



Two Meet Trail Goals

Maintainer completes whole AT. Runner covers all trails in Harriman.

READ MORE ON PAGE 10 ▶



Get Free Trail Maps

Free, downloadable trail maps are available on our website for some areas in our region.

READ MORE ON PAGE 11 ▶



TRAIL WALKER

January/February 2011

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

www.nynjtc.org

Mother-Daughter Team Volunteers to Make Video of Trail Project

By Jared Catapano

Susan Breault-Brudnak and her daughter Michelle Crowther are enjoying a new way of volunteering for the Trail Conference. They are video recording an ongoing trail project. Their subject: construction of a new trail designed to meet the rigorous standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and a required component of the Bear Mountain trails project.

Building an ADA-compliant trail is a first for the Trail Conference, and we sought to document the work to provide a video report to one of its funders, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. Susan and Michelle responded to our call for video volunteers.

The mother-daughter team—Susan contributes trail experience, Michelle brings experience in film-editing—visited the work site several times this past fall, recording construction and interviewing volunteers. Their aim was to complete a first draft of the video—which will be a cut of just a few minutes—by early winter.

The handicapped-accessible trail is a one-half-mile section of a nearly mile-long loop that runs from Perkins Tower on Bear Mountain's summit to scenic views. The grade along the trail does not exceed 5%, which will allow disabled trail users the joy of experiencing it.

Susan has been volunteering for the Trail



JARED CATAPANO

Our video volunteers capture trail volunteer Catherine Kelleher on camera.

Conference for approximately two years, and has worked closely with her father and fellow volunteer, Roland Breault, for the past decade. She saw the video project posting on the Trail Conference's Facebook page and figured that she and her daughter could get it done. "I started thinking that [volunteering] was something that has always brought an attachment between me and my dad" says Susan, "and I see a similar connection between me and Michelle on this video project."

During a morning walk along the yet unfinished trail in November, Michelle explained that as a high-school student, she had won an award and scholarship for film editing. Her proud mother expands: "Michelle had placed first in the state for film editing, which also helped her win a scholar-

ship from Apple Computers, one of only 10 students in the entire country to receive that scholarship." A graduate of the Honors Program at Boston College, in December Michelle took exams to qualify as an actuary. The video project marked her return to her earlier interest in film. "The industry [film editing] is very cutthroat," she explains, "but I enjoy doing it as a volunteer."

Susan and Michelle's final cut will be posted on the web (watch the Trail Conference website for details); it will show the progress of the project and the wonderful work being done by a number of trail workers. Susan and Michelle plan to return to the site in the late spring to finish documenting final stages of the trail construction and its opening.

The two hope that this video project will not be the last of its kind for the Trail Conference. "It's a good way to spread the word," says Michelle, "and videos go viral on the internet. This could be a great opportunity for future volunteers. Plus," she says, "it's a great way for anyone who is interested in film editing to build their portfolio... it's a free venue."

The Trail Conference offers many ways to volunteer for trails. Visit our website to learn more.



Annual Awards Presented at 90th Anniversary Meeting

At its 90th Anniversary annual meeting on October 16, 2010, the Trail Conference announced the following annual awards to volunteers and partners.

RAYMOND H. TORREY AWARD

The Conference's most prestigious award, given for significant and lasting contributions that protect hiking trails and the land upon which they rest.

Mary Smart & John Gunzler

The Trail Conference has been fortunate in having Mary Smart, of New Rochelle, NY, and John Gunzler, of Park Ridge, NJ, as long-time co-chairs of the development committee. Mary

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Mary Smart and John Gunzler with Ed Goodell

OSI Purchase Closes Long Path Gap on Shawangunk Ridge

More than a decade of work by the Trail Conference paid off last fall when our longtime partner, the Open Space Institute (OSI), protected a crucial trail linkage on the Shawangunk Ridge. The project came to a successful conclusion in October when OSI purchased a 2.3-acre easement where the Rodriguez family had generously allowed the co-aligned Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge trails to cross their private property for more than a decade. The OSI purchase secures this route and permanently connects the 2,000-acre Roosa Gap

State Forest with the 2,300-acre Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest.

OSI has been protecting land throughout the Shawangunk Ridge for nearly four decades. The Trail Conference has actively supported these efforts, especially the protection of the corridor for the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail. This particular project began in the mid-1990s when John Myers, then trail lands director for the Trail Conference, worked with the owners to locate the LP/SRT on their property. Myers continued to cultivate the idea of a conservation purchase or donation of a trail easement by the owners until he left the Trail Conference in 2007.

Trail Conference volunteer Andy Garrison, Shawangunk Ridge Trail supervisor, picked up where John left off, meeting with the owner several times to broker the easement purchase, securing a free appraisal, and cooperating closely with Bob Ander-

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Trail Conference work on the ridge paves the way for protection of key parcel.

