



TRAIL WALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE • CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE SINCE 1920

Stewardship in Action After Sam's Point Fire



LINSEY FEINBERG



AMBER RAY
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

When natural disaster hits our parks and trails, Trail Conference volunteers step up to the challenge. Once damaged areas are deemed accessible, our volunteers clear blow downs, repair tread, reblaze paths, and overall ensure our trails are once again open and safe for the public. But sometimes, some of our best recovery efforts are accomplished through stewardship.

Such is the case in New York, where a 2,028-acre wildfire consumed the Sam's Point area of Minnewaska State Park Preserve. The blaze, sparked April 23, forced the closure of Minnewaska for a full week; Sam's Point only partially reopened May 28, and several trails in the area remain closed indefinitely.

When a park closes or reroutes a favorite trail, it's for very good reason—typically to protect that particular ecosystem from destruction. The majority of this fire occurred



LINSEY FEINBERG

A wildfire burned 2,028 acres in Sam's Point in April. Several trails remain closed for ecological and safety reasons.

in the globally rare, ridge-top, dwarf pitch pine barrens, a fire-dependent community. Not only do environmental disturbances such as wildfires greatly increase the risk of certain invasive species becoming established, but walking in burned areas can compact the soil or crush seedlings. Staying out of closed areas will help this rare ecosystem regenerate, and allow research and monitoring projects to help us

better understand this unique environment.

Our No. 1 duty in protecting these trails is to educate visitors and explain why the cooperation of everyone is essential. Habitat for plants and wildlife, especially sensitive species, is continually shrinking to give way for human space. Let's do our part in ensuring the parts that are protected remain biodiverse and healthy, free of intrusion.

Post-Fire, a Different Kind of Trail Crew Trip

Not all of the good work of our trail crews happens on-trail. When Minnewaska management asked for the Trail Conference's assistance in installing water bars and check dams on fire breaks created during fire suppression operations, the Long Distance Trails Crew (LDTTC) and Nor'westers Trail Crew sprang into action.

Drew Polinsky, the ranger at Sam's Point, called mitigating these breaks a high priority, since the process of building them scraped away soil layers and created serious potential for gully erosion. "It was cru-

cial that we got to these areas quickly after the fire and installed erosion control devices," Polinsky said. "The work is not over, but we can relax a little bit knowing that the worst of the potential damage is mitigated thanks to the quick mobilization, hard work, and expertise of the trail crews, other organizations, and volunteers."

Despite short notice and heavy work schedules, the LDTTC and Nor'westers understood the importance and time-sensitive nature of this project. "We should all be very proud of the good work our crews are doing in helping with fire mitigation efforts," said LDTTC Crew Leader Bob Fuller.

The crews are set to resume regular trail work in Minnewaska on the Jenny Lane Trail on July 2, and on the Verkeerder Kill Trail on Sept. 24. If you'd like to volunteer, visit bit.ly/TC-tco for details.



DREW POLINSKY

Long Distance Trails Crew and Nor'westers Trail Crew

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Earth Day Celebration Opens Trails for People Interpretive Exhibit

The craft of trail building received the spotlight on Earth Day, April 22, when a new outdoor learning and activity area was unveiled on the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain State Park. *Trails for People*, a project of the Trail Conference and partners, is the first known interactive, on-trail exhibit in the United States dedicated to the art and science of trail building.

Thirty-two educational signs and hands-on displays inform novice and expert trail users alike about the Appalachian Trail's origins at Bear Mountain, how trails are built, and how volunteers are the lifeblood of our trail systems. Trail Conference volunteers alongside professional trail



AMBER RAY

Trails for People serves as a gateway to the backcountry for the 2 million people who visit Bear Mountain annually.

builders have rerouted the first 850 feet of the Appalachian Trail's ascent of Bear Mountain, now known as the Trails for People Demonstration Trail. This Trail segment replaces a steep asphalt driveway and provides a first-hand look

at how sustainable hiking trails are constructed. Interpretive signs and activity stations invite visitors to experience trail features such as bog bridges, turnpike, crib walls, and step construction. Find out more at bit.ly/tc-tfp16.

A View from the Trail Photo Exhibition Opens at Trail Conference HQ

The Trail Conference is pleased to announce the opening of the photography exhibition titled *A View from the Trail*. The exhibit is open through Thursday, Aug. 25, in the Main Conference and Training Room at Trail Conference Headquarters at the historic Darlington Schoolhouse.

From an array of excellent submissions, 20 local artists are presenting 34 stunning photographs that showcase scenes and vistas from trails all over the region, notably from Harriman State Park, Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Ramapo Valley County Reservation, Ringwood State Park,

the Hudson Highlands, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Catskill Park, and Apshawa Preserve. The subjects of the photographs include natural landscapes, flora and fauna, and depictions of the seasons.

The majority of the artworks are for sale, and 20 percent of the proceeds will benefit the Trail Conference.

We invite all to visit Monday through Saturday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. A closing reception will be held on Aug. 25 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for all artists, their families and friends, and patrons of the arts.

 Brendan Cunningham

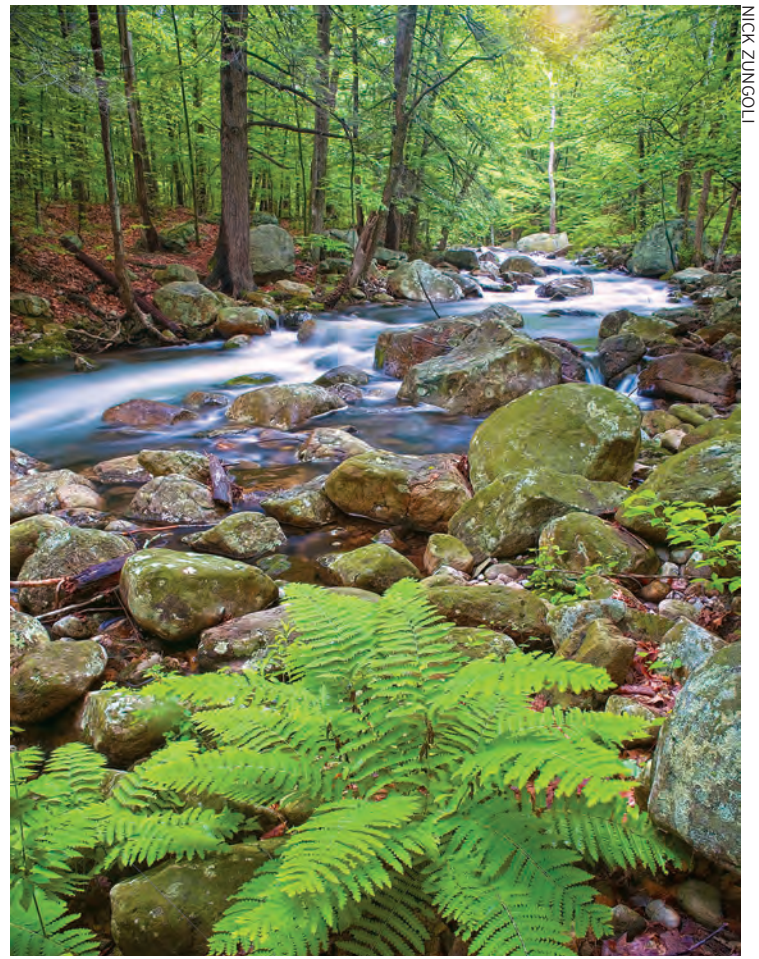
If You Go

► **What:** A View from the Trail photo exhibition

► **When:** Open through Aug. 25 during regular Trail Conference hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday

► **Where:** Trail Conference Headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, N.J.

