walking shoes. Free, but if carpooling, a minimal fee may be collected for gas and parking.

### Thursday, May 17

**UCHC. Lake Skannatati, Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10am at Lake Skannatati parking lot. 8 miles at moderately fast pace; for experienced hikers. Over Pine Swamp Mtn., then around, up and over Black Rock Mtn.; some beautiful lookouts along the way.

### Saturday, May 19

**RVW. East Hudson Highlands, NY.** Call 845-246-4590 for information. Meet: 9am. Moderately strenuous 6 miles; 6-hour hike. Inclement weather date is following Saturday.

**UCHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ.** Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10am; call for directions. 4 miles at a moderate pace. Beautiful park with some ups and downs. Steady rain cancels.

**WEIS. Weekend at Mt. Greylock, MA.** Leader: Don Weise. Contact Weis Ecology Center for more info and to register; 973-835-2160. Strenuous hikes in the Berkshires of Massachusetts.

**ADK-MH Young Members Group. Mt. Beacon, NY.** Leader: Ellen Albert, ellen\_albert222@yahoo.com. Meet: contact leader for details. Rated difficult; mileage will depend on conditions and the group. Young members' trips are geared towards those in their 20s and 30s, but not restricted to those ages.

**UCHC. Ramapo Torne and Russian Bear, Harriman, NY.** Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10am at Reeves Meadow visitor center. 6 miles at a moderate pace. Hike to these two lookouts over northern NJ; return on Reeves Brook Trail.

**ADK-MH. Mount Tremper, Catskills, NY.** Leader: Sue Mackson, 845-471-9892, susiem6@juno.com. Meet: at the park and ride at the intersection of Rts. 9W and 299. 7 miles with elevation change of 1640' feet. But my pace is very gradual. Bring lunch, snacks, two liters water. Wear sturdy boots. Rain cancels.

**UOC. D & R Canal Walk, Frenchtown, NJ.** Leader: Lynn Wong, 732-548-3996. Moderate 2-3 mile walk along the Delaware and Raritan Canal near Frenchtown. Visit and tour the Sand Castle Winery afterward. Bring lunch and water.

### Sunday, May 27

**IHC. Tuxedo, NY, Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Jim McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 9am at Tuxedo commuter lot (no parking fee) on E. Village Rd. off of Rt. 17. Moderately strenuous 8 miles. Variety of trails, including new trails in Dater Mtn. County Park.

**WEIS. Sterling Ridge End-To-End.** Leader: Charlie Toole. Contact Weis Ecology Center for more info and to register; 973-835-2160. Meet: 9:30am. Moderate pace, exploring special places in the Highlands region; out by 2:30 pm. Cost: Non-members \$8.



A young hiker enjoys a reflective moment at Silvermine Lake in Bear Mountain State Park.

**UOC. Birding at Jamaica Bay, NY.** Leader: George Pitcher, 732-828-1890. This is an easy 1.5-mile birding walk around the west pond of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. We have found snow geese, scaup, grebes teal, osprey, and ducks. Brunch after the walk.

### Sunday, May 20

**IHC. Weis Wildflowers, NJ.** Leader: Carolyn Canfield, 973-728-9774. Meet: 10am at Weis Ecology Center, 150 Snake Den Rd., Ringwood, NJ (park on right before Weis Ecology). Moderate 6-7 miles. Expect blooming wildflowers throughout Norvin Green State Forest, complemented by distant views from Wyanokie High Point.

**NYR. Summit to Cranford, NJ.** Leader: Kurt Ramig, 212-924-8020. Meet: 7:55am at NY Penn Station NJ Transit ticket windows for 8:11am train one-way to Summit (check train times). Watchung Reservation, Echo Lake, Lenape, and Nomahegan Parks, then follow Rahway River to out at Cranford RR station.

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ.** Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319; call before 9pm. Meet: 10am at Tulip Springs parking, Brookside Ave. 4 miles at a moderate pace. To Hemlock Falls, then Lenape Trail and woods road along Rahway River; some steep, rocky areas at start.

### Monday, May 21

**RVW. Huckleberry Loop, NY.** Call 845-338-8772 for information. Meet: 8am. Moderately strenuous 10 miles; 7-hour hike. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

### Tuesday, May 22

**UCHC. Pine Meadow Lake, Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10am at Reeves Meadow visitor center. 5-mile moderate hike; suitable for most.

### Wednesday, May 23

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ.** Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove; call for directions. About 4 miles at moderate pace, mostly level. Visit areas not often seen, including a beautiful waterfall.

### Thursday, May 24

**UCHC. Johnstown Circular, Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Terry Kulmane, 908-665-2672; must call to register. Meet: 10am. 5-6 miles at moderate pace; for experienced hikers. Various trails and lunch stop at scenic location. Rain cancels.

### Saturday, May 26

**AMC-NYNJ. Moderate Hike in Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Nancy Tollefson, 212-727-8961. Meet: 9:20am at Arden parking, 2 miles north of Southfields, NY. Moderate 6 miles; we'll take it slow on the hills and watch for signs of the season. Good for beginners, but call if this is your first AMC hike. Heavy rain cancels.

**UCHC. DeKorte Park, Meadowlands; Lyndhurst, NJ.** Leader: Lynn Gale, 973-763-7230. Meet: 10am at visitor center; call for directions. 4 miles at a moderate pace. Environmental center with beautiful, wild salt marsh and upland trails; some floating boardwalk and lots of birds. Heavy rain cancels.

### Tuesday, May 29

**UCHC. Skyline Drive, Ramapo State Forest, NJ.** Leader: Terry Kulmane, 908-665-2672. Meet: 10am at lower parking on Skyline Dr. (exit 57 on 287). 6-mile moderately paced hike, with some rocky sections and ups and downs. Rain cancels.

### Wednesday, May 30

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ.** Leader: Irv Auerbach, 973-239-4342. Meet: 10am at Elmdale on Brookside Dr.; call for directions. About 4 miles at moderate pace. Visit areas not often seen; beautiful trails without many rocks or hills.

### Thursday, May 31

**UCHC. Harriman State Park.** Leader: Mike Handelsman, 718-633-6129. Meet: 9:45am at White Bar trailhead on Rt. 106. Moderately strenuous 9-10 miles; for experienced hikers. Explore west-central Harriman.

