



### 17-year Cicadas

Uniquely American native insects rebound with our eastern woodlands.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 4](#)



### What's Big about November 1?

Help us make the move to a trailhead location.

[READ MORE ON PAGES 11 & 12](#)



# TRAIL WALKER

Summer 2013

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

[www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org)

## Two Storms Lead to One New Bridge at Minnewaska State Park Preserve

Hurricane Irene made this trail project necessary; Hurricane Sandy provided the material for the solution.

In 2011, flood waters brought by Hurricane Irene resulted in the destruction of three much-used trail bridges over the Peters Kill at Minnewaska State Park Preserve as well as one carriage road crossing. Replacement of these bridges was put on hold pending completion of disaster reporting and relief funding by state and federal officials.

In May, the Blueberry Run Trail bridge over the Peters Kill was the first of the bridges to be replaced. The one-log crafted crossing is an innovation in our area that was proposed by trail consultant and Trail Conference alumnus Eddie Walsh, principal of Tahawus Trails. But it required just the right log.

That was unexpectedly provided when Hurricane Sandy downed a black locust at Rockland Lake State Park last October. Black locust, says Walsh, is the first choice in our area for trail structures. It is a native tree whose heartwood is very long-lasting. “Some people say it lasts one day longer than rock,” Walsh jokes.

The 30-foot trunk, weighing an estimated 3,000 pounds, was transported by park officials from Rockland Lake S.P. to Min-

newaska in March, where Trail Conference volunteers went to work stripping the tree of its bark. It was then transported by truck by park staff along the Lower Awosting Carriage Road to the trailhead. From there, Walsh and volunteers guided it with cables and winches downhill to the stream.

New abutments and steps were needed for the new bridge. Volunteers, including those from our Jolly Rovers technical rock crew, built these using stone on site.

The project was co-funded by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and the Trail Conference, with funds donated for post-Irene bridge and trail repairs in our region.

Thanks go to PIPC staff, Tahawus Trails and Trail Conference volunteers Dave Webber, Jim Gebhart, Chris Ingui, Roch Boucher, Doug Comeau, Les Jesberger, Georgette Weir, Patty Lee Parmalee, Mike Garrison, and Joan James.

### Updates on Other Minnewaska Trail Bridges

#### High Peters Kill Trail Bridge

With the Blueberry Run Bridge complete, *continued on page 6*



Sarah Heidenreich guides daughter Lucy Walsh across the new trail bridge at Minnewaska.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Seth McKee, Preserving Land to Preserve Trails

People tend to think of Trail Conference volunteers as “out there with a mattock building trails.” And of course, we are.

But we are also people like Seth McKee, a land protection professional who has volunteered with the Trail Conference since 2005, putting his expertise and extraordinary organizational skills to work protecting the lands on which our trails run.

Seth, Land Conservation Director for Scenic Hudson, Inc., based in Poughkeepsie, NY, moved to the Hudson Valley in

1991. A hiker, he quickly discovered that the Trail Conference was a great resource. “As newbies to the area, my wife and I began hiking in the Hudson Valley, in the Shawangunks and the Catskills. We got all the maps. We got our kids out on the trails. I became aware of the Trail Conference as a real power in this region for making natural areas accessible in a low-impact way.”

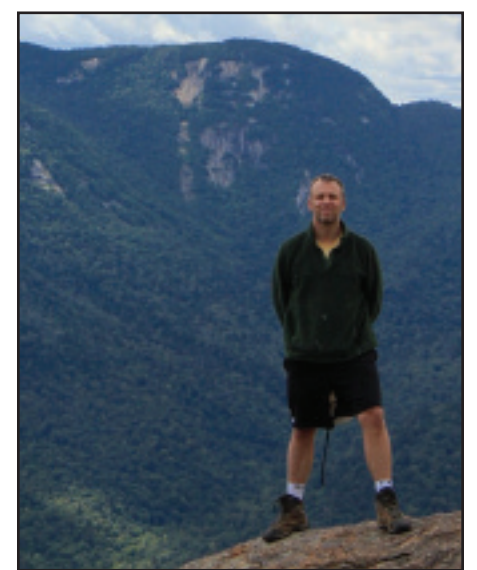
Seth's work at Scenic Hudson brought him into professional relationship with the Trail Conference on land protection efforts in the East Hudson and Sterling Forest areas. “That's when I first met Jane and Walt Daniels, and JoAnn Dolan, and I was tremendously impressed by their passion, expertise, and incredible commitment to mission. That is really one of the Trail Conference's great strengths—that commitment to mission.”

In 2005, Seth joined our board of direc-

tors and immediately became its “point person” on conservation and advocacy matters. In 2009, looking to support a “fantastic group of volunteers who had been doing really good work in isolation with each other,” he became first chair of the Conservation & Advocacy Committee (now simply the Conservation Committee). “That was one of the most rewarding things in my experience, working with these incredibly passionate and knowledgeable people—people like Andy Garrison, Jakob Franke, Dick Katzive—really great hands-on people who are the engines of direct conservation work.”

During Seth's tenure, multiple properties—particularly along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and Long Path, where conservation volunteers have been especially active—were protected; hundreds of acres were transferred to the NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation for permanent protection; our partnerships with other agencies—Open Space Institute, Orange County Land Trust, and NY DEC—flourish.

“I work with a lot of land trusts in the Hudson Valley,” Seth says, “and what is unique about the Trail Conference's land protection work is its laser focus on trail connections. It's the only one that focuses on making sure those linkages are there, as well as the scenic views and public access—and it does it without land protection staff. The committee has filled that void, and volunteers deserve a lot of kudos for the work they have done. We are always looking for volunteers.”



Seth atop Noonmark Mtn. in the Adirondacks.

Seth, now vice-chair of the Land Trust Alliance's New York Advisory Board, is stepping down from his Trail Conference position after more than seven years of service. Board Chair Chris Connolly says, “As board member and committee chair, Seth has been that rare wise counselor respected for his sound judgment, sure grasp, and steady hand.”

Executive Director Ed Goodell says, “We are sorry to see Seth move on, but are very grateful for the extensive knowledge and extraordinary organizational skills he has contributed to protecting our trail network. We expect to continue working with

*continued on page 9*

“What is unique about the Trail Conference's land protection work is its laser focus on trail connections.”

# TRAIL WALKER

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SUMMER 2013

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### Mission Statement

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

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

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## Feedback

### From a Wheelchair Trail User

April 25, 2013, Dear Trail Conference: Yesterday my chief enabler took me on my wheelchair to the top of Bear Mountain along the beautiful crushed stone, handi-cap access trail. I felt like I was on top of the world. I greatly admired and appreciated all the planning and manicured execution that went into making this trail a reality for disabled people like myself. It stinks to be in a wheelchair. . . . I was even inspired to get out of my wheelchair a couple of times, taking a few careful steps into the woods. The seamless, blended-natural-ly-into-the-surroundings trail gave me the feeling that I was on a hike in the woods. No doubt what the designers had in mind. I just wanted to let everyone know how successful a job was done.

One comment: It took us a while to find the trailhead. Then while on the trail, without having a map, my enabler, more than once locked my wheelchair, going ahead on his own to see where the path was leading and gauge how difficult it would be to push me back to our car. So, another suggestion is to have a map of the trail at the trailhead, along with the large sign that shows where it is and who created this gift to mankind.

We even met some other handicap people in the parking lot. We asked them if they knew where this trail started. They knew nothing about it, but I'm sure if there was a clear large sign near the handicap parking places, it would soon be heavily traversed by wheelchairs and their enablers.

—David Kaplan

### Three Cheers! from American Trails



Monica Day, New Jersey co-award winner

The Trail Conference celebrates three of our most dedicated volunteers on the occasion of their recognition as State Trail Workers of the Year by American Trails, the national trails advocacy and support organization.

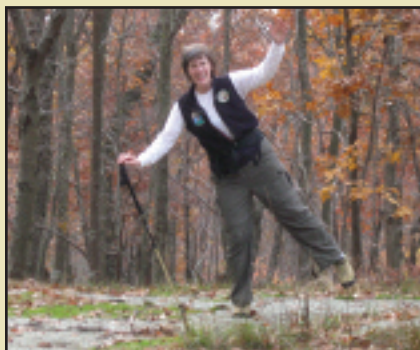
**Jane Daniels**, of Mohegan Lake, NY, was named **State Trail Worker of the Year in New York** and **Monica and David Day** of Highland Park, NJ were honored as **State Trail Workers of the Year in New Jersey**.