► **Details:** Open to our members and the public. Many photos are for sale with 20 percent of the proceeds benefiting the Trail Conference.



NICK ZUNGOLO

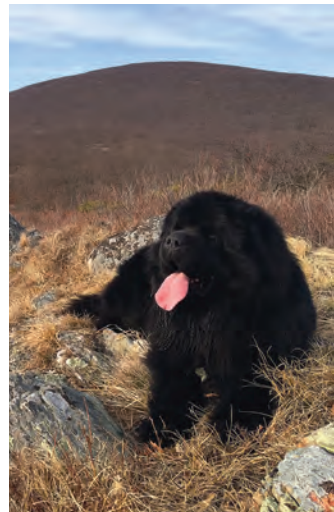
Forest Fern by Nick Zungoli was taken at Stony Brook in Harriman State Park. It's part of the exhibit now on view.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANKS TO THE HARDWORKING VOLUNTEERS IN TACONIC STATE PARK

I was just sitting at my computer looking out the window and thinking of how great our hiking network is here at Taconic State Park. It is even greater now with the essential and wonderful completion of the new South Taconic Trail extension from Brace Mountain connecting to Rudd Pond. I am writing to say THANK YOU!! Thank you to your wonderful organization that really GETS STUFF DONE!!

I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to have Andrew Seirup, Kay Cynamon, Claudia Farb, and Chris Leonard as volunteers on our trail system. Thank you to ALL the volunteers and Boy Scouts that put in the time and hard work on hot summer Saturdays



CHRISTOPHER D. RICKARD

Park mascot Mahi enjoys the South Taconic Trail extension.

last year! I can assure you they are some of the most hardworking volunteers I know.

Without these folks, this connection to Rudd would have never happened. This new extension is essential to keeping Rudd a viable park for the community of Millerton and the hundreds of visitors that use the Metro North Station and Harlem Valley Rail Trail. I am really excited about what has been accomplished and just wanted to thank your crew and your superb organization for their amazing work.

With much appreciation,
Christopher D. Rickard
Park Manager
Taconic State Park
Copake Falls and Rudd Pond

News in Brief

Call for Volunteer Award Nominations

Do you know someone who has done an outstanding job as a Trail Conference volunteer?

The Volunteer Committee is looking for nominees for our annual awards. With more than 1,700 people who donate their time to the organization, we know award-worthy volunteers are in our ranks. Who do you know who has gone above and beyond? Members may nominate individuals for the annual awards, presented every fall by the Trail Conference Board. The deadline is Monday, Aug. 15.

The nomination process is easy. Check nynjtc.org/awards to see the award categories, qualifications, and if the potential candidate has received an award in the past. Then fill out the online nomination form, or e-mail it with supporting statements to the Volunteer Committee at awards@nynjtc.org. To get an idea of what information is needed, see bit.ly/tc-ans.



SABINA CARDENAS

Upcoming Celebrations for Members and Volunteers

Save the dates: We've got two exciting events coming up this fall that celebrate everything we love about the outdoors—from hiking, to our volunteers!

Join us Saturday, Oct. 15, for the Trail Conference Members and Community Day. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., we'll be offering guided hikes, educational workshops, tours of our headquarters at the historic Darlington Schoolhouse, and more.

And on Saturday, Nov. 5, we'll be saluting some of our wonderful members who have done exceptional work at our Volunteer Appreciation and Annual Meeting.

Make sure to sign up for our digital newsletter, E-Walker, and check nynjtc.org throughout the summer for updates about these events.

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STEPHANIE HINDERER DESIGNER

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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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. It is a federation of more than 100 outdoor groups and 10,000 individuals.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Working to Improve Your Online Trail Experience

The last time the Trail Conference overhauled its website in 2008, a key goal was to make it easier for people to quickly get the information they needed to plan a great experience outdoors. The result was the comprehensive Find a Hike and Find a Park pages which, along with the rest of the website, attracted over 1 million unique visitors in 2015.

If you were one of the many who visited our website last year, you may have noticed the need for another update. We've noticed, too, and I'm



very excited that we are working on a complete redesign of nynjtc.org. The key goal is a clean, mobile-friendly design packed with new features for trail users and volunteers alike. You can find a preview of the exciting things to come on our homepage.

The most visible change at the Trail Conference recently has been the renovation of the

historic Darlington Schoolhouse as our new headquarters. And just like the Schoolhouse, our website serves as our digital headquarters, allowing us to help many more people find out about the wealth of public lands in greater metropolitan NYC. Not only do we want to help them get outside, we also use our website to teach people about responsible recreation (safety, leaving no trace, environmental protection, etc.) and how to be a good steward of the natural resources we so enjoy.

Developing a website of this complexity requires an excellent team and, fortunately, we have a super Technology Committee comprised of volunteers and staff working with an innovative online technology



Whether trail user or volunteer, our new website is going to make your time outdoors even better.

Goodell



company. We are all so lucky to have such a competent and dedicated team working on a website that has become a trusted public institution.

You can take a peek at where we are going with this new website via a link on our homepage, nynjtc.org. This is a worthy, but expensive, endeavor, and we are asking our website users like you to help this

summer. Those that can help will be given insider updates on the progress we're making toward creating a website that is your go-to source for information on regional trails.

Launching our new digital headquarters is just one of the many changes we are making to better serve our members and better support our volunteers. Changes at the Trail Conference are both inspired by our members and supported by them. Many thanks, and happy hiking!

Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

Discovering the Long Path Exhibit, Kickstarter Campaign Aim to Raise Awareness of the Trail

Photographer Steve Aaron and Long Path Race Series cofounder Ken Posner are partnering to create an interpretive photo exhibit that tells the story of New York's great long-distance hiking trail, the 357-mile Long Path. The exhibit, titled *Discovering the Long Path: Images of New York's Greatest Trail*, will include a selection of Aaron's landscape photos together with maps and notes that explain the significance of each picture. Their goal is to spread the word about this trail and encourage more people to experience it.

To fund the cost of producing the exhibit, Aaron and Posner will conduct a Kickstarter campaign running July 5 through July 31. The campaign will offer people a chance to purchase some of



STEVE AARON

Aaron's images in either digital or framed formats, or arrange a personal photo shoot with him on a favorite section of the Long Path. Other rewards in the campaign will be Long Path-blazed T-shirts, hats, and

fleece vests.

The exhibit will open Saturday, Sept. 10, at Trail Conference Headquarters and run through Friday, Jan. 13, 2017. Find out more at bit.ly/tc-dlp.

Ken Posner



LINDSAY POST

Second Dry Stone Wall Workshop to Be Held this Fall

On April 15, 16, and 17, the Trail Conference and The Stone Trust partnered to hold the first of two dry stone wall workshops. The purpose of this workshop was to begin construction of a dry stone wall at the Darlington Schoolhouse, headquarters of the Trail Conference.

Stone for the wall was donated by Ramapo College of New Jersey and Legacy Stoneworks, Inc. / The Hillburn Granite Company, Inc. Over 30 attendees, under the tutelage of instructors from The Stone Trust, built over 300 square feet of wall in three days.

The remaining portion of the wall will be built during a second workshop to be held this fall, creating a fitting addition to this historic property. Homeowners, contractors, and dry stone wall enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to participate. Dates will be announced soon; for updates, check nynjtc.org, like us on Facebook, and sign up for our e-newsletter at nynjtc.org/subscribe.