## June

### Saturday, June 2 National Trails Day

**UCHC. Watchung National Trails Day Ramble & Trail Work Day, NJ.** Leader: Register by calling Trailside Nature & Science Center at 908-789-3670, ext. 3420. Meet: 8:30am to 2:30 pm; lunch will be provided to all pre-registered trail work participants. Here's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our trails, socialize with fellow hikers, and give something back to the trails. No experience needed; tools provided.

**UCHC. Eagle Rock Reservation, W. Orange, NJ.** Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-731-0602. Meet: 10am at lot near restaurant on Eagle Rock Ave. Easy 3 miles on newly marked trails. Rain cancels.

**TEA. Teatown Trail Day, Ossining, NY.** 9 am - 12 noon. For more information contact Beth Rhines at 914-762-2912, ext. 115 or brhines@teatown.org. To make a reservation, call 914-762-2912, ext.110. As part of National Trails Day, get down and dirty to help Teatown maintain some of our 15 miles of trails. Learn trail maintenance basics; projects will vary according to activity and skill levels. Lunch will be provided. Ages 14 and up. Free.

### Sunday, June 3

**UCHC. Lewis Morris Park, Morristown, NJ.** Leader: Gail Waimon, 973-467-4761. Meet: 10am at Sugarloaf area parking. Moderate hike, suitable for most all.

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

### Club Codes

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

ADK-MH	Adirondack Mountain Club, Mid-Hudson Chapter	RVW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
AMC-NYNJ	Appalachian Mountain Club, New York-North Jersey Chapter	TEA	Teatown Nature Center
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	TNC	Tenafly Nature Center
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	UCHC	Union County Hiking Club
NYR	New York Ramblers	UOC	University Outing Club
		WEIS	NJ Audubon's Weis Ecology Center

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference Office. The deadline for the July/August 2007 issue is May 15, 2007.



**Monday, June 4**

**RVW. Thomas Cole (3940') Maintenance Hike, Catskills, NY.** For more information call 607-363-7267 or 845-338-8772. Meet: 8am. Inclement weather date-following Monday. Moderate: 7.1 miles, 5 hours.

**Tuesday, June 5**

**UCHC. Trail Maintenance Hike, Waywayanda State Park, NJ.** Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10am at offices at entrance to the park. Help UCHC maintain its section of the Appalachian Trail; will break into two groups (one easier/one more difficult), each of which will hike about 6 miles. Bring clippers, loppers if you have them for light trail maintenance.

**Wednesday, June 6**

**UCHC. Turkey Mountain, Montville, NJ.** Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10am at Pyramid Mtn. parking; call for directions. About 5 miles at moderate pace. Interesting, not very strenuous, section including Lake Valhalla.

**Thursday, June 7**

**UCHC. Elk Pen (Arden), Harriman State Park, NJ.** Leader: Belle Chen, 973-263-0527. Meet: 10am at Elk Pen parking. Moderately strenuous 7-8 miles; for experienced hikers. Hike the AT, through Lemon Squeezer, lunch on Surebridge Mtn., then descend on Dunning Trail. Heavy rain cancels.

**UCHC. Wildflower Hike.** Leader: Carol O'Keefe, 973-328-7395; call day before hike for meeting place and time - leaders will scout the best location for wildflowers. Slower paced 5-6 miles, so we can stop and smell the flowers.

**Saturday, June 9**

**UCHC. Tourne Park, Boonton, NJ.** Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10am; call for directions. Moderate 4 miles with some ups and downs. Steady rain cancels.

**Sunday, June 10**

**IHC. Two State Hike.** Leader: Chris Davis, 609-924-2563; must call to register. Meet: 9am in Totowa, NJ. Moderately strenuous 10+ miles from Edgewater Boat Basin in NJ, across the GW Bridge, through NYC parks to Van Cortland Park. Subway returns us to GW Bridge, where we walk back across to the boat basin. Car shuttle from Totowa to boat basin; \$5 parking fee.

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ.** Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove parking; call for directions. Brisk 5 miles in a little over 2 hours; steep hill at start. Rain cancels.

**Monday, June 11**

**UCHC. Mahlon Dickerson, NJ.** Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10am at picnic area parking; call for directions. About 3 easy miles. A favorite hike to the pond for an early lunch.

**Monday, June 11**

**RVW. Balsam Cap (3623') and Friday (3694') Mountains, Catskills, NY.** For more information call 607-363-7267 or 845-338-8772. Meet: 8am. Strenuous bushwhack: 7.5 miles, 7.5 hours. Inclement weather date-following Monday.

**Tuesday, June 12**

**UCHC. Wildcat Ridge, Fanny Highlands, NJ.** Leader: Jim and Teresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10am at Four Birds Trail south lot; call for directions. 6-7 miles at moderate pace; for experienced hikers. Hike to Wildcat Ridge, pass Hibernia mine en route.

**Wednesday, June 13**

**UCHC. Eagle Rock Reservation, W. Orange, NJ.** Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-731-0602. Meet: 10am; call for directions. About 5 miles at moderate pace.

**RVW. Hand Hollow Conservation Area, New Lebanon, NY.** For more information call: 845-758-6143. Meet: 9am. Moderate: 5 miles, 5 hours.

**Saturday, June 16**

**UCHC. Rifle Camp Park, Paterson, NJ.** Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-731-0602. Meet: 10am at first lot from entrance; call for directions. Nice views midway in this historic area. Easy, casual pace. Rain cancels.

**ADK-MH. Sam's Point, NY.** Leader: Marge Velasquez: 845-888-2853. Meet: 9 am at preserve parking lot. 8.5 miles. Hike past High Point to the top of the ridge with wonderful vistas. Some rock scrambling. Continue to Verkeerderkill Falls and back. Heavy rain cancels.

**Sunday, June 17**

**IHC. Split Rock, Fanny Highlands, NJ.** Leader: Peter Beck, 201-274-4471. Meet: 10am at Fisherman's parking lot, Split Rock Rd., Rockaway, NJ. 7 miles. Moderate ups and downs, and pace, on the Four Birds Trail.

**GAHC. Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Brian Kassenbrock, 718-748-0624; call to register. Meet: 9:45am. Moderate hike on Torrey Mountain.

**Monday, June 18**

**UCHC. Great Swamp, Chatham, NJ.** Leader: Len Shnitzer, 732-499-9176. Meet: 10am; call for directions. Nice easy, level hike along the boardwalk and the Laurel Trail.