Team of Distinction Artie and Bob

At first impression, Artie Hidalgo and Bob Brunner may seem an unlikely duo. Artie, of Middle Village (Queens), NY, head clean-shaven save for salt-and-pepper chin whiskers, recently retired as a manager with the MTA. Bob, of Bay Shore (Long Island), NY, long locks splaying from under his hat in a barely managed pony tail, retired from 20 years in the landscape construction field (he had his own business) and is now a teacher of math and earth science to home-bound students.

But the two have found common ground as Trail Conference volunteers, in the process learning skills that they now team up to teach to others. In December, the Volunteer Committee gave Artie and Bob its Distinguished Service Awards. (See more about this new award and volunteers recognized by it on page 6.)

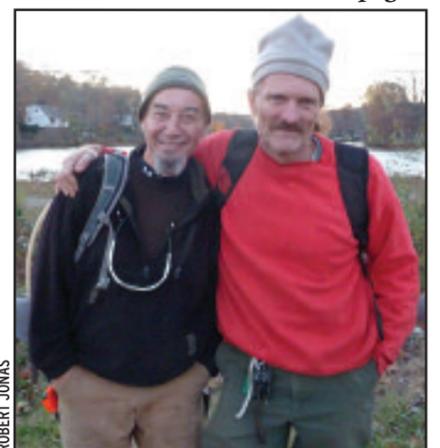
Both men first encountered the Trail Conference via the internet. What they found on the web about the Bear Mountain Trails Project and the opportunities to learn stonework was the hook that brought them to the Trail Conference.

Bob landed first, in the spring of 2009. "I had experience in building retaining walls and waterfalls," he says, "but this [rock work] is completely different and much more technical. What is new for me is working with raw stone that needs to be split and shaped, turning something that is directly out of nature into something functional." He became a regular at the project,

often dedicating two days a week to volunteer, driving all the way from Long Island to do so. He also put his teaching skills to excellent use as he took on the role of instructor for Trail University stone work courses not only on Bear Mountain, but at Wonder Lake State Park and Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

Artie enrolled in his first workshop at Bear Mountain in the spring of 2010. "I have always been interested in the old ways of doing things, and learning dry stack rock construction and doing trail work were on my bucket list," he says. "What I've learned in the last eight months (he was speaking in November) never ceases to amaze me." He too became a regular, in just his first season logging an astonishing 670+ hours of serv-

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ROBERT JONAS

Artie Hidalgo (left) and Bob Brunner received the Distinguished Service Award from the Volunteer Committee.

TRAIL WALKER

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Mission Statement

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

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

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From the Chair

Greetings from New Board Chair



I'm delighted to write to you as the new Chair of the Trail Conference's Board of Directors. For over 90 years, Trail Conference members and partners have put together an unparalleled trail system stretching from the Kittatinnies to the Catskills. We have a cherished legacy to preserve and build upon. It is the board's job to develop policies to do just that. The board will focus on five major areas:

1. Trails: Our 1,700-plus-mile trail network and landscapes are a jewel of the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region. I was amazed to discover its breadth when I started hiking nearly 20 years ago; I still am. We will work to make our current trails sustainable while expanding that network in a responsible manner. Trail conditions must match their usage—what's suitable for Harriman trekkers won't be for Bear Mountain day-trippers.

2. Volunteers: I am a trail maintainer, crew worker, and supervisor, so I know our greatest asset is you, our volunteers. The Trail Conference is truly Volunteers on Trails (with invaluable support from our hard-working staff in and out of the office). We will work to provide you with the additional training and opportunities to continue contributing your treasured time and talents.

3. Financial Resources: We need the financial capital to match our volunteer efforts and programs. This is especially true in an era of reduced government funding for public parks. Nor can we expect to rely upon the generosity of a few major donors as we have in the past. We will work to establish a solid mid-level donor base and build up adequate "rainy day" reserves to buffer us through economic downturns.

4. Outreach: As every *Trail Walker* issue shows, we have a tremendous story (or, rather, many success stories) to tell. Yet, it is the case that many trail users, let alone the general

public, do not know about all we've accomplished and how they can help us. We will work to integrate our website and publications to get out our message more effectively.

5. Organization: Our members do so much, in fact, that we often have a difficult time managing their activities efficiently. The Trail Conference also confronts increasing regulatory burdens in carrying out our programs. The trick is to meet these organizational requirements without ourselves succumbing to a bureaucratic syndrome. We will work to find the right balance of accountability and flexibility.

I will report to you periodically on the board's progress. The Trail Conference enters its tenth decade with every reason for optimism in surmounting new challenges. Happy Trails!

— Chris Connolly, Chair, Board of Directors

Letters to the Editor

Thank You, Trail Conference!

A group of us hike every Sunday morning with our dogs—mostly women, sometimes we let our men join us ;-). We are happiest when we have more dogs in our pack than humans—all very friendly.