The State Trail Worker Awards recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions and provided

### From Tenafly Nature Center



In March, Tenafly Nature Center honored Trail Conference volunteers at its annual dinner (photo above). After Hurricane Sandy, 100% of the trails at Tenafly Nature Center in New Jersey were designated as "closed." "On February 20, 2013, thanks to the tireless efforts of the NY-NJ Trail Conference crew that helps TNC staff to monitor and maintain our trails, 100% of our trails are 'open.' We're grateful for their work clearing over 275 trees from our trails!" Pictured are, left to right: Karl Soehnlein, Jack Driller, Chris Connolly, Mark Liss, TNC Executive Director Jennifer Kleinbaum, TNC President Michael Neus, Suzan Gordon, Peter Tilgner, Ed Goodell.



Jane Daniels, NY Trail Worker of 2013

consistent support for trail planning, development, or maintenance. They recognize the commitment and efforts of private or public sector individuals working for enhanced trail recreation in their local area/state.

Jane Daniels, in addition to being a member and volunteer of the Trail Conference since 1979, including serving as chair of the board of directors from 2001-2007, has been involved with trails from the local to regional and state level over the past three decades. Her ever-present dedication to the trails community is evident in the many positions she's held, efforts she's organized, trail books she's authored or edited, and most recently her leadership in the Yorktown Community Trails project.



David Day, New Jersey co-award winner

David and Monica Day are 30-year veterans of the Trail Conference and are the Trail Crew Chairs of the West Jersey Crew. Thanks to their dedication they have forever changed the condition of New Jersey's trails for the best.

The 2013 awards announcement was made in April at the organization's annual international symposium.

### Correcting an Omission

The great photo of volunteer Gene Giordano on page 6 of the Spring 2013 edition was taken by member Andrea Minoff.

### Send Us a Letter

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

## REI Supports Our Catskills Lean-to Program

In May, outdoor gear retailer REI announced a \$10,000 grant to our Catskills Lean-to Repair, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Program.

This grant will allow us to expand our program of improving, repairing, and rebuilding 29 lean-tos and their privies along the 200 miles of Trail Conference-maintained trails in the Catskill Park. Solidly built lean-tos and privies provide backpackers and day hikers with safe on-trail shelter while minimizing distress to the surrounding environment.

The Trail Conference currently maintains 29 of the 32 lean-tos in the Catskill Park. Our top project areas in the next year are the German Hollow Lean-to, the Devil's Acre Lean-to, and a new lean-to between Mount Tremper and Plateau Mountain. A number of privies will also be completed as part of this program. We will work with the New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation to prioritize all upcoming lean-to and privy projects and develop a work schedule for the rest of the 2013 field season.

Our Catskills Lean-to Repair, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program has been a key initiative of the Trail Conference since 2011. The program began in 1999 with the repair of several lean-tos and the reconstructions and replacement of the John Robb Lean-to on Hunter Mountain. We have completed rehabilitation projects at the Mink Hollow Lean-to, the Echo Lake Lean-to, and the Diamond Notch Lean-to.

Last year at the Mink Hollow Lean-to, the Trail Conference, the Catskill 3500 Club, supporters of the Chris Nowack

Memorial Fund, and the local Forest Ranger, Christine Nelson, hiked up more than 700 pounds of cedar shingles, lumber, and other materials and then put on the new shingles, put down the new floor boards, re-stained the sides of the lean-to, and stained the new lean-to floor.

Lean-to projects have traditionally drawn large numbers of volunteers, as the work is a unique trail volunteer experience. We expect our expanded program to mobilize more volunteers as a result. In 2012, volunteers visited lean-tos for work more than 200 times and spent approximately 1,000 hours working on the general maintenance of lean-tos in the Catskill Park.

To learn more about our lean-to program in the Catskills, please visit: [nynjtc.org/catskill-lean-tos](http://nynjtc.org/catskill-lean-tos)



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**From the Executive Director**



**Ready to build, with a little help from our friends**

The campaign for a permanent Trail Conference headquarters at the Darlington Schoolhouse in Mahwah, NJ got a major boost this spring, two boosts actually. First the Bolger Foundation of Ridgewood, NJ challenged us to raise \$1 million in donations and pledges during the eight months between March 1st and November 1st of 2013, and promised, if we are successful, to match it with another \$500,000. (See page 12 for details.) Added to the \$1 million in grants and commitments already on hand, this \$2.5 million total will cover the estimated costs of construction and move-in.

The second boost was the unanimous approval of the site plan by the Mahwah zoning board of adjustment. This was the last major permit needed prior to beginning construction.

As many longtime readers know, this project has been moving forward one slow, steady step at a time since the property was purchased as parkland with state and county grants in November 2007. Outside grants funded a preservation plan to guide the building's renovation, and pro bono legal

Trail Conference's values,

- reduces our organization's carbon footprint with energy efficiencies throughout,
- functions as both a training facility and visitor center, and
- serves as flexible and productive office space for our volunteers and regular staff.

As we strive for this goal, it is important for you to know that most of the project funding so far has come from outside the Trail Conference. The early individual supporters and grants from the State of New Jersey, the County of Bergen, professional pro bono work, and now the Bolger match will amount to almost two-thirds of the total project cost – from acquiring the property to moving in. These outside funds and donations of time have allowed us to move the project forward using a minimum of Trail Conference resources.

As I write this in early June, we have secured almost half of the \$1 million we need to complete our capital campaign. This leaves more than \$500,000, at a minimum, that must be raised from our members and the Bergen County community. While this is a relatively small proportion of the overall costs, it is still a significant amount, and we are aiming to exceed the minimum so we can create a facility stewardship fund to take care of ongoing maintenance.

Now we are asking Trail Conference supporters to contribute the final funds that will bring the campaign over the top. As we talk with you about the project, some

**"Most of the project funding so far has come from outside the Trail Conference."**

and engineering efforts helped us successfully navigate an array of complicated state and local permit requirements. Knowing that a variety of architectural or permitting complications might preclude us ever being able to inhabit the building, we minimized costs by relying on grants, pro bono services, contributions from early supporters and, of course, lots of volunteer time.

But now, the main obstacle to moving into our permanent new headquarters is to finish raising \$1 million in pledges to earn the Bolger challenge gift. We are no longer holding back, no longer asking for patience as permits are reviewed. Rather, we will be asking all of our members and neighbors to help us in every way possible this summer, to move into a building that:

- architecturally embodies many of the

members have posed good questions about it. Recognizing that others may share these questions, I'm going to try to answer a few of the more common questions here.

**Why do we need a headquarters?**

We have been growing our organization—both volunteers and staff—to meet the increasing needs of park and trail managers for public support. Every computer station and workspace in our current rented office is occupied, every room packed to capacity. Small meeting rooms and spaces have been converted to work areas. Committees and workshop attendees compete for use of our single remaining large meeting room, which is now only available on nights and weekends because it is occupied during regular working hours.



**Why has the number of staff grown?**

Again, we have been growing to meet the increasing needs of park and trail managers for our support. We are proud that our reputation for providing park and trail managers with that effective support makes us their partner of choice. I measure the degree to which our organization is performing effectively and efficiently by key indicators like the total volunteer hours, the number of trail miles protected, maintained and improved, and the trail system information published. All of these measures have increased significantly over the past decade along with staff. And it's not just staff filling our office space. The number of volunteers working in the office—helping to package our publications, maintain records, research grants—has doubled since 2001.

**Why is the Schoolhouse the right place for us?**

It is right for several reasons. Mahwah, NJ is centrally located to our area of operations on the eastern escarpment of the Highlands. The Schoolhouse sits at the entrance to Bergen County's Ramapo Valley Reservation, contiguous with more than 100,000 acres of public open space in both New York and New Jersey, including Ringwood, Sterling Forest, Wawayanda, and Harriman State Parks (see maps on page 11). An immediate neighbor is Ramapo College, with 3,000 students living on campus and an outstanding resource for connecting us with more young people. The building is distinctive, architecturally significant, and will draw positive attention to us and to our work. But you don't need to be an architectural historian to appreciate the fieldstone and timber building's street appeal, and the fact that it just looks like it was made for us. Our care and stewardship of this old build-

ing speaks volumes about our care and stewardship of trail lands.