**RVW. Berlin Mountain (2790') in the Taconics, NY.** For more information call 518-895-8474 or 845-417-8097. Meet: 8 am. Moderate: 5 miles, 4.5 hours. Inclement weather date-following Monday.

**Wednesday, June 20**

**UCHC. Pine Meadow Lake, Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Ben Sterman, 201-797-0468. Meet: 10am at Reeves Brook visitor center. About moderate 5 miles. A bit rocky and hilly, but the reward is great: laurel blossoms and lunch at the lake.

**Thursday, June 21**

**UCHC. Sterling Lake, NY.** Leader: Jim McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10am at Sterling Forest visitor center; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 8-9 miles; for experienced hikers.

**Saturday, June 23**

**IHC. Kittatinny Ridge, NJ.** Leader: Guy and Jen Percival, 973-984-1005. Meet: 9am at Stokes State Forest ranger station off Rt. 206, Branchville, NJ. Moderately strenuous 9 miles along the AT to Bird Mtn.; return down to Tillman Ravine.

**AMC-NYNJ. Exploring Doodletown, NY.** Leader: Nancy Tollefson, 212-727-8961. Meet: 10:15am at Bear Mtn. Inn, Rockland Co., NY. Moderate 5 miles with no big hills. Perfect for beginners, but call if this is your first AMC hike. Parking fee. Heavy rain cancels.

**UCHC. Eagle Rock Reservation, W. Orange, NJ.** Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-731-0602. Meet: 10am; call for directions. Nice easy 3-mile hike on newly marked trails. Rain cancels.

**ADK-MH. Fishkill Ridge Plus Modern Art at Dia-Beacon, NY.** Leaders: Barry and Kathy Skura 914-779-0936, Kahughes@optonline.net. Meet: Breakneck Ridge Metro North train stop at 10:14am, or whenever the 8:51 train from Grand Central arrives. Contact leader to confirm meeting time. Steep climb followed by 7 steady paced miles of fantastic views from Fishkill. Afterwards, 2-hour tour of Dia Museum led by local artist.

**RVW. Bowdoin Park, Poughkeepsie, NY.** For more information call 845-246-6459. Meet: 9am. Easy: 3 miles, 4 hours. Inclement weather date - following Saturday.

**Sunday, June 24**

**TNC. Spring Family Nature Walks, Tenafly, NJ.** Contact: call 201-568-6093. Meet: 3pm at Tenafly Nature Center. Look for migrating birds and seasonal changes during a 1-hour walk along the trails led by a TNC environmental educator. Inclement weather will cancel the program. No strollers, please. Advance registration is not required, but is requested. Family walks are free to members; \$5 each for non-members.

**Monday, June 25**

**UCHC. Painters Point, South Mountain Reservation, NJ.** Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10am; call for directions. About 3 easy miles, along the Rahway River.

**RVW. Hunter Mountain (4040') and SW Hunter (3740'), Catskills, NY.** For more information call 845-246-8616. Meet: 8am. Moderate+ hike, plus bushwhack: 7.5 miles, 6 hours. Inclement weather date-following Monday.

**Wednesday, June 27**

**UCHC. Randolph Township Trails, NJ.** Leader: Betty White, 973-989-0790. Meet: 10am at Freedom Park, Millbrook Ave.; call for directions. Casual 2-hour hike at easy pace, suitable for beginners. Steady rain cancels.

**Thursday, June 28**

**UCHC. Buttermilk Falls, Stokes State Forest, NJ.** Leader: Wayne Frey, 732-537-9190. Meet: 10am at Buttermilk Falls parking; call for directions. Moderately strenuous 7 miles up to the AT and on to Crater Lake; back via Hemlock Pond. For experienced hikers.

**Saturday, June 30**

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ.** Leader: Joan Lepselter, 908-273-4188. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove parking; call for directions. 4-5 moderately paced miles with some rocky trails. Steady rain cancels.

**ADK-MH. Sterling Forest, NY.** Leader: Pete McGinnis 845-454-4428; pmcgin1@aol.com. Meet: contact leader for details. A moderate hike to the fire tower. We'll check out visitors center; hike around lake for lunch and swim weather permitting.

# Hikers' Marketplace



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Nature Walks in New Jersey (2003)	\$ 14.95	\$ 11.21	+\$3.74	_____
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Shawangunk (3-map set & Scenes & Walks book)	\$ 21.65	\$ 16.23	+\$5.42	_____
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Hikers with Mid-Hudson groups Sierra Club and ADK learn about glaciation during a hike at Minnewaska.

**CONSERVATION & ADVOCACY**  
*continued from page 4*

Just as I was walking the property for the third time and wondering what it would cost to purchase enough explosives to blow the property sky-high, a colleague tapped me on the shoulder, and said, "Look!" There, about 30 feet away, in one of the most desolate stretches of the land, the landscape appeared to be moving, slowly. On closer inspection, it was a mother woodcock, a brown ground bird that walks with a herky-jerky motion like a drunk with a big beer belly, and four chicks. Despite our troubles, we had to laugh as the little family slowly shuffled over a sand hill and out of sight.

Somehow we both knew that if these wild creatures could survive here, then we could, too. We are now applying for grants, reaching out to the community, and putting together a plan that will bring this abused property back to where DEC can take over the task of stabilizing the landscape and helping Mother Nature restore it to a true natural area.

This will take time, just as it will take some time to achieve our New York and New Jersey advocacy goals, but we will get there together. As a lobbyist once told me in Trenton, "When it comes to government, the Fat Lady never really sings; you just have to hang in there until the other side quits."



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## We're proud to announce a new partner in our fund-raising efforts.

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## New Charitable Giving Opportunity Available in 2007 Only!

There is a new and exciting method for members to support the Trail Conference, made possible by the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

The Pension Protection Act permits individuals ages 70+ and older to make charitable gifts up to \$100,000 directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to a qualified 501(c)(3) organization, such as the Trail Conference. Not only will such a gift not generate taxable federal income, but the gift does not incur estate tax liability, and it may satisfy some or all of your annual required minimum distribution. There is only one catch—the gift must be made before the end of 2007.

You may choose to make an unrestricted gift to the Trail Conference from your IRA, or you may designate your gift for a specific program, such as land acquisition or trail building. Of course, like any other contribution, it can be made in honor of or in memory of a special person, or it can commemorate a special event.