Kevin Simpson

Trail Conference Receives Grants from Patagonia and L.L. Bean

Thanks to the generosity of our corporate sponsors for helping to further the Trail Conference mission.

Patagonia

With help from Ramsey Outdoor, the Trail Conference has received an environmental grant of \$2,645 from Patagonia, Inc. to fund its trail stewardship work and leadership of the Ramapo Earth Crew. The Ramapo Earth Crew—a partnership between the Trail Conference and the Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization (MEVO)—is a high-energy group of trained volunteers and volunteer interns who tackle

challenging trail improvement projects throughout northern New Jersey.

L.L. Bean

The Trail Conference will work on three projects on the Appalachian Trail in New York: replacing deteriorated puncheon in Garrison, repairing and replacing rotted puncheon in Kloiber Field in Monroe, and rebuilding the roof of the Ralph's Peak Hikers' Cabin in Hopewell Junction. These projects have been made possible by grants of \$980, \$2,872, and \$1,000, respectively, from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy through funding from L.L.Bean.

News in Brief



Trail Conference Headquarters Open Saturdays Through November

We've extended our hours at Trail Conference Headquar-

ters! Our Trail Store is now open every Saturday through November from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Stop by on your way to Ramapo Reservation to pick up a trail map, guidebook, or even bug spray. Or just stop by to say hello and check out our beautifully renovated new offices!

Help Us Improve Your Trail Experience

Calling all trail users! The Trail Conference wants to know what you think are the most important issues and projects we should be working on. Please visit www.nynjtrailsurvey.com by July 15 to take a short survey and share your opinion.



In Memoriam

Robert A. Duffy, age 56 of Mahwah, N.J., passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 9. Born in Ridgewood, N.J., he lived in Waldwick before moving to Mahwah in 1989. Robert, a Trail Conference member, was a regional brokerage consultant for Fidelity Investments, where he worked for the last 17 years.

Protecting Our Trails Through Stewardship

The Trail Conference has built its reputation on the hard work and passion of volunteers developing, building, and maintaining trails. But as more people seek outdoor recreation, it's important to remember that creating and clearing trails isn't enough.

The Trail Conference mission includes "protecting hiking trail lands through support and advocacy" and "educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment." In other words, it is part of our mandate to preserve public lands through conservation, activism, and stewardship.

On-the-ground stewardship can be seen in the work of our Invasives Strike Force (ISF). Protecting our trails in-

volves caring for the biodiversity of our natural areas; ISF aims to better understand the spread of invasive species—such as the southern pine beetle—in forested parklands (see below right). As the lead organization of the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), the Trail Conference is at the forefront in the battle against invasives.

We're also leaders in providing information on trail activities. As a trusted source of trail info, we are in a unique position to educate people about the safe and respectful use of our beloved open space. In the stories below and to the right, find out how we're expanding our Trail and Summit Steward Program to in-

teract with and educate more park visitors. We're upgrading our website to provide easier-to-find info on preparing for your next trail adventure—including encouraging people to seek out alternatives to the most popular hikes in our region to help mitigate overuse. And we're striving to keep our members and friends informed about all issues threatening your trail experience.

We're working hard to ensure that every person who engages with the Trail Conference—on- and off-trail—is inspired to become a responsible and informed protector of the outdoors. We're getting there, thanks to the good deeds of those who are stewards of the trails.



The Invasives Strike Force protects our parks by monitoring and removing invasive species.

KAATERSKILL FALLS

Kaaterskill Falls is one of the most popular destinations in the Catskills. It's also one of the most dangerous, due to visitors ignoring posted warnings to hike only on marked trails. It's understandably tempting to get a closer look at this magnificent, two-tiered waterfall. But the unmarked footpath that weaves to its top isn't just hazardously steep and eroded—it's deadly. In 2014, two women lost their lives in separate incidents when they slipped and fell from areas of the falls in which they never should have been.

These accidents prompted the DEC, which oversees public lands for recreation in the Catskills, to take action to prevent further incidents, including the construction of a new trail and other safety improvements. The new trail leading to the observation platform at Laurel House Road is open to the public but the rest of the area remains closed until further notice. Find updates at bit.ly/tc-kfa.

If you prefer your waterfall views sans the huge crowds, we like this impressive alternative:
▶ Platte Clove Preserve
 Located at the head of Platte Clove, there is plenty of parking at the parking lot



AMBER RAY

Plattekill Falls is a beautiful, 70-foot cascade in Platte Clove Preserve, roughly a 25-minute drive from Kaaterskill Falls.

on Steenburgh Road. There's a brief road walk and then a short, easy hike down to a Plattekill Falls, a beautiful, 70-foot waterfall. Details: bit.ly/tc-pc-om

Amber Ray

Some of the best experiences take place off the beaten path—including less-traveled trails. Let us know if you love these hike suggestions. Or, find your own adventure at hikes.nynjtc.org.

The Best Trails to Beat the Weekend Crowds

If you're more into seeking solitude than dodging selfie sticks while hiking, we've got you covered. The most popular trails and outdoor destinations in our region all have alternatives that are equally spectacular—and we're sharing the details on these gems.

Bonus: When you opt for an alternative hike, you're part of the solution to help alleviate the overuse of popular trails.

BREAKNECK RIDGE

Breakneck Ridge, just north of Cold Spring, N.Y., is often called the most popular day hike in the country, and for good reason—the much-used trailhead is easily accessible via rail from Manhattan, allowing millions access to an outdoor adventure in just over an hour. Sometimes, particularly on good-weather weekends, the crowded trains, jam-packed parking lots, and lines of people waiting to access the trail actually make it feel like half the population of the city has descended on the mountain.

To help provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors, the Trail Conference's Trail Stewards are stationed at Breakneck Ridge every Saturday, Sunday, and holiday Monday from

Memorial Day Weekend into November. They assist visitors with maps, water, trail condition updates, and other tips—like alternative hikes.

Here are a few of our Stewards' favorite hikes to avoid the hustle and bustle at Breakneck:

▶ **Fishkill Ridge Conservation Area from Pocket Road:** A pleasant, yet sometimes steep trail along a pretty creek to multi-tiered waterfalls leads to Fishkill Ridge as it offers multiple dramatic views of the Hudson Valley and beyond. Details: bit.ly/tc-frca

▶ **Catfish Loop Trail:** This loop hike traverses a remote area of the park, reaching an interesting rock formation with broad, west-facing views, and passing many old stone walls. Details: bit.ly/tc-clt

RAMAPO VALLEY COUNTY RESERVATION

This lovely—and very heavily used—park is the go-to spot for Bergen County residents to walk, hike, and run. Isn't it time to claim a new favorite trail?

▶ **Norvin Green State Forest:** With more than 5,000 acres, Norvin Green has one of the largest concentrations of trails in New Jersey. The northern end of the park is your best bet to avoid crowds; park off Crescent Drive or Burnt Meadow Road for a beautiful walk. (Note: Burnt Meadow Road is impassable in the middle, so approach from West Brook Road to the south.) Details: bit.ly/tc-ngsf

▶ **Sterling Forest State Park:** Instead of Scarlet Oak Pond in the Reservation, go north and try the Sterling Lake Loop Trail (4.2 miles, blue) circling Sterling Lake. It follows woods roads for most of its route. Details: bit.ly/tc-sfsp



Trail and Summit Steward Program Expands with Support from REI



JOSH HOWARD
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the allure of unplugging from technology and reconnecting with nature draws more people outdoors, the need to protect our natural places has become paramount. With a generous \$30,000 grant from REI, the Trail Conference's Trail and Summit Steward program is expanding in 2016 to educate and assist the public in the safe, enjoyable, and responsible use of hiking trails.