We recently hiked the newly finished 700+ stone steps from Perkins Tower down Bear Mountain, around Hessian Lake, and back up the stone steps to cars parked at Perkins Tower. What a lovely, absolutely perfect hike! The work done on the trail is fabulous!

Three of us placed pictures out on Facebook immediately after! We were high from that walk for days.



Happy hikers on the AT at Bear Mountain

Thank you for working so diligently and hard to create such a masterpiece! All of the AT thru hikers who were able to enjoy it this past summer had a treat, as will all future AT thru-hikers.

Those stone steps are going to have many, many happy feet hiking over them for years to come.

God bless you all for what you do and the joy you help make for others! Thank you.

— Corinne Brown, Joyce, Peggy and Tina

You Are Our Eyes and Ears!

This is a reminder that what you the hiker finds on the trails is of interest to the Trail Conference.

If you find that the place you planned to park is now blocked, a large tree has come down on your favorite trail, ATVs are riding where they're not supposed to be or someone has moved the blazes sending you off in the wrong direction – we need to know!

Over the years many of you have been sending us reports of trail problems or

posting them on our website. We follow up as appropriate, by dispatching one of our volunteer chainsaw crews, alerting park managers, scheduling a crew project, negotiating with a land-owner, changing a trail map, and alerting the hiking community.

So, if you see a problem serious enough to call out the troops, there are several ways to let us know. The first and most prompt is by going to our website and reporting the problem there. Go to: www.nynjtc.org/webform/trail-problem-report. This page is not designed to be a forum for trail issues but to report a problem that needs fixing.

If the problem involves illegal activity, there is a form specifically for that at www.nynjtc.org/webform/illegal-usage-problem-report.

You can also notify us by mail by sending the report to our office (info@nynjtc.org).

It will then be directed to the appropriate person for follow up.

If you'd like to discuss broader trail related issues you might want to go to our public forums. For example at www.nynjtc.org/forum/trail-conditions you can report trail conditions that other hikers might want to know about (snow cover, high water) but that don't necessarily require repair by the park or our volunteers.

Other forum topics are listed at: www.nynjtc.org/forums/nynjtrailconference/viewpoint. There are quick links to all of these pages under the Community tab at top.

— Larry Wheelock

West Hudson Regional Representative

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.

Staff Changes at the Trail Conference



New Jersey Regional Representative

The Trail Conference is pleased to announce that Chris Ingui, of Piermont, NY, Special Projects Manager since 2009, is, as of

January 1, newly appointed to fill the position of New Jersey Regional Representative. In his new position Chris will be staff liaison to Trail Conference volunteers in New Jersey, responsible for delivering and supporting the organization's programs in the area to accomplish the Trail Conference's mission and strategic goals. He will facilitate the cooperative work of staff, agencies, and volunteer groups responsible for promoting, planning, building, managing, and protecting high-quality trail experiences. Chris first got involved with the Trail Conference through the Bear Mountain Trails Project, where he completed workshops, eventually becoming an instructor.



Membership Program Manager

Joanne Reinhardt, of Suffern, NY, a Trail Conference member and 2010 office volunteer, has joined the staff as Membership Program Manager, taking on the job previously held by Hedy Abad. In her new position on the Development & Membership team, Joanne will focus on developing and implementing activities for revenue growth through fundraising and membership programs.

Job Opening: Development Associate

The Trail Conference seeks a Development Associate. Working at the organization's office in Mahwah, NJ and reporting to the Director of Development, the successful applicant will be a key member of a fundraising team that includes the Executive and Deputy Executive Directors, the Board of Directors and the Development Committee volunteers.

Strongest consideration will go to candidates with experience as a fundraising generalist with competency in any or all of the following areas: major gifts, annual fund, grant writing, and stewardship. Interviews will begin January 3 and continue until the position is filled.

Send us a letter outlining your competency in any or all of the desired areas of competency. Mail your letter of application, salary requirement, and other supporting materials to:

Development Search
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
156 Ramapo Valley Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430

From the Executive Director



Active support, with the emphasis on "Active"

Imagine for a moment our region without advocacy. A large number of New York state parks and historic sites would have been closed last season. A complete moratorium on land conservation in New York would still be in place. Parks in New Jersey would have closed in 2009. Sterling Forest State Park would be suburban sprawl, Minnewaska State Park Preserve would be a private hotel resort and Storm King Mountain would be an industrial utility site. The Palisades would have been quarried out of existence.

What is all of that worth to you? What is it worth to us?

From a trails perspective alone, advocacy has resulted in opportunities for thousands of miles of recreational trails in the most densely populated and highly developed area of the nation. These trails are a boon to our individual and collective health and well-being. That alone is worth investing in.