Like most nonprofit organizations, the Trail Conference is dependent on the generosity of its members. Although we derive significant income from our membership dues and from the sales of our publications, these sources cover only a small portion of our expenses. We rely on voluntary contributions from our valued members—like you—to balance our budget.

Remember, you have only until the end of 2007 to take advantage of this special opportunity! Take advantage of the 2006 Pension Protection Act and make a substantial contribution to the Trail Conference. Of course, to better understand the financial consequences of such a gift, you should first contact your financial adviser, attorney, and/or accountant.

For more information, contact Joshua Howard, director of membership and development at [josh@nynjtc.org](mailto:josh@nynjtc.org) or 201-512-9348, ext. 13.

## Wheels Wanted

The Trail Conference needs to move volunteers, tools, and materials, and is looking for an eight-passenger van and a pickup truck. If you own a vehicle that is in good working order and would be willing to donate it, or if you have access to a fleet of vehicles that could be leased or donated, please contact Joshua Howard at 201-512-9348, ext. 13 or [josh@nynjtc.org](mailto:josh@nynjtc.org).



## Map Assembly Becomes Vocational Skills Building Project for Students

For the past year, the students of the Bridges II Class at the Memorial Middle School in Fair Lawn, NJ, have been volunteering their time and developing their skills by packing maps for the Trail Conference. The students have developed vocational skills such as sorting, one-to-one correspondence, assembly line skills, ordering, and various fine motor skills. They have also developed job-related social skills.

"We're always looking for additional volunteers to help us with many tasks, such as assembling map sets," explains Daniel Chazin, Trail Conference Publications Chair. "Thus, I was really excited when we received an email last year from Andrea Gallucio, teacher of a pre-vocational skills class at the Memorial Middle School, who pointed out that the students in her class were looking for important projects that they were capable of undertaking. I knew that the assembly of maps would be a great project—both for the Trail Conference, and for the students."

Initially, the students worked under close supervision of the classroom teacher and paraprofessionals. However, as their skills improved, students became more independent. Some students in the class are "supervisors" and are responsible for replenishing supplies for the students as needed. One student, David, is also responsible for calling Mr. Chazin to order more maps, bags, etc.

Mrs. Gallucio feels this has been a "win-win" partnership for her students and the Trail Conference. The students are learning important vocational and social skills, and the Trail Conference has a steady supply of maps for the public. This activity has become the favorite of the class, and because the students know that these maps are sold in stores, they take pride in their work. Says Mrs. Gallucio: "It's very gratifying to see how seriously the students work during 'map time.' I'm very proud of all the progress they've made, and am grateful to Daniel Chazin for giving my students the opportunity to do this work."

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# GEAR CHECK

An occasional series that will review gear appropriate for hiking.



**MountainSmith's Dog Trippin' Kit**  
Reviewed by Josh Howard and Koda

According to the folks at MountainSmith, the Dog Trippin' Kit "contains all of the necessities to take your hound backpacking with you." They should have clarified that statement by indicating that it would be a First Class trip for your pooch. I've done a lot of hiking with my dog Koda. Including a thru-hike of the AT, we've hiked more than 3,000 miles together! Until she had the Dog Trippin' kit, she was roughing it in the backcountry.

I've always followed the golden rule of hiking: everyone carries their own gear. After having Koda try several different

saddle bags I bought from pet stores, and losing two or three pairs along the way from poor fits, I came across the MountainSmith Dog Trippin' Kit. Its pack, which comes in three sizes, was adjustable to fit my 60-pound Shepherd, Ridgeback, Greyhound, Labrador mutt. The fleece-lined chest harness prevented painful rubbing and the large saddle bags swallowed up her food, bowl, and some of my extra gear. The saddle bags are durable and can take a beating. After six weeks of hiking, and over 1,000 miles, they were still in great shape.

Before we got the kit, Koda would take a few hours trying to find her bed for the night. She would often end up sleeping in a bed of leaves or sneaking onto the corner of my mattress pad when I was off getting water. On a recent trip to the Catskills, when the temperature dropped into the teens, Koda stayed warm by curling up on her fleece-lined dog bed next to my sleeping bag (not on it!).

The rest of the pieces that come with the kit performed equally well. The food and water bowls are durable, and the drawstring on the food bowl is great to keep Ziplocs of food from rolling around the large pockets on the saddlebags.

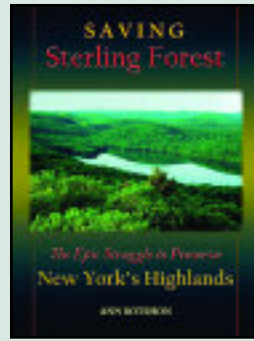
In short, the MountainSmith Dog Trippin' kit is a great all-inclusive package to supply man's best friend and hiking partner with the gear needed to comfortably bag our favorite peaks.



Rating: 5 paws out of 5

## Book Review

### Saving Sterling Forest The Epic Struggle to Preserve New York's Highlands



By Ann Botshon  
State University of  
New York Press, 2007

Reviewed by William P. O'Hearn

As much as I eagerly awaited my review copy of *Saving Sterling Forest*, I approached reading and writing a review of this book with some anxiety as well. Having played a small role in the preservation of the forest as Highlands Co-Chair of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club, I was concerned that the author might have to gloss over certain aspects of this long and dramatic battle in order to fit the story into 174 pages of text.

I'm pleased to say that I needn't have worried. Ann Botshon, who was a veteran New York activist and Coordinator for the Wallkill River Task Force, takes us from the area's colonial-era iron mining days right up to 2004 and the struggle to preserve the last 575 acres in Sterling Forge, known as the "hole in the doughnut." Sadly, Ann passed away in September of 2004 and did not get to see the purchase of that land, but she has left us this story, finished just months before her death, as her legacy.

Beginning with the Sterling Forest Corporation's 1971 proposal to construct a city of 80,000 people in the middle of 20,000 forested acres on the New York-New Jersey border, this is a political and land use case study that involves all levels of government in two states, key land use issues (sprawl, the ratables chase, home rule, regional planning, grassroots organizing, watershed protection, state environmental regulations, the value of contiguous forest, endangered species), and a full cast of memorable characters: Governors Pataki, Cuomo, Florio,

and Whitman; Lou Heimbach and Robert Thomson of the Corporation; Senators Bill Bradley and Frank Lautenberg, and Representatives Maurice Hinchey, Ben Gilman, Peter Kostmayer, Bob Torricelli, and Marge Roukema, not to mention the dozens of dedicated environmentalists involved.

