



82nd Year

# TRAIL WALKER

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

MAY/JUNE 2002

## Plagues on Our Forests?

By Georgette Weir

Gypsy moths, hemlock woolly adelgids, Asian long-horned beetles, elongated hemlock scale, bacterial oak leaf scorch, southern pine beetle—George Koeck, Regional Forester with the New Jersey Forest Service, grimly names the threats on the ever-growing list of plagues to our region's forests.

The "ultimate degradation" may be, as Koeck says, suburban sprawl, but insects, and now drought, are having negative impacts that are showing up along our region's trails.

### Insects

Last year's gypsy moth infestation in northern New Jersey was the worst in at least a decade. State officials estimated as many as 200,000 acres were defoliated by the caterpillars in 2001. Things were less severe in New York, although Tim Sullivan, Chief Ranger for the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, said that about 1,000 acres in Harriman State Park were defoliated by the gypsy moth. Will they be back this year?

Meanwhile, the toll on eastern hemlocks, among the most majestic and be-



ARTURO DIAZ

loved of our region's trees, continues. Koeck reports devastation in an old growth stand of hemlocks in Wawayanda State Park. Park managers and trail maintainers face stands of dead trees that hazard treadways and public use areas. According to one scientist with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, a recent survey of state forest parcels labeled just 10-15 percent of hemlocks healthy.

Scientists debate whether the woolly adelgid—like the gypsy moth, an insect not native to our area—is enough to kill

off a healthy eastern hemlock. "Some people say that the Fiorinia scale (elongated hemlock scale) is the real killer," says Mark Mayer, an entomologist with New Jersey's Department of Agriculture Beneficial Insects Lab. "But the vast majority of mortality I've seen [among hemlocks] is connected to the woolly adelgid."

Paul Huth, Director of Research at the Daniel Smiley Research Center at the Mohonk Preserve, is skeptical. "There is a complex set of threats against the hem-

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## Making Good Things Happen

### A Member Takes On a Long Path Dumping Ground and Wins

Constantine (Dean) Gletsos recently proved the optimistic lesson that one person can be an irresistible force for good. A member of the Trail Conference and vice president of the Ramapo Chapter of ADK, Gletsos took on the challenge of cleaning up a long-standing illegal dumping area that marred a stretch of the Long Path in Cheesecote Town Park in Pomona, adjacent to Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park.

An avid hiker and nearby resident of the park, Gletsos was bothered by its "excessive litter," which included, in his words, "vandalized and abandoned vehicles, tires, couches, lawnmowers, 55-gallon steel barrels, bicycles, air conditioners, etc. You get the picture."

He consulted with several hiking groups and Long Path maintainers, all of whom expressed frustration with an apparently intractable problem. "They said that the last time they cleaned the area was 10 years ago and within a few weeks the trash dumping was worse than before cleaning." Unimpressed by the alleged impossibility of improvement, Gletsos started his campaign for a cleanup. "I wrote letters to several local papers about it hoping that the public, as well those in charge of this park, would take notice and do something about it. Meanwhile, I made several local environmentally concerned organizations, like the NY/NJ Trail Conference, Keep Rockland Beautiful, Inc., ADK/Ramapo Chapter, Trash Brigade Volunteers, and our own Pomona Cleanup Squad, aware. They all responded nicely."

He continues: "Jakob Franke (NY/NJ Trail Conference Long Path South Chair) and I went to a Haverstraw Town Board

*continued on page 12*

## Conference Publishes New, Expanded Long Path Guide

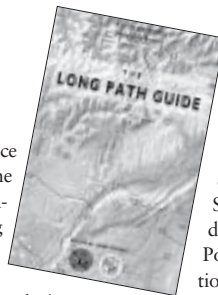
The Trail Conference is proud to announce the upcoming publication of a completely new and revamped *Long Path Guide*. Among the many improvements over the earlier edition (published six years ago) is, first of all, its dimensions: the new guide is larger than its predecessor, reducing the amount of page turning necessary and making room for larger photographs and more readable maps. The section maps now all overlap each other so that there is no ambiguity in how to go between sections. Also new are the section profiles showing how the elevation changes with distance traveled.

The maps are among the *Long Path Guide's* highlights: this edition features all new maps, designed specifically for it. They were produced with the aid of the latest Global Positioning System technology, which was used to develop, for the

first time, an accurate trace of the entire route of the Long Path, both on the traditional route and along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail route. The width of the track line on the maps is far larger than the error in recording. Also included are GPS coordinates for the official parking areas, for those who are inclined to use the latest technology.

Ed Walsh's "Backpacking the Long Path" booklet has been incorporated as a new chapter. Finally, all of the photographs are new.

The 347-mile Long Path is the longest hiking trail entirely maintained by Trail Conference member organizations. It runs from the George Washington Bridge north to the Mohawk River near Albany. In the six years since the last edition was pub-



lished, much has happened, both to the trail and to technology that keeps track of it. Work on the Shawangunk Ridge Trail was completed so that it now forms a continuous path from High Point State Park in New Jersey to the traditional Long Path route near Sam's Point Preserve. Two major relocations in the Catskills completed in 2001 have removed many miles of road walking.

The new *Long Path Guide* was edited by member and Map Committee Chair Herb Chong. In addition to organizing the project, Chong created all of the new maps and contributed many of the photographs that grace the book. Countless volunteers assisted in gathering the GPS and other data and contributed photos and advice (see page 7). In particular, Chong acknowledges the contributions of Jakob Franke and John Jurasek.

For ordering information, please turn to Hikers' Market Place on page 8.

### Open House

Sunday, June 2nd • 3-6 p.m.

Trail Conference Office

Everyone Welcome

Refreshments Served

Call the Office for details & directions.

Georgette Weir *Editor*  
 Nora Porter *Managing Editor*  
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#### NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

##### Mission Statement

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

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

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

from the president's notepad...

## Heart and Soul

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Trail Conference. Without them, the organization could not function. It is through the efforts of volunteers that trails are maintained, maps and books are published, and issues are addressed through public comment and letters.

How do volunteers connect with the Trail Conference? And how does the Trail Conference find the volunteers it needs? There are numerous ways.

Traditionally, our most effective tool for obtaining volunteers is our Volunteer Sheet. It is included in each and every renewal packet, and has been our primary means of identifying the interests and skills of our members. These sheets have helped us meet needs for everything from trail maintenance to, several years ago, finding a baker for a fancy cake for a special occasion. These sheets are still included in renewal packets, but now they are also online—www.nynjtc.org—available to

members whenever the time is right for you to make a contribution of your time and talents. Simply print out the sheet, fill it in, and mail it in to the office. We'll try to match you up with your indicated skills and interests.

The other large source of volunteers comes from recommendations. The field workers for the trail maintenance workshop, held in April, were recruited from the pool of maintainers in Minnewaska, Black Rock Forest, and Schunemunk. Via word of mouth we have found committee chairs, trail supervisors, and even someone to serve on a search committee through personal recommendations.

A third method of recruiting is a dedicated column in every issue of the *Trail Walker*, which alerts members to specific Conference needs. Committee chairs have found people through the *Trail Walker* to help with publications or input data for membership files.

Finally, we issue action alerts and send e-mails when political comment or action is called for. A number of our members answer these just by showing up and giving comment at public hearings, or by writing to government representatives.

Inside and Outside, there are plenty of jobs—plenty of ways for you to help the Trail Conference in its work of protecting and supporting trails and hiking in our region. You can volunteer for something you would like to learn how to do, or share your already well-developed skills and talents. Either way, you are likely to meet people who share a common interest, and make new friends in the process. Visit our website, download the Volunteer Sheet, fill it in, and join us in the many ways we work together to save, protect, and maintain 1500 miles of hiking trails in our region.

—Jane Daniels  
 President, Board of Directors

## L · E · T · T · E · R · S

*The Trail Walker welcomes letters to the editor. They may be edited for style and length.*



### What To Do About ATVs?

Regarding the use of motorized vehicles on trails (see page 1, March/April 2002 *Trail Walker*), I have a suggestion. Hikers should be trained in the swift deactivation of ignition systems. We almost always outnumber the guys on machines and could immobilize them in no time, leaving them to face the wrath of the chipmunks and wild flowers.

That was my pique and frustration speaking. I don't have an easy answer, but it's certainly a big problem—both for maintaining the integrity of the nature experience and the ecosystems themselves. We seem to be losing the battle with snowmobilers out West. We can surely do better right here.

Seth Steiner  
 Director, Outdoor Bound  
 New York, NY

There is no best way for hikers to handle trail encounters with ATVs.

My current approach in a State Wildlife Management Area is to politely inform the rider (if he slows down long enough to allow me to say anything) that they are not permitted in the area. I then call the state game wardens and report the rider and their approximate location (yes, I now often carry a cell phone when hiking, for the sole purpose of reporting ATVs). Does this work? The state has been relatively cooperative about trying to get to the site. They have even organized "sting" operations. But their coverage is too infrequent to make much of a difference.

My suggestion is a cooperative effort between state and local law enforcement. In the case of my daily hiking area, the greatest pressure is from locals. How hard can it be to follow these guys back to their homes and issue the summons at home? But the state says they have no jurisdiction off the state lands, and the local police say they can do nothing unless they catch them on the roadways.

My opinion is if some type of tough enforcement is not soon implemented, it will be the hikers that will be lobbying the legislature for a private park where motorized vehicles are physically excluded, because we are rapidly losing all our natural areas. Purchasing open space is a wonderful thing. But lack of management of these lands is leading to the degradation

of the land both for hiker enjoyment and wildlife habitat.

On a final note, if the legislators believe that providing one ATV park will solve the problem of ATV destruction of our natural systems, they really need to get out more and see first-hand the extent of the problem.

Sorry for the long-winded response to your question, but I truly believe that after protecting land from development, the ATV problem is the biggest threat to the trail system.

Laura Newgard  
 Sparta, New Jersey

*Ms. Newgard is an environmental consultant, NY/NJTC supervisor for Worthington and Jenny Jump State Forests, and a member of the Trail Conference Science Advisory Committee*

If the West Milford X-Treme Habitat project is not built, where will the ATV, motorcycle, mountain bike, and motocross enthusiasts who would have been attracted to that site go? Are there other dedicated facilities (existing or proposed) for motorized vehicles within a reasonable distance that offer a similar trail experience? Or will people looking for that sort of experience seek it on hiking trails instead? From a strictly environmentalist perspective, it may be that there is simply no desirable location for a project like X-Treme Habitat because of the traffic, noise, and wa-

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from the Executive Director

## Keep ORVs Off State Land

An immediate protection issue that is of increasing concern in the New York and New Jersey region is the illegal use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) on protected lands. In the previous *Trail Walker* we discussed the ORV park proposed for New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) lands at Jungle Habitat. As of this writing I am very happy to report that the West Milford, Ringwood, and Wanaque townships passed resolutions against the development of this property as an ORV park.

All of us owe a debt of gratitude to many individuals in those communities who worked hard to get the issues adequately covered and to clear up the misinformation surrounding this proposal. The local advocacy in these two communities bodes well for the stewardship of our treasured New Jersey Highlands.

While we hope the Jungle Habitat ORV park is permanently defeated, there is a larger issue in the making. New Jersey DEP is developing an ORV policy. An early draft made available last fall would change existing DEP policy to allow ORV use on specifically designated lands leased from the state.

This policy is now under consideration in the McGreevey administration. My understanding is that Commissioner Bradley Campbell has convened a departmental committee to review the work and public comments. The exact timing of any forthcoming recommendation is uncertain at this point, but I urge all concerned Trail

Conference members to contact their elected officials and Commissioner Campbell's office and voice their preferences on this issue. (Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Quality, POB 402, Trenton NJ 08625-0402; 609-292-2885.)

The Trail Conference supports the current DEP regulations that do not allow motorized vehicle use on state land except for specifically licensed events. Unfortunately, the enforcement of the current policy is woefully inadequate. Trail maintainers and general users of the backcountry report increasing incursions and damage by off-road vehicles. The Trail Conference supports strong registration and licensing laws for off-road vehicles in New Jersey similar to legislation being developed in New York State. Among the impediments to enforcement actions is that so few off-road vehicles carry visible license plates and enforcement officers cannot impound ORVs.

The Trail Conference is sponsoring a series of meetings with interested parties to gather more information about the magnitude of the ORV problem, the lessons learned elsewhere, and the components of a comprehensive strategy for this problem. We will be reporting the results of these meetings in future issues.

In the meantime, you can help initiate enforcement actions. Please use our Trail Incidents Report Form on our website [www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org) to report any ORV use on public lands. Also, always immediately

contact the local park manager. And most importantly, make your feelings known about this issue to your elected state officials.

### Drought

Another longer-term issue that affects all of us in the New York-New Jersey region is the ongoing drought. The past year is the driest on record, going back 107 years, well before the Trail Conference was founded. The effect on trail lands is that we may see an increasing number of dead trees (see page 1 story); fire hazards may increase; wildlife may be impacted.

As I write this, spring rains have come, but what if they don't continue for the three straight weeks that meteorologists tell us would be necessary to refill the reservoirs and replenish the aquifers? What if they are merely an aberration in a continuing drought? Is there anything we can do, as individuals or as an organization that can make a difference in a drought?

Certainly we can adopt water conservation measures. But demand is only one-half of the water shortage equation; supply is the other half. We can do little about the level of rainfall but we can organize ourselves and our landscapes to take maximum advantage of the precious remaining natural resources.

Densely forested lands are the best-known means of efficiently absorbing and filtering water supplies as well as moderating the climate that produces the much-needed precipitation and affects the demand for water. Forested lands are watershed lands and watershed lands are trail lands. But as we worry about water, we can also remember that every acre we save for trails is an acre that efficiently replenishes the water supply, cleanses the air, moderates the climate, and provides a habitat for biological diversity and a place for the human spirit to renew.

—Edward Goodell

## Call for Nominations

*Recognition Awards, Board of Directors and Delegates-at-Large to be presented at Annual Meeting in October*

Each year in October at the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's annual meeting, elections are held for 5 members of the board of directors and 15 delegates-at-large. Also at that time, awards are presented to members and friends to recognize outstanding people in the hiking community.

Conference members are welcome to submit nominations, with supporting background information, for awards, board of directors, and delegates-at-large. Send your suggestions to the Nominating Committee, in care of the NY/NJ Trail Conference, 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430; telephone 201-512-9348; email [info@nynjtc.org](mailto:info@nynjtc.org). The deadline is July 1, 2002.