But there's more. The hundreds of thousands of acres of open space through which these trails run offer other benefits, in

truth, benefits that may trump recreational ones: clean and sufficient water, land for food production, habitat for wildlife, trees to temper climate change, and even—yes, it's an issue—vegetation to manufacture oxygen. For years we have had a public consensus to preserve open space for its many benefits. The job of the Trail Conference has been to ensure that trails and people's access to open space are ranked among the benefits.

We know we are in for years of enormous budgetary challenges in response to years of government over-borrowing. Public agency budgets at all levels will be under constant and long term downward pressure. Budgets for the environmental agencies whose mission is to protect our open space resources have already been decimated to an extent that poses risks to our water, air, and health. This was spelled out by New York's former DEC Commissioner in a warning that led to his dismissal. Conservation of land already targeted for protection is endangered.

In New York, the Office of Parks and the Department of Environmental Conservation in recent years suffered budget cuts that were 20% and 30% while many other departments were reduced less than 5%. We can't let that happen again. I need to ask all Trail Conference members to help protect our precious resources by defending the

agencies responsible for their stewardship.

So what major advocacy challenges do we see ahead for 2011?

- We plan to work with a statewide coalition to again defend New York's Environmental Protection Fund. Its dedicated revenue stream has been the source of many important grants and programs including all funding for open space protection in the state. But it has been regularly "raided" for other programs. Two years ago land acquisition was eliminated, last year it was funded at one-third of prior levels. We must defend the dedicated funding for these modest but critical programs.

- In New York, we must advocate for adequate funding of the Office of Parks and DEC, which combined are responsible for the stewardship of more than 4 million acres of parks and forest open to the public.

- In New Jersey, park closures have been off the table since an aborted attempt in 2009 but last year's budget was supplemented by a one-time fix. In the meantime, staff reductions through attrition are dismantling Parks and Forestry's stewardship capacity.

- We will continue to monitor development proposals that would impact open space and trails throughout our region. These include on the Shawangunk Ridge, in the Jersey Highlands, and gas/power

line proposals in both states.

We are stretching our resources with a volunteer-led Conservation & Advocacy committee and alliances with other organizations, like Friends of NY Environment and the NJ Keep it Green Coalition. We welcome your help and involvement.

Those who lack passion—or stamina—for their cause can expect disappointment. And believe me, in the 21st century, having places in nature to hike, walk, run and stay healthy is a quality-of-life cause as important as any other. It is a cause that will only prevail in the coming budget battles if we all become "advocates" and actively demonstrate our support to the decision makers.

Today's advocates walk in proud footsteps and can find inspiration in knowing that the trails, the beautiful viewpoints, the waterfalls and wildlife that they enjoy are available today because advocates of the past had the foresight and determination to speak up when it mattered.

— Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

AWARDS

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and John have pooled their complementary leadership skills to help the Trail Conference aim higher and achieve more in cultivating financial resources to sustain and enhance our trail objectives. They have also been personally generous in providing financial support to new Trail Conference initiatives.

"Mary loves to see people connecting with nature and has a deep appreciation for the work of volunteers," says Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell. "In her nine years on the board, she has been deeply involved with many of our initiatives. John, a 30-year member of the Trail Conference and a former board member, is deeply passionate about protecting open space. John has many avid interests, but he supports our volunteers because he knows they stretch a dollar more than anyone.

"Trail users throughout our region are the ultimate beneficiaries of Mary and John's leadership and generosity. They have made a great team, encouraging each other and most of all, the board and staff to reach higher and achieve more."

MAJOR WILLIAM WELCH TRAIL PARTNER AWARD

Presented to those outside the Trail Conference (for example, state, federal, local agency partner officials) who have given long and/or significant assistance to the local hiking community.

Rebecca Fitzgerald & Eric Pain, Superintendents of Ringwood State Park

Ringwood State Park Superintendents Rebecca Fitzgerald and Eric Pain are dedicated park staffers who share a commitment to providing high-quality access to parks for hikers and other users, protecting parks from abuse and misuse, and working with volunteers to achieve both goals.

The Trail Conference has worked with these outstanding park employees for many years, in areas in and beyond Ringwood State Park. In addition to Ringwood, their jurisdiction includes Ramapo Mountain State Forest, Farny Highlands, Southern and Northern Wyanokies, Long Pond Ironworks State Park, along with Shepherd Lake, the Skylands Botanical Gardens, and the Hermitage.

Rebecca and Eric have been generous with their time, walking proposed new trail routes, checking property boundaries, and actively looking into potential environmental "hotspots" in new areas. They

have helped both the Central North Jersey and North Jersey trails chairs negotiate state trail regulations, and they willingly work directly with trail supervisors in their region to move projects along.



Rebecca Fitzgerald & Eric Pain

Rebecca and Eric assist lost hikers, inform the Trail Conference of trail problems, and are helpful sounding boards in trail relocation discussions. In solving trail issues from vandalism of trail signs and blazes to closing trail heads, Eric and Rebecca are reliable and excellent partners.