Visitors to Breakneck Ridge, the Catskills, and for the first time, Bear Mountain State Park, will encounter Trail Conference Stewards providing helpful outreach and information about park regulations, hiker safety, preparedness, and other best practices. In addition to readying hikers for their journeys, stewards also help discourage and mitigate misuse of trails and the surrounding lands through their education and public relations work. For more information on our Steward program, visit bit.ly/tc-tss.



Trail Conference Summit Stewards will patrol five areas in the Catskills this season.

WHERE YOU'LL FIND TRAIL CONFERENCE STEWARDS THIS SEASON

CATSKILLS

Since 2015, Trail Conference Summit Stewards have patrolled the summit areas of Giant Ledge/Panther Mountain, Slide, Wittenberg, and Cornell mountains. Thanks to REI, the Trail Conference will add a Steward at Platte Clove Preserve. Additional support for the Steward program in the Catskills has been provided by the Catskill 3500 Club, Catskill Center, Catskill Mountain Club, Hunter Foundation, Deer Mountain Inn, The Roxbury Motel, Rock and Snow, Adirondack Mountain Club, and Kenco Work and Play Outfitters.

BREAKNECK RIDGE

The Trail Conference Trail Steward program originated on Breakneck Ridge in 2013. With the support of REI, Trail Conference Stewards will be available for an additional 500 hours to help hikers at Breakneck. The Stewards will be able to stay longer during the weekends, and the program will be extended into November. Additional support for the Steward program on Breakneck has been provided by Mountain Tops, Putnam County Tourism, and Dutchess County Tourism.

BEAR MOUNTAIN

The pilot Trail Steward season at Bear Mountain, set to launch in August, will target novice hikers. Trail Conference Stewards will be stationed at the historic Spider Hill House adjacent to Bear Mountain Inn. This gateway to the backcountry is where most visitors begin their hikes, especially the popular yet strenuous 4-mile ascent to Perkins Memorial Tower. Bilingual stewards will hand out maps, info on alternative hike options, and *Ruta Apalacha*, a Spanish-language brochure that gives an overview of the A.T. and Bear Mountain, to engage visitors and promote the safe, responsible use of trails.

Trails Advocacy

Updates on Current Issues Affecting Trails

PILGRIM PIPELINE

The Pilgrim Pipeline would directly and negatively impact several trails. That is why the Trail Conference is proud to be a founding member of the Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline. In Bergen and Passaic counties in New Jersey, the pipeline and access roads would intersect 12 trails maintained by the Trail Conference, with the clear-cutting of forest and construction of the pipeline permanently altering these footpaths. In New York, three popular long-distance trails would be impacted: the Appalachian Trail, the Long Path, and the Highlands Trail.

Opposition to the Pilgrim Pipeline is strong. Numerous municipalities and governing bodies in New York and New Jersey have passed resolutions against it. However, this battle is far from over. Pilgrim has filed for permits in New York State and is set to file for permits in New Jersey.

You can help stop this unnecessary and dangerous project by signing petitions, contacting your elected officials, and signing up to receive action alerts. Visit www.stoppilgrimpipeline.com for more details.

PRESERVE NJ ACT

Dismissing the will of New Jersey voters, Gov. Chris Christie issued a conditional veto of the Preserve NJ Act, legislation critical to open space protection in the state, in May.

Voters overwhelmingly approved a ballot measure to provide sustainable funding for open space preservation efforts in November 2014, but a plan to implement these funds for open space, farmland, and historic preservation programs is required. The State Legislature has acted twice to approve implementing legislation to get preservation efforts moving, but Christie put a halt to this progress with his conditional veto. His changes allow for the diversion of these important funds, leaving less land—and trails—protected for our children and grandchildren.

Tell your legislators to stand up and support open space by voting to override the veto! Please use this link, provided by our friends at New Jersey Audubon, to send a letter to your elected officials today: bit.ly/tc-pnja.

Learn more about the issues affecting our trails at bit.ly/TC-advocacy.

BLUE HOLE

Google "Blue Hole" and you'll find seemingly endless websites deeming this Catskills hotspot one of the top swimming holes in the country. In reality, this "pristine" swimming area located on Rondout Creek in the Sundown Wild Forest has suffered from misuse by an ever-increasing number of visitors. It's gotten so bad, in fact, that on May 25 the DEC issued emergency regulations to protect the Blue Hole. (The new regulations can be

found at on.ny.gov/24RzhnS.) Our in-the-know volunteers suggest these spots instead.

▶ **North Lake Beach:** Located in the North and South Lake State Campground, the North Lake Beach offers a swimming area surrounded by mountains. Details: on.ny.gov/1UA4Pt3

▶ **Colgate Lake:** Enjoy swimming and picnicking areas, along with paddling opportunities if you bring a boat. Details: on.ny.gov/1UA3UJ8

REEVES MEADOW, HARRIMAN STATE PARK

The allure is obvious—from the Reeves Meadow Visitor Center, you can access some of the most popular trails in the park. But on nice days, particularly on the weekend, you won't find a legal parking spot here after 9 a.m. Despite all of those other cars you see on Seven Lakes Drive, parking along the road is illegal.

If you'd rather spend more time on the trails than figuring out where you're going to park the car, head a little farther north and explore these options:

▶ **Silvermine Lake Loop:** From Silvermine Lake to the William Brien Memorial Shelter, this hike originating from the lesser-used Silvermine Picnic Area is a great way to explore more of what Harriman State Park offers. Details: bit.ly/tc-sll

▶ **Doris Duke Trail Loop:** The new, 4-mile Doris Duke Trail Loop at Sterling Forest State Park encompasses flats and hills, ridgetop views, enormous erratics and plentiful wildlife viewing opportunities through the Doris Duke Wildlife Sanctuary. It's perfect for a scenic hike or run. Details: bit.ly/tc-ddtl

POCHUCK BOARDWALK

Hiking this 1.5-mile boardwalk section of the Appalachian Trail feels more like a community park experience than one you'd find on a rugged trail—dog walkers, joggers, and families enjoying a stroll are all out in force on the weekends. Parking at the Pochuck Boardwalk is very limited and fills up early; police will ticket vehicles parked illegally.

Avoid the hassle and try these trails instead:

▶ **Duck Pond Multi-Use Trail:** This 0.6-mile, paved path provides a level surface for walking, biking, roller blading, and skateboarding, and is accessible for persons with disabilities. This trail in Swartswood State Park meanders through a forested area along Duck Pond. Wayside exhibits along the trail provide information on the unique natural features in the area. Details: bit.ly/tc-ssp

▶ **Laurel Pond and Wawayanda Furnace from Cherry Ridge Road:** The Laurel Pond/Wawayanda Furnace hike is much longer than a walk along Pochuck—this route is a 6.7-mile circuit—but it includes a nice hike over an 800-foot-long boardwalk that crosses Cedar Swamp. It's well worth the exercise. Details: bit.ly/tc-lp-wf



MATT SIMONELLI

Rob Cole of the DEC displays a southern pine beetle trap.

Southern Pine Beetle a Threat to Local Trees

In May and June, Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) volunteers partnered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Forest Health to monitor the southern pine beetle throughout Orange and Ulster counties. This invasive bark beetle was most likely blown north by Hurricane Sandy in 2014 and has been attacking local conifers ever since. The beetles were caught in traps in Minnewaska State Park Preserve and Bear Mountain State Park last year, but no infested trees were found in those areas. Volunteers recruited by the Trail Conference received training from the DEC on May 6 and proceeded to check traps throughout several parks.

see BEETLE, page 11



Doris Duke Trail Loop

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

A quarterly look at some of what we have been doing to improve public access to nature.