### Recognition Awards

The annual awards are as follows:

**William Hoefler Award:** recognizes Trail Conference volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.

**Next Generation Award:** given to those under age 21 who are making significant contributions of time and energy to trail building and/or protection.

**Major Welch Trail Partner Award:** presented to those outside the Trail Conference – for example, state, federal, or local agency partner officials – who have given long and/or significant assistance to the local hiking community.

**Corporate Partner Award:** presented to a company that has furthered the hiking trail experience and/or protection effort.

**Raymond H. Torrey Award:** the Conference's most prestigious award, given for significant and lasting contributions that protect our hiking trails and the land upon which they rest.

**Leo Rothschild Conservation Award:** presented to a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to the protection of our trails and/or the natural lands that surround them.

### Nominating Committee for Board and Delegates

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for the board of directors and delegates-at-large for the October 2002-03 year. Current Trail Conference directors are listed in the masthead of *Trail Walker* (see page 2).

## ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

### ■ Shawangunk Update

Parcel by parcel, the Trail Conference continues to work toward its goal of creating a permanently protected corridor along the entire 35-mile length of the Shawangunk Ridge. The Conference now has seven parcels under option, totaling 965 acres, plus another 40 acres that the Orange County legislature recently approved to sell. Active negotiations continue on an additional 900 acres. A Smart Growth workshop co-sponsored by the Conference with its Shawangunk Ridge Coalition partners is scheduled for May 18 in Wurtsboro. Officials from all 11 ridge towns are invited, as is the public.

Meanwhile, threats of ridge development continue. David Flaum, who has proposed a gambling casino directly on top

of the Shawangunk Ridge off Route 17 at Wurtsboro, is moving ahead with his proposal before the Mamakating Planning Board.

### ■ ORVs Hit a Wall

Municipalities in New Jersey that would find themselves host or neighbor to a park for off-road vehicles (ORVs) gave a resounding No to the plan at March meetings. Both West Milford, where the land is located, and Ringwood, next-door, approved resolutions opposing the plan. X-treme Habitat, a plan for a motor-cross park on lands once occupied by Jungle Habitat but preserved as open space by New Jersey's Green Acres program, must be approved by the state's environmental commissioner, who has authority over the

land. Trail Conference members were very visible at public meetings, arguing that the proposal would violate Green Acres preservation principles and seriously disrupt trails and wildlife. A special "activist" hike on the issue promoted by the Conference and the Highland Coalition attracted more than 70 participants.

### ■ Budget Cuts Hit Open Space

Budget cuts and negotiations in both New York and New Jersey state governments threaten efforts to protect open space in both states. In New York, the governor and legislature continued their budget stand-off, in which funding of the Environmental Protection Fund—which both sides support—is held hostage in ongoing

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# “Blaze Where You Must, Not Where You Can”

by Larry Wheelock,  
Trails Director

This excellent advice to trail maintainers comes from member Bill Consiglio, who also sent some additional suggestions and photos to remind trail maintainers of basic principles for trail blazing. Though his letter referred primarily to the trails in a specific area, his comments can easily apply to trails throughout the region. And as the season warms up for maintaining work, the topic is timely.

Trail blazing and other maintenance procedures have been established by the NYNJTC Trails Council and published in the *Trail Maintenance Manual*. Little has changed with respect to blazing standards since this little book was first published in 1971, and hikers have become accustomed to seeing the ubiquitous two-inch by three-inch colorful blazes along our trails.

Nevertheless, all blazes are not created equal. Mr. Consiglio made a number of comments that I will address here with suggested solutions. Among these are:

- “On some stretches that I walked, the goal seems to be to utilize every possible tree (and often bush) and to return with an

empty paint can. Even on well-defined portions of the trail, there’s a blaze every ten paces and often three or four blazes can be seen simultaneously.”

- “I see double blazes for any slight deviation of the trail from straight.”
- He also notes that some blazes “are very large and sloppy.”

## SOLUTIONS

### ■ Frequency of blazes

From the *Manual*: “Don’t overblaze. The hiker standing at or a few steps beyond a blaze should see the next blaze ahead, but not more than two. On straight trails, blazes every 100-250 feet are sufficient; on road sections, blaze every other utility pole.” If you think your trail is overblazed, bring along your scraper and remove a few or paint them out with a neutralizing paint. Blaze “pollution” can put a big dent in a hiker’s backwoods experience.

Underblazing can be a problem when the maintainers, very familiar with their trails, forget that the first-time hiker may need some help across an open rock jumble or at a confusing intersection.

### ■ Alert or turn signals

From the *Manual*: “Indicate abrupt changes of direction (45 degrees or more), or points where hikers should be especially alert. Use two standard blazes, one above the other and 2 inches apart; the upper blaze should be clearly offset 1 to 2 inches in the direction of the turn.” Frequently, blazes are put one directly above the other which may lead to some confusion.

Some trails may have a smaller design in a contrasting color within the main rectangle. Such special shapes must be approved by the Trails Council. If your trail has a special blaze, you will be briefed by your supervisor. Some trails have ‘tags’ of a designated color and/or design rather than painted blazes. These substitutes are used when the local authority has specifically designated such a tag as the official blaze, or when there are generally only scrub trees on which to blaze (ridge tops, etc.). The tags may be either metal or plastic. Your supervisor will tell you how to obtain or make such tags if they are authorized for your trail. Tag blazes are in-

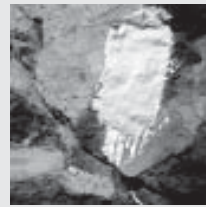
## GOING TO BLAZES



An example of neat and consistent blazing.



Overblazing: eight blazes on one tree.



An example of a blaze that is too big and too sloppy.



Blazes that are not only too sloppy but also meaningless.

### ■ Blazing standards

From the *Manual*: “The standard Trail Conference blaze is a painted upright rectangle 2 inches wide by 3 inches high for all trails except the Long Path (2x4 inches) and the Appalachian Trail (2x6 inches).

stalled as if they were painted blazes, using galvanized roofing nails (1 1/2 inches), one at the top, one at the bottom.”

The Trails Council recently approved the introduction of a Trail Conference plastic tag to be used in one park on a trial basis. We’ll let you know how this works out.

### ■ Preparing the surface for paint

It is easy to either over- or under-scrape your tree in preparation for a blaze. If the surface is not adequately cleaned of loose material you will have to replace the blaze frequently. If you scrape the bark too deeply you may be opening up a sore where infections of various kinds can penetrate the tree. **Never scrape through the bark.** On certain types of bark you will not be able to obtain a flat surface without damaging the tree, so your blaze will need to be a little 3-D.

In addition to these suggestions there are plenty of other guidelines in the *Trail Maintenance Manual* covering such matters as Patrolling, Reporting, Clearing, Educating Hikers, and additional details on Blazing. If you maintain a trail and do not have a copy of the *Trail Maintenance Manual*, contact your supervisor or the Trails Director at the Trail Conference office.

One final quote from our friend, Bill: “I realize the necessity of marking trails for the wide range of hikers that might use them, but I hope you’ll see my point and retain as much of the wilderness experience and beauty as possible. Perhaps future trail maintenance will include an evaluation and removal of unnecessary blazes.”

## TRAIL CREW SCHEDULES



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

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

### WEST JERSEY CREW

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

### May 4, Saturday

**AT Pochuck River Relocation.** We are on the final leg of this multi-year project to relocate the AT through the Pochuck River’s wonderful wetlands area near Vernon, NJ. Join us to begin the final push! Meeting time is 9:00 am. Please contact the leaders for specifics on the work location.

### May 5, Sunday

**AT Pochuck River Relocation, May 4**

### May 19, Sunday

**Mt. Tammany Trail, Worthington SP**

We will be repairing and formalizing the connector trail between the two trail-head parking lots. Meet 9:00 a.m. in the DOT parking lot (first one, with picnic tables). Rain cancels. Contact the leaders for driving directions.

### June 23, Sunday

**Mt. Tammany Trail, Worthington SP**  
Details above.

### NJ HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW

Contact the leader for details, no more than one week before the scheduled work date.  
Leader: Bob Moss, 973-743-5203

Tentative Schedule.

### May 11, Saturday

### May 26, Sunday

### June 9, Sunday

### June 23, Sunday

### EAST HUDSON CREW

Contact the leader for details. Train pickups can be arranged.

Leader: Walt Daniels, 914-245-1250;  
[wdaniels@bestweb.net](mailto:wdaniels@bestweb.net)

### June 8, Saturday & July 13, Saturday

### WEST HUDSON CREW

Leaders: Crew Chief: Robert Marshall  
914-737-4792; [rmarshall@webtv.net](mailto:rmarshall@webtv.net)

Brian Buchbinder, 718-218-7563  
[brian@grandrenovation.com](mailto:brian@grandrenovation.com)

Chris Ezzo, 516-431-1148

Claudia Ganz, 212-633-1324;  
[clganz@earthlink.net](mailto:clganz@earthlink.net)

Monica Resor, 732-937-9098;  
[adamant@trailstobuild.com](mailto:adamant@trailstobuild.com)

The crew will work in Bear Mountain State Park on the Twin Forts Trail throughout May.

### May 4, Saturday (Ezzo)

### May 5, Sunday (Ezzo)

### May 11, Saturday (Ganz)

### May 12, Sunday (Marshall)

### May 18, Saturday (Ganz)

### May 19, Sunday (Marshall)

### May 23, Thursday (Marshall)

### May 25, Saturday (Ezzo)

### May 26, Sunday (Ezzo)

In June, the crew will work in Harriman State Park, with several projects to be determined.

### TBD

### Sunday, June 2 (Marshall)

### Popolopen Gorge Trail

### June 8, Saturday (Resor)

### June 9, Sunday (Resor)

### June 13, Thursday (Marshall)

### TBD

### June 15, Saturday (Marshall)

### June 22, Saturday (Buchbinder)



Golden eagle

## Adopt a Rare or Endangered Species for Natural Heritage Monitoring Program

How would you like to adopt your very own occurrence of a rare, threatened, or endangered species along the Appalachian Trail in New York or New Jersey? The Trail Conference is cooperating with the National Park Service and Appalachian Trail Conference to implement a Natural Heritage Monitoring Program along the Appalachian corridor in New Jersey and New York. The Trail Conference is currently recruiting volunteer monitors for this exciting project and members are invited to apply.

The purpose of this monitoring program is to track the status of rare plants, animals, and natural communities located along the Appalachian Trail, which will in turn help preserve the ecological diversity of the trail corridor and the lands through which the trail passes. In New

York and New Jersey about 16 species have been prioritized for immediate monitoring.

This Natural Heritage Monitoring Program will be launched with a workshop for volunteer monitors scheduled for Saturday, June 15th from 9 am to 3 pm at the Wallkill National Wildlife

Refuge in Vernon Township, NJ. In the workshop, volunteer monitors will be introduced to the concepts of biodiversity and rare species protection, briefed on the AT Natural Heritage Inventory Program, shown identifying characteristics of the species or communities they will be monitoring, and instructed on how to complete monitoring forms. During the afternoon portion of the workshop, volunteers will practice species identification and monitoring under the guidance of professional biologists.

Each volunteer will be supplied a monitoring packet consisting of specific drawings or photos of the species and community occurrences, topographic maps showing the location of the occurrence(s), and blank monitoring report forms.

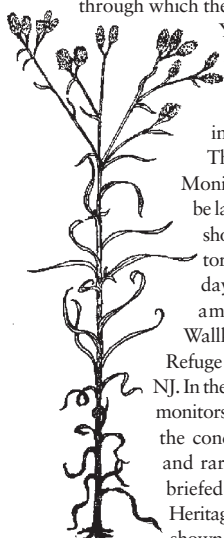
Similar to trail maintainers, the AT natural heritage monitors will visit the sites assigned to them at least twice per year. At the time of each site visit a one-half page monitoring form will be completed recording such information as the number of individuals seen, the number of plants in bloom, the vigor of the species in the community, and any noted threats to the

species or community.

Based on this information, certain management actions may be recommended, such as: relocation of the trail treadway, monitoring the threats, control of exotic species, seasonal mowing and/or weeding, use of signs or other interpretive measures, control of off-road vehicles, or education via the Ridge Runner Program.

Once the AT Corridor Natural Heritage Monitoring Program is up and running, the Trail Conference could extend this type of monitoring to other trail lands. In this way, the Trail Council could extend its mandate for stewardship to the ecological integrity of all trail lands.

If you would like to volunteer for an initial spot in this exciting new program, please contact the TC office via phone 201-512-9348 or email [info@www.nynjtc.org](mailto:info@www.nynjtc.org) and request a Natural Heritage Monitoring Program application. To register online, see [www.nynjtc.org/committees/science](http://www.nynjtc.org/committees/science). Act now as there only 16 initial spots available. Attendance at the June 15th workshop is required to be accepted into this program.



Clammy everlasting

## New Grant Funds TC Study of Trail Impacts Volunteer Birders Needed

The Trail Conference, in conjunction with Columbia University's Center for Environmental Research and Conservation, has been awarded a research grant from the Black Rock Forest Consortium to study the "Effects of Hiking Trails on Arthropod and Bird Community Diversity." The study areas will be in the Black Rock Forest and the Doris Duke Preserve within Sterling Forest State Park. (A conservation easement for the Doris Duke Preserve is held by the Trail Conference.) The research will focus on the composition and species richness of two very different species communities—carrion feeding beetles and birds.

Principal Investigator Dr. James Danoff-Burg notes that to protect the ecological and recreational values of our region's increasingly fragmented forested lands it is important to understand the effects of trails, if any, on internal fragmentation of forest communities. This study, funded by the Black Rock Forest Consortium, will be among the first in this region to study the effects of trails on forest community diversity.

"It is important to have credible field data on which to base trail design decisions," says Edward Goodell Executive Director of the Trail Conference. "This

## Take a Study Hike Through a Hemlock Forest

Denise Royle, an ecologist completing a Ph.D. in ecology at Rutgers University, will lead study hikes through hemlock forests at Wawayanda State Park on Saturday, June 22, 2002. Her research focuses on hemlock ecology and the effects of site and landscape factors on the rate of hemlock defoliation by the hemlock woolly adelgid.