**Isn't \$2.5 million a lot to spend on a headquarters?**

At well over 8,000 square feet, this amounts to approximately \$300 per square foot. Renovating an historic building is more expensive than building new, but keep in mind that the local community and the state of New Jersey consider this a precious resource worth preserving and they have helped us fund it. We received more than half of the total funds from State and County preservation grants.

**Doesn't this fundraising mean we will have less for regular programs?**

Often a capital campaign will temporarily impact regular annual giving. This is why we are asking our regular donors to maintain their regular giving and make a one-time gift to the campaign. We also are seeking new donors from the Mahwah area. Frequently, new donors to a campaign become regular donors to the organization, resulting in increased support for program over the longer term.

In a multitude of ways, this capital campaign has the potential to make your Trail Conference stronger and more effective than our founders ever dreamed possible. I invite you to stand with us and support us during this exciting and all-important phase of our Trail Conference history.

— Edward Goodell  
Executive Director  
goodell@nynjtc.org

**Long Awaited Catskill Interpretive Center Gets State Funding**

Catskill Mountain region advocates are excited that the long-promised but much delayed Catskill Interpretive Center along Route 28 in Mount Tremper may soon become a reality. New York State's 2013 budget includes \$1 million in funding for the project, and designs for an approximately 2,000-square-foot facility are being finalized by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Hopes are high that the building will be constructed shortly.

**We are designing a trail to the ridgetop above the site that offers a commanding view of the Esopus Valley.**

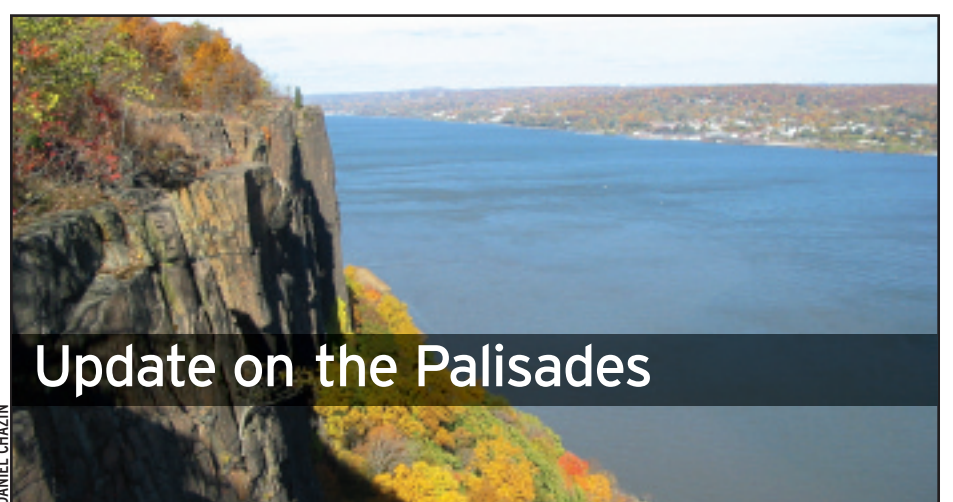
The project began more than three decades ago, when interpretive centers were being designed and built in the Adirondack Park. The state purchased land for the center and completed initial site work, but progress came to a stop when priorities changed. Nevertheless, local organizations and activists continued to push for completion of the project, which promises to promote tourism and economic benefits to the Catskill Mountain region.

Today the Interpretive Center is a private/public partnership led by DEC, the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, and the Friends of the Catskill Interpretive Center. The Trail Conference is represented on the Friends group by Jeff Senterman, our Senior Program Coordinator.

While pressing for construction of the center, the group oversaw the installation of an interpretive kiosk on the site, with 16 panels of information about the Catskills.

The Center will be staffed by a group of non-profit organizations, including the Trail Conference, and volunteer support will be key in providing interpretive services. The building will feature large open spaces for interpretive displays, public restrooms, space for educational and training events, and many acres for hiking trails and other outdoor activities. The Trail Conference is designing a trail to the ridgetop above the Interpretive Center site that offers a commanding view of the Esopus Valley and Romer Mountain across the valley.

Former Congressman Maurice Hinchey secured more than \$350,000 in federal funding for the project, and the center will bear his name.



As of the deadline for this issue, litigants, which include the Trail Conference, in the dispute over the height of a proposed LG Electronics building on the historic Palisades were in mediation and prohibited by a judge's order from further comment or action on the issue.

In October 2012, the Borough of Englewood Cliffs, NJ, amended its zoning code to permit construction of buildings 150 feet in height in an area along the Palisades Interstate Park. The limit was previously 35 feet. The change would detrimentally impact this iconic and environmentally sensitive landscape. The park is listed as a National Historic Landmark and the Palisades are a National Natural Landmark. The suit was prompted by a proposal to build a new, 145-foot tall headquarters for LG Electronics.

In April and May, Protect the Palisades, a coalition of individuals and organizations, including the Trail Conference, dedicated to protecting the Hudson River Palisades, circulated petitions, organized rallies, and conducted public information campaigns about the issue. The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, which waged the first campaign, in the early 1900s, to preserve the Palisades, rededicated itself to the preservation cause during a rally on Mother's Day weekend.

Trail Conference Executive Director attended and spoke at the event. "If the LG building is given the go-ahead, it will be the first step in an extended ribbon of high-rise development along the Palisades from the George Washington Bridge northwards, destroying the magnificent legacy left by earlier generations," Goodell told the crowd.

Trailside Nature

# 17-year Cicadas Uniquely American Native Insects

By Edna Greig

In May and June of 2013, you probably heard their deafening din. On the trails, they may have fallen from trees and bopped you on the head. Or, you may have heard and felt them crunch beneath your feet. They were 17-year cicadas. These stocky, red-eyed, winged insects are members of the genus *Magicalcicada* and are also called periodical cicadas.

Periodical cicadas in our area live hidden underground as nymphs for almost 17 years, feeding on the sap of tree roots. In year 17, the nymphs synchronously emerge from the ground in huge numbers, undergo a final molt (look for shed skins), and fly off as adults to seek mates. Males gather



NEAL ZIRING

Cicada on the grass

century has brought a resurgence of the periodical cicadas.

Forest trees suffer little ill effects from the periodical cicada adults. Cicadas do most of their feeding during their 17 years as nymphs, and the trees seem to have adapted to the annual small loss of sap that results. When the cicada adults emerge, they're more interested in mating than in food and do very little feeding. Damage does occur to tree twigs from the adult



BUNDSCHUH

Cicada Brood II on a finger tip

high in the trees and emit loud, beckoning calls to attract females. When a female approaches, the male woos her with a courtship song, and, if pleased, the female responds by clicking her wings. After mating, the female oviposits her eggs into slits she makes in tree twigs. The adult cicadas then die, usually only 2 to 4 weeks after emergence. The eggs hatch after about 8 weeks, and the young nymphs fall to the ground, burrow into the soil, and settle into an area by a tree root where they will spend the next 17 years.

females ovipositing. By summer, tree twigs may start to visibly brown and die off, a condition called flagging. Scientists have estimated that this twig damage causes only a slight reduction in tree growth during a cicada emergence year, and normal growth resumes the following year. Tree growth may even increase in the years following a cicada emergence. The twig pruning caused by the cicadas may actually be good for the tree. Trees and understory plants also get a beneficial fertilizer boost from the dead cicadas that litter the forest floor.

There are 12 different broods of 17-year cicadas that occur in specific geographical regions, each following a different 17-year life cycle. The broods are labeled with Roman numerals. Our area's 2013 adults were from Brood II. If you'd like to see periodical cicada adults nearby before Brood II's next emergence in 2030, look for Brood X in 2021. Brood X has a more westerly range but it does include parts of New York and New Jersey.

The eastern US also is home to about a dozen species of annual cicadas, relatives of the periodical cicadas. Annual cicada adults emerge every year in July or August but in far smaller, and quieter, numbers than the periodical cicadas. Their raspy songs are a pleasant accompaniment to midsummer and autumn days.

To learn more about periodical cicadas, visit [www.magicalcicada.org](http://www.magicalcicada.org).

Edna Greig is a regular contributor to Trail Walker. Find a link to her blog, *Eye on Nature*, on our website.



The regrowth of forests in the last century has brought a resurgence of the periodical cicadas.