Trail Conference readers will recognize our former executive director, JoAnn Dolan, and her husband, Paul, as two stalwarts who helped organize the grassroots opposition in the very beginning and are still active on Sterling Forest issues today.

Ann hits all the high and low notes along the way, including:

- 1988-94: Passaic County, NJ, condemns 2,100 acres in New Jersey.
- October 1989: Peter Kostmayer holds hearings in Tuxedo, NY.
- US Forest Service releases regional studies in 1992 and 2002 on the NY-NJ Highlands.
- 1993: Public-Private Partnership group of environmental groups and PIPC forms.
- 1995: 700 residents and experts attend four hearings in Tuxedo, Warwick, and Monroe to comment on the 5,000-page Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS).
- 1995-96: House and Senate Republicans try to sink the Sterling Forest legislation by tying it to several land swaps in Oklahoma, Utah, and Alaska, but Senator Bradley fights them off.
- March 1996: Newt Gingrich (yes, *that* Newt Gingrich) travels to the Wanaque and Monkville Reservoirs in Ringwood and West Milford to announce his support for the federal funding of Sterling Forest.
- October 1996: Senator Bradley signs the bill for \$17.5 million out of the total purchase price of \$55 million as "his last deal and his last vote on his last day in the Senate."

Ms. Botshon also doesn't shy away from some of the controversial issues that surfaced during this long battle; for example, the in-fighting between some of the New Jersey groups over spending resources on a New York property, or the environmental community's frustration over the partial acquisition of the forest in 1998.

Most of all, she has captured the spirit and the details of this 30-year campaign to save 21,000 acres of open space. I recommend it as a book you will want to buy, read, and keep as a source of inspiration when local land issues look bleak.

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

# Favorite Hike



By Jakob Franke

## Lenape Ridge & Minisink Trails



The view from the new Minisink Trail near Port Jervis.

Two new trails in the southern Shawangunks (see page 1) add seven miles of trekking options for hikers. Particularly exciting is the fact that a new five-mile loop just east of Port Jervis is accessible not only by car, but also via Metro North to Port Jervis and a connecting 1.5 to 2-mile walk along the Delaware River Heritage Trail in the city. (Read about the Mount Hope Shawangunk Ridge Trail side loop on page 4.)

### Lenape Ridge & Minisink Trails

This new five-mile loop lies east of the Neversink River, between Interstate 84 to the south and the Metro-North Rail Road line to Port Jervis to the north on land previously acquired by the Trail Conference. The new trail, which is to be extended by another two miles this year, provides a link between the City of Port Jervis and Huckleberry State Forest. It is hoped that eventually the trail will connect with the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT) north of Huckleberry SF in the town of Greenville.

**The hike:** From Minisink Ave./Old Greenville Turnpike, the LRT follows an old woods road for a short distance before turning right, into the woods. In another 0.2 mile, there is junction with the red-blazed Minisink Trail. The MT parallels the LRT, and reconnects with it in just over 2 miles. It can be your return route to make this a loop hike.

Take the white-blazed LRT on your right. Soon you climb a moderate slope to a ridge that provides great views of the Shawangunks (and I-84) to the east, with

High Point Monument in New Jersey clearly visible to the south. The trail follows the ridge for the next two miles. Steep slabs of slate-like rock along the way are popular areas for fossil hunting. You will look down on Heinlein Pond and continue until close to a power line, where the LRT and MT re-link to complete their circuit.

Turn left on the Minisink Trail and return. The trail traverses a lower ridge that affords great views west of the Neversink and Delaware River Valley. Once in a while, the trail dips down close to the railroad line.

**Access by train:** From the Port Jervis train station or elsewhere in the city, find the Delaware River Heritage Trail ([www.minisink.org/trail.html](http://www.minisink.org/trail.html)) and follow it 1.5 – 2.0 miles out to Route 6 and the bridge over the Neversink River. Near a DRHT historic sign on the west bank of the river, look for three white blazes on a telephone pole indicating the start point for the Lenape Ridge Trail (LRT). Follow the trail across the bridge, looking for the turnoff east (left) onto Minisink Ave.; the trail follows this road for about half a mile.

**Access by car:** From Route 6, just south-east of the Neversink River crossing, turn east onto Minisink Ave. (which is renamed Old Greenville Turnpike once it reaches the Town of Deerpark). Drive about 0.5 mile and spot the white-blazed trail turning north into the woods; drive another 0.1 mile to find a small parking area at the corner of Old Greenville Turnpike and Limekiln Road.

## We Need Your Great Photos

*Trail Walker* is expanding our image library with high resolution photos of hikers and families in action as well as full-length volunteer portraits with tools. Be creative and search for interesting locations in our region. If your image is used in the *Trail Walker*, you will receive a photo credit. Send files (minimum of 1800x1200 pixels) in jpg format to [tw@nynjtc.org](mailto:tw@nynjtc.org). Include "Trail Walker Image Library" in the subject line. You may be asked to sign a photographer/model release form and *Trail Walker* retains usage rights to any submitted images. We look forward to seeing your submissions!



GEORGETTE WEIR

Trail volunteer Roland Breault

Don't Forget the...

## Hiking Extravaganza Coming to Our Area July 13-20

The Trail Conference will host  
**Ramapo 2007**  
the biennial meeting of the  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)



182 hikes to 94 destinations

70 workshops on trail and nature topics on the campus of Ramapo College in northern New Jersey

Club, trails, and outings leaders:

Join us and encourage others to attend this exciting event.

Meet hikers from all over.

Learn new leadership skills, trail building and maintenance techniques, trail ecology, and more!

Come for the day, the weekend, or the entire week. Attendance is open to all; membership in the Trail Conference or ATC not required.

Complete details and registration are available at  
[www.Ramapo2007.org](http://www.Ramapo2007.org).

## Last Chance to Renewal at the Old Rates

Only one month left until the new dues rates go into effect on June 1, 2007. Act now and take advantage of the old rates. Regardless of when your Trail Conference membership is set to expire, NOW is the best time to renew it. You'll be able to take advantage of special member-only discounted prices, and you'll be helping the Trail Conference at an important time, when open space and trail protection most need our attention and energy.