Walk/Hike through hemlock forests in various stages of defoliation and declining health, from healthy to heavily damaged. Learn about hemlock ecology, how to identify hemlock trees. Learn to recognize infestations of hemlock woolly adelgid, and signs of damage. Hear about recent hemlock research and efforts to control the pest with natural predators.

In the morning, (10 am-12:00 pm) we will walk up to 1 mile along a gentle trail through hemlock stands, directly across from the parking lot. There we will learn about hemlock ecology and see hemlock trees up close. (Ideal for families.)

In the afternoon (bring your own bag lunch), we will hike over to the Wawayanda Hemlock Ravine Natural Area near the AT. This will be a more strenuous hike. The ravine is one of high relief with 300-foot increases in elevation from Doublekill Creek to surrounding hills. Dress appropriately; hiking shoes or boots recommended. Bring water and snacks.

Trails are lacking in some areas.

Pre-registration is required and attendance will be limited to 30. We will meet in the main parking lot at the headquarters of Wawayanda State Park in Hewitt, NJ) near the main entrance) by 10 am (12:45 pm for afternoon-only session). Please register for the whole day or either the morning walk or afternoon hike. For more information and to register online, see [www.nynjtc.org/committees/science](http://www.nynjtc.org/committees/science), or contact the Trail Conference office at [info@nynjtc.org](mailto:info@nynjtc.org) or 201-512-9348.

## NATIONAL TRAILS DAY SI GREENBELT CLEAN-UP

On Saturday, June 1, as part of the National Trails Day celebrations, the Metro Area Trails Committee of the NY/NJ Trail Conference will conduct a trail cleaning on the Staten Island Greenbelt. Committee members will assist by supervising the trail crews and there will be breakfast for all workers. Goldman Sachs has donated money for the trail cleaning equipment and the breakfast. The entire event will be coordinated by Adena Long, Greenbelt Administrator, New York City Department of Parks. Committee chairman Bob Ward notes a big thank-you to Goldman Sachs for its generous contribution to this cause. For additional information about the event, contact Adena Long via email at [green-cons@rcn.com](mailto:green-cons@rcn.com) or telephone 718-667-2165.

## Old Growth Survey

Tree lovers are invited to participate in the creation of the Southern New York Old Growth Forest Survey on Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19. Tours are planned of majestic ancient forests in the Bronx and Long Island, as well as visits to sites where undiscovered old growth is suspected. On Saturday evening, a meeting will be held at the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx to organize the first formal team to start the Southern New York Old Growth Forest Survey.

Old Growth Forests have long been believed to have been virtually eliminated from Southern New York State, especially the NY City metro area. Recent field surveys in the Northeast have proved this to be a myth. An informal search for ancient forest in southern New York, led by old-growth sleuth Bruce Kershner, has turned up 15 new sites, most of them in or near New York City. Unbelievably, one site was even confirmed in Manhattan.

This volunteer survey will be the first formal, long-term, comprehensive survey to search for and document Old Growth Forests in our region. For information, directions or to register for any part of this event, contact naturalist Bruce Kershner 716-634-7158 or [bskershner@adelphia.net](mailto:bskershner@adelphia.net).

## OUTREACH WORKSHOP FOR NEW LEADERS

Saturday May 18th, 10 am to 2 pm  
Raindate: May 19  
Tiorati Circle Picnic Area

This workshop will train volunteers to lead family outings at Bear Mountain State Park on selected Saturdays this summer.

To register, email [tc\\_outreach@aol.com](mailto:tc_outreach@aol.com) with the following info:

- Name, address, telephone;
- Social security number for insurance purposes;
- Car make, color, and license plate number with state.

For additional information, contact Wanda Davenport 201-670-8383 no later than 9 pm.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### TORREY SOCIETY

Gifts over \$500

John B. Blenninger, Ronna Cohen, John Gunzler and Marianne Gunzler, Robert J. Jonas, John R. Keller, Barry R. Mark

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*In Memory of Roy Sengstacken*  
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### CLUB

College Alumni Hiking Club

## IN MEMORIAM

### HAROLD (HAL) COHEN

Hal Cohen, a very long time, active member of North Jersey ADK and the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference—died March 18, 2002. Hal had been battling lymphoma for many years and, at the end, leukemia. He was a graduate of Bronx High School of Science, City College, and NYU, a World War II Navy veteran and an electrical engineer who started his own business. Hal was a longtime maintainer and trail supervisor, overseeing the Major Welch, R-D, Triangle, and other other trails in the eastern part of Harriman State Park. TC member Betty Heald recalls frequent hikes with Hal and his wife, Mimi, beginning in the early '70s. Hal was hiking with the Thursday Group in February just a few days before he was hospitalized. Betty writes: "I recall the January when he and Mimi joined the Thursday hike along the 1776 Trail to Doodletown. He thoroughly enjoyed the mild day, the route, the lunch site, and the company." Joe Oppenheimer reports that Hal didn't feel he'd had a decent "walk" unless it was at least six miles. In recent years he and Mimi discovered and developed their talents for watercolor painting. Hal also was an avid wood carver, a cross-country skiing enthusiast, and cared deeply for everyone he met on the trail and he showed it. Hal was very a positive person and he will be deeply missed.

### ROYAL (ROY) F. SENGSTACKEN

Royal Sengstacken, an avid supporter of conservation causes, including the NY/NJ Trail Conference, died peacefully March 13, 2002, at Corsica Hills Nursing Home in Centreville, Maryland, following a stroke. Roy was a WWII veteran and had moved to Maryland in his retirement. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Seberry Sengstacken, children Robert, John, and Andrea Secara, grandchildren Julie, Jay, and Amanda. TC member Dick Warner recalls Roy as a busy hike leader for the Conference and for the ADK. "He led hikes all over the region." He spent many years as a trail maintainer throughout northern New Jersey, and in particular took on trails in Long Pond Ironworks State Park. After his move to Maryland, he also volunteered at Tuckahoe State Park and at Horsehead Wetlands Center (National Wildfowl Trust of North America). Roy will be remembered by family and friends for the exciting canoeing, hiking, sailing and skiing adventures he led. Memorial contributions may be made to Tuckahoe State Park, 13070 Crouse Mill Road, Queen Anne, Maryland 21657.

## New Life Members

The Trail Conference welcomes the following new life members: Diane R. Bamford, Angela DeZuzio, William H. and Ellen Doremus, James B. Gilmore, Edward Goodell, Robert Haemmerle, Daniel S. Kaufman, David Levner, and Gail H. Stocks.

A Life Membership to the NY-NJ Trail Conference is just \$500 for an individual; \$750 for a joint membership (two adults at the same address.) The next time you renew, consider becoming one of the Conference's more than 800 "lifers."

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## From the Trail Conference ARCHIVES



This sign once could be seen in Bear Mountain-Harriman near Cascade of Slid, named by Frank Place from a poem by Lord Dunsany. The sign was erected by the Tramp and Trail Club in 1962 and disappeared around 1970.

### A SENSE OF PLACE

Who are these three men who keeping appearing on Trail Conference publications? They are, from left to right, Robert L. Dickinson, Frank Place, and Raymond Torrey. Torrey was one of the founders of the Trail Conference and prominent as first club president; Dickinson's line drawings are familiar to anyone who has looked at a copy of the *New York Walk Book* (any edition); Frank Place was second president of the first edition of the *Walk Book*. Of the three, Frank Place may be the least familiar to Conference members, though his influence continues in the trails and place names still familiar in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park. Here's a little bit about him.

Frank Place lived from 1881 to 1959. First secretary of the Trail Conference, he took over as president upon the death of Raymond Torrey in 1938 and served until 1941. He also took Mr. Torrey's seat on the Board of Managers of the Appalachian Trail Conference after Torrey's death and served until 1945.

Place was founder of the Tramp and Trail Club of New York and, except for two years, its president from its inception in 1914 until 1945.

Many of the best known trails in Harriman Park were planned and built largely through his efforts. He served as general director of the Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail, where he named the Valley of Dry Bones, Grandma and Grandpa Rocks, and the Kitchen Stairs. He laid out the Black and West Mountains sections of the Ramapo-Dunderberg trail, the first trail built in the park, and the Six Chins Trail on the Timp in 1916, Kakiat Trail in 1928, Crown Ridge Trail in 1930, Queensboro-West Mountain Trail in 1933, and the Lichen Trail in 1935.

Frank Place was the co-author of the first edition of the *Walk Book*, published in 1923. He wrote hiking articles for the *New York Times* in the early 40s, and contributed the article "Trails in the Metropolitan Region" in the 1945 AMC book *In the Hudson Highlands*.

When his friend Raymond Torrey died, Place memorialized him in a poem and scattered his ashes on Long Mountain.

Place died in 1959 in Cortland, NY, where he was born and where he had lived with his sister after he retired.

—Jules Orkin  
Trail Conference Archivist

# VOLUNTEERING

## Needed: Marketing Volunteers

The Trail Conference Publications Committee is seeking additional volunteers, especially those with experience in sales, marketing, graphic design, or advertising, to help publicize our maps and books (and the Trail Conference itself!). If you are interested, please contact John Gunzler at johngunz@netscape.net.

## Long Path Guide Volunteers

Thank-yous to those who helped with the TC's new *Long Path Guide*:

**Cartography and Overall Editing:** Herb Chong.

**GPS Data:** Elie Bijou, Herb Chong, Kay Cynamon, Jakob Franke, Ed Goldstein, John Jurasek (coordinator), Eric Meyer, Terry Murphy, and Ed Walsh.

**Trail Checking:** Herb Chong, Kay Cynamon, Jakob Franke, John Jurasek, Pete Senterman, and Ed Walsh.

**Photography:** Herb Chong, Loren Dobert, Jakob Franke, Todd Schreiber, Ed Walsh, and Michael Warren.

**Text Proofing:** Kay Cynamon, Walt Daniels, Jakob Franke, and Pete Senterman.

**Indexing:** Jakob Franke

## Day Walker Acknowledgments

*Day Walker*: 32 walks within the metropolitan area that are for people of all ages and hiking ability. Most are accessible from public transportation. Learn history, geology, flora, and fauna of the area.

Schematic maps for each walk are included. See *Hikers' Market Place*, page 8, for ordering details.

The 2nd edition of the *Day Walker* arrived at the Trail Conference Office at the end of March. Its production took place over many years and thanks are due to the numerous volunteers involved.

First and foremost are the five people who worked as project manager at various times. Without any one of the them, the project would not have been completed. Palmer Langdon initially served as project manager and recruited a corps of volunteers to field-check and revise the various hikes. Tor Meloe did additional field-checking and rewrote many of the descriptions. Tom Rupolo established the criteria and worked to make sure quality photographs would be included. Jane Daniels served two stints as project manager, including first finding volunteers and then shepherding the book through the fi-

## Trail Maintainers



*Both the West Hudson and the West New Jersey Trail Crews have enjoyed mid-winter get-togethers to be acknowledged for their hard work throughout the year. A contribution from an anonymous donor helps make these celebrations possible and goes a long way to help develop an almost family-like sense of camaraderie among all of our trail crews and other volunteers.*

## What's It Worth?

TC Executive Director Ed Goodell reports that Conference volunteers contributed 35,000 hours of work in 2001 (30,000 in 2000) valued at half a million dollars (assumed rate of \$15/hour)!

## The Chain Saw Task Force

Remember all the trees strewn on the trails in the wake of the many violent windstorms we experienced over the past several years?

Since last summer you should have noticed a marked increase in their removal from the trails in Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park, and you can thank TC's own Chainsaw Task Force for that.

The following volunteers devoted 100 hours to the removal of 195 blow-downs from July through November 2001, and that was in addition to their regular trail maintenance duties: Chris Tausch-Crew Chief, Steve Banysacski, Mark Liss, Steve Dobson, John McCollough, Tim Donovan, Tom Pavano, Jack Driller, Ike Siskind, Tom Dunn, Donna Beth Stewart, Bob Funch, Steve Zubank.

Additional thanks to Ike Siskind for having conceived the idea for and organizing the Task Force.

Also thanks to Tom Dunn and Larry Petvrnth for donating the materials and building the ladder installed by the West Hudson Trail Crew on the Raccoon Brook Hills Trail.

Anyone who feels they would like to join either the Task Force or the Trail Crew can do so by calling the Trail Conference office at 201-512-9348 or emailing wheelock@nynjtc.org to volunteer.



## GPS Data Collectors

Acknowledgements and thanks go to the following volunteers for their contributions in hiking trails and collecting GPS data for the recently published North Jersey map set:

John Jurasek, GPS data coordinator; Bob Boysen, Beverly Brown Ruggia, Bob Campbell, Carolyn and James Canfield, Dan Case, Dan Chazin, Ray Clark, A. Ross Eckler, Don Farkas, Lynn Forrest, Ed Goldstein, Stella Green, Robert Koshinskie, John Moran, Terry and Judith Murphy, Tom Prentzel, Larry Stephen, Dave Sutter, Dick Warner, and Larry Wheelock.

## And Helping in the Office

A big THANK YOU! to the office volunteers who produced 300 information packets on short notice March 25-26: Richard Zinn, Al Leigh, Phyllis Stewart, Vlad Broz, and Mona Reynolds.

## Neil Zimmerman Made Honorary Member

At the Delegates meeting on Feb. 7, 2002, the delegates unanimously elected Neil Zimmerman to be an Honorary Member of the Trail Conference. Neil was president of the Trail Conference from 1987-1999. He remains active as our Conservation and Advocacy Chair. He oversaw a large growth spurt in both membership and recognition as well as greatly expanding our publication efforts. The dynamic duo of Neil and JoAnn Dolan, former TC executive director, played a crucial role in the preservation of Sterling Forest.

## Fall 2001 West Hudson Crew Report and Thank-yous

A relocation on the 1777 West Trail in Harriman; a ladder and rock steps on the Raccoon Brook Hills Trail; sidehilling on the Poplopen Gorge Trail, including a day when nine cadets from West Point joined the crew to place 15 rock steps in three different areas; repair work on the Pine Meadow Trail; waterbars on the Long Path on Schunemunk; rock crossings and drainage work at Sam's Point Preserve. Fall was, as usual, a busy and productive season for the crew.