West Jersey Crew Bridge Improves Blue Mountain Loop

The West Jersey Trail Crew completed the replacement of a large bridge on the newly developed Blue Mountain Loop Trail in Stokes State Forest on April 16, 23, and 30.

The bridge crosses the stream flowing from Lake Wapalanne at the New Jersey State School of Conservation, replacing a 36-foot-long, flat-topped log that was narrow and tilted. The new, 56-foot crossing includes a 28-foot open span that is well above the highest water ever known to be in the channel. The additional length includes continuations of the deck transitioning to ground level.

All materials for the bridge were supplied by the park as part of their grant to complete the Blue Mountain Loop Trail project. (See page 12 for more on the creation of this trail, and page 11 for information on the new Kittatinny Trails map set cov-

ering this park.) Everything was delivered to the nearest road access and transported into the site by the crew. As always, we were very well supported by the park personnel, notably Steve Marino, Stokes' Maintenance Supervisor, and his staff.

The bridge's piers were constructed as timber cribs and filled with a couple tons of smaller rocks. While two teams began building the matching piers, the rest of the crew began to collect the

rocks needed to fill them. A number of larger rocks were also gathered to "armor" the footings of the piers so they would not be undercut in the event of a major flood.

The main beams were then assembled and laminated together and fastened on the tops of the piers. The uprights for the railings were attached, and the ramps at each end were set in place onto rock footings. The decking was then cut and screwed down. The final car-



HOWIE LIEBMANN



MONICA AND DAVID DAY

entry was the installation of the hand rails and curbing.

At the north end of the bridge the trail continues steeply up a dirt embankment, necessitating stone steps for the tread to survive. So while the railings and curbs were being added to the bridge, Co-Chief Monica Day led a team in stair construction. Several large boulders were split into steps and flown to the worksite using the high line. Set in place, they completed the climb out of the stream's valley.

After 2 1/2 days of work, the crew stood on the finished bridge for the victory picture! [Monica & David Day](#)

▶ The West Jersey Crew welcomes everyone who is interested in trail work. We work Saturdays throughout the spring and fall seasons; you'll find our schedule on the Trail Conference website at bit.ly/tc-wjtc. Newcomers are welcome on almost all trips; we provide training and tools. You'll get dirty, tired, and sweaty, but you'll have a great time, with some really great folks, making a difference on our trails.

ATC Mid-Atlantic Volunteer of the Year:

Chris Reyling



Long Distance Trails Crew Chief Chris Reyling has been honored by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as Mid-Atlantic Volunteer of the Year.

Congratulations to Long Distance Trails Crew Chief Chris Reyling, who was named Appalachian Trail Conservancy Mid-Atlantic Volunteer of the Year!

Long Distance Trails Crew (LDTC) members submitted the nomination of their crew chief to the ATC in January. Chris, along with Potomac Appalachian Trail Club volunteer John Hendrick, was officially recognized by the ATC Mid-Atlantic region as Volunteer of the Year on March 12. The following morning, Crew Leader Bob Fuller made the happy announcement to core LDTC members and friends of the crew during a Wilderness First Aid training session at Trail Conference Headquarters.

Over the past 13 years, Chris has given more than 2,300 hours to work on the Appalachian Trail. His initial involvement began in 2002, as maintainer of the "first" A.T. section from Route 17 to the Lemon Squeezer. In 2011, Chris organized, recruited, and trained the first Long Distance Trails Crew, an all-vol-

unteer, technical trail crew. As LDTC Crew Chief, Chris supervises the crew and actively participates, from inception to completion, in every work project on the A.T. in Orange and Rockland counties.

From March to December, on biweekly work trips, the crew relocates and rehabilitates trails, including constructing rock steps, crib walls, bridges and other elements, as required, with a focus on designing and building a sustainable and aesthetically pleasing trail. In addition to the A.T., the crew also works on the Long Path and the Highlands Trail. In the words of a crew member, "Chris is a patient and supportive educator, providing on-the-job training from basic safety to technical work and all that is in-between. I have learned that planning and building a trail is much more than just creating a path for hikers."

Read more about the work of this inspiring leader on our blog: bit.ly/tc-cr-atc.

[Members of the Long Distance Trails Crew](#)



Kiosks in the Works in Harriman Trail Towns

New kiosks are in the works for Suffern and Tuxedo, linking these towns on the western border of Harriman State Park more directly with the trailheads at their doorstep.

In Suffern, one kiosk will be installed along Route 59 at the southernmost trailhead of the 23.5-mile Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail. Michael Simon of Boy Scout Troop 21 will be constructing the kiosk as part of his Eagle Scout project. The kiosk will feature a map of southern Harriman trails, hiker safety tips, and Leave No

Trace information, as well as a map of Suffern town center highlighting dining and shopping opportunities. Another kiosk is planned for the Suffern train station.

The Better Tuxedo group is currently fundraising for a similar kiosk positioned at the Tuxedo railway station. The kiosk will highlight the route to the Ramapo-Dunderberg and Kakiat trailhead, plus maps and hiker info. As with the Suffern kiosk, amenities will be highlighted to benefit both tourists and local businesses. [Sona Mason](#)

Sawyers Boost Their Skills

A sawyer training and recertification course, arranged by the Trail Conference's Sawyer Committee, was held May 7-8. This two-day training, featuring classroom and outdoor instruction at the New Jersey School of Conservation at Stokes State Forest, was intended to help build and solidify the organization's cadre of certified sawyers who clear blow downs throughout the region.

Training was provided for eight new recruits, three Class A apprentice sawyers, and three Class B intermediate sawyers receiving recertification. Candidates who are successful in meeting the requirements are awarded Class A status; they are then qualified to remove blow downs only when accompanied by a Class B sawyer.

Class B sawyers are al-



BOB JONAS

Sawyers Tom Amisson, Steve Weissman, and instructor Peter Jensen, from left, attended a two-day chainsaw workshop.

lowed to work when accompanied by a helper or swamper. A swamper is a sawyer assistant who is trained in safe operating procedures, and is advised to be trained in administering first aid. We encourage all of our B sawyers to bring one or two A sawyers to the jobsite with them, enabling the apprentices to increase their skills and safety procedures.

The recertification process is required every three years to both improve and hone

the skills already learned, as well as to learn the latest techniques in operating and maintaining chainsaws that are used in the process of trail clearing.

Peter Jensen and Jack Shuart were the US Forest Service and Appalachian Trail Conservancy Class C certified instructors for the course, ably assisted by the Trail Conference's Class B sawyer assistants, David Day and Joel Pinsker.

Bob Jonas

Help Build Lean-tos in the Catskills

Ever wonder what it takes to build a lean-to? The Trail Conference, with the cooperation of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), is building two lean-tos on the grounds of the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center in Mt. Tremper, N.Y., and everyone is invited to participate.

Construction commences June 18, and will continue almost every Saturday



PETER SENTERMAN

(weather permitting) throughout the summer. Once the structures are completed, they will be disassembled and packaged into bundles for delivery via helicopter to their final sites. Site one will be in the vicinity of the old German Hollow Lean-to near Arkville. This lean-to was crushed by three large ash trees several years ago. The new lean-to will be close to the Dry Brook Trail.

The second lean-to will replace the failing Batavia Kill Lean-to, located just off the Escarpment Trail between Blackhead Mountain and Acra High Point. The current lean-to was built in the 1960s in a wet location; the bottom logs have rotted, the structure is leaning, and the floor has been destroyed by porcupines.