The Trail Conference could not find a more helpful duo within the New Jersey State Park system than Rebecca and Eric. They are true trail friends, and we thank and salute them.

PAUL LEIKEN EXTRA MILE AWARD

Recognizes those volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to projects.

Catherine Kelleher, Bethesda, MD

Catherine Kelleher has been a regular volunteer on the Bear Mountain Trails Project since the spring of 2007 when she took her first stone-shaping workshop in the Trail University training program. Since then, Catherine has logged close to 700 hours of service, making her one of the most active volunteers since the project hit the ground in 2006.



Catherine Kelleher and Chris Ingui

What makes this big number even more impressive is that Catherine is not a resident of New York or New Jersey; she hails from Bethesda, MD, and regularly makes the 4-5 hour journey for the weekend after her normal work week.

Catherine is a regular volunteer with the

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), and has taken the skills she has learned at Bear Mountain and applied them to the AT in her home region, building crib walls and stone staircases and helping with various other stone-shaping work. Still active as a volunteer with the Trail Conference, she has also taken on the responsibility of helping to teach at the very workshops that originally got her involved more than three years ago.

NEXT GENERATION AWARD

Given to those under age 21 who are making significant contributions of time and energy to trail building or protection.

Erich Fuchs-Stengel, Mahwah, NJ

Erich began his involvement with the Trail Conference at the age of 17 by becoming a maintainer of the Yellow-Silver Trail in the Ramapo Valley Reservation. In 2008, Erich and a friend, both Mahwah High School students, furthered their commit-



Erich Fuchs-Stengel and Chris Ingui

ment to environmental preservation by founding the Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization (MEVO), comprising local student volunteers. MEVO has since led numerous work trips including park and school clean-ups, trail restoration outings, public outreach efforts on the topic of climate change, and several work trips at Bear Mountain State Park.

With his wish to get further involved with trail construction, Erich enrolled in Trail University at Bear Mountain in the spring of 2010. Afterwards he signed up for a 300-hour AmeriCorps internship for the Trail Conference's Bear Mountain Trails Project, where he helped to construct several stone staircases, crib walls and turnpikes. Erich is now attending Clark University in Worcester, MA, where he is focusing on environmental studies.

Becky Fiedler, Great Meadows, NJ

Becky started doing trail maintenance at age 13. She accompanied her parents, and was always the first to be ready to go. Her attention to clipping properly, giving clearance without widening the trail is instructive to her parents. She also



Volunteer Chair Daniel Van Engel and Becky Fiedler

reminds them not to over-blaze. She has learned to identify flora along the trail, which she will show and explain to others. Several years ago Becky organized a large group of her fellow high school students to go to Trenton to speak for and protest the State's plan to close many of our parks. She encourages her friends to hike with her and to enjoy and appreciate our woods. As a result, she is teaching others about the care and protection of our trails and forest lands.

WILLIAM HOEFERLIN AWARD

This award recognizes Trail Conference volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.

Glenn Oleksak, Butler, NJ

Glenn Oleksak supervises the 150 miles of Highlands Trail between the Delaware and Hudson Rivers. Through his enormous dedication to trail maintenance, management, and stewardship, Glenn embodies the spirit of the Hoeflerlin Award, which honors exemplary trail service. Glenn became the Highlands Trail Supervisor in 2005 and since that time he has spent much of his free time, often including vacations, working on the trail to keep it in good shape for an enjoyable



Glenn Oleksak and Robert Jonas

hiking experience. He has also hiked the entire trail a few times, and it was during one of these early thru-hikes that Glenn began to realize how much attention the trail would demand from him.

In addition to its often daunting maintenance needs, the Highlands Trail has other challenges as well, including

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Trail Conference members can take advantage of exclusive discounts and benefits with participating retailers and businesses!

You can recoup the cost of your membership in one visit!



NY-NJ Trail Conference BENEFITS

The Trail Conference is proud to offer a Membership Benefit Program, which was created to provide our members with money-saving discounts at area retailers and service providers – **benefits only available to Trail Conference members.**

As part of your Trail Conference membership, you are issued a card identifying you as a Trail Conference member, making you eligible for all program discounts. To receive your member discounts, you must present your valid membership card at the time of purchase. Some stores offer the discount only on select items, so be sure to ask.

We encourage our members to take advantage of this incredible opportunity that comes with a Trail Conference membership. New discounts and offers are continually being added so be sure to visit our website's membership benefits area at www.nynjtc.org/content/retail-partners for current offers.

25% Discount on Trail Conference publications and clothing when purchased directly from the Trail Conference.

FREE Subscription to the *Trail Walker*, the Trail Conference's bi-monthly newsletter filled with timely articles and columns that will enhance your hiking experiences.