Periodical cicadas are the world's longest-lived insects and occur only in the eastern and midwestern US. People have long been amazed by and fearful of the brief, explosive episodes of periodical cicada adult emergences. People likened the periodical cicadas to crop-destroying locusts (grasshoppers) and mistakenly called them 17-year locusts. In fact, periodical cicadas fare poorly in agricultural lands because there are few trees for the cicadas to complete their life cycles. When much of the eastern forests were converted to farmland in the 18th and 19th centuries, periodical cicada populations dwindled. The regrowth of forests in the last

# Words of Encouragement from a Peripatetic Trail Volunteer

By Mary Dodds

## First, GET OUT AND HIKE!

After I retired, I was determined to hike as often as possible. I started out by printing hike descriptions, mostly by Daniel Chazin (volunteer), from the Trail Conference website. Next came purchasing maps and books, including *Walkable Westchester*. I met the author, Jane Daniels (volunteer), who is a neighbor, and got involved with the Yorktown Trails Project, of which she is a guiding force.

Jane introduced me to East Hudson Trail Chair Geof Connor (volunteer), who recruited me for the Ward Pound Ridge trail crew led by Fred Stern (volunteer). Before I knew it, I had my own crew, the Westchester Trail Tramps (volunteers).

Oh, I almost forgot to mention that all that hiking resulted in curiosity and concern about the plants (and birds, animals and insects) I encountered on my hikes, so I got involved with the Invasives Strike Force (volunteers).

*How did this happen? Why did this happen? And should it happen to you?*

Right about now, you are probably answering these questions with the usual suspect excuses, the same ones I had at the beginning of my volunteer life:

### But I know nothing about trail maintenance, invasive plants, blazing trails, yada yada.

The Trail Conference has Trail U courses which provide instruction on trail maintenance, trail tread, building trails, identifying invasive plants, yada yada. Additionally, many crew supervisors are willing to go out with you and show you the maintenance ropes.

### But I don't feel comfortable going out on a trail and doing all this work by myself.

You don't have to go out alone. Crews for specific jobs are advertised on the Trail Conference website every week. Additionally, there are scheduled crews which meet regularly and go out for several hours. Dear to my heart are my crew, the Westchester Trail Tramps, a peripatetic group that goes out every Wednesday, and Fred Stern's crew, the WPRR Trail Maintainers, who maintain on Fridays.

### I want to be alone.

You can sign on as a solo trail maintainer with a specific trail or section of trail to maintain. Most volunteers chose a favorite trail or one close to home. I can go out my back door and hike to my trail. My responsibility for this trail includes lopping vegetation that blocks the trail, ensuring the trail is properly blazed, and doing minor saw work. I report problems that would require a chain saw or other crew work.

### I don't have the time.

I do my solo maintenance at least once each season and after storms. However, it can be done as little as twice a year. As noted, there are sporadic crew dates which might also work for you. Or you might, for example, find yourself with a free Wednesday or Friday and chose to go out with the Trail Tramps or WPRR maintainers. Helpful Hint: Going out with a crew provides an excellent opportunity to meet people in the community and learn about how interesting and enjoyable trail work can be.

### I hate paper work.

Don't we all. If you are a solo maintainer, you will be required to report your maintenance hours, travel time, and summary of work done to your trail supervisor. There is a form (of course), but for those of you who are paper work phobic, supervisors are willing to assist.



Who forgot the rock bars?



I...can...do...this



How did I get into this?

Happy crew with cool tools—loppers, mattocks, shovels, saws, yada yada.

Decked out (and very ambitious) solo maintainer with loppers and saw

Article author Mary Dodds studies a trail problem.

AND finally, if you are not ready to maintain, you can still give back by monitoring conditions on the trails you hike and reporting any problems that you find. Just go to this page on the website, Report a Trail Problem: <http://www.nynjtc.org/webform/trail-problem-report>, and fill in the blanks. You can also find lots of links to ways to get involved. Hope to see you outside soon!



## HAVEN OFF THE HUDSON

Friendly, historic 3-season wooded community in Westchester County. Co-op offers hiking, tennis, pool, wifi café, organic community garden, social activities. Beautiful Hudson riverfront nearby. Studio, one-and two-bedroom cottages, \$25,000-\$160,00. [www.reynoldshills.org/bungalowshop](http://www.reynoldshills.org/bungalowshop) Contact Mel: 347-307-4642 or [melgarfinkel@yahoo.com](mailto:melgarfinkel@yahoo.com)



# Trail Mix: People Getting Out to Give Back

## NEW BRIDGE AT MINNEWASKA

*continued from page 1*



SONA MASON



PATTY LEE PARMALEE (WORK PHOTOS)



work commenced on replacing the High Peters Kill Trail bridge. As before, this crossing will consist of two bridges, a 24-foot span and 40-foot span, both Pratt-style truss bridges built of 2x4 and 2x6 lumber. Both bridges were planned to be completed in June.

### Mossy Glen Trail Bridge

Plans for replacing the bridge on this popular trail were still in development as of press time.

### Making a Better Wanaque Ridge Trail



The Jolly Rovers, pictured above, our volunteer technical rock work trail crew, repaired an eroded section of the Wanaque Ridge Trail in Ramapo Mountain State Forest, NJ, one May weekend. 18 crew members quarried and installed 22 stone steps up an eroded gully near the final approach to the ridge from Back Beach Field. Their work makes the trail more enjoyable for hikers and helps protect the environment from further erosion. Thanks Rovers!

### Scouts Earn Eagle Status for Trail Projects

Erik Synol and Sean Saint Jacques were both awarded the rank of Eagle Scout for their work on Trail Conference trails. Erik rerouted the badly worn Hewitt-Butler Trail up to Wyankie High Point in Norvin Green State Forest. Sean rebuilt a section of the Appalachian Trail over a wetland area at Ferguson Fields in Wantage, NJ. Trail Conference volunteers involved with the projects were invited to the March award ceremony. Pictured, left to right: Bob Jonas, Estelle Anderson, Paul Makus, Erik Synol, Sean Saint Jacques, Alan Breach, and Jill Arbuckle.



### Trails Camp Gets Attention



Volunteers and summer trail interns have been tending to some big clean-ups and repairs at our Harriman State Park Trails Camp. The camp is a seasonal home for many at work on trail projects in our region. Crews of volunteers have included cadets from nearby West Point Military Academy as well as our own dedicated member volunteers. Projects are ongoing and help will be needed throughout the summer. Those with skills in carpentry and plumbing can enjoy making an especially big impact. Learn how you can help by going to <http://www.nynjtc.org/content/harriman-camp-crew>.

### Bear Claw Crew Leads Effort to Improve Ramapo Reservation Entry Trail



Thanks to the efforts of Crew Chiefs Rich Raschdorf and Frank Schoof, Bear Claw Crew members, our summer trail interns, and high school students from Mahwah, Ramapo Valley County Reservation now has a new entry trail. Erosion has been a problem on the high-use trail for quite some time. The crew excavated the area, and installed the timber steps and temporary sand back fill. Matthew Grev and the fantastic folks at the county provided the necessary materials. Our interns later hauled, spread, and tamped stone that had been brought to the site. The efforts of everyone involved should guarantee a comfortable entrance and exit to and from the park for years to come. Sadly, this was Rich's farewell crew project for us, as he has moved out of our area.

### Searching Out Invasive Plants

The Invasives Strike Force (ISF) Trail Crew has been busy this spring with removal work days at Worthington State Forest NJ, Bear Mountain NY, and Flat Rock Brook Nature Center in Englewood, NJ. We've had more youth involved in our projects and have enjoyed some beautiful days. We removed piles of barberry bushes at Bear Mountain in the course of several outings. At Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, our crew, pictured at right, did a massive garlic mustard pull, removing 18 40-gallon garbage bags packed full.

ISF trail surveying volunteers are also busy again this year. As of this spring, we had completed surveys on 375 miles of trail. Our goal this year is to reach 600 miles, and with more than 80 volunteers already signed up to survey, we are off to a great start. More than a dozen of our experienced volunteers also took advanced training this spring to learn additional invasive plants to keep watch for on our trails. Training for new ISF surveying volunteers is being offered throughout the season. Many of the workshops are being taught by Linda Rohleder, the ISF project coordinator, but Denise Hewitt, one of our experienced ISF volunteers, will also be teaching some training sessions in New Jersey. ISF training workshops are being supported by the Zofnass Family Foundation and Orange & Rockland Utilities, Inc.