Thanks go to the following dedicated volunteers for their outstanding help: Jonathan Armstrong, Roz Barnes, Jonathan Beard, Michael Blair, Mary Nell Bockman, Skip Boston, Larry Braun, Roland Breault, Gail Brown, Jim Brown, Brian Buchbinder, George Cartamil,

David Day, Barry DeGrazio, Margaret Douglas, Thatcher Drew, Ilse Dunham, Tom Dunn, Chris Ezzo, Tracy Farrell, Jakob Franke, Claudia Ganz, Joyce Gallagher, Patricia Garuaw, Stacy Gould, Mary Hilley, Bill Horowitz, Peter Howell, Joan James, Darcy Jones, Frank Keech, Richard Lynch, Steven Mann, Gay Mayer, Douglas McBride, Arthur Nelson, Carol Nestor, Trudy Pojman, Robert Reardon, Monica Resor, Norm Reicher, Edward Ryan, Fred Shaw, Bruce Shriver, Charles Silver-Frankel, Lisa Silver-Frankel, Robert Sklar, Ros Thalmann, Chris Thomas, Betsy Thomason, Tom Vogel, Barid Voorhis, Paul Waclawski, Jayson Williams, and Hanson Wong.

—Bob Marshall, Crew chief  
Trudy Schneider, Trail crew assistant

Thank you all for a job well done.

—George Petty, Publications Chair



# Hikers' Market Place

NY-NJ TC member?  YES  NO  JOINING NOW

Please order by circling price

## Official Conference Maps

	Retail	Member	P/H	Total
NEW!! North Jersey Trails (2002)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.95	_____
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Sterling Forest Trails (2000)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.80	_____
East Hudson Trails (1997, rev. 2000)	\$8.95	\$6.75	+.95	_____
West Hudson Trails (2000)	\$7.95	\$5.95	+.95	_____
Catskill Trails (2001) & see combo	\$13.95	\$10.45	+\$1.10	_____
Kittatinny Trails (2000)	\$12.95	\$9.75	+\$1.10	_____
Shawangunk Trails (2000) & see combo	\$9.95	\$7.75	+.95	_____
South Taconic Trails (1988, rev. 1998)	\$4.95	\$3.75	+.65	_____
Hudson Palisades (1991)	\$5.95	\$4.75	+.80	_____

## Books

NEW!! Long Path Guide to NY/NJ (2002)	\$16.95	\$13.95	+\$3.00	_____
NEW!! Day Walker (2002)	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$3.00	_____
NEW!! Hiking Long Island (2002)	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$3.00	_____
NEW!! New York Walk Book (2001) & see combo	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$3.00	_____
New Jersey Walk Book (1998) & see combo	\$15.95	\$12.75	+\$3.00	_____
Iron Mine Trails: NY-NJ Highlands (1996, rev. 1999)	\$8.95	\$7.15	+\$1.75	_____
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Harriman Trails Guide (1999) & see combo	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$3.00	_____
Catskill Trails: A Ranger's Guide to the High Peaks				
Book One: The Northern Catskills (2000)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
Book Two: The Central Catskills (2000)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
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Scenes & Walks in the Northern Shawangunks (1999) Hardcover	\$17.95	\$14.50	+\$3.00	_____
Nature Walks in New Jersey (1998)	\$12.95	\$10.35	+\$2.50	_____
50 Hikes in New Jersey (1997, rev. 1999)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children in the Catskills & Hudson River Valley (1992)	\$14.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
Best Hikes w/ Children - New Jersey (1992)	\$12.95	\$11.95	+\$1.75	_____
A.T. Guide for NY & NJ (1998) w/ 6 maps	\$19.95	\$15.95	+\$2.50	_____
ADK Guide to Catskill Trails (1994, repr. 1998)	\$16.95	\$13.55	+\$2.50	_____
Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 years (2001)	\$27.50	\$22.00	+\$3.00	_____

## Combo-Packs

Catskill (5-map set & book)	\$27.80	\$21.60	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman (2-map set & book)	\$22.40	\$17.55	+\$2.50	_____
NY & NJ Walk Books	\$32.35	\$25.85	+\$5.00	_____
Shawangunk Combo (4-map set & book)	\$17.90	\$13.95	+\$2.50	_____

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NY-NJTC T-Shirt <i>Circle: L XL</i>	\$13.95	\$13.95	+\$2.50	_____
Harriman Map Bandanna	\$6.95	\$5.25	+\$1.25	_____
Conference Logo Patch	\$2.50	\$2.50	postpaid	_____
Long Path Logo Patch	\$2.75	\$2.75	postpaid	_____
Conference Logo Decal	\$.85	\$.85	postpaid	_____

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\*Tax must be paid by NJ residents on books, maps, misc., but not on clothing. Thank you!

## ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION

continued from page 3

negotiations. Funding the EPF is critical in ensuring follow-through on the many land acquisition projects in the pipeline now, as well as paying for land stewardship, municipal recycling, pesticide registration, and other worthwhile projects.

Meanwhile, in New Jersey, the legislature has eliminated revenue sources for the state's popular Green Acres program and the governor has proposed other cuts in a program that aims to discourage development in watershed areas of the Highlands.

### ■ Clean Air Watch

"When, not if" became the watchword at press time as a spokesman for the Bush administration announced at a gathering of energy industry executives that the "New Source Review" would be weakened. A key component of the Clear Air Act administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New Source Review (NSR) program is considered vital in the campaign to reduce acid rain and smog causing emissions from 60 old, coal-burning power plants in the Midwest. These upwind plants operating without scrubbers or other pollution control devices represent most of New York's acid rain problem. They also produce much of the mercury now found in many lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks, Catskills, and Hudson Highlands.

The latest news from Washington is that in spite of internal EPA objections, the Energy Department and the White House seem committed to moving forward with regulatory changes that would enable the operators of coal-burning generating plants in the Midwest and Southeast to extend the operating life of these large generating facilities without having to install state-of-the-art pollution equipment.

For the latest on this issue, visit [www.hikersforcleanair.org](http://www.hikersforcleanair.org).

### ■ Belleayre Resort Proposal Under Review by Trail Conference

A proposal to develop a recreation-oriented resort on private lands on both sides of the state-owned Belleayre Mountain Ski Center along Route 28 in the Catskills has

raised worries about viewshed impacts from nearby peaks. "We are concerned about the visibility of this extensive mountaintop development from popular viewpoints on adjoining peaks, most notably Balsam Mountain in the adjoining Big Indian-Beaverkill Range Wilderness Area," Neil Woodworth, counsel to the Trail Conference and Adirondack Mountain Club, reported after a tour of the site. "The project will require extensive modification of the natural terrain with much filling and earthmoving to construct the ridge-top golf course and hotel facilities."

The Trail Conference and ADK are taking an active role in reviewing the draft environmental impact statement on the proposed Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park. The project consists of a mix of uses including recreational, residential, and hotel with associated commercial development. The Trail Conference and ADK are particularly concerned with the high-elevation golf course proposed on the east side of the ski center that runs northeasterly of state-owned Belleayre Mountain.

■ Contributors include John Myers, Trail Lands Coordinator, and Neil Woodworth, TC/ADK counsel.

Check [www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org) regularly for news updates and conservation alerts of interest to hikers.

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



# FIRE! ATV!

How to Report an "Incident"

We go to the trails for respite. Most often, we find it. But for those occasions when we don't—when we encounter illegal vehicles, come across a fire, find a dump—what should we do? Here are some guidelines for reporting various categories of disturbances of the peace, as compiled by TC Trails Director Larry Wheelock.

## Procedure

In most cases the reporting of incidents in our region's parks should follow the same procedure.

*In an emergency call 911.* This should be done only for an emergency such as fire or other life threatening condition encountered on the trail. *It is not an appropriate use of 911 to report an illegal campsite or all-terrain vehicle sighting.*

If you encounter illegal uses of the trails such as mountain bikes where they're not supposed to be, off-road vehicle activity, illegal camping, damaging or removing vegetation, dumping, unauthorized trail work, etc., follow these steps:

1. Make a note of the time of the incident.
2. Make a note of the location of the incident. Mark your map if necessary.
3. Prepare a description of the incident with as much detail as possible.
4. Be prepared to describe the perpetrator(s).
5. Be prepared to describe any vehicles, including color of the vehicle, motorized or not, etc.
6. Note any license plate numbers that you can see.
7. Take photos if you can.
8. Report the incident ASAP.
9. Send a copy of your report to the Trails Director at the NY-NJ Trail Conference Office.

Use your best judgment when approaching people engaged in what may appear to be illegal activity. If they are breaking the law they may not hesitate to break your jaw! Take photographs of and confront these people with caution.

Report first to the park in which the incident occurred, then follow up with a report to the Trail Conference Trails Director (Larry Wheelock) at the TC office, by email at: [wheelock@nynjtc.org](mailto:wheelock@nynjtc.org), or on our website at: <http://www.nynjtc.org/trail.html#Monitor>

A list of contacts, including phone numbers and email addresses, for the most popular parks in our region can be found on the TC website. For other areas, such as some county or municipal parks, you may need to contact the local police department.

## And in the Catskills and Adirondacks . . .

The Adirondack Mountain Club is tracking illegal use and management needs in areas of the Forest Preserve in both the Catskills and Adirondacks. This information is invaluable for reviewing Unit Management Plans for the Forest Preserve.

Hikers and paddlers can help with the effort by sending information regarding:

- your route
- parking needs
- illegal ATV use on hiking or snowmobile trails
- illegal floatplane use on wilderness lakes
- trail conditions
- tree cutting or campsite abuse
- any other details you wish to convey

Send your reports to Neil Woodworth ([nwoodwor@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nwoodwor@nycap.rr.com)), Jack Freeman ([jack@adk.org](mailto:jack@adk.org)), or Meg Everett ([mcarr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mcarr@nycap.rr.com)).

Help New York's Department of Environmental Conservation with their enforcement efforts in the Adirondacks. If you see any illegal ATV use on hiking or snowmobile trails in the Adirondack Forest Preserve, DEC wants to know about it!

Call NYSDEC's dispatch hotline at 518-897-1300.

## Delegates' Meeting Thursday, June 13

### All Members Are Welcome

All Trail Conference members are invited to attend the next meeting of the hiking club delegates on Thursday, June 13, 2002, at the Fort Lee Historic Park, in Fort Lee, New Jersey.

The meeting and program start at 7 pm. Please join us for a social hour, beginning at 6 pm, for a chance to share refreshments and chat with hiking club representatives.

Although each member club or organization of the Trail Conference designates a delegate to act as liaison to the Conference, individual Conference members are always welcome at delegates' meetings. Meetings, held in New York City or at Fort Lee Historic Park on the New Jersey Palisades, provide wonderful opportunities to share hiking and conservation news, discuss issues, and help guide the Trail Conference's future work and activities.

*Getting There.* Fort Lee Historic Park is immediately south of the George Washington Bridge on the east side of Hudson Terrace, on the New Jersey Palisades. Frequent bus service from the GWB terminal in Manhattan is available, or take the lovely (and free) one-mile walk across the bridge. Ample (free) parking is available. From the Palisades Interstate Parkway, get off at the last exit before the bridge toll (right fork after the gas station—and be sure to exit). Follow Hudson Terrace south

under the bridge and take the first left into the park. From New York City, take the upper level of the GWB and use the second exit, "Ft. Lee." Make a sharp right and another right onto Hudson Terrace. Proceed under the bridge to the park entrance on the left. From the New Jersey Turnpike, take the Fort Lee exit, and continue straight on the service road, paralleling the bridge toll plaza, until the service road ends at Hudson Terrace. Turn right onto Hudson Terrace, and then make the first, almost immediate, left turn into the park.

## Trail Maintainers Needed



Not all trail work is as back-breaking as that accomplished by these members of the West Hudson crew last year on the Wildcat

Mountain Trail. The TC has trails waiting for all levels of attention.

Trail maintenance season is upon us, and trails throughout our region need tender loving care from those who use them. Rosters of trail maintainers in Harriman State Park and Sterling Forest are virtually full (at least for now), but elsewhere, caretakers are needed. In particular, the Trail Conference seeks maintainers for trails in the following areas: Catskills Preserve; Shawangunks; Appalachian Trail in New Jersey, especially along the Kittatinny Ridge; High Point State Park; Stokes State Forest in the northwest corner of New Jersey; and the Staten Island Greenbelt Trail.

For information or to volunteer, contact: Trails Director Larry Wheelock at the TC office, 201-512-9348 or [wheelock@nynjtc.org](mailto:wheelock@nynjtc.org).

## PERMITS REQUIRED IN ROCKLAND COUNTY PARKS

Word has been received that groups planning outings in county-owned parks in Rockland County must obtain special permits from the parks commission prior to their arrival at the park. The commission asks that requests for permits be submitted two weeks in advance of an event to ensure that it can be processed and the organizing party notified in the event of any scheduled conflicts. For information contact: 845-364-2670; or write to: Division of Environmental Resources, 50 Sanatorium Rd., Building P, Pomona, NY 10970. A copy of the required form is posted on the Trail Conference Web site: [www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org).



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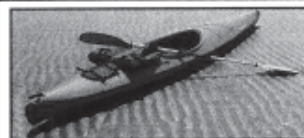
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## American Terrain

Invites you to come to our 2nd annual Kayak Expo at Osceola Beach in Jefferson Valley, NY. Sat., May 18, from 10am-3pm. If you are looking to buy a kayak for the first time or looking to upgrade your paddle accessories, now is the time to shop.

Come and paddle kayaks from Necky, Ocean Kayak, Wilderness Systems, & Walden. Speak to the reps first hand and get your questions answered. Need a new car rack, talk to someone from Yakima.

Dozens of accessories such as deck & dry bags, PFD's, rudder kits, paddles & more will be available at discounted prices for this day only. Whatever your needs are, May 18th is the day to try and buy. See you there!

## Distance Swimming Approved at Lake Minnewaska

### Swim Test in Advance Is Required

Years of lobbying, petitioning, and, last summer, a demonstration at Lake Minnewaska by a group calling itself SWIM (Swim Without Interference at Minnewaska), have resulted in an agreement with officials of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for expanded swimming opportunities at the lake. Qualified swimmers will be able to use an expanded swimming area at Lake Minnewaska this summer. This area will have a 200-yard buoyed cable stretching out from the shore beginning at the old family beach, making possible a 400-yard uninterrupted swim.