Money-Saving Discounts at participating retailers and businesses.

Workshops and Seminars on trail maintenance and construction, leadership training, wilderness first aid, chainsaw operation, environmental monitoring and GPS operation.

Volunteer Opportunities to "learn by doing" in areas as varied as trail maintenance, construction, publications, environmental monitoring, and cartography.

Access to the Hoeflerlin Library at the Trail Conference office that includes more than 1,000 books on hiking worldwide, along with maps, guides and a historical archive.



Some of Our Discount Partners



VISIT WWW.NYNJTC.ORG/CONTENT/RETAIL-PARTNERS FOR COMPLETE LIST OF MONEY-SAVING DISCOUNTS!



Yorktown Trail Link Opens; Gets Greenway Grant Support

On October 20, the Trail Conference joined with its partners on the Yorktown Community Trails project to mark the opening of a new trail through the Sylvan Glen Preserve in Westchester County. The occasion included announcement that the Hudson River Valley Greenway had awarded a grant of \$4500 to the Trail Conference for the project, one of just seven awards made in the 2010 Conservancy Small Grant Program. The funds will be used to purchase materials for bridges, puncheon, kiosks, signs, and interpretive materials.

The grant requires a 50-50 match, some of which includes funds donated by Westchester Mountain Biking Association as well as grants from Clif Bar and Specialized (a bike business). An environmental assessment by a Westchester County Parks employee and forthcoming volunteer hours of trail clearing and blazing will make up the difference.

Representatives of the Trail Conference, Westchester Mountain Biking Association, Yorktown Parks Dept., Westchester County Parks, and town officials gathered in the afternoon for an official ribbon-cutting at the trailhead for the new trail in the Sylvan Glen Preserve, then headed out for a short hike.

other enhancements), can be downloaded from the Trail Conference website at www.nynjtc.org/map/wonder-lake-trail-map. For a hike on this new trail, see page 12.

Trail Conference Volunteers Remove Collapsed AT Bridge at Little Dam Lake, Add Stone Steps

On Saturday, December 4, a crew of Trail Conference volunteers and staff removed the collapsed bridge on the Appalachian Trail at Little Dam Lake and replaced it with stepping stones moved into place using a high-line. The bridge collapsed in late November and the AT was temporarily rerouted. The section is on the National Park Service AT corridor surrounded by Sterling Forest State Park. The AT at Little Dam Lake is now reopened.

Chris Ingui, special projects manager for the Trail Conference, noted that 16 volunteers turned out to help with the project. "We were able to remove the bridge, gather the stone, set up the high line, install the stepping stones, and clean up within six hours," he said. "Very cool." The group consisted of a core group of volunteers from the Bear Mountain Trails Project and others from various Trail Conference regions.



Volunteers at Little Dam



Hikers head into the woods on a new section of the Yorktown trail system that opened in October.

New 3.7-mile Trail Opens at Wonder Lake State Park

Since the first hiking trails opened at Wonder Lake State Park in New York's Putnam County on National Trails Day 2009, volunteers have been at work creating an additional 3.7-mile trail designated as a section of the Highlands Trail. The new section was officially opened on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010, and the public was invited to a hike-through of the new trail guided by Trail Conference volunteers who built it.

A free, simplified map of trails at Wonder Lake (no contour lines or

Harriman Park – Ramapo River Bridge Repaired

The bridge between NY Rt. 17 and the NY Thruway on the Nurian Trail has been repaired. Following the Nurian Trail eastward a short distance from this bridge brings hikers to the Southfields Pedestrian Bridge over the NY State Thruway. Together, the two bridges and the Nurian Trail provide access from Southfields, NY, to the eastern portions of Harriman Park, with connections to the multitude of trails within Harriman and Bear Mountain Parks.

The Jolly Rovers Stonework Team Will Take to the Hills This Spring

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference will be launching it's first official Roving Crew of Stoneworkers this coming Spring. The crew, also known as the Jolly Rovers, is beginning to form as an off-shoot of the Bear Mountain Trails Project. Volunteers from that project as well as those from other regions trained in rock work, have already begun to sign up. The Jolly Rovers will address trail construction challenges across all Trail Conference regions.

The crew's mission is to aid our trail volunteers in areas that lack established trail crews or crews experienced in stone work and to provide construction support and training for them. The crew is expected to hold one work trip a month, starting in late April and go through November. The trips will range from one to two days each and will focus on the construction of stone structures like crib walls, staircases, turnpikes,

paved swales, etc. Other tasks that involve rigging (high-lines and drag-lines) will also be part of the crew's repertoire.

If you are interested in being considered for this crew please contact Chris Ingui at cingui@nynjtc.org; be sure to mention all previous trail experience. A mandatory training program in technical stonework will begin in late March of 2011 for those without such construction experience and will be free of charge for Trail Conference members.