We're looking for volunteers to assist with the build phase and to help clear the sites, gather stones for a foundation, and reassemble the structures. Check bit.ly/tc-cltb for details.

Peter Senterman

Giving Back to Trails



CONTRIBUTED



MONIQUE QUIGLEY



BRYAN CONNELLY



AMBER RAY; CIRCLE: ROSALIND DICKINSON



DENNIS PERCHER



ALISON MANGES

1 Highlands Trail Supervisor Adam Rosenberg and coworkers from EMC Corporation assisted Northeast Jersey Trail Chair Chris Connolly and Trail Supervisor Karl Soehnlein with clearing the Carpenter's and Dyckman Hill trails in the N.J. Palisades. They removed more than a decade of accumulated leaf litter and soil.

2 The Jolly Rovers Trail Crew awarded the Trail Conference a Rover Service Award, providing manpower, expertise, and resources to complete work on the Undercliff Trail in Hudson Highlands State Park May 20-22. The crew, plus the Trail Conference's East Hudson Trail Chair Andrew Seirup and Field Manager Erik Mickelson, installed 18 steps and contributed approximately 600 hours to the project.

3 Three teams of ARC of Rockland volunteers regularly visit Trail Conference Headquarters to help with cleaning, light gardening, mailings, and map assembly. A number of our ARC friends stopped by the *Trails for People* grand opening at Bear Mountain on Earth Day to show their support.

4 At our National Trails Day event with REI at Bear Mountain on June 4, we welcomed 48 volunteers who planted 1,000 herbaceous native plants

along the Appalachian Trail. In addition, 2,570 invasive plants were pulled or treated over a 2.7-acre area.

5 A new, 0.5-mile nature trail at the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center opened on National Trails Day, June 4. The trail began taking shape more than three years ago, with the Trail Conference, Catskill Center, and NYS DEC staff helping to lay out and design the trail over what could graciously be described as difficult terrain. Read more about the new trail at bit.ly/tc-cic-to.

6 On May 1, volunteers from the South Mountain Conservancy in Essex County, N.J., worked to continue construction on a vital connector of the Lenape Trail, linking the trail segment in South Mountain to the larger portion running through the county. Despite the wet weather, the group continued to clear corridor, establish tread, and construct timber bog bridging across muddy spots.

7 The volunteer maintainers of Sterling Forest State Park gathered April 30 at the visitor center for updates from Supervisor Rich Jobsky, a lecture on invasive species from Director of Land Stewardship Linda Rohleder, and camaraderie.

Vital Lands Preserved in Bergen and Orange Counties

The Trail Conference was instrumental in the recent purchase and protection of two separate parcels of crucial, privately owned land adjacent to parks and trails in Bergen and Orange counties.

BERGEN COUNTY

One of the largest remaining parcels of privately owned land in Bergen County will now be owned and managed by The Land Conservancy of New Jersey as the new Ramapo Mountain Preserve. This 46-acre, forested property is adjacent to the Ramapo County Reservation and is part of a mosaic of 12,000 acres of publicly owned wild lands in Mahwah, Oakland, Ringwood, Pompton Lakes, and Wanaque. The new Preserve provides habitat for rare and endangered species and features beautiful views of the New York City skyline.

The Trail Conference will work closely with The Land

Conservancy to develop a parking area and hiking trail that will provide visitors the opportunity to connect to a vast network of trails in New Jersey and may one day connect over the border to Harri-man State Park in New York. Read more at bit.ly/tc-rmp16.

ORANGE COUNTY

An 11-acre tract of forest in the Town of Monroe has been preserved as a result of a purchase by the Trail Conference and Orange County Land Trust. The acquisition protecting vital lands within the Appalachian Trail buffer area was finalized on May 3.

The property borders Sterling Forest State Park and is located in the Greater Sterling Forest Area. According to the Orange County Open Space Plan 2004, the land is situated in a Regionally Important Forest Area known for biodiversity.

Volunteers JoAnn and Paul Dolan assisted with the acquisition and offered special thanks to the Dykstra family for their cooperation. The Dykstra family was also the owner of an adjacent tract sold to the National Parks Service for the A.T. in 1979. JoAnn is a former executive director of the Trail Conference and was deeply involved in the successful partnership that preserved Sterling Forest. Read more at bit.ly/tc-boclp.



The two new trails that connect Hudson Highlands Nature Museum to Black Rock Forest Consortium lands offer spectacular views.

New Trails Connect Hudson Highlands Nature Museum with Black Rock Forest



SONA MASON
WEST HUDSON
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Three years in the making, a new trail connecting the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum (HHNM) in Cornwall, N.Y., and adjacent Black Rock Forest Consortium (BRFC) lands opened on April 30.

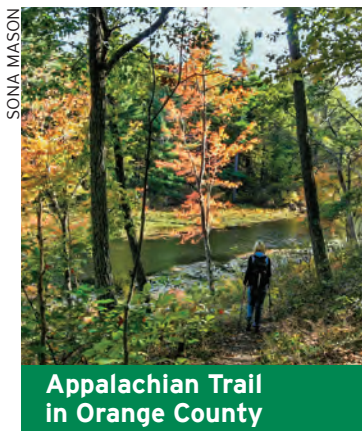
The Trail Conference was consulted about possible routes, staged a Trail University workshop on trail layout and design, and flagged a route, mostly on Black Rock Forest land.

Following a Trail U workshop on sidehilling, volunteers Bob McCormick, George Muser, and Andrew Jacobs built the trail over two years. They were assisted by many enthusiastic volunteers.

In total, two trails were constructed. The 1.05-mile McKeon Loop Trail (blazed white) begins on HHNM property and travels up and then down the northern flank of Sackett Ridge, offering three views of the Hudson River Valley out to the Shawangunks and the Catskills. The H. Peter Stern Trail (blazed red) continues along the Sackett Ridge another 0.8 miles. It features two more viewpoints and joins the Sackett Trail on Mine Hill. The trails are accessible from Black Rock Forest's Mine Hill Road trailhead via the Sackett Trail, and from the main parking lot of the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum's Outdoor Discovery Center off of Angola Road in Cornwall. The views alone are worth the climb.

Black Rock, Schunne-munk Forests Recently Named Important Bird Area

On June 4, Black Rock Forest Consortium and Audubon New York announced the designation of Black Rock and Schunne-munk forests as part of an expanded, existing Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA). Audubon's Important Bird Area program is an international bird conservation initiative with the goal of identifying the most important places for birds and conserving them.



Appalachian Trail in Orange County

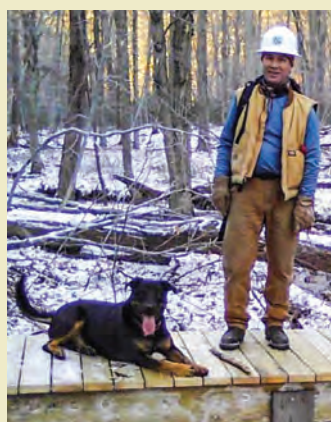
PEOPLE FOR TRAILS

ERIK GARNJOST

West Nyack, N.Y.

As a crew leader on the Long Distance Trails Crew (LDTC), Erik Garnjost is involved in the entire trail-building process—from the initial scouting of a site to guiding the crew through project completion. “The crew looks to Erik for both technical and aesthetic guidance on everything from cribwall to bridges,” says Bob Fuller, his fellow crew leader.