The park has also agreed to extend swimming hours to 7:30 pm. "This will permit working people to get to the park to cool off on hot evenings, which previously had been impossible," said Rob Greenberg, one of SWIM's leaders.

Swimmers will become qualified by passing a swim test; the standards for testing include a 500-yard continuous swim, which will include 25 yards each of four different strokes: breast stroke, side stroke, front crawl, and back crawl. The rest of the 500 yards can be swum with whatever stroke the swimmer chooses, and will not be timed. (25 yards is the official length

of a typical high school or college pool.) Swim "buddies" are required as part of the agreement.

To administer the new swimming area and necessary testing SWIM is organizing the Minnewaska Distance Swimmers Association (MDSA). Swimmers must be at least 18 years old. The cost of membership is \$15.00.

For further information swimmers can email: [minnewaskaswimmers@yahoo.com](mailto:minnewaskaswimmers@yahoo.com) or call 845-255-7671.

### Shop Online and Support The Trail Conference

Do you buy clothes, gear, books, computers, etc. via the Web?

If you do, the Web provides a painless way for you to increase the Trail Conference's income at no cost to you. Many stores have affiliate arrangements with not-for-profits whereby the not-for-profit gets a small percentage of all the sales that occur because they were referred from the not-for-profit's Web site. The Trail Conference has several such arrangements, including with Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Amazon.com, and a company called GreaterGood.com, which is a consolidator of several hundred merchants, mostly well-known brands like LL Bean, Lands End, and REI, just to name a few of the clothing companies.

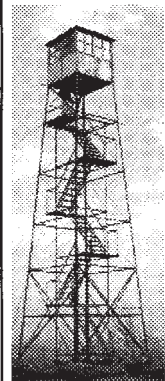
Shopping with these affiliates is easy. Just click on the "Commercial Zone" near the bottom of the TC home page, [www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org), and select an appropriate affiliate. We do not record any information about your transactions, which are purely with the merchants involved. (They do get our account identification so we get our referral fees.)



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## HEALTH HINTS FOR HIKERS



### A Reminder About Ticks

Some scientists warn that the mild winter in the Northeast may result in a bumper crop of ticks this hiking season. Anyone venturing outside is advised to take special precautions. In his handy little book *Health Hints for Hikers* (NY/NJ Trail Conference, 1994), Albert P. Rosen, MD, notes that there are several kinds of ticks and they can cause diseases other than the well-feared Lyme Disease. Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Babesiosis, a malaria like malady, and Ehrlichiosis, similar to Rocky Mountain fever are among the tick-borne health threats.

In his book, Dr. Rosen gives the following advice:

The usual advice for avoiding tick bites has been to wear long-sleeved shirts and pants, and to tuck the pant legs into the socks. Aside from the fact that such measures are not very realistic in 90-degree weather, some hikers now believe that, since ticks gravitate toward warm, moist, dark places, you are actually better off wearing shorts and short-sleeved shirts, in light colors—but no documented evidence exists to support this belief, as far as I am aware. You should also check for ticks throughout the day, and, upon returning home, examine yourself thoroughly and shower immediately. The shower is particularly important, because deer ticks are so tiny—perhaps the size of a pinhead—that you might miss them even if you look for them. In addition, you should use in-

sect repellents to ward off ticks while hiking.

If you are bitten, the sooner the tick is removed, the better the chances of avoiding an illness. Try to remove the tick without leaving the mouth parts embedded in the skin. Use forceps or tweezers, or, if neither is available, use your fingers. If possible, use rubber gloves, tissues, or a piece of paper to protect your fingers from contact with the tick. If none of those is available, use a leaf (not poison ivy!). Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and remove it with a steady pull; try not to crush the body of the tick. Disinfect the wound and wash your hands with soap and water if at all possible.

Petroleum jelly, nail polish remover, and alcohol will not cause the tick to detach. Applying a match or a cigarette is no better, and may cause the tick to explode and spread its infected contents. Do not use these methods to remove the tick; they are ineffective.

Once you have removed the tick, try to preserve it so your physician can identify it and check its infectious state. This may help in determining whether treatment should be implemented. Not every tick bite requires treatment. The chances of getting Lyme disease are considerably diminished if the tick is attached for less than 48 hours.

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## Fire at Pochuck

An early April fire in the area of the new Pochuck boardwalk on the Appalachian Trail in Vernon, NJ, grazed the new wooden structure, but did not appear to cause significant damage. Trails Director Larry Wheelock noted the fire apparently started well south of the boardwalk area, but vigorous winds

caused it to spread north. As of the deadline for this issue, there was a possibility the boardwalk would be closed temporarily for an inspection and during an investigation into the cause of the blaze. After visiting the site, Wheelock noted that the boardwalk appeared to serve somewhat as a fire-break and also helped fire fighters gain access to the site.

*Left: The boardwalk was only singed and has been repaired by the NJ DEP staff.*



*Above: The boardwalk on the morning on April 3rd, open for traffic.*

*Left: The fire started in the far distance, (south), in this photo and swept very quickly north to the Carol Drive area.*



PHOTOS: LARRY WHEELOCK

## ■ VOLUNTEER PROFILE ■

### HERB CHONG

#### Map Maker and Then Some

On a recent hike in the still-chilly season, Herb Chong interrupted his explanation of why a Global Positioning System unit might not report a reliable reading amid the surrounding boulders to point

out to his companions some attractively frozen crystals on the trail. It was a telling moment. Chong, an active volunteer with the Conference—he edited the just published *Long Path Guide* and is leading the Conference in a redesign of its map series that makes the most of high-tech data and design tools—combines interests and aptitudes in both the technical and artistic realms.



GEORGETTE WEIR

*Herb Chong, with camera in hand on a recent hike on Schunemunk Mountain. Herb chairs the Conference's map committee and edited the new edition of the Long Path Guide, just published by the Conference.*

Chong grew up in a small village

in the Canadian Rockies and moved to Peekskill, NY, about 12 years ago; he works for IBM. He connected to the Trail Conference about seven years ago, he says, when he became active with the IBM Tuesday Night Hiking Club and through them got involved in trail maintenance work with the East Hudson crew. Before long, he was leading a group that laid out and built trails in the then new Hubbard-Perkins Conservation Area in Fahnestock State Park. Then he got interested in map making. With another Conference member, Chris Cesar, Chong learned how to do surveys with compass and measuring wheel. "Just as we were getting good at it, GPS (Global Positioning System) started coming around."

A self-confessed gadget guy, Chong eagerly picked up and studied the new technology. He learned how to get the most of the new system, how to get additional data, how to put it all together in aesthetically pleasing and useful ways. He put his new skills and tools to work making the Conference's first hiking map of the new Sterling Forest State Park. "Sterling Forest was a big project," he says. "It kept me busy for three years until I saw a printed map." That first edition was published in 2000 and is the first in the Conference map series to feature shaded relief. "It mattered a lot to me that it be done to modern cartographic standards," he says. "Of course, there is lots of room

for interpretation," he says of decisions such as color choice and shadings.

Chong, who chairs the Conference's map committee, continues to experiment with map aesthetics. One of his efforts won a Notable Entry award in a map competition sponsored by Avenza Systems Inc., a company that produces map-making software (see "An Award Winning Map," January/February 2002 TW).

But his latest project—and another ambitious effort—is the new edition of the Conference's *Long Path Guide* (see page 1). "Jane Daniels convinced me I could do it," he says. Chong coordinated the project, helped to collect the GPS data the guide is based on (for the first time the entire Long Path has been traced by GPS), produced the maps, and took about half the photographs—photography is his other passion. "He's a renaissance man," says Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell.

Art, technology, outdoor adventures: what better combination for an interesting life, and what better fit than that which has flourished between Herb Chong and the Trail Conference. 🍃

—G.W.

## STAFF NEWS

### Larry Wheelock Named Trails Director

Larry Wheelock, formerly New Jersey Field Representative for the Trail Conference, has been named Trails Director.



Larry has been with the Conference for nearly five years. He has perhaps been most visible the last year and half as a result of his dedication to the massive Pochuck relocation project on the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey. The change in his Conference position enlarges the scope of his work; he will now monitor and respond on trail issues in both New York and New Jersey and serve as staff liaison to TC's volunteer maintainer network and trail management agency partners.



### Maureen Walsh Joins TC Staff

The Trail Conference welcomes Maureen Walsh to the

position of Administrative Director. Maureen graduated in 1994 from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with a bachelor's degree in environmental science. She spent six years in Seattle, where she enjoyed a variety of outdoor adventures in the beautiful area of Washington and Oregon. Her favorite job in Seattle was for Ride for a Reason, a four-day AIDS Ride.

For the past three years, she has been in Washington, DC, working for Center for a Sustainable Economy, an environmental nonprofit that does research and policy analysis on market-based approaches to addressing environmental issues. She is excited to work at the NY/NJ Trail Conference and with a great group of dedicated volunteers and staff.

"I knew when Ed asked, 'How would you feel about doing at least 12 hikes a year with TC members?' that this was the perfect job for me."

*Keep up with news of and from the Trail Conference at [www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org)*



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## LETTERS

continued from page 2

ter-quality concerns mentioned in the *TW* article. But from a hiker's perspective, I don't think it's realistic to believe that if people don't have X-Treme Habitat they're going to use their vehicles in their back yards instead. If we want vehicles kept to a minimum on walking trails, there has to be an appropriate alternative venue that offers vehicle-lovers the experience they're looking for. Can we identify a better site than West Milford? If so, by all means let's suggest it. But it sure would be helpful if hikers like the ones in your photo could direct ATVers to a nearby spot where their presence would not be unwelcome.

Patrick Hynes  
Cold Spring, NY

**Ed. Note:** For advice on how to report illegal trail use, please see the article *Fire! ATV!* on page 9.

### Of Bikes, Dogs, & ORVs

Most bikers are nice but I would not confront them or let them see me writing down a license number. Too many bikers are riding out of control on trails, and I have no way to get out of their way because the trail is narrow or there is no advance warning. All bikers are bigger and younger than I am.

Recently, we hiked in the Ramapo Reservation [and encountered] lots of unleashed dogs. I am not reassured by the dog's owners telling me "He's friendly." I am not reassured by the owner's calling the dog and the dog not going to the owner. I do not like strange dogs running at me, sniffing me, or occasionally jumping on me even though they may not bite me. Dogs are required to be on a 6-foot leash in the Ramapo Reservation. The message is not getting across to the dog owners, who do not appear to worry about the rules. We saw unleashed dogs near Scarlet Oak Pond, which is fairly close to the office. This is not only a back-country problem. I know that funding is low for the parks but do wonder if any summonses are given out for unleashed dogs or just a routine warning that the owners know they can ignore.

As far as Jungle Habitat being made into recreation for ORVs, I am against it. They belong in a theme park with the roller coasters, not on Green Acres.

Josephine Conger  
Park Ridge, NJ

### Flags on Trails

On September 11, I was with a group of people hiking in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. As the news came over our TV sets, we were all devastated to be so far away from home and our loved ones during this crisis. As we hiked these beautiful mountains, I was overwhelmed with a new appreciation of the pristine beauty of our wonderful country, and I knew then that whatever it took, we must fight to

## MAKING THINGS HAPPEN

continued from page 1



Long Path before clearing,  
Cheesecote Town Park,  
Pomona, NY

PHOTO COURTESY: SUZAN GORDON/PETER TILGNER

meeting on February 25, 2002, and testified to the board (I had pictures taken to emphasize my points), asking them to help clean the mess. We got a lukewarm response. They were sympathetic, they knew the problem, and might try to do something about it. Meanwhile, an article and


an editorial appeared in the *Journal News*. Then I called a TV station (Channel 7/WABC) to come to the next board meeting (March 11). I was going to testify again if they had not done the cleaning.

"Fortunately, the week of March 4, the town parks department and highway de-

partments brought their heavy equipment and their crews and did a wonderful job. They also installed new signs re restrictions and obligations in using the park and blocked the different entrances where ATV, dirt bikes, and four-wheelers were menacing the park.

partment brought their heavy equipment and their crews and did a wonderful job. They also installed new signs re restrictions and obligations in using the park and blocked the different entrances where ATV, dirt bikes, and four-wheelers were menacing the park.

"I thanked the Haverstraw Town Board for a prompt and efficient job and requested more police patrolling and tickets to the violators. Meanwhile, we have contacted neighbors living across from the park entrance and asked their cooperation in notifying the police of any violators. Also, we are planning regular visits to the park and smaller trash pickups with people from our clubs and organizations mentioned above. It was a successful and rewarding experience, which can teach us all that, if there is a will there is a way."

Gletso thanks Jakob Franke, Ed Walsh (Long Path Supervisor), and Warner W. Johnston (a concerned Pomona neighbor) for their diligent help. Also "my wife, Helen, for typing." 

partments brought their heavy equipment and their crews and did a wonderful job. They also installed new signs re restrictions and obligations in using the park and blocked the different entrances where ATV, dirt bikes, and four-wheelers were menacing the park.

death of good hiking in the Midwest" caused him to plan fewer hikes than he would have liked on his cross-country roadtrip. As a native Minnesotan who has pursued outdoor activities in all 48 continental states, I take strong issue with Mr. DiBernardo's characterization of the hiking found in the middle ones. The native beauty and geological history of the Midwest offers hikers wooded bluffs, prairies and sylvan ravines along countless twisting rivers, streams and freshwater lakes. Further, the region is replete with trails first blazed by Native Americans and migrating wildlife. It's too bad that Mr. DiBernardo wasn't able to locate any of these myriad opportunities in his research at the TC library.

Erin Flanagan  
New York, New York

### Music for Maintainers' Ears

Dear Delaware Water Gap Maintainers,

On Saturday, February 2, the Abington Senior High Outdoors Club and I traveled from Abington, a suburb of Philadelphia, to the New Jersey side of the Delaware Water Gap for a day hike. The Outdoors Club has hiked throughout eastern Pennsylvania, usually on the Appalachian Trail. We were amazed at how wonderful the trails were in the Delaware Water Gap.

We started on the Red Dot Trail, then up the mountain, to Sunfish Pond, the AT, the campsite, and then back to the parking lot by the information center. All the trails were excellently maintained. Rocks in the way had been moved to the side of the trail, in fact steps were even cut into the rocks. Erosion barriers used throughout the park provided for superb hiking trails. The trail blazes were large, easy to see, and numerous. It was the unanimous opinion that this hike was the best one we've gone on.