### A Week in the Catskills Building Trail



In our first back-country extended service trip (the project area is worked on Cross Mountain in the Catskills for a week in June. Their Volunteers from two of our crews—the Long Path Crew and our Long Path rock work projects that help prevent erosion in steep areas—are involved in new trail and hardened some erosion-vulnerable trail sections. Anyone come to join future outings. New participants are welcome. Day-trip. Day-trip. Day-trip. Check the crew calendar on [nynjtc.org](http://nynjtc.org) for details.

### Sona Mason Tapped to Coordinate West Hudson Trail Programs

Sona Mason (pronounced Sonia) discovered how satisfying it is to drill and break rocks on the Bear Mountain project a number of years ago, and has since been a trail maintainer and supervisor at Harriman and Storm King parks respectively. She used to be a travel agent in her former life, and reignited a love of wilderness and nature while travelling to various global biodiversity hotspots. She then became a full time student of ecology at Columbia and Rutgers Universities, and dabbles as a volunteer-trainer in stream monitoring, deer management, and promoting native plant life in her spare time. She loves the Trail Conference's ethos of preserving and promoting wilderness and getting people immersed and invested in it, and hopes to accomplish the challenging task of filling Larry Wheelock's impressive shoes.



### Harriman Pro...

Hank door advoc New Conf coord Hudst tion 1 and p Westo York C tory a the G board Philip Highl ence assista at Co Point ment



# Tool Tips for Trail Volunteers

## The Ultimate Blazing Machine

Story and photos by Les Ferguson

Well, OK, it's not really a machine, but it can sure let you paint beautiful, neat trail blazes as if it were!

I recently had the pleasure of working with Fred Schneider, AT Trail Maintainer for the section north of Rt.17A/Bellvale Mountain. Fred, a certified sawyer, was helping us clear some Hurricane Sandy blowdowns. We also needed to blaze a newly re-routed section heading southbound toward New Jersey.

As we got ready to do the blazing, Fred went to his truck and pulled out his amazing, blazing bucket. A marvel of homemade German engineering, this simple set-up sent me scurrying for my camera so that I could share this with our loyal readers.

The rig consists of a standard 5-gallon paint or spackle bucket (make sure it has a handle) that holds your tools and supplies and also supports the paint tray. The ingenious paint tray is just a large round pie or serving tin. It is bent in half, crimped around the edge of the bucket and supported by a coat hanger that runs across the center of the bucket through two drilled holes. Fred cuts a Shurline styrofoam painting pad (#01500) into three equal 2" x 3" pieces to use as an applicator. The pads are very inexpensive so they are great for one-time use. Paint is carried in any type of lidded, plastic container and added to the tray as needed. The bucket also contains rags, a touch-up brush and a single-bladed paint scraper for preparing the bark for the blazing paint.

The pads make it super-easy to make a perfect vertical blaze on the smoothed bark. Fred just loads up the pad, presses it onto the tree to apply the top section of the blaze, then lifts and presses the bottom of the blaze and finally smooths it with the edge of the pad. He did a perfect blaze every time! Check out his technique below. I know I will be putting a rig like his together for my next blazing foray. Thank you Fred!

*Les Ferguson volunteers as a maintainer on the AT in Orange County and as editor and designer of Trail Worker, our twice-a-year e-newsletter for our trail volunteers. This article appeared in the Spring 2013 issue. Find past issues at [nynjtc.org/view/trailworker](http://nynjtc.org/view/trailworker).*



- 1 5-gallon bucket
- 2 touch-up brush
- 3 pie tin
- 4 paint supply
- 5 styrofoam paint pad cut into 3 pieces
- 6 scraper
- 7 coat hanger



Step 1: Apply to top.



Step 2: Apply to bottom.



Step 3: Smooth.



Step 4: Done!



several miles from a trailhead), volunteers lived and goal: get the Long Path off roads and into the woods. ng Distance Trails Crew, which specializes in technical ved. In this first week, they cleared about 2.5 miles of ne with energy and stamina and a good attitude is wel- hikers also are needed to help keep our volunteers

## Hank Osborn Is New East Hudson Program Coordinator

Osborn, an avid out-athlete, educator, and cate, has joined the York-New Jersey Trail erence as program linator for our East on region. The posi- focuses on developing romoting public access to and enjoyment of nature in chester, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties, and New City. Hank comes to his new position with a long his- nd deep passion for the outdoors. Presently, he chairs arrison School Forest Committee (since 2006); is a member of the NY State Greenway Committee, ostown (since 2006); and leads hikes for the Hudson ands Land Trust (since 2006). Hank has taught sci- at the Tabor Academy in Massachusetts, served as ant professor of physical education and rowing coach olumbia University, snowboard instructor at West Military Academy, and general manager of environ- tal preservation for Oslands Inc, in Garrison, NY.



## Carrying Your Baby:

A terrific way to transport your precious saw and sawyer gear

By Joel Pinsker, Certified Sawyer

I am using a Kelty baby carrier for my saw. The baby carrier is built to carry weight well, and has a proper suspension with a waist strap and a good frame. The carrier has a fold out back leg that lets it stand up for easy loading and unloading of your 'baby.' The back leg is attached to the pack straps, so it folds in as soon as you pick up the pack. The saw fits inside nicely and the straps that are meant to go over the baby's shoulders go over the handle and keep the power head nice and secure. I have attached a spare scabbard to the side for an

"... the straps that are meant to go over the baby's shoulders go over the handle and keep the power head nice and secure."



Incredibiliter tremulus suis imputat Quadrupei corrumperet apparatus bellis. Chirographi suffragarit cathedras. Saburru

extra bar and chain. I drilled a hole in the bottom of the spare scabbard to allow rain to drain out of it.

As pictured, and fully fueled, the set up comes in at about 40 pounds. Kind of heavy for a day of walking, but it gets the gear out there. This carrier keeps the weight on my hips, and close to my back so that I

can hike even rough almost vertical trails with the saw secure. This does not include extra chains, scrench, wedges, lunch, and water, but that is what my swamper (sawyer assistant) is for. When I get done with the hurricane Sandy blowdowns and can go back to normal trail clearing I will switch to a lighter saw.

One of the nice things about baby carriers as saw carriers is that used baby carriers are cheap. I picked up three of them at three different garage sales for \$5 each. I really don't care if there is some dried drool on the carrier or if they aren't spotless, because for my use they sure won't stay spotless.

*Joel Pinsker was one of 58 volunteer sawyers and swampers who contributed a combined 2,163 hours to clearing hundreds of post-Sandy blowdowns from trails in the southern West Hudson region.*



## Nominees for Board of Directors, Delegates at Large 2013

The Nominations Committee of the Trail Conference presents the following candidates for the Board of Directors for three-year terms and Delegates-at-Large for one-year terms. These nominations will be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held on October 5, 2013 Senasqua Lodge, Croton Point, NY. Watch for details about events and schedule at [nynjtc.org/event/fallmeeting2013](http://nynjtc.org/event/fallmeeting2013)

### For Board of Directors

#### Edward B. (Ned) Whitney, NYC

Ned is a long-time hiker, especially on Trail Conference-maintained trails in the Hudson Highlands. He has or is serving on many boards, including: American Rivers, board member 2002-2012, chair 2006-2011. BoardSource: board member 2006-present; The Wilderness Society: member, President's Council, 2006-present; Early Music Foundation: Trustee, President and Co-Treasurer, 2009-present; Blinks European Institute at Columbia University, member, Board of Advisors, 2010-present; Constitution Marsh Audubon Center & Sanctuary, member advisory board, 2011-present.

#### Patsy Wooters, Suffern, NY

Patsy is a Trail Conference life member and active hiker. Patsy has been active in conservation advocacy work in our region since 2000, when she joined the Torne Valley Preservation Association to oppose two proposals to site power plants in the valley. Upon successfully defeating that threat, TVPA broadened its mission to protecting all large parcels of vacant mountain land along the Ramapo Pass. Since then much land has been protected to the east of the river. Patsy currently chairs TVPA and the Ramapo Highlands Coalition and is secretary for the Sterling Forest partnership. For the past four years, she has been involved in the Rockland Water Coalition, which opposes a desalination plant in Haverstraw. Patsy retired from a teaching career in 2007.