Erik credits his Rottweiler Dillon—now officially known as the “crew dog”—with getting him involved with the Trail Conference in 2012; Erik began his trail career as a maintainer in Blauvelt State Park. “I walked Dillon a lot and was concerned about the condition of the trails, so I contacted the park manager, who put me in touch with Long Path Chair Jakob Franke,”



he says. Erik adopted two side trails off the Long Path and accepted an invitation to join the Long Distance Trails Crew. “The LDTC is an eclectic group with great opinions and passions, which makes working with them an extremely positive experience,” Erik says.

Erik is an avid hiker, outdoorsman, cross-country

ski racer, and downhill ski instructor. Originally from Duxbury, Mass., he is an artist both on and off the trail. His interest in painting watercolors, custom wood-working, and trail work arises from his experiences in the beautiful places he has lived and worked, including Colorado, Arizona, and Utah.

Life in Colorado included raising a daughter on his own until she was 11; Britton, now in her 30s, is an art teacher in New Jersey. When Erik moved back to the East Coast 17 years ago with his wife Risa and son Sam, he found himself looking in new places for landscapes that want to be painted: “I’ve had to look at the scenery with a more scrutinizing eye to see the amazing in it. It’s like living here. In order to enjoy it, you have to get past the density of development to see the beauty that surrounds you.” Getting out in the woods with the Long Distance Trails Crew helps Erik find that beauty. [Andrea Minoff](#)

CONSERVATION CORPS SEASON PREVIEW

The Trail Conference Conservation Corps trains, enables, and empowers future conservation leaders by teaching sustainable trail building and stewardship techniques. Our Corps members engage and teach community volunteers on the responsible use and care of open space and address the needs of land managers.

This season, 19 Ameri-Corps members are leading five crews throughout the region. Everyone with an interest in trail building and stewardship is welcome to join these crews for a few hours or a full day—our Corps members will teach you everything you need to know about their projects. They’re in the field Thursdays through Mondays through early fall; visit bit.ly/tc-tco for details.

► **The Megalithic Trail Crew** is serving on a major relocation and restoration effort on the Bear Mountain section of the Appalachian

Trail known as the Upper East Face.

► **The Invasive Strike Force** serves throughout the region, mapping and eradicating invasive species.

► **The Palisades Crew** serves in Sterling Forest, building and rehabilitating trails to meet sustainable trail standards. This season, the crew is focusing on constructing the Redback/Eagle multi-use trail loop.

► **The Taconic Crew** serves in the Fahnestock, Hudson Highlands State Park, and Breakneck Ridge areas, in order to restore existing trails to meet sustainable trail standards. This season, the crew is focusing on the Undercliff and Wilkinson trails.

► **The Highlands Crew** assesses and addresses sustainability issues along the 100-mile Highlands Trail in New Jersey. [Ama Koenigshof](#)

ASK A TRAIL BUILDER

What safety preparations do I need to make before a work trip on the trail?



AMA KOENIGSHOF
Trail Builder and Educator

Whether you are an individual maintainer or part of a trail crew, avoid the worst and put safety first. Here are four easy steps to share with everyone in your group before you go out on the trail.

1. Know Your Insurance

a. As long as you are following Trail Conference

policies and park rules, all Trail Conference volunteers are covered by one or more insurance programs. (Exactly which programs depends on the region and park in which you are working.) Proper policies and rules include filing your trip reports and rosters and submitting them to your supervisors or chairs. All of the insurance programs require that you report an incident within 24 hours.

b. Some of the insurance policies require volunteers to fill out paperwork. The forms can be found on our website under Volunteer Resources.

c. To find out which insurance policy you are covered under, check your Volun-

teer Handbook or contact Volunteer Coordinator John Leigh: volunteers@nynjtc.org; 201.512.9348 x822.

2. Create an Emergency Response Plan

a. Know where the nearest medical facility is and how to get there.

b. Know where you have the best cell phone service at and on the way to your worksite.

c. Know how to describe where you are working to emergency services.

d. Know who to call if there is an incident (usually the park manager and Trail Conference Volunteer Coordinator John Leigh).

3. Hold a Tailgate Safety Meeting

a. Consider the hazards you may possibly encounter on

your work trip, whether they are environmental, flora/fauna-related, task-related, or even social.

b. Consider the mitigation to each hazard—for example, applying sunblock, having enough water, or wearing the proper personal protective equipment.

c. Everyone in your group should know the location of the first aid kit.

d. Make sure everyone knows the Emergency Response Plan.

4. Bring a First Aid Kit

a. Carry a well-stocked first aid kit applicable to the number of people in your group and the tasks you are completing.

b. Inventory your first aid kit before your work trip—old, water-damaged materials or a kit full of bandage wrappers can make an emergency even more stressful.



Holding a tailgate safety meeting is an important step in ensuring a successful work trip.

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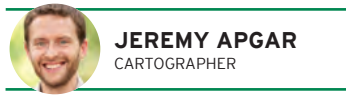
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Our thanks goes to the ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter as a donor to the 2015 Giving Tuesday campaign. We regret the omission in the Spring 2016 edition of *Trail Walker*.

Updated Kittatinny Map Set Includes Trail Mileage



JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

Featuring trail mileage numbers on the face of the map and a major change to the trail system in Stokes State Forest, the revised seventh edition of the Kittatinny Trails map set is a significant update over the previous edition. This four-map set, available this summer, includes more than 275 miles of marked trails within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, High Point State Park, Stokes State Forest, Worthington State Forest, and other nearby parklands.

The trail mileage numbers provide distances between trail junctions and significant trail features to make it easier to plan trips and navigate the trails safely. In Stokes State Forest, the new 17-mile Blue Mountain Loop Trail, as well as other changes affecting this trail system, are shown. (Read more about the Blue Mountain Loop Trail on pages 6-7 and 12.) Many additional corrections and changes, including relocations of the Appalachian Trail and changes to features



along the Delaware River, have also been made to make this edition of the Kittatinny Trails map set the most accurate we have ever published. At only \$13.95 (\$10.46 for Trail Conference members), this comprehensive map set is a must-have for exploring the vast parklands along the Kittatinny Ridge and adjacent section of the Delaware River.

Thank You!

► Special thanks to all the volunteers and park partners who helped with both of these map revisions!

How to Get Your New Map Sets

Both new map sets will be available in print format in vibrant color on waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek; shop online at nynjtc.org or pick up your copy at Trail Conference Headquarters. In addition, they will be available in digital format as map set bundles or individual maps for Apple and Android devices through the PDF Maps app. Learn more about our GPS-enhanced maps at nynjtc.org/pdfmaps.

New Harriman-Bear Mountain Map Set Features More Detailed Contours

Available this summer, the 17th edition of our best-selling map set, Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails, now includes a significant improvement to the topographic elevation contour lines. The two-map set, featuring more than 230 miles of marked trails throughout Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks and surrounding parklands, includes trail mileage numbers and a detailed inset of the Bear Mountain area.

The improved elevation contour lines utilize higher-resolution data than was previously available, and make it much easier to identify features like cliffs and steep trail areas. This revised edition also contains several trail relocations, including portions of the Appalachian Trail and the Long Path, and an extension of the Fawn Trail near West Mountain. Additional corrections and adjustments to the trails and map features make this 17th edition even more accurate than before. Pick up this essential resource for exploring the rich network of trails in Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks for only \$9.95 (\$7.46 for Trail Conference members).



New Shawangunk Trails Maps Now Available



Our 10th edition of the Shawangunk Trails map set arrived in late spring, bringing substantial improvements—including a new map showing the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT) along the ridge between Wurtsboro and Route 52. The map set in

print format is available in our online store (nynjtc.org) or through the PDF Maps app (learn more at nynjtc.org/pdfmaps).