Walking through the woods, next to a

babbling brook filled with waterfalls on wide, smooth, well marked, well maintained trails was an incredible pleasure. Thank you for making hiking in your park such a memorable experience.

Aaron Heintz Senior  
Trip Coordinator,  
ASHS Outdoors Club  
Abington Senior High School, PA

### Not a Sterling Legacy

On March 5, I spent over eight glorious hours hiking in our new Sterling Forest State Park, now thankfully managed by the PIPC. While the Sterling Ridge Trail is wondrous and nearly pristine, the many woods (logging) roads lacing the park show the legacy of decades of Sterling Forest Corporation stewardship.

On my tramp, I passed two old garbage dumps, several hulks of cars, and piles of cut timber strewn about too numerous to count—one pile 3' high by 8' around. What a shame to have harvested those once fine trees just to leave the logs to rot. Time will heal these wounds, but sound stewardship by PIPC and volunteer work will certainly be necessary.

Before the logging roads deteriorate further, they should be utilized to remove the car hulks and garbage dumps. I volunteered for such work at Doodletown. Perhaps some of the cut and abandoned firewood can be collected for use at PIPC facilities. Then these woods roads ought to be closed to all but official PIPC vehicle traffic as is done at Bear Mountain & Harriman State Parks. I see no reason to allow hunters seasonal access via these roads to interior parking areas. The hikers' parking areas that we use should suffice. This will slow down the rampant erosion on some of the woods roads.

All in all, an excellent hike. I plan on returning again soon.

George Shellowsky  
Township of Washington, NJ

### No Good Hikes in the Midwest?

In his "A Journey Between the Dots" (*Trail Walker*, January/February 2002), Neil DiBernardo notes that "a notable

continued from page 1

locks," he says. "It's not as easy as just controlling woolly adelgids. Populations of woolly adelgids can come and go on a tree, but the scale rides the tree out, it brings it down to death. The trees may be weakened by the woolly adelgid, but the scale does it in." Mites and hemlock borers also attack the trees. "The hemlocks are looking bad, their needles are getting thinner. I think they're going to be lost, like the chestnuts and elms were lost. It's something we're going to have to get used to. There's no silver bullet."

Meanwhile, experiments continue in both New Jersey and New York to find biological controls to the introduced species that are plaguing native trees. *Pseudocymnus tsugae*—ladybird beetle—feeds on woolly adelgids and has been introduced into at least 50 sites in New Jersey, including in Wawayanda State Park. "They have overwintered, they are reproducing in New Jersey," says Mayer. "But it will take a few years to know whether they are effective. Unfortunately, we're in a race, and the woolly adelgid is way ahead. There's a chance that it may be too late for New Jersey." A similar experiment is being considered for Minnewaska State Park. At the Mohonk Preserve, Huth cited the unknown ecological effects of the ladybird beetle, which is itself a species exotic to our region, as one reason for not participating in the release experiments.

**Drought**

Compounding the debilitating effects of insects is the drought. Should it continue, the drought will weaken healthy trees and make those already under siege more vulnerable to death. Generally speaking, say authorities, trees are able to withstand two to three years of severe stress and defoliation. Beyond that, the likelihood of mortality increases.

At New York's Black Rock Forest, Executive Director William Schuster notes that the droughts of 2001 and 1999 have left their mark. "There has been increased mortality in many tree species, including the normally drought tolerant chestnut oak, and people may notice an increase in the percentage of dead trees in stands." And, he says, the warm winter weather "probably favored adelgid survival" and will further impact the already substantial hemlock mortality in the forest.

More imminent is the threat of fire. The drought and increasing numbers of trees dead from insect damage set our region's forest lands up for a potentially serious fire season. There is more dead wood to burn; the leaves on the ground are dry and loose; and the ground itself is parched for several inches and is combustible. Spring winds are further drying out the ground layers.


Not only are dramatic forest fires a

threat under these conditions, but damaging ground fires are also possible. Says PIPC's Ranger Sullivan: "What we call the duff—the layers of fine leaves and part of the soil—will also burn. There won't be flames, but it will burn from the rootlet systems of trees. These rootlets supply the moisture to the fine growth of the tree. We could see browning of twigs from lack of moisture."

**What to expect**

As winter turned to spring, there was some anxiety but no panic among authorities about the recreation season to come. "I think spring will be fine in terms of visual impact," says Mohonk's Huth of what to expect in the Shawangunks. "The trees will leaf out fine. I don't think we'll see much mortality, but we will see smaller annual growth rings." For the Shawangunks' pitch pines and chestnut oaks, he notes, dryness "is part of their regime."

Further south, along the New York-New Jersey border, Ranger Sullivan had similar thoughts. "The leaves will come out. The deciduous oak trees will have a pretty tight canopy." Time will tell, he says, whether the gypsy moths will return. PIPC staff, meanwhile, will continue a program of cutting deadwood along roads and public areas to reduce its fire potential. "Everybody is acutely aware that fire-wise, anything could happen."

Despite the potential for fires early in the season, none of the managers had plans to restrict the public's access to parks and preserves. "Right now, it's business as usual," said Tom Cobb, park manager at Minnewaska. Where things will stand later in the season, is, quite literally, up in the air. 



**NEW BOOKS IN THE  
HOEFERLIN LIBRARY**

*One Hundred Hikes in New Mexico*  
By Craig Martin  
The Mountaineers Books, 2001

*Hiking Long Island:  
A Comprehensive Guide to Parks & Trails*  
By Lee McAllister  
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference,  
2001.

*Don't Get Sick:  
The Hidden Dangers of Camping and Hiking*  
By Buck Tilton and Rick Bennett  
The Mountaineers Books, 2002

**HIKERS' BOOKSHOP**



*Views from on High: Fire Tower Trails in the Adirondacks and Catskills.*

John P. Freeman  
Adirondack Mountain Club, 2001,  
\$10.95

Review by Dan Case

There are many reasons to climb a mountain besides "it's there": it is over a certain elevation in a particular range, it is the highest in a county or state or other political subdivision, or it might have some great views.

Now, John Freeman suggests another reason: it has a fire lookout tower on top.

*Views from on High*, his guidebook to the firetowers in the New York State Forest Preserves, gives the ambitious hiker a list of 23 Adirondack and five Catskill peaks so topped. Coming so soon after a largely successful effort to preserve and restore the Catskill towers, this is a welcome book.

Chapters on each tower give history, hiking directions, and a brief account of each hike. I would have preferred that this last item not be culled from the ADK guide in question; when Freeman has to write a fresh description, as he does with Red Hill's recently-built trail, it makes for better reading.

But the most interesting material in this book is the history of the state fire observation program in the introduction, contributed by Wesley Haynes. Haynes takes us to the early years of the Forest Preserve, when fire was a fact of life and the state relied upon an underfunded system of regional fire wardens, geared toward prevention rather than detection and suppression. By World War I regional wardens had been replaced by a network of modern observation towers with telephones and sophisticated equipment for locating fires. After World War II, air surveillance began to prove more cost-effective than tower watches; but even that was soon rendered obsolete by improved fire education and a more observant public. The last tower observer climbed down in 1990.

The towers remained, however, and while the Department of Environmental Conservation decided what to do with them, hikers knew that the towers offered a platform to enhance public understanding of the Forest Preserve. As Haynes puts it, "Towers enabled our forebears to literally see the forest through the trees, [comprehending] its vast scale [and understanding] its importance." Hence, their resurrection.

There are a few factual errors in the text. Hunter Mountain gets credited as the Catskills' highest peak at one point. And as is often the case with books from an

Adirondack perspective, the Catskill section feels like an afterthought.

But, all in all, *Views from on High* achieves a long-sought ADK goal of encouraging hikers to follow paths infrequently taken, but quite rewarding.

*Don't Get Sick: The Hidden Dangers of Camping and Hiking.*

By Buck Tilton and Rick Bennett.  
The Mountaineers Books, 2002, \$8.95,  
108 pages

Review by Albert P. Rosen, M.D.


This little book is packed with information on how to avoid health dangers while in the outdoors. The slim volume measures 4 by 6 inches and could easily be carried in a day- or backpack. The eight chapters give practical tips on camp cleanliness, waste disposal, water treatment, signs and symptoms of common wilderness diseases, among other topics, and what to do if you are infected. Picking up the book and reading is possibly daunting, particularly for the novice camper. However, the information contained in this volume is presented in a way that following the authors' advice may result in a lifetime of healthy practices, not only while on the trail, but also at home. The section on hand washing for instance is excellent, and should be practiced at all times, not only when camping.

This book is well worth its cost.


Albert P. Rosen is author of *Health Hints for Hikers*.

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# FAVORITE HIKES



## Schunemunk Mountain

By Georgette Weir

Map # 8 from the NY/NJTC West Hudson Trails set

With its distinctive double ridge and beautiful pink-and-white conglomerate stone, two rushing brooks with cascading falls, a between-ridge swamp, mountain laurel, pitch pine, and views up and down the Hudson Valley, Schunemunk Mountain is a long-time favorite destination in all seasons.

There are several access points to hikes on Schunemunk. Taylor Road (access from Rt. 32) is perhaps the most popular. But for this outing, an 7.5-mile loop that features an immediate aerobic ascent to the western ridge, we start at a point just off the TC map, on Otterkill Road (follow Taylor Road, from Rt. 32, all the way to its end on Otterkill; turn left). Just south of the imposing railroad trestle is a parking lot, complete with kiosk and map, supplied by the Open Space Institute, current owners of 2100 acres on the mountain.

From this lot (elevation approximately 300'), walk toward the trestle, and turn right into the woods, passing over mounds of dirt. Look for the white blazes, and head straight up. As you near the elevation of the trestle, watch to your right for the turn-off; it is easy to miss, especially as you may already be huffing-and-puffing. (If you find yourself looking out over railroad tracks, just turn around and look for the white blaze and trail heading south and up.)

The white Trestle Trail continues steadily up and along the side of the mountain. At about .8 mile from the parking lot, there is a lookout: the trestle, Stewart Airport, the Shawangunks, Catskills, and Hudson River are visible.

At 1.4 miles, the trail levels out and the walk proceeds along the western ridge (elevation approximately 1,400').

At 1.7 miles, jog to your right onto a red-dot on white trail, bypassing an old, unmarked woods road. Shortly, you connect with the aqua-blazed Long Path; go south. Be alert for the blazes, as the many unmarked paths may lead you astray.

As you continue south, the eastern ridge comes into view on your left. Expansive views north and west are common. At 2.3 miles, pass the junction with the white-blazed Sweet Clover trail. At 3.2 miles, take the Western Ridge Trail—blue dot on white—to your left. Shortly, you meet the red-dot Barton Swamp Trail. Turn right; the trail is marked with both red and blue blazes. Very soon, go left on the blue-dot Western Ridge Trail, cross a swampy area and climb to the higher eastern ridge. The ascent is not quite a



The Moodna trestle, as seen from the Trestle Trail

scramble, and in about 10 minutes you will be looking back and down on the western ridge. At 3.7 miles, turn left onto the joint Jessup (yellow blaze)/Highlands (teal diamond) Trail. At about 3.9 miles, look down at your feet for the painted indicator of the summit—a small white box stating 1664 feet.

Soon after the summit, look again on the rocks for directions and small cairns indicating the way to the Megaliths—impressive slabs of jumbled conglomerate that are worth the short detour.

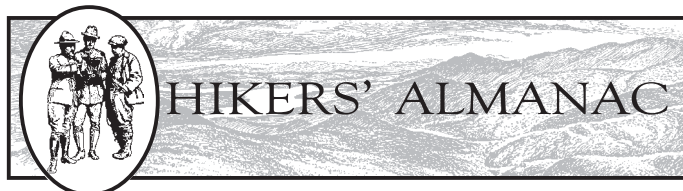
At 4.2 miles pass the Dark Hollow Trail (black dot on white) on your right. Great views are north and east. At 4.9 miles, you meet the white-blazed Sweet

Clover; stay left. In just a few yards, you meet the old Sweet Clover junction; continue left; the trail is now blazed yellow and white (Jessup and Sweet Clover). At 5.1 miles the white trail breaks off and heads west; stay on yellow. As you proceed down, the colors of the outdoor sculptures at the Storm King Art Center can be easily sighted. At 5.7 miles, you reach the Baby Brook. The red-dot trail heads up to the western ridge. Stay on the yellow trail to the right and head down the mountain. In about 5 minutes there is a little detour to the left for a view of a lovely cascade in a hemlock grove.

At 6.1 miles, look for the relocation of the trail off to the left. It's easy to miss (I've missed it twice) as your attention is on where you are putting your feet on this stony stretch. The Baby Brook will soon become a cheerful companion. When you reach the railroad tracks, cross the stream and pick up the red-blazed Otterkill Trail. It goes briefly up before turning into the woods to parallel the rail line and continue as a relatively easy walk. You pass some old stone walls, reminders of an unlikely farming past, and in about one mile, return to the trestle.



Share a favorite hike in the region with Conference members. Send your description to: [tw@nynjtc.org](mailto:tw@nynjtc.org) or to the TC office, Attn: Trail Walker.



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to register, just show up! E-mail leaders if any questions.

**UCHC. Watchung Reservation.** Leader: Joan Lepselter, 908-273-4188. Meet: 10 AM at the Trailside Nature and Science Center parking lot on Coles Ave. where it intersects with New Providence Rd. This will be a brisk ramble of 4-5 miles. Steady rain cancels.

**ADK-R. Norvin Green State Forest Circular.** Meet: Call leader at 845-359-2465. 6-7 miles.

**ADK-MH. Mohok Preserve Dog Hike.** Leader: Ben Shor, 845-236-4291. Meet: 11 AM at Mohok (possible \$7 entrance fee). Moderately easy hike of 5-6 miles for dogs and their owners. Dogs must bring someone who will keep them on a leash, clean up after them, and make sure they behave; non-dog owners also welcome. Scenic carriageways, Duck Pond, Glory Hill.

**OUT. Westport, CT.** Leader: Karen Davis, 203-348-0487. Meet: 12 noon at Westport RR station (11:07 Metro North from Grand Central). Compo Beach; 7 miles on easy terrain, views of LI Sound.

**TLR. Edible Plant Walk.** Leader: Amy Keith. Meet: 1:30 PM; call 914-762-2912 to pre-register. Hike around Teatown Reservation in Ossining, NY, leading to identify edible plants, and which to avoid. Sample new wild recipes after the walk. \$8 fee.