Act now. You'll be helping yourself and strengthening the Trail Conference in its efforts to protect and extend access to unspoiled nature.

## Join the volunteers who bring you the great outdoors!

1,675 miles of trails and counting; your membership helps us expand our horizons.

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



Join/Renew

Save time and a tree by joining or renewing online at [www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org). Just click on the Join/Renew button.

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	2006 DUES	2007 DUES*
Senior Individual (65+)	\$18	\$25
Senior Family (65+)	\$24	\$30
Individual	\$25	\$30
Family	\$31	\$40
Sponsor Individual	\$50	\$60
Sponsor Family	\$60	\$75
Benefactor Individual	\$100	\$120
Benefactor Family	\$120	\$150
Life Individual	\$500	\$1,000
Life Joint	\$750	\$1,500

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Check or money order enclosed  Visa  Mastercard  Amex  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

\*Effective June 1, 2007

**Tax-deductible. Dues are not refundable.**



# Annual Report

October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006



## Connecting People with Nature since 1920

### Trails for Life

"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountain is going home; that wildness is necessity; that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."

We at the Trail Conference couldn't agree more with the above statement by John Muir, a famously prodigious hiker and nature preservationist. Since 1920, our members have been building and protecting the trail lands and trails that connect people—nerve-shaken and otherwise—to nature for respite and inspiration.

A review of this Annual Report for FY 2006 reveals the breadth of our challenges in securing those connections in the 21st century as well as the scope of our successes:

- New York and New Jersey trail lands protected despite intense development pressures;
- The passionate dedication of volunteers in the face of ever greater competition for their time and energy;
- The continued financial support of our members and communities in spite of competing demands.

In FY 2006, the generous contributions of our supporters to the *Connecting People With Nature* campaign, which ended with calendar year 2005, were put to work. As our campaign promised, we acquired land to protect trail corridors, embarked on a massive trail rebuilding project at Bear Mountain, ramped up our volunteer training and recruiting efforts by launching Trail University, and pushed forward on our project of upgrading our maps and books using GIS (Geographic Information System) tools.

Details about the past year's accomplishments are inside. We hope you will stop a moment with us to savor the view. Because, as we all know, our work continues.

*Jane Daniels*  
Jane Daniels  
Chair, Board of Directors

*Edward K. Goodell*  
Edward K. Goodell  
Executive Director

### Contributed Services

1,348 Trail Conference volunteers contributed a total of 51,921 hours valued at \$769,251!

Value based on information from U.S. Department of Labor statistics. Contributed hours include travel time; \$ value is determined by work hours.

Committee	Hours	Value
Membership	634	\$ 8,196
Administrative	516	13,992
Conservation	415	9,271
Development	243	9,899
Outreach	3,117	147,866
Publications	3,420	120,231
Science	1,522	27,071
Trails	42,054	432,722
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51,921</b>	<b>\$ 769,251</b>



# Trails

## 1,666 Miles of Trails and Counting

The network of trails maintained by the Trail Conference grew to 1,666 in FY2006. Keeping them open and well maintained were 690 individual trail maintainers and 10 trail crews, working under 14 regional management committees. These dedicated volunteers tackle projects big and small, requiring a mix of novice and advanced skills. Between October 1, 2005 and September 30, 2006, trail accomplishments included the following:



### Major Projects

#### On the Long Path - Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- relocated 2.5 miles of the Long Path off roads in section 27 in Schoharie County;
- reopened the old route (across the Awosting Reserve) of the Long Path connecting Mud Pond in Minnewaska S. P. to Verkeerder Kill Falls when the Reserve was acquired by New York State and added to Minnewaska State Park Preserve;
- opened a route between High Point at Sam's Point Preserve and the Smiley Carriageway in Minnewaska S. P. Known as the **Old Blue Trail**, the section may become part of the Long Path;
- began work on a new trail, known as the **Lenape Ridge Trail**, connecting Port Jervis to the Shawangunk Ridge.

#### On the Appalachian Trail

- replaced nearly 1,000 feet of board puncheon and rebuilt approximately 100 feet of bridging across a tributary of the Wawayanda Creek in Vernon, NJ;
- built the first **mouldering privy** ever constructed by a Trail Conference crew. It is at the Morgan Stewart Shelter on the Dutchess County section;
- successfully urged the NJ DOT to replace the Dunnfield Creek crossing just north of the parking area with a fully ADA-compliant bridge;
- **inaugurated the Bear Mountain Trails Project.** During year one of this planned seven-year project, more than 180 volunteers contributed over 6,000 hours of service towards the reconstruction of the AT on the east and south sides of Bear Mountain.

#### On the Warren Trail

- built 3.1 miles of the new **Warren Trail** in Warren County, NJ.



### Expanding the Trail Network

The Trail Conference increased its responsibilities by adopting the following trails for maintenance:

- in Minnewaska S. P., the **Peters Kill Loop, Yellow and Bull Wheel Trails**;
- trails in the **Frannie Reese Preserve** at the west end of the Mid-Hudson Bridge;
- trails in the **Ward Pound Ridge Reservation** in Westchester County;
- the **Pelton Pond Nature Trail** circling Pelton Pond in Fahnestock State Park;
- trails in **Pelham Bay Park** in the Bronx;
- trails in **Oscawana Park** in the Town of Cortlandt;
- the seven-mile trail system at the **Tenaflly Nature Center/Lost Brook Preserve, NJ**;
- the **Pierson Ridge Trail** in Ringwood S. P.;
- two miles of relocated **Stonetown Circular Trail in the Wyanokies**

### Trail Skills Development

The Trail Conference offers novice to advanced level training in trail building and maintenance.

- **Trail University debuted.** The Trail Conference's traditional trail workshops and field training opportunities are now organized into a comprehensive education program. Trail U courses include everything from Trail Maintenance 101 to Chainsaw Safety to GPS/GIS use. Instructors are experienced trail volunteers and professionals; instruction takes place in the field and in classrooms throughout the NY-NJ region.
- Trail U seeks to train new trail volunteers and develop the skills of existing volunteers.
- In its first year, Trail U offered 30 specialized workshops at Bear Mountain, from basic trail construction to advanced stone working skills. Maintenance 101 classes at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation and Port Jervis both enlisted new maintainers for these areas. A Chainsaw Safety class was presented at Fahnestock State Park. In addition, ongoing training was offered during scheduled work trips by our 10 trail crews.