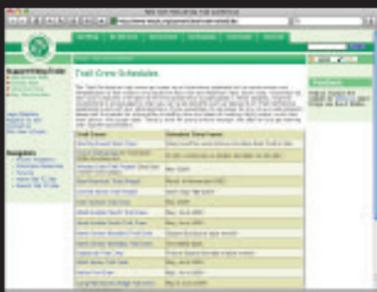
Be advised, the work this crew will be performing will be extremely physical and require a serious commitment to learning the art of stonework. If you are a Trail Supervisor or Trail Chair and would like to request a project for consideration you may also contact Chris with a description of the problem, a photo of the problem area, and an idea of what you think you would like done. More info on the Jolly Rovers to come!

Trail Crew Schedules

January – February 2011

Most of our Trail Crews are hibernating for the winter, dreaming of the projects that will get them out on the trail come spring. The exceptions are listed below.

Check our website for possible additions or changes to schedules. Go to www.nynjtc.org and click on Trail Crews in the Get Involved tab.



TBD = To Be Determined

For all trips bring work gloves, water, lunch, insect repellent. In some cases, tools are provided. Contact leaders in advance for meeting times and places.

HIGHLANDS TRAIL CREW

Leaders: Adam Rosenberg, HT Co-Supervisor: dobsonian@verizon.net or 973-570-0853

We generally get together the first Sunday of every month to tackle various jobs building new sections or reworking existing sections of the Highlands Trail throughout New Jersey as well as in New York west of the Hudson River. We also schedule other work dates. All are welcome, experience is not necessary. Contact leader for details of the current trip and what tools to bring.

EAST HUDSON CREWS

Dutchess-Putnam Appalachian Trail Most Saturdays

Contact: Tim Messerich, bascomgrillmaster@yahoo.com or 845-297-9573

Join RPH Volunteers (TC member club) on AT maintenance outings.

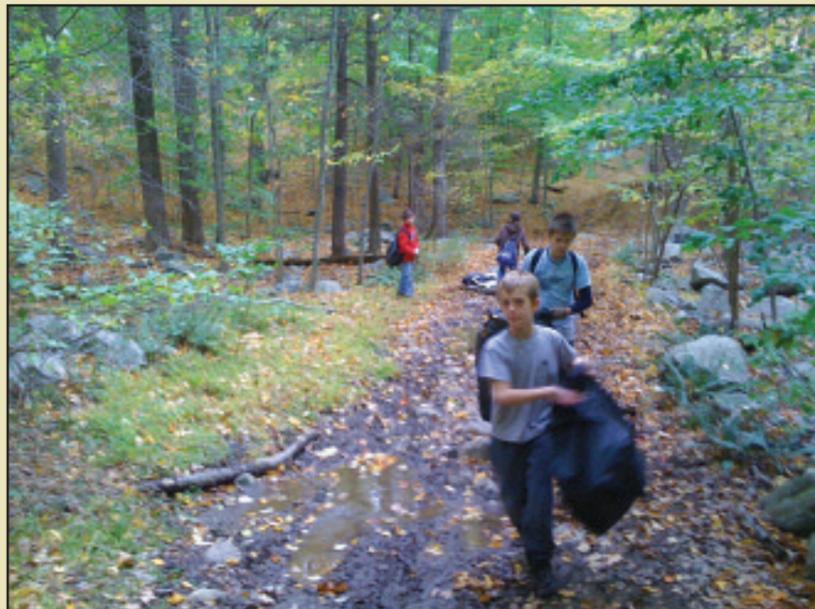
Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Weekly Trail Maintenance Trips

Contact: wprtrailmaintainer@gmail.com
Contact WPRR at the email address above or view the East Hudson Trail Crew webpage at www.nynjtc.org/content/trail-crew-schedules for more information and the schedule.

Crews will resume trail work in the spring. Stay tuned!

Scouts Remove Stonetown Trail Eyesore

On October 16, Boy Scout Troop 170 of North Haledon, NJ, removed an old camping trailer that's been an eyesore along the Stonetown Trail in Ringwood for many years. Troop Scoutmaster Cliff Konnerth, a Trail Conference Life member, oversaw the project.



Scouts hauled trash and the remains of an old camping trailer from Ringwood State Park in New Jersey.

West Jersey Crew Reports 2010 Trail Improvements

In 2010, the West Jersey Crew spent more than 700 hours improving the trails in West Jersey. In Worthington State Forest, water bars were installed on the Blue Dot and Red Dot Trails, culverts were cleared and restored to service on the Holly Springs Trail (an old road), a stream crossing was rehabilitated on the Dunnfield Creek Trail, and a six-foot-high crib wall, to support a section of fallen-away trail, was built on the Red Dot Trail.