**MJOMC. Pine Meadow Lake.** Leader: Hanna Abolitz Benesch, 732-565-1125, till 11 PM. Meet: Call leader by Fri. May 17 to register and confirm the hike. 9:15 AM at Dunkin' Donuts on Rt. 17 in Staatsburg, NY (Shoreline bus leaves Port Authority at 8:15). Moderate 7-8 mile circular hike in Harriman Park includes a mountain and 3 lakes. I will hike at a slower pace and make stops. No racers. Steady rain cancels. Non-members: \$10.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 23

**FVTW. Dater Mountain/Smith's Den Circular, Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0766. Meet: 10 AM at Johnsonstown Rd. parking, Harriman. 7-10 miles; climb Dater Mt. on the Blue Disc trail with great views after some serious rock scrambling.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 25

**NYHC. Old Croton Aqueduct, Glenwood to Irvington, NY.** Leader: Salvatore Varbero, 718-420-9569. Meet: 9 AM at Grand Central info booth. Easy 8-mile hike along Croton Aqueduct, enjoying beautiful views along the Hudson.

**WTA. Nyack-Piermont, NY.** Leader: Stewart Manville, 914-837-9623. Meet: 10 AM at North White Plains Station parking lot. Easy 4 miles on abandoned Erie RR roadbed with nice river views. We'll wine and dine at pleasant cafe. Car shuttle; \$3 contribution.

**OUT. New Rochelle to Larchmont, NY.** Leader: Helen Yee, 212-348-5344. Meet: 11 AM at #6 subway Pelham Bay station token booth. 8 moderate miles with ups and downs, road walking, along waterfront parks from Hudson River to Larchmont. Optional dinner in the Bronx. Bus rides. Non-members \$3.

**AFW. Drag Hill, Ramapo St Forest, NJ.** For information and meeting place call AFW 973-644-3582. Moderate hike from 9AM-1PM. Women only club, membership required or \$8.

#### SUNDAY, MAY 26

**IHC. Ramapo S. P./Ramapo Reservation.** Leader: Steve Rikon: 973-962-4149. Meet: 9AM upper parking lot, Ramapo Mountain State Forest along Skyline Drive. Strenuous, from Skyline Dr. to MacMillan Reservoir, then up to Ringwood S.P. and back. Call for details.

**WTV. Nyack State Park.** Leader: George Thomas, 914-591-7102. Meet: Contact leader. 8-9 miles along the river.

**UCHC. Ramapo Lake.** Leader: Ben Sterman, 201-797-0468. Meet: At 10 AM on Skyline Dr. at the first parking lot on the left on the bottom of the hill. This is a very scenic moderate hike along hills overlooking Ramapo Lake and back along the lake.

**GAHC. JFK Bird Sanctuary, Tobay Beach, LI.** Leader: Mathias Wuerthrich, 908-253-9042. Meet: 10 AM at Jones Beach Parking Lot 5. Moderate hike; non-members \$2.

**WTA. Schunemunk.** Leader: Peter Hibbard, 914-285-9211. Meet: 9 AM; call leader. 6 miles, moderate to strenuous, up Dark Hollow trail to Megaliths and 1864 ft. summit. One of our nicest hikes. Car shuttle; \$5 transportation contribution.

#### MONDAY, MAY 27

**ADK-K. Harriman: Tuxedo Circular.** Leader: John Denkowski, 212-865-5052, 8-9:30 PM. Meet: 9:20 AM at Tuxedo RR station (Shoreline bus leaves Port Authority at 8:15). Strenuous but scenic 10-mile hike at a fast but reasonable pace with the usual ups and downs. Hiking boots and at least 2 qt. water required. Rain cancels.

**OUT. Butler Reservoir and Pyramid Mt., NJ.** Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 9:30 AM at Port Authority Bus Terminal commuter statue. Moderate 9 miles with ups and downs; Tripod Rock and Kayson Lake. Non-members \$3.

**RVW. Family Hike up Overlook Mt. (3140) from Mead Mt. Info:** 845-679-2580. Tower will be open if you call ahead. Moderate hike: 5 miles, 3 hours.

### JUNE

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 1 - NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

**LIG. Trail Maintenance, Wampmissick and Bald Hill Trails.** Info: 631-360-0753. Geared to all abilities. Meet at 9:30 at the Trails Information Center in Manorville, 1/4 mile north of L.I.E., Exit 70. E's Wampmissick Trail is a lovely, handicapped-accessible pine barrens trail. Another group will do erosion control work on the scenic and challenging vista trail at Bald Hill off of Rt. 51 in Riverhead. At 1PM we'll have a short ceremony for our volunteers and choice of a guided interpretive hike on E's Trail or an aerobic workout on the Bald Hill Loop Trail. Rain date: Sunday, June 2.

**LPNHC. Trail Maintenance, Long Path on Mt. Pisgah.** Leader: Fred Schroeder: 518-283-7584. Help needed to relocate about a 1/4 mile of the LP through property recently purchased by the state.

**WTV. Patriots Branch Trail.** Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194. Meet: Contact leader. 6-7 mile hike from Fosterfields Living Historical Farm south to Jockey Hollow Rd. and back. Call if weather doubtful.

**UCHC. Pyramid Mountain.** Leader: Clotilde Lanig, 732-549-4977. Meet: 10 AM at Pyramid Mountain Visitor Center parking lot. This moderate 5-mile hike is a very rewarding experience. Bring your own lunch to eat at a rest stop at one of the world's wonders, Tripod Rock.

**ADK-MH. Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Vincent Cortina, 845-688-5362 (7-9 PM). Meet: 10 AM at parking off Arden Valley Rd.; call leader for directions. Moderate hike past Island Pond, visiting the infamous Lemon Squeezer, to Greenwood Mine.

**OUT. Duke Island Park, N.J.** Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 10:15 AM at Penn. Station in front of NJ Transit ticket windows, upper level. 7 moderate miles in this little known area; wooded areas along the Raritan Canal. Non-members \$3.

**AFW. South Mt. Reservation, W. Orange, NJ.** For information and meeting place call AFW 973-644-3582. Moderate hike from 10AM-2PM. Women only club, membership required or \$8.

**OCJS. Lebanon State Forest.** Leader: Joseph Trujillo, 856-468-4849. Introductory hike of 7-8 miles, moderate pace. Meet at Lebanon Park office at 10 AM.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 2

**UCHC. Scherman-Hoffman NJ Audubon to Cross Estate.** Leaders: Lynn Gale, 973-763-7230 and Betty White. Meet: 10 AM at the NJ Audubon lower parking lot on Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville. Moderate hike using NJ Audubon trails and Patriot's Path offshoot called the NJ Brigade Trail; wildflowers; steady rain cancels. May visit NJ Audubon visitor center.

**ADK-K. Appalachian Trail: Pawling to Poughquag.** Leader: James Shearwood, 845-228-6017. Meet: Call leader to register. 7-mile section of the AT goes over Corbin Hill, past shelter on West Mt. and by Nuclear Lake. Rain will cancel.

**WTV. Harriman State Park, NY.** Leader: Sarah Collins, 973-744-5126. Meet: Contact leader. Moderate paced 6-7 mile hike on the Ramapo, Dunderberg and Stahahe trails. Rain cancels.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 8

**NYHC. Pocantico Hills Circular.** Leader: Salvatore Varbero, 718-420-9569. Meet: 9 AM at Grand Central info booth. Moderate 7-mile hike in the beautiful hills of Pocantico, described by Washington Irving in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

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

**ADK-R. Ramapo Mountain Circular.** Meet: Call leader at 845-354-0738. 6-7 miles.

**WTV. Patriots Path.** Leader: Hermann & Marlene Memmer, 908-979-0493. Meet: Contact leader. Moderate 6-8 mile hike in part of Hacklebarney State Park. Bad weather may cancel.

**OUT. Glen Island/Pelham/The Bronx.** Leader: Ted Gabay, 914-632-3684, and Helen Yee, 212-348-5344. Meet: 11 AM at #6 subway Pelham Bay station token booth. 6 moderate miles around Glen Is., New

Rochelle, then explore town of Pelham and walk back to the Bronx. Heavy rain cancels. Non-members \$3.

**MJOMC. Ellenville Ice Caves.** Leader: Howard Israel, 718-639-0123, 9-11 PM. Meet: Call leader by June 7 to register. Moderately paced 6-7 miles in an incredible place: hot on the surface, but cold in the crevices with possible snow. Definitely not for the faint of heart. Sturdy boots required; also 2-3 quarts water, flashlight, gloves, warm outer layer. Three major canyons, many caves, great Catskills views. Non-members \$10.

**RVW. Plateau Mountain** (Elevation 3840', ascent 1650') from Elka Park to Stony Clove (spot cars). Info: 631-225-2176 or 845-246-4145. Moderate + hike: 7.25 miles, 5.5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Saturday.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 9

**ADK-K. Southern Gunks.** Leader: Barry Skura, 718-727-7294. Meet: 10:05 AM at Trailways bus station in New Paltz, NY (take Adirondack Trailways bus from Port Authority at 8:30). Brisk 11-mile circular from Trapps' Bridge in Mohok and Lake Minnevaska. Fantastic views from Gertrude's Nose and Millbrook Mt. Mohok usage fee of \$7 per person.

**OUT. Riverdale/Fieldston.** Leader: Dina Tritsch, 212-781-8153. Meet: 10 AM at NW corner of 231 St. and Broadway (#1 subway to 231 St.). 3-5 miles exploring the mansions, trees and views from Broadway to the Hudson River. Optional visit to Wave Hill and Van Cortlandt Park. Rain cancels. Non-members \$3.

**SCS. Singles Hike at Eagle Rock Reservation.** We will hike 4-5 miles at a moderate pace. Bring water and snacks. Rain cancels. Meet before 10:00 AM at the Highlawn Pavilion parking lot off Eagle Rock Avenue in West Orange. Take Route 280 to Prospect Ave. (Exit 8B) head north, right turn onto Eagle Rock Ave., left turn into reservation. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-SCS members and all participants must sign a liability waiver. Leader: Joyce Haddad 973-364-7573 option #7.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 13

**FVTW. Highland Trails, Pequanock.** Leader: Jim and Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 AM; call leader for directions. 7-8 miles from Echo Lake to Clinton Rd.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 15

**HC/TC. Highlands Hike & Tour: Torne Valley & Mountain Laurel.** Leader: Rob Lehmann (rob@hikeleader.com) & Guide: Jill Hamell (jhamell@pobox.com). Meet: 9 AM at the NY-NJ Trail Conference Headquarters on Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202) in Mahwah, NJ, or at 9:30 AM at Reeves Meadow Visitor Center, Harriman State Park, NY (public transportation available). Come join us as we celebrate the beauty of our very threatened Highlands region. Join members of The Highlands Coalition on a 7-mile, moderately paced hike and tour of Torne Valley including the spectacular annual display of mountain laurel. Along the hike you will learn of ongoing efforts to protect the valley and other critical resources of the Highlands region. Rain cancels. No need to register, just show up! E-mail leaders if any questions.

**WTV. Pochuck Bridge and Boardwalk.** Leader: Bob Busha, 973-777-5016. Meet: Contact leader. Come see this recently completed, extensive trail work project for yourself. Possible climb to 1422 ft. Wawayanda Mt.

**ADK-MH. Catskills Peaks.** Leader: Marge Velasquez, 845-361-4351, before 9 PM. Meet: Call leader for details. Strenuous hike up Sugarloaf and T win mountains. Bring bug repellent/long sleeves (black fly season).

**UCHC. Turkey Mountain, Montville.** Leader: Peter Wolff, 973-239-0788. Meet: 10 AM at Pyramid Mountain Visitor Center. This will be an interesting and moderate loop including a waterfall and some great views. We often see wild turkeys.

**NYHC. Osborn Loop.** Leader: Mike Puuder, 718-743-0920. Meet: Grand Central info booth to take train to Manitou (return from Garrison); drivers meet at Manitou; call leader during week of hike for time. Moderate 8-mile hike with some climbing.

**ADK-R. Dunderberg/Escalator/Bald Mountain.** Meet: Call leader at 201-836-3329. Moderately strenuous 7 miles.

**ADK-K. East Hudson Highlands State Park.** Leader: Diane Bamford, 914-234-6409. Meet: Call leader prior week to register. Moderate hike on Underciff Trail and Mount Taurus; great Hudson views and some steep places. Bring bug repellent.

**MJOMC. Shawangunk Photo Opportunity Hike.** Leader: Don Pachner, 914-234-6618, before 10 PM. Meet: Call leader to register by June 13. Moderate to strenuous 6-9 mile hike in one of the most endangered ecosystems of W. hemisphere through clouds of mountain laurel. Magnificent views of at least five mountain ranges. We'll stop for photos and leader will create web site photo album. Dinner in New Paltz. Non-members \$10.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 16

**GAHC. Sterling Forest State Park, NY.** Leader: Henry Loddings, 718-899-1052. Meet: 9:30 AM at Red Apple Restaurant in Southfields, NY, on Rt. 17. Moderate and easy hikes; non-members \$2.

**NYHC. Ponds and Forts on Staten Island.** Leader: Helen Yee, 212-348-5344, call 8:30-10 PM. Meet: 11:15 AM inside Staten Is. ferry terminal in Manhattan to take 11:30 boat. Bring photo ID, which will be needed for admission to Fort Wadsworth. Moderate hike of 7 miles with ups and downs, road walking, and wonderful scenic views. Lunch will be

around 1:30 PM; heavy rain cancels.

**UCHC. Pyramid Mountain.** Leader: Don Messier, 973-228-2258. Meet: 10 AM at Pyramid Mountain Visitor Center parking lot. Moderate hike past a beaver dam and reservoir.

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 21

**LPNHC. Summer Solstice Hike.** Leader: Harold Guest, 518-827-5965.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 22

**UCHC. Tourne Park, Boonton.** Leader: Susan Jacobs, 973-402-2555. Meet: 10 AM. Meet at the second parking lot. This will be a moderate hike through flowers by a stream and lake and a stop to see the boiling springs.

**ADK-K. White Bar, Triangle and Victory Trail Circular.** Meet: Call leader at 845-359-2465. 5 miles.

**WTV. Skylands Circular, Ringwood, NJ.** Leader: Cliff Harvey, 973-228-8647. Meet: Contact leader. Moderate 5-mile hike with one climb and a great view. Rain cancels.