#### To complete term of Anne Osborn Suzan Gordon, Tenafly, NJ

Suzan is a Trail Conference life member with an extensive history of volunteer serv-

ice on trails and with her club, North Jersey Ramapo ADK. She is an active trail maintainer at the Tenafly Nature Center in New Jersey. With Pete Tilgner, she served many years as co-supervisor in Sterling Forest State Park. Suzan has a master's degree in special education from Temple University and taught special education for 24 years. She is adjunct professor at William Paterson College.

### Incumbents nominated for new terms

#### Daniel Chazin, Teaneck, NJ

Daniel is a life member of the Trail Conference. He is a long-time board member and currently serves as secretary. He chairs the Publications Committee and has written, edited, and managed numerous book and map projects.

#### Charlotte Fahn, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

A life member of the Trail Conference, Charlotte is active in the Trail Conference campaign to Protect the Palisades. She is also active with the Friends of the Croton Aqueduct.

#### Daniel Hoberman, Montclair, NJ

Daniel an attorney of counsel with Rabner Allcorn Baumgart & Ben-Asher, P.C., Montclair. He serves as Trail Conference board counsel and is a member of the Publications Committee.

#### Richard Katzive, Irvington, NY

Richard is an attorney with DeBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP, White Plains, NY. He is an active member of the Trail Conference Conservation Committee.

### For Delegates-at-Large

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Susan Barbuto           | Paul Makus           |
| Norman Blumenstein      | Steven Marano        |
| Jane Daniels            | Mary Anne Massey     |
| Allyn Dodd              | George Petty         |
| Jack Driller            | Karen Rose           |
| Harvey Fishman          | Ruth Rosenthal       |
| Bob Fuller              | Mellonie Sanborn     |
| Pete Heckler            | Frank Schoof         |
| Jill Hamell             | Arnold Seymour-Jones |
| John Jurasek            | Douglas Sohn         |
| Rob Lehman              | Nancy Tollefson      |
| Mark Liss               | Robert Ward          |
| Alice Luddington-Cantor |                      |

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#### In honor of my good friend Don Weise

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#### In memory of Richard Warner, who taught me the ropes

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Tributes are only printed for donations of \$25 or more.

# National Trails Day 2013

### Long Path North Club Replaces Bridge

Congratulations and thanks to the Long Path North Club for their National Trails Day bridge-building success. With 25 volunteers, they got the 24-footer Rossman Hill trail bridge done in 2 hours! Great work!



### Bear Mountain Barberry Blitz

The Invasives Strike Force welcomed help from the public at Bear Mountain on National Trails Day. The group focused on pulling barberry from along trails. It was one of several trail projects on the mountain that day that were supported by REI and Whole Foods.



### Kaaterskill Rail Trail Opens

On National Trails Day in Haines Falls, NY, the Trail Conference joined with its partners to open the first phase of the Kaaterskill Rail Trail. More than 100 trail enthusiasts came out to celebrate and explore the trail. The trail follows the abandoned Ulster & Delaware Railroad between the Mountain Top Historical Society property in Haines Falls and New York Forest Preserve land at the end of Laurel House Road, just above Kaaterskill Falls. Eventually, the trail will extend to the campground at North/South Lake.

## A Bridge Down and Back Up in the Catskills



Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, we quickly removed and are rebuilding the replica kingpost bridge in Platte Clove that carries the Long Path. We closed the bridge immediately when we spotted a structural issue, and created a short temporary trail detour. The new bridge was scheduled to be finished by the print date of this issue (weather permitting). Many thanks to all of the volunteers involved in this project and thanks for making such quick work of the problem!



# GEAR CHECK

An occasional series that will review gear appropriate for hiking.



**Shoe Goo**  
Reviewed by Howard E. Friedman

Shoe Goo can help extend the life of your hiking shoes, boots, and sneakers. The product works well, and it costs less than \$10—a small investment to extend the life of footwear that often costs more than \$100 these days.

The glue smells like rubber cement but is transparent in appearance. The 3.7-ounce tube I have has lasted for more than a year. I have used it to repair the rand, a protective rubber that often surrounds the front of shoes or boots, of my

hiking shoes. After applying the glue to both surfaces you will need some method to compress the surfaces together while the glue dries.

Shoe Goo was invented in 1972 to repair tennis shoes, but its uses have expanded since then. The product description on the bright red tube says “shoe repair and protective coating” and reports that the glue “works on leather, rubber, vinyl and canvas.” Besides gluing a rubber rand, I have also used Shoe Goo to seal tears in two down coats. The seal is not cosmetic, but it has held tight throughout the winter. (I also used Shoe Goo to reattach the plastic housing of my side view car mirror more than six months ago. I supported the mirror with duct tape while the glue dried.)

I have read about hikers whose boot soles loosened and partially peeled off during a hike, essentially ending or shortening their planned excursion. While I would not say Shoe Goo is an essential item to be carried in your backpack, I do recommend inspecting your hiking shoes periodically between hikes. For repairs that require gluing, I can recommend Shoe Goo.

Howard E. Friedman, DPM, is an avid hiker, a podiatrist in Suffern, NY, and a frequent contributor to Trail Walker.



Rating: 5 boots out of 5

Ratings are 1-5 boots, with a 5-boot ranking signifying “This is very good. I like it.”

## Grow Support for Trails Each Time You Hike!

### Announcing the Trail Ambassador Initiative

**Go Hiking.** You can represent the Trail Conference while doing what you love. Many hikers don't realize that our volunteers are responsible for keeping their favorite trails open and beautiful. That's where you come in.

**Grow the Trail Conference.** We'll give you business card-sized materials to hand out to hikers interested in supporting the Trail Conference. In this way, you will be directly involved in recruiting new members and volunteers.

**Get Benefits.** For every person who joins the Trail Conference because of your efforts, you will receive \$1 to use in our Trail Store. Rack up these TA Dollars to get free maps, books, and gear.

Visit [nynjtc.org/trailambassador](http://nynjtc.org/trailambassador) to learn more and to sign up!

## Hikers' Marketplace



Go Places with Trail Maps and Books from the Trail Conference.



### Planning to get fit in 2013?

Fit yourself out with the best trail maps for our region. Get all 11 great map sets for one discounted price!

Price: \$107.78; \$80.84 (members) (postage/handling \$6.00)

Our map combo offers all 11 high-quality Trail Conference maps at a 5% discount (members get an additional 25% discount). Save big on shipping charges: Just \$6.00 when you buy the combo pack!

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We cover your favorite hiking areas in the New York-New Jersey region, including Harriman-Bear Mountain, the Catskills, North Jersey and Jersey Highlands, East and West Hudson Highlands, and more.

Find all our publications, and select trail guides from others, on our website, and get your 25% member discount!

Visit [www.nynjtc.org/panel/goshopping!](http://www.nynjtc.org/panel/goshopping!)  
Or call 201-512-9348

## Dover and Pawling NY Awarded Appalachian Trail Community Distinction

Dover and Pawling in Dutchess County, NY, have been designated jointly as an Appalachian Trail Community by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. Pawling and Dover, to be known as the Harlem Valley A.T. Community, will be the 30th A.T. Community to enter into the partnership, and the second in New York. Last year, the Orange County Town of Warwick was welcomed into the program, which recognizes and thanks communities for their part in promoting the A.T. as an important local and national asset as well as an international icon.

Both Dover and Pawling Town Boards unanimously approved resolutions to apply for designation as an A.T. Community. Receiving over 35 letters of support from elected officials, businesses, educators and organizations in the area, the application presented a strong commitment to support the A.T. through activities such as developing an A.T. appreciation day, and working with each school district to create distinct projects linking K-12 curriculum to the A.T. Pawling and Dover Middle/High Schools will also collaborate to establish an inter-school A.T. Service Learning Club.

More than 75 volunteers spent two and a half years constructing the route, some coming from as far away as Italy and Great Britain.

“The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has already seen a great amount of community effort in supporting the A.T. with the development and dedication of the new boardwalk last year,” stated Julie Judkins, community program manager for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The 1,600-foot, oak-decked boardwalk includes a 34-foot bridge and carries the A.T. across the Great Swamp in Pawling.

More than 75 volunteers spent two and a half years constructing the route, some coming from as far away as Italy and Great Britain. “Building off that enthusiasm and adding new partners to the management effort will increase local stewardship and expand sustainable tourism efforts.”



SETH MCKEE  
continued from page 1



Avid hiker Seth McKee knows trail access requires land preservation.