MIKE MANES

Hsin-Chien Tai works the Griphoist

In Wawayanda State Park, 18 stepping stones were installed in a chronic wet area on the Terrace Pond North Trail and the badly-overgrown Terrace Pond Red Trail was cleared. In Jenny Jump State Forest, six miles of the new Jenny Jump Trail, under construction for several years, were finalized and blazed (look for a trail opening announcement in the spring).

continued on page 7

Many Friends Make Light(er) Work on the Posts Brook Trail

The Posts Brook and the trail that takes its name flow through a rocky gorge in New Jersey's Norvin Green State Forest that was formerly forested with majestic hemlocks. Today, the dead remains of those hemlocks, evidently victims of the invasive Woolly Adelgid beetle, as well as fallen oaks, litter the gorge. Though having the appearance of a post-tornado scene, the gorge nevertheless offered the promise of being a still-beautiful place to hike, with a little help from some friends.

The Central North Jersey Trails Committee, chaired by Bob Jonas and Estelle Anderson, and supported by Norvin Green South Trails Supervisor Paul Makus, embarked on a project to clear the site of dead falls and rebuild portions of the Posts Brook Trail. They recruited and organized help from several groups and accomplished construction of a trail retaining wall by



ROBERT JONAS

Workshop participants on their new crib wall.



ROBERT JONAS

Mahwah Environmental Volunteers

hosting a weekend-long Introduction to Stonework training course, courtesy of a 2007 New Jersey Recreational Trails Grant.

The Mahwah Environmental Volunteer Organization (MEVO), a group of high school students, volunteered to quarry rock and prepare much of the eroded trail area so it would have a solid foundation for rock cribbing. The teenagers labored long and hard, and their excellent work ethic could put many adult workers to shame.

Next in were Trail Conference volunteers Paul Makus and Bob Jonas, who spent a day and a half chain-sawing much of the fallen timber into moveable pieces.

This was followed by volunteers from MDI (Men's Divisions International), who lugged, carried, and pushed the cut chunks of wood and logs, over and out of the gorge to locations not visible from the hiking trail. This group of men, assisted by four members of the Trail Conference, accomplished this grueling work in good spirits and a good time was had by all.

Finally, on the weekend of November 6

and 7, Trail Conference Project Manager Chris Ingui, along with volunteer instructors Art Hidalgo and Bob Brunner, conducted a two-day training in introductory stonework. They worked with a class of 10 to build a new retaining wall with stone cribbing for a trail segment that was becoming difficult to traverse owing to the crumbling of an existing retaining wall.



ROBERT JONAS

Men's Divisions International

Although this exacting craft involves preparing, selecting, and modifying rocks for a perfect fit, the results are an attractive, naturalistic wall that blends into the surrounding environment and will last decades or perhaps even centuries.

Thanks to all the participants from these three diverse groups that together completed a long-lasting project that will benefit the hiking public.

— Bob Jonas, Co-chair, Central North Jersey Trails Committee

Trail Conference Helps Open New Trails at Angle Fly Preserve in Westchester

The Trail Conference joined the Somers Land Trust (SLT) and the Friends of the Angle Fly Preserve on national "Make A Difference Day" October 23, 2010, for a full day of events at the Angle Fly Preserve located on Route 139 in Somers, NY. More than 60 volunteers from the community participated in activities at the 654-acre Angle Fly Preserve. The Friends of Angle Fly is a Trail Conference member group.

Beginning in the morning, an energetic and enthusiastic team of volunteers of all ages battled patches of thorny invasive barberry bushes, dead trees, and other natural obstacles to create and complete the new Orange Trail in less than four hours. This new half-mile-long hiking trail now connects to the original Green Trail and the new Blue Trail.

In the afternoon, the new one-mile-long section of the Blue Trail opened with an

inaugural community hike beginning at Somers' Reis Park and ending at the main entrance to the Angle Fly Preserve by the Reynolds Farm. Following the hike, volunteers, members of the community, and local town officials gathered to celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of the Angle Fly Preserve.

Leigh Draper, the East Hudson Regional Representative for the NY-NJ Trail Conference, was on hand for the morning workday activities and afternoon celebration. Leigh reports, "I'm amazed at the age range and enthusiasm of our team of volunteers." Leigh added, "This project is providing a great model for other Community Trails Programs. The Somers Land Trust and the Friends of Angle Fly Preserve members are dedicated champions for a long-range vision for conservation of natural resources. Creating meaningful



LEIGH DRAPER

Some of the volunteers who cleared trails at Angle Fly Preserve on Make a Difference Day.

opportunities for the public to participate ensures that the Preserve is recognized as a valuable resource for residents and an attractive destination for visitors."

For more information about Angle Fly Preserve, please contact the Somers Land Trust at: www.somerslandtrust.org or call the SLT at 914-338-8758.

I N M E M O R I A M

**Julie (Lore) Oppenheimer**

As this issue went to press, the Trail Conference learned of the passing of Julie (