**ADK-MH. Mohok Preserve.** Leader: Ben Shor, 845-236-4291. Meet: 11 AM at Spring Farm parking lot at Mohok; \$7 entrance fee. Moderate 5-6 mile hike to Table Rock and Bonticou Crag with great views and mountain laurel.

**OUT. Bronxville to Scarsdale, NY.** Leader: Sal Varbero, 718-420-9569, 8-10 PM. Meet: 9:10 AM at Grand Central info booth. 5 miles along Bronx River Parkway. Non-members \$3.

**TLR. Family Swamp Stomp Hike.** Leader: Ruth Rubenstein. Meet: 1 PM; call 914-762-2912 to pre-register. Celebrate summer with a family hike looking at wonders of nature on this moderate hike to the wetlands of Griffin Swamp. \$6 fee per person.

**RVW. Bear Mountain** (Elevation 1284', ascent 1150 ft), from Fort Clinton site near Bear Mt. Bridge (loop). Info: 845-246-4145. Moderate hike: 5.5 miles, 4.5 hours. Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Saturday.

**TC. Hemlock Study Hike. Wawayanda State Park.** Leader: Denise Royle, ecologist. Pre-registration required. Call TC office at 201-512-9348. Additional details on page 7.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 23

**ADK-K. Harriman: Arden Circular.** Leader: John Denkowski, 212-865-5052, 8-9:30 PM. Meet: 9:30 AM at Arden parking lot; call leader for directions. Scenic 10-mile hike at a fast but reasonable pace with the usual ups and downs. Hiking boots and at least 3 qt. of water required. Rain cancels.

**NYHC. Tibbets Brook Park.** Leader: George Glatz, 212-533-9457, call 7:30-9 AM. Meet: 11 AM at 242 St. & Broadway on the street on the park side. 5 easy miles along abandoned railbed.

#### TUESDAY, JUNE 25

**FVTW. Mt. Tammany.** Leader: Joe Papp, 973-434-4382. Meet: 10 AM at Delaware Water Gap Appalachian Trail parking; call leader for directions. 6-7 miles; climb Mt. Tammany overlook and back down the Durnfield Creek Trail.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 29

**IHC. Lake Awosting Swim Hike.** Leader: Lisa Dunham: 973-838-8031. Meet: 8AM, municipal parking lot, Rt. 202, Suffern (junction with Rt. 59 at traffic light). Strenuous. Supper in New Paltz. Rain cancels.

**ADK-R. Indian Hill to Sterling Ridge.** Meet: Call leader at 201-871-3531. 9.5 moderately strenuous miles.

**WTV. Tourne Hike to Birchwood Lake.** Leader: Ernest Wagner, 973-694-3194. Meet: Contact leader. Nice easy 4-6 mile hike to enjoy the woods; rain may cancel.

**MJOMC. Lost in Mohok Hike.** Leader: Marrie Levine, 212-568-2210. Meet: Call to register by June 26. Public transportation available. Challenging hike with rock scrambles and good views at a reasonable pace. Hiking boots and 2-3 quarts water required. Mohok Preserve fee \$7. Non-members \$10.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 30

**UCHC. South Mountain Reservation.** Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319. Meet: At 10 AM at the Turtleback Park parking area in West Orange (Walker Rd. near corner of Northfield Ave.). Brisk ramble to Turtle Rock in this nicely wooded area.

**GAHC. Bear Mountain/Anthony's Nose, NY.** Leader: Gunter Georgi, 518-883-2336. Meet: 9:30 AM at Bear Mt. Inn parking lot. Moderate and easy hikes with views of the Hudson; non-members \$2.

**ADK-MH. Catskills.** Leader: Russ Faller, 845-297-5126. Meet: Contact leader. Strenuous climbs up Eagle and Haynes mountains (7-8 miles with 1500' climb). We'll stop at Sweet Sue's for breakfast. Some of the best hiking in the Catskills.

**OCJS. J. & Swin, Harrisville Pond.** Leaders: Joseph Trujillo, 856-468-4849, Christine Denner, 856-461-5379. Short hike to warm up, 5-7 miles, moderate pace. Then swim as long as you like. Meet at the pond, on Rt. 679, 1.5 miles south of Rt. 563.



# HIKERS' ALMANAC

*A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes Sponsored by Member Clubs*

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

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

## Club Codes

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

ADK-K	ADK Knickerbocker Chapter	NYHC	New York Hiking Club
ADK-MH	ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter	OCSJ	Outdoor Club of South Jersey
ADK-R	ADK Ramapo Chapter	RVWV	Rip Van Winkle Club
FVTW	Frost Valley Trailwalkers	SCS	Sierra Club Singles
GAHC	German-American Hiking Club	TC	NY/NJ Trail Conference
HC/TC	Highlands Coalition/Trail Conference	OUT	Outdoors Club
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	TLR	Teatown Lake Reservation
UG	Long Island Greenbelt	WTA	Westchester Trails
LPNHC	Long Path North Hiking Club	WTW	Woodland Trail Walkers
MJOMC	Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Mountain Club	UHC	Union County Hiking Club

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 issue is May 15, 2002.

## MAY

### SUNDAY, MAY 5

**WTW. AT Trail Maintenance at Bear Mt.** Leader: Sarah Collins, 973-744-5126. Meet: Contact leader. Help us maintain this original section of the Appalachian Trail. Great for slower hikers; no trail work experience needed. Rain cancels.

**GAHC. Trail Maintenance, Oakland, N.J.** Leader: Efi Woschitz, 212-722-7338. Meet: 9 AM at parking lot opposite entrance to Camp Tamarack on Skyline Drive; call leader for directions. Help maintain our section of the Hoerferlin Trail; no trail work experience necessary.

**UHC. Pyramid Mountain.** Leader: Micky Siegel, 201-797-7054. Meet: 10 AM at Pyramid Mountain Visitor Center parking lot. Moderate 5-mile hike. Call leader if in doubt due to inclement weather. See one of the world's wonders, Tripod Rock.

**NYHC. Staten Island Greenbelt.** Leader: Bettye and Steve Soffer, 718-720-1593; call 7-9 PM. Meet: Take 10:30 AM ferry from Manhattan; meet leaders at train station in rear of ferry terminal, Staten Island. Moderate 6-7 mile hike. See Staten Island in the springtime - azaleas, rhododendrons, wisteria; hopefully all in bloom.

**ADK-K. Family Hike to Pine Meadow Lake.** Leader: Brian and Alexandra Hanson-Harding (and kids), 201-531-9432. Meet: 11:30 AM; call leaders to confirm before Sat. noon May 4. Varied hike of about 4 miles in Harriman State Park. Bring lunch and allow about 3 hours, depending on how many frogs we catch.

**WTA. Anthony's Nose.** Leader: Herb Hochberg, 914-472-3525. Meet: 9 AM at North White Plains Station parking lot. Moderate 6 miles on the Camp Smith Trail with great views up, down and across the Hudson. Car shuttle; \$3 contribution.

### MONDAY, MAY 6

**RVW. Platt Clove Trail Maintenance.** Info: 845-246-8616. We'll work on the Platte Clove Section of Long Path (plus optional hike of Kaaterskill High Peak). Meet: Sawyer Savings Bank parking lot, 87 Market Street, Saugerties, 8:00. Inclement weather date—following Monday.

**AFW. Timp-Torne, Anthony Wayne State Park, NY.** For information and meeting place call AFW 973-644-3592. Strenuous hike from 10:30 AM-2:30 PM. Women only club, membership required or day fee of \$8.

### TUESDAY, MAY 7

**FVTW. Fanny Highlands/Trail Clipping.** Leader: Jim and Theresa McKay, 973-538-0756. Meet: 10 AM at Newfoundland parking lot for shuttle to start; call leaders for directions. Hike of 4 miles on the Four Birds Trail from Green Pond Rd. to Newfoundland. Bring your clippers, since the first portion of this trail is maintained by FVTW.

### SATURDAY, MAY 11

**UHC. South Mountain Reservation.** Leader: Naomi Shapiro, 973-762-1832. Meet: 10 AM in Locust Grove parking lot, corner of Glen Ave. and Lackawanna Pl., across from Millburn RR station. A brisk 5-mile ramble with steep "up" at the beginning. Make sure to bring plenty of water, hiking boots, and a snack for energy. Steady rain cancels. Call before 9 PM.

**IHC. Hudson Highlands Ramble.** Leader: Pete Heckler, 201-261-4644 (no calls morning of hike). Meet: 9:30 AM, Washburn Trailhead lot on Rt. 9D, .8 mile north of Cold Spring. Strenuous 6.5 miles. We will ascend Mt. Taurus via the Washburn Trail, then take Undercliff Trail to Breakneck Ridge; group to decide route back. Joint with ADK. Inclement weather cancels.

**ADK-K. Harriman State Park, NY: Poor Fawn/Fox Mountains.** Leader: Tom Dunn, 718-460-3094. Meet: 9:20 AM at Tuxedo, NY, RR station (Shortline bus leaves Port Authority at 8:15). Exploratory hike of 6+ miles on marked trails and old woods roads.

**WTA. Bartholomew's Cobble, Sheffield, MA.** Leader: Catherine Allen, 914-948-4061. Meet: 8 AM at North White Plains Station parking lot. Moderate 4-5 miles; this is a long drive, but worth it for the birding and ferns. Car shuttle; \$10 transportation contribution.

**OUT. High Mountain, Wayne, NJ.** Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 9 AM at Port Authority Bus Terminal commuter statue. Moderate but hilly 9 miles with easy pace; stragglers welcome. NO dropoff points. Scenic area that seems underutilized. Non-members \$3.

**OCSJ. Atsion Woods, NJ.** Leaders: Jack and Chieko Hoffman, 856-794-8104. Long hike of 8-10 miles, moderate pace. Meet: 10 AM in field on east side of Rt. 206 just north of the Atsion ranger station.

### SUNDAY, MAY 12

**NYHC. Staten Island.** Leader: Bob Ward, 718-471-7036. Meet: Call leader after 8 PM. Easy hike of 5-6 miles along one of the Greenbelt trails supervised by leader.

**GAHC. Nassau Greenbelt, Great River, LI.** Leader: Henry Loddigs, 718-899-1052. Meet: 10 AM at Great River RR station. Moderate hike to Lakeland via Heckscher State Park. Non-members \$2.

**WTA. Northern Trailway.** Leader: Barry Kaplan, 914-946-2869. Meet: 9:30 AM at North White Plains Station parking lot. Moderate 7 miles on this restored footway; may be completed as far as Lake Mahopac. Car shuttle; \$3 contribution.

**SCS. Singles Hike at Hatfield Swamp in West Essex Park.** Leaders: Ron Pate 973-364-7573 option# 2 and Joyce Haddad. We will hike 5 miles at a moderate pace through forested wetlands along the Passaic River. Meet at 10:00 AM at the Environmental Center, 621 Eagle Rock Ave. in Roseland. Lunch to follow at local restaurant to be announced at the hike. Rain cancels. A \$3 fee will be charged to non-members of the Sierra Club. All participants must sign a liability waiver.

**LIG. Paumanok Path Series-Napeague.** Info: Rick, 631-267-6608. Joint with East Hampton Trails Preservation Society. Moderate 5 sandy miles of Napeague Beach, along the south shore of Napeague Harbor and through open dune land and beautiful pitch pine woods. Some interpretive stops. Be prepared for ticks and the possibility of wet conditions on one section. Meet at the intersection of Cross Highway and Cranberry Hole Road (just over the Cranberry Hole railroad bridge, east of Amagansett; left on Cranberry Hole from NY 27).

### TUESDAY, MAY 14

**FVTW. Abram Hewitt State Forest.** Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10 AM, 6-7 miles along the Bearfort Ridge; maybe we'll see pink Lady Slippers. Surprise Lake, a spectacular lookout and a moderate descent after lunch.

### SATURDAY, MAY 18

**ADK-K. Catskills Trail Maintenance.** Leader: John L. Kolp, 212-724-5318. Meet: Call leader for more details and to register. Join us for a maintenance expedition on the Warner Creek Trail, a newly opened section of the Long Path. Weeds, berry bushes and a few small trees need to be cleared out. Have a nice walk and help with pruning for a few hours. Public transportation available; Sat. night camping option. No trail work experience necessary.

**ADK-R. Black Rock Mountain.** Meet: Call leader at 845-634-7635. 8 miles.

**WTW. Allamuchy State Park.** Leader: Herrmann and Marlene Memmer, 908-979-0493. Meet: Contact leader. Moderate 8 mile hike at Deer Park Pond. Bad weather may cancel.

**OUT. Hook Mt., Nyack, NY.** Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994. Meet: 8:45 AM at Port Authority Bus Terminal commuter statue. Moderate 9 miles with gradual climb over Hook Mt. followed by easy walk to Rockland Lake. Then along Hudson to Nyack Beach State Park. Non-members \$3.

**TLR. Bluebirds & Migrants Birdwalk.** Leader: Charlie Roberto. Meet: 8 AM; call 914-762-2912 to pre-register. Hike Hidden Valley with this birding enthusiast, searching the forest and swamps for migrants; bring binoculars.

**NYHC. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Plus.** Leader: Marty & Judy Mahler, 718-692-2854, 6-9 PM. Meet: Call leader. 5 miles; learn about Broad Channel, the Anabrus and see returning birds. Enjoy this oasis in NYC. Wear long pants, bring insect repellent and binoculars.

### SUNDAY, MAY 19

**HC/TC. Highlands Hike & Tour: Schunemunk Mountain.** Leader: Rob Lehmann (rob@hikeleader.com) & Guide: Gary Haugland (hauglandg@aol.com). Meet: 9:30 AM at the NY-NJ Trail Conference Headquarters on Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202) in Mahwah, NJ, or at 10:30 AM at the Taylor Rd. parking (public transportation available). Come join us as we celebrate the beauty of our very threatened Highlands region. Join leaders of The Highlands Coalition on a 7-mile, moderately paced hike and tour of Schunemunk Mountain, including the Megaliths and the many beautiful spring flowers unique to the Highlands Region. Along the hike you will learn of ongoing efforts to protect the mountain and other critical Highlands treasures. Rain cancels. No need

*continued on page 15*

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## TRAIL WALKER

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