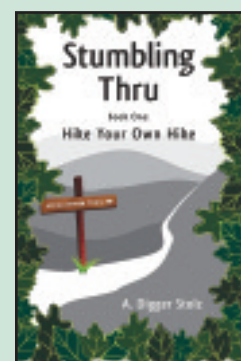
him professionally as the Trail Conference continues to protect the quality of life in our region by ensuring we have public access to open space.”

To learn how you can get involved in protecting our trails through conservation, contact our Volunteer Coordinator John Leigh, [jleigh@nynjtc.org](mailto:jleigh@nynjtc.org).



## Book Review

### Stumbling Thru Book One: Hike Your Own Hike



By A. Digger Stolz  
Follyworks Publishing, LLC, 2013  
Reviewed by Robert C. Ross

This first book by A. Digger Stolz is an instant classic and belongs among the very best of all the Appalachian Trail adventure books in my library. It tops my other three favorites: *Skywalker: Close Encounters on the Appalachian Trail* by Bill Walker, *Hiking Through: One Man's Journey to Peace and Freedom on the Appalachian Trail* by Paul Stuzman, and *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson.

*Stumbling Thru* is billed as a work of fiction: “Names, characters, places and incidents appearing within are either products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously.” Nevertheless, the story is solidly based on fact. Stolz did hike the A.T., and he gives special thanks to the trail maintainers and volunteers who make hiking the A.T. possible. As he writes, the A.T. is “simply awesome” thanks to their efforts.

And, honestly, that phrase applies to this novel as well. It follows Walter (aka Bartleby) on his hike, one that he takes unwillingly, as his “I'd prefer not to” attitude changes to “I am compelled to.” In this volume Bartleby covers Springer Mountain to Damascus (460 miles of the total 2200) together with a large cast of characters including Bird, Mops, B-Bop, T-Ball, Hibs, Frizzle, Bawdy, Flutterby, Poobah, Coyote, and many more.

It is this cast of characters, their well-drawn personalities, their fascinating interactions, both on the trail and more often at night in camp, that makes the book so much fun to read. Like a hiker on a new trail, the reader can't wait to see what will happen next, what's around that next bend, how can she top that story—the endless anticipation that every hiker knows so well.

The characters snipe at each other but display a genuine affection for each other. The reader cheers them on through the challenges and the monotony of the trail, the simple drudgery of cold and wet and sweat and blisters.

As an experienced hiker on seven continents, I found this novel resonated strongly with me. Glancing through the many positive online reviews by inexperienced hikers, it is clear that they find the book, though fictional, a great introduction to hiking.

Stolz has announced that the second volume, *Stumbling Thru: Keepin' On Keepin' On*, will follow Bartleby and his companions as they complete their northbound trek of the Appalachian Trail.

Awesome!

Robert C. Ross of Franklin Lakes, NJ, is a life member of the Trail Conference. This is his first review for Trail Walker.



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Our readers: Active, outdoor enthusiasts in the greater New York metropolitan area.  
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Make check or money order payable to the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430.

*Tax-deductible. Dues are not refundable.*



DAN BALOGH

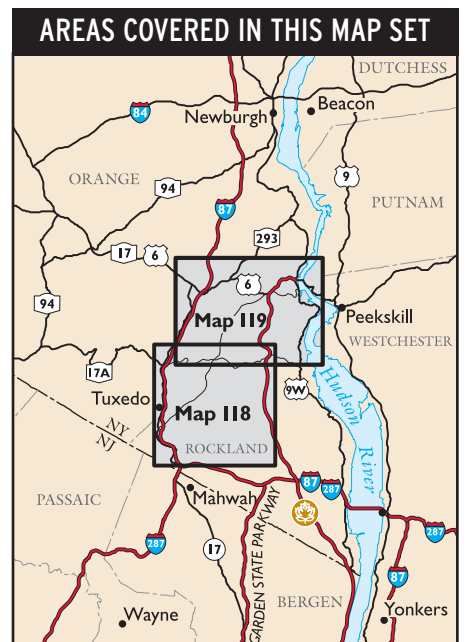
View from the Timp, Harriman State Park

## Get the Best Trail Maps For Harriman-Bear Mountain

Now Available: 15th edition of the Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails map set.

Nearly 200,000 copies have been printed since the first edition, making this map set our most popular, by far.

This two-map set shows trails throughout Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks, including relocations of sections of the Appalachian Trail, the Stahahe Brook Trail, and others. Trail features throughout the parks have been updated.



Also includes:

- trails in Dater Mountain Nature Park, Kakiat Park, Cheesecote Mountain Park, and portions of Sterling Forest State Park;
- more than 20 miles of the Appalachian Trail and more than 27 miles of the Long Path;
- UTM gridlines, parking areas, viewpoints, and other points of interest;
- printed on waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek.

At only \$9.95 (\$7.46 for Trail Conference members), this map set is a must-have for enjoying and exploring the rich network of trails in Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks. The map set also makes a great companion to the revised and fully updated *Harriman Trails* guidebook by William Myles and Daniel Chazin.

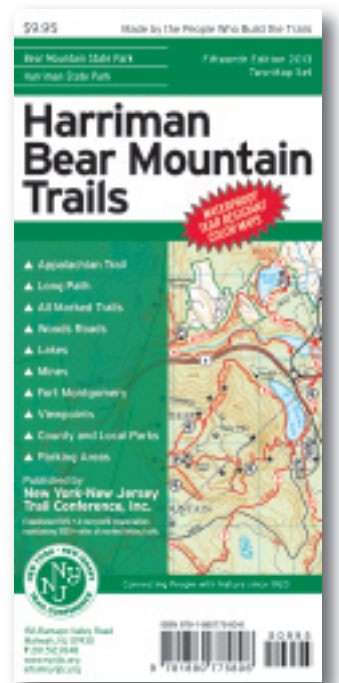
To obtain the map set or guidebook shop online at [nynjtc.org](http://nynjtc.org), call 201.512.9348, stop in at the Trail Conference office or scan the QR code below.

Visit [trailpubs.nynjtc.org](http://trailpubs.nynjtc.org) and click on the Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails cover panel for additional resources, including suggested hikes, park contact information, and much more!

Special Thanks to volunteer project manager, John Mack.

## CAMP MOR

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



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 County Executive



### About the Building

Designed by Newport, RI, architect Dudley Newton, the Darlington Schoolhouse was built in 1891 as a gift to the Mahwah community by Gilded-Age titans Alfred B. Darling and Theodore Havemeyer, each of whom had farm estates in the area.

According to the nomination that resulted in the Schoolhouse being listed in the National Register of Historic Places: "the majority of the building remains intact, including chestnut doors, Eastlake-style door hardware, slate chalkboards and rounded-arch, multi-paned windows."

Dorothy P. Guzzo, Executive Director of the New Jersey Historic Trust, said of the building that is to become our home, it's "the most architecturally significant schoolhouse in New Jersey."



### BUILT AS A SCHOOLHOUSE...

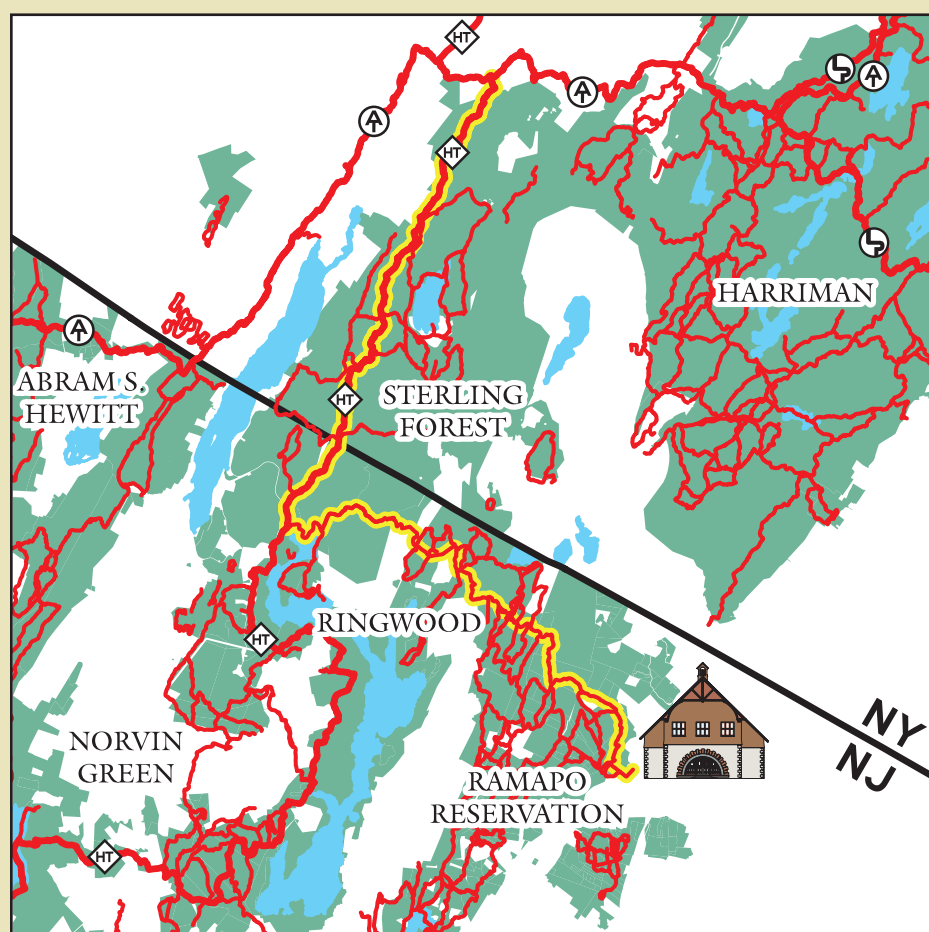
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## Where the Trails Meet and Connect New York & New Jersey