A third edition of our free, downloadable map set covering all of the SRT has also been fully updated. These 8.5-inch x 11-inch PDFs show

parklands, parking areas, viewpoints, and other points of interest. They include recent trail additions and changes in places including Shawangunk Ridge State Forest and Huckleberry Ridge State Forest. Downloads are available at bit.ly/tc-srt-dl or through the PDF Maps app.

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BEETLE, from page 5

The adult southern pine beetle will bore into a tree's bark and lay eggs in the cambium tissue, cutting off the tree's nutrient flow and killing it in about 1 to 4 months. These small beetles

are just 2 to 4 millimeters in length, but will overwhelm a tree with 20,000 to 30,000 resident beetles. Southern pine beetles prefer pitch, scotch, and red pine. Pitch pines communities are rare in New York, so protecting these habitats is critical.

Conifers infested with

southern pine beetles will have small pitch tubes or rusty red "popcorns" of resin as the tree tries to push out the beetles' attempts to bore into the bark. Infested trees' needles will turn copper, then brown and fall off.

Monitoring of the southern pine beetle will inform

the DEC of the areas where this invasive beetle is present and will help to support eradication efforts. You can report suspect trees to foresthealth@dec.ny.gov; please include photos with an object to show scale, if possible. Read more at on.ny.gov/1S2Mlzx. [Heather Darley](#)

Charitable Giving Through Life Insurance

In order to maintain trails for the enjoyment of current hikers and future generations to come, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference must secure funding. There are a couple ways that you, as a member, can help by including the Trail Conference in your legacy planning.

One way is to simply name the Trail Conference as one of the beneficiaries on your existing life insurance policy so that the organization will receive a percentage of the death benefit proceeds.

Another way is to make

charitable donations with tax deductible dollars to fund life insurance premiums. Income tax deductions are possible for a gift of life insurance to a charity, if the charity is a beneficiary and owner of the policy, and also in certain trust arrangements.

If a contribution of cash is made directly to the charity as a gift, and the charity uses it to pay your life insurance premiums or the premium is paid directly to the insurance carrier, then the amount donated can be fully deducted up to 50 percent of the do-

nor's adjusted gross income.

Before engaging in one of these types of charitable giving techniques, please consult with your financial advisor and an estate planning attorney to determine if these are suitable planning strategies for your specific situation.

For additional information on charitable giving options, contact Financial Advisor James Cantela: jim.cantela@nm.com, 201.639.0642; or Wealth Management Advisor Paul F. Hoerrner Jr., CFP: paul.hoerrner@nm.com, 201.639.0636.

YOUR PLANNED GIFT TO THE TRAIL CONFERENCE WILL:

- Help us protect trails and trail lands for future generations.
- Preserve people's connection to the natural world.
- Create a personal sense of responsibility for our wild places.

Please consider including the Trail Conference in your will or as a beneficiary in an investment account or insurance policy today.

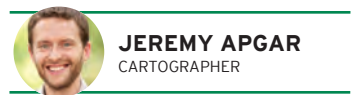
You can make a bequest by sharing the following sample language with your attorney:

I bequeath to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, with principal offices located at 600 Ramapo Valley Rd, Mahwah, NJ 07430, the sum of \$_____ (or _____%) for its general unrestricted environmental conservation purposes.

TO LEARN MORE AND GET MATERIALS, CONTACT:

Don Weise, Development Director
dweise@nynjtc.org | 201.512.9348 x813

New 17-Mile Trail Offers Loop Hike Options in Stokes



JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

Although Stokes State Forest features nearly 50 miles of marked trails, including more than 10 miles of the Appalachian Trail, many of these paths are lightly used. With the creation of the new Blue Mountain Loop Trail last summer, visitors are encouraged to explore more of what the park has to offer. This new trail, which incorporates both preexisting and newly built trails, is a grand, 17-mile loop through the northern section of Stokes. It also provides at least five new loop hike options that range from 6 to 12 miles.

Featured in the Trail Conference's revised Kittatinny Trails map set due to arrive this summer, the Blue Mountain Loop Trail is blazed with a blue dot on white. (Read more about the new Kittatinny maps on page 11.) Old blazes from previous trail alignments remain in many areas during



Details

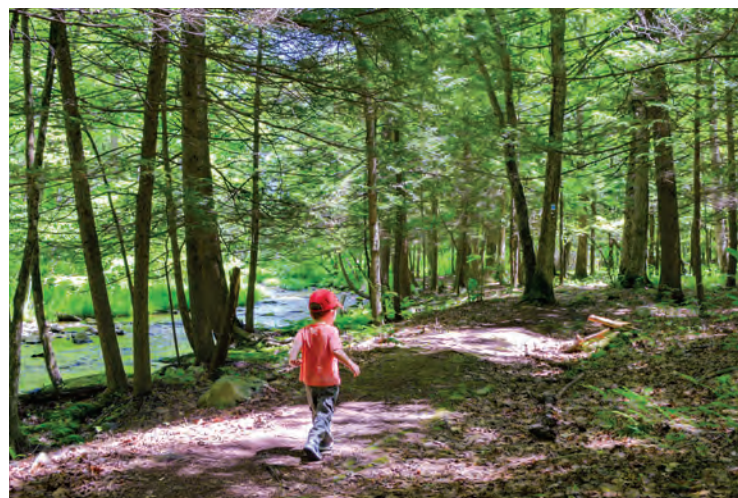
- ▶ **Trail:** Blue Mountain Loop Trail
- ▶ **Park:** Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, N.J.
- ▶ **Difficulty:** Easy to moderate
- ▶ **Length:** 17 miles
- ▶ **Route Type:** Circuit
- ▶ **Dogs:** Allowed on leash
- ▶ **Features:** Views

a transition period, and a few short sections of connecting trails have been blazed as Blue Mountain Loop Trail spurs. Interesting features of the new

trail include scenic and serene sections along the Big Flat Brook, remote sections away from busy areas of the park, and broad vistas overlooking Sussex County.

Creation of this trail was a coordinated effort among the park staff and Trail Conference volunteers and staff. Key volunteers that deserve thanks for their outstanding work include Howie Liebmann, Northwest New Jersey Trail Chair, and David and Monica Day and the West Jersey Trail Crew. (Read about some of the great work the West Jersey Crew has recently completed on the Blue Mountain Loop Trail on page 6.) Other volunteers helped to GPS the new trail and worked with Trail Conference Cartographer Jeremy Apgar to produce updated maps of this new trail system.

A 10.5-mile loop hike description that combines this new trail with the Tinsley Trail is available at bit.ly/tc-bmlt. Add it to your summer bucket list of adventures!



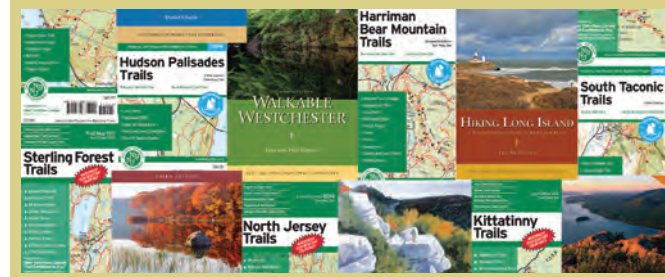
The Blue Mountain Loop Trail is a great way to explore Stokes State Forest.



The Blue Mountain Loop Trail offers broad vistas overlooking Sussex County.

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Find links to all these and more at nynjtc.org.

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