### Other Trail Advances

- The Trail Conference continued developing the **extension of the Highlands Trail from the Hudson River to the Connecticut state line.** Trail Conference staff and volunteers began seeking necessary agreements for the proposed route from the various land owners, including the NYC Department of Environmental Conservation (watershed lands) and state park agencies.
- The Trail Conference participated in the first stages of analysis and development of a revised New Jersey State Trails Plan.
- The Trail Conference worked with Mike Knutson of the Student Conservation Association to conceptually combine existing sections of the Appalachian Trail, Shawangunk Ridge Trail, Long Path, and Highlands Trail into the 116-mile **Wallkill Valley Loop** in Orange County. With a combined distance of about 116 miles, this loop draws attention to Orange County, NY, as a hiking destination.
- TC volunteers began identifying a route for the planned 30-mile **Iron Belt Trail**, which will connect the AT on Wawayanda Mountain to trails in Mahlon Dickerson Reservation.

Our Trail University builds skills while our volunteers build trails.



# Conservation & Advocacy

## Advocacy

Protecting land and promoting trails through political action.

- The Trail Conference added the new position of Director of Conservation & Advocacy, the first time we have had a staff person dedicated to this important component of our mission.
- We developed a quick-response, electronic Action Network:
  - a. 187,506 total Trail Conference messages sent (announcements and alerts)
  - b. 6,555 participants sent 23,540 messages to public officials
- For the first time we offered advocacy training—School of Hard Knocks. Grassroots advocates shared best practices and reviewed actual cases.

### In New York

- **Sterling Forge development stopped.** The Trail Conference staff and supporters joined with the Sterling Forest Partnership, U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey, and dozens of other activists to oppose development of the last 575 acres in Tuxedo, NY. The “hole in the doughnut” closed November 2006 with state’s purchase of the tract.
- **Awosting Reserve development stopped.** The Trail Conference celebrated, along with other environmental groups, particularly our member club Save the Ridge, the successful broad-based effort to add the 2,518-acre Awosting Reserve to Minnewaska State Park Preserve. The state’s purchase of the land saved it from development.
- **Environmental Trust Fund increased** from \$150 million to \$225 million. Working with the Adirondack Mountain Club and many other groups, the Trail Conference helped push Governor Pataki and the legislature to increase EPF funding, and has set a target of \$300 million for 2007-08.
- **Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) legislation pushed** but stalled. A new state bill on ORVs was brought forward thanks to the ADK and Trail Conference, but did not pass this year.



- **Proposed Lorterdan development in Ramapo, Orange County, opposed.** The Trail Conference hired a scenic impact expert and helped bring forth rattlesnake habitat information from New Jersey and New York in our efforts to oppose the Lorterdan project. The proposed development received some local approvals but has not been built.
- **State income tax credit for land protection supported.** The Trail Conference and ADK worked with many other groups to support the passage of a state income tax credit for landowners whose land is protected by a conservation easement.

### In New Jersey

- NJ Ballot Question No. 2, **Park Improvements lobbying effort**, passed in November 2006. Trail Conference worked with a coalition of environmental groups to inform the public about the need to pass a referendum establishing a stable source of funding for park capital projects.
- **ATV legislation was brought forward** by Assemblyman Gusciora and supported by the Trail Conference, but legislation did not pass this year.
- **NJ Highlands Council Regional Master Plan developed.** The Regional Master Plan for 860,000 acres in northern New Jersey was developed during 2006 through an extended series of meetings and hearings.
- **NJ State Trails Plan in the works.** The Trail Conference served on the State Trails Committee, which is developing the new plan through a series of meetings and hearings



## Conservation

Saving and extending trails by saving open space.

### In New York

The Trail Conference Land Acquisition Fund worked to protect the following trail lands through acquisition:

#### Shawangunk Ridge Trail

- Cardinale, 250 acres, Deer Park and Greenville, Orange County: purchased
- Falzone, 90 acres, Sullivan County: assigned to Open Space Institute
- Patterson, 90 acres, Sullivan County: assigned to Open Space Institute
- LaFarge 140 acres, Mamakating, Sullivan County: purchased
- Karvellas land swap, 18 acres, Greenville: in progress
- Feretti, 17 acres, Greenville: in progress

#### Long Path

- Good Tidings Bible Conference, 205 acres, Durham, Greene County: purchased
- Beretz, trail easement, Middleburgh, Schoharie County: not completed

### In New Jersey

#### Iron Belt Trail

- Rolling Acres, 95 acres, Sparta, Sussex County: purchased

#### Highlands Trail/Patriots' Path

- Three properties totaling 74 acres in Washington Township, Morris County: purchased



## Trail Support

Protecting and extending trails by offering technical expertise.

Examples: helping to negotiate easements or less formal agreements to allow access across a property; arranging for insurance coverage of a landowner who allows access; working to acquire a key connector piece along a trail corridor.

#### Trail support has been given to the following projects:

- East of Hudson trails, Putnam County, NY
- Iron Belt Trail, Sussex and Morris County, NJ
- Byram trails (Highlands Trail), Sussex County, NJ
- Long Path North, National Park Service, Saratoga County, NY
- Warwick trails system, Orange County, NY

## Publications

Trail Conference maps and guidebooks provide people with the information they need to access and enjoy public open space in our region.



Our state-of-the-art GIS (Geographic Information Systems) resources and capabilities enable us to produce top-quality maps that are both easy to read and contain the most accurate data. In FY 2006, the Trail Conference offered 10 map sets and 11 guidebooks. We moved closer towards our goal of producing all our maps by means of digital technology.

#### Maps

- The Trail Conference published two completely new digitally-produced map sets:
  - Hudson Palisades Trails
  - West Hudson Trails
- We published new editions of the following maps:
  - East Hudson Trails
  - Catskill Trails
  - South Taconic Trails
- Using digital technology, work progressed on a completely new edition of:
  - North Jersey Trails

#### New Books and Editions in the Works during FY 2006

- *Scenes and Walks in the Northern Shawangunks* by Jack Fagan; new third edition
- *Hiking the Jersey Highlands*, by George Petty; new book
- *Walkable Westchester*, by Trail Conference Chair Jane Daniels and her husband Walt; new book

# Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Mac Hight, Treasurer

As my first duty following appointment as Treasurer, I am pleased to report on our financial results for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2006.

The preliminary financial statements for the year show revenues of \$1,998,549 (or 21%) less than last year, due mostly to reduced Grants and Contributions to the Capital Campaign. You may recall that in 2004 we received a large one-time benefit from the Capital Campaign. Offsetting this decrease we recorded higher volunteer contributions with Contributed Service Revenue of \$769,000—\$82,000 higher than last year.

Total costs of \$1,965,000 were just \$94,000 or 5% higher than last year, despite incurring significantly higher interest costs related to our land purchases.

Net Assets at \$1,646,000 are flat with last year after impact of the above changes but Total Assets of \$4,096,000 and Total Liabilities of \$2,450,000 have increased by \$1,630,000 and \$1,597,000 respectively, due to substantial increases in land acquisition and related mortgages during the year. Progress is always slow in finalizing state agreements for resale of these lands, but as proceeds are received in 2007, related mortgages will be repaid.

Our independent accountants have completed their field work and audit for the fiscal year 2006 and they have issued an unqualified opinion on the statements. These are summarized opposite this report.

# Condensed Financial Statements 2005-2006

Assets	Year ended 9/30/06	Year ended 9/30/05
Cash & Investments	\$ 623,000	\$ 751,000
Receivables	254,000	234,000
Inventory	134,000	140,000
Other	11,000	10,000
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>1,022,000</b>	<b>1,135,000</b>
Trail Land	2,955,000	1,120,000
Other Assets	119,000	211,000
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,096,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,466,000</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current Liabilities	1,915,000	397,000
Mortgages Payable, Long Term	516,000	429,000
Other	19,000	27,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,450,000</b>	<b>853,000</b>
Net Assets	1,646,000	1,613,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,096,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,466,000</b>
<b>Statement of Activities</b>		
Membership Dues	\$ 183,000	\$ 176,000
Grants & Contributions	679,000	1,456,000
Contributed Services	769,000	682,000
Sales, Maps & Books	199,000	182,000
Contract Income	116,000	—
Investment Income	52,000	51,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,998,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,547,000</b>
Personnel Expense	592,000	594,000
Consulting Services	119,000	165,000
Volunteer Labor	769,000	682,000
Printing/Shipping	109,000	135,000
Land Purchase Costs	151,000	—
Other	225,000	295,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,965,000</b>	<b>1,871,000</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 33,000</b>	<b>\$ 677,000</b>

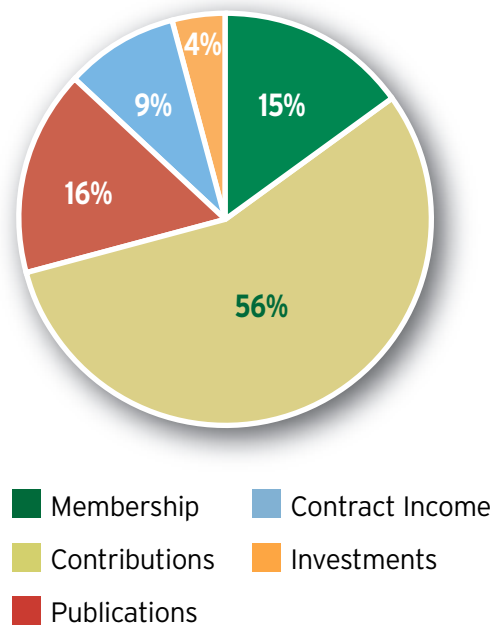
# Membership and Development

A heartfelt thank you to the 976 individuals, foundations, organizations, and corporations that generously supported the Trail Conference's mission in the 2005-2006 fiscal year. The value of these donations reached \$679,000. These generous contributions enabled the Trail Conference to be the region's leader in training and supporting active volunteers who maintain and protect hiking trails and the lands surrounding them.

Club and organizational membership in the Trail Conference grew this past fiscal year to a new high. We ended the year with 102 member organizations, up from 97. We also experienced a slight increase, 3%, in the membership revenue, to \$183,000.



FY 2006 Revenues



## Board of Directors FY2006

### Chair

Jane Daniels

### Vice Chair

Peter Kennard

### Treasurer

Herb Hochberg

### Secretary

Daniel Chazin

### Directors

Robert Boysen  
Chris Connolly  
Ellen Cronan  
John Gunzler  
Seth McKee  
John Moran  
Robert Newton  
Anne Osborn  
Mary Smart  
Malcolm Spector  
Daniel Van Engel  
Don Weiss

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Mahwah, NJ 07430  
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Fax: 201-512-9012

e-mail: info@nynjtc.org

World Wide Web: <http://www.nynjtc.org>

## Committee Chairs FY2006

### Science Committee Chair

Anne Osborn

### Development Committee Co-Chairs

Mary Smart and John Gunzler

### Membership Committee Chair

Doug Sohn

### Outreach Committee Chair

Dottie Noe

### Administrative Committee Chair

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Craig Little and Daniel Chazin

### Nominating Committee Chair

Peter Heckler

### Trails Council Chair

Peter Heckler

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Jim Hagggett

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Vacant

### Trails Chair, Long Path South

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Peter Heckler and John Mack

### Trails Chair, Metro Trails

Robert Ward

### Trails Chair, North Jersey

John Moran

### Trails Co-Chair, East Hudson

Jane Daniels and Walt Daniels

### Trail Chair, Central Jersey

Ellen Cronan

## Staff Positions FY2006

### Executive Director

Edward Goodell

### Operations Director

Josh Howard

### Advocacy/Conservation Director

Dennis Schvejda/Bill O'Hearn

### Trails Director

Larry Wheelock

### Trail Projects Coordinator

Eddie Walsh, Jr.

### Volunteer Coordinator

Heidi Adami

### Land Acquisition Director

John Myers

### Land Protection Specialist

Richard Benning

### GIS Specialist/Cartographer

Eric Yadlovski/Allison Werberg

### Administrative Assistant/Information Manager

Ramon McMillan/Catherine Gemmill

### Fullfillment Coordinator

Gary Willick

### Accounting/Operations Manager

Elizabeth Bleiweiss

### Development Director

Maureen Edelson