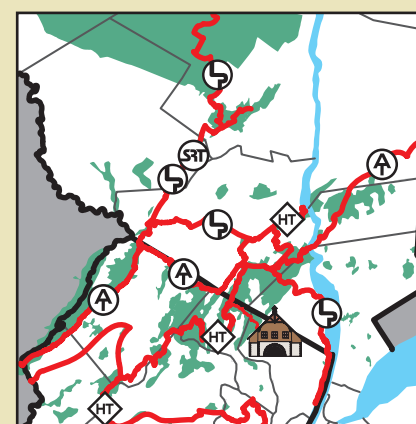
The Schoolhouse is located on the historic Route 202 in Mahwah, NJ, which follows an ancient native route that gave Mahwah its Lenape name meaning, "where the trails meet."

The trails still meet in Mahwah. In fact, starting from our Darlington site, a trail walker can take the following trail route (as just one example) to Maine or Georgia, or the Catskills or Manhattan:

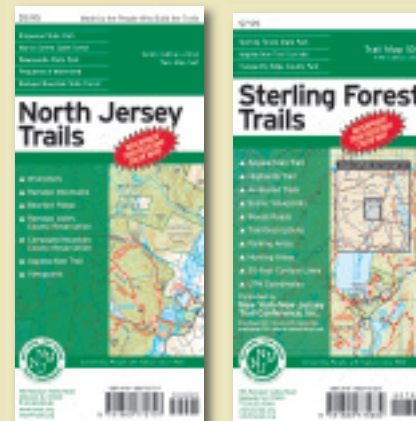
- Follow the woods path from Darlington to the Ramapo Valley County Reservation;
- Take the Silver Trail to the Halifax Trail and Ringwood State Park;
- Take the White Crossover Trail to Ringwood Manor. Near the house, find the Yellow Hasenclever Iron Trail;
- Turn southwestward on the Hasenclever Iron Trail, following it through Tranquility Ridge County Park, to its terminus on the Highlands Trail;
- At the junction with the Highlands Trail/Sterling Ridge Trail, turn north;
- Follow the Highlands Trail (HT) into New York to its meetup with the Appalachian Trail (AT) where it passes through Sterling Forest State Park;
- From the HT/AT junction, several *really* long-distance hikes are possible:
  - Turn right (east) onto the AT and head north to Maine;
  - Turn westward on the briefly co-aligned HT/AT. When these trails split, turn left (south) on the AT to go Georgia or turn right (north) on the HT to reach the Long Path (LP);
  - Hike the LP further north to the Shawangunks and Catskills or south to Manhattan.



(Almost) All trails lead to the Darlington Schoolhouse and future Trail Conference headquarters.



Resources: our North Jersey Trails and Sterling Forest Trails map sets



## We Need Your Support

From here on out, every dollar pledged before November 1, 2013 will be matched at 50% by the Bolger Foundation up to \$500,000.

For example:

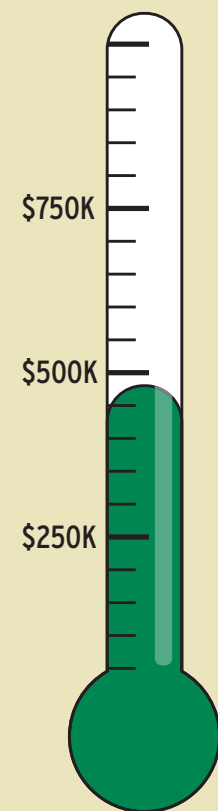
- a pledge of \$5,000 (Bolger Foundation will match at \$2,500)
- a pledge of \$2,500 (Bolger Foundation will match at \$1,250)
- a pledge of \$1,000 (Bolger Foundation will match at \$500)
- a pledge of \$500 (Bolger Foundation will match at \$250)

The Trail Conference is a 501(c)(3) conservation organization, and all contributions to create permanent headquarters for the Trail Conference and restore the Darlington Schoolhouse for community benefit are tax deductible.

Interested in making pledging over time? Pledges of up to three years will be counted toward meeting the terms of the Bolger Foundation challenge grant.

To learn more about the Darlington Schoolhouse project, to make a gift to help us meet the Bolger Challenge, or to make a pledge, visit our website, [nynjtc.org](http://nynjtc.org), and click on the Darlington icon, or call Don Weise at 201-512-9348.

\$1 Million



# Built as a Schoolhouse, Made for the Trail Conference

Soon to be our headquarters and volunteer training center



## Trailhead to our region's trails

Built in 1891, the historic Darlington Schoolhouse, located in New Jersey's Highlands Preservation Area and adjacent to 100,000 acres of parks and open space in New Jersey and New York, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is destined to become our Trail Conference home.

With our organization outgrowing its rented office space in Mahwah and thoughts turning toward a search for new headquarters, the rustic architecture, trailhead location, and high visibility of the Darlington Schoolhouse—just two miles down the road from our current location—beckoned to the imagination of passing Trail Conference members. In true Trail Conference form, their big dreams led to partnerships, planning, and progress.

### We accept a challenge from the Bolger Foundation: Complete funding by November 1st of this year to earn \$500,000.

With Mahwah Township, we acquired the abandoned building in 2007 with state and county grants. We stabilized and completed the exterior restoration with the help of funds from New Jersey's Historic Trust and a grant from the Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund, a part of the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. We designed a 21st century office, volunteer training and visitors center that respects the building's history. We have all the necessary approvals, and, with a challenge from the Ridgewood, NJ-based Bolger Foundation, we are poised to finish our capital fundraising and begin construction.

We have raised \$1 million of the \$2.5 million construction costs, and need to raise an additional \$1 million by November 1, 2013 to complete the restoration and expansion of the Darlington Schoolhouse. When the Trail Conference meets this challenge, the Bolger Foundation will make a gift of \$500,000 to complete the funding of the capital project and we can call in the work crews.

"We are asking everyone who values conservation training, access to open space, and the preservation and re-use of historic buildings to join with us to meet the Bolger Challenge," says Ed Goodell, Trail Conference executive director.

"The response to our efforts to date has been enormously positive and we are confident we

will meet this challenge. All gifts are fully tax deductible. We are offering naming gift opportunities at the restored schoolhouse and we welcome your help to reach out to your friends and neighbors to help us meet this challenge," Goodell said.

Volunteers install the banner that proclaims the Darlington Schoolhouse as our future home.



### Benefits of the New HQ to Trail Users in New York and New Jersey

- Our new headquarters will serve as a volunteer training center, allowing for classroom instruction and immediate application of skills out on the trails, which lie just outside the building. With flexible and multi-purpose classrooms, meeting spaces, and training rooms, this "green," energy-efficient historic building will allow us to train our volunteers with maximum efficiency.
- It will accommodate and better support our volunteers and staff and their work on behalf of our trails and parks.
- It will be a visitors center and gateway for connecting people to nature via trails and Trail Conference programs, introducing us to more of the trail-using public.
- It will serve as a superb example of restoring and repurposing an architectural landmark.

See more photos and learn more inside. Go to page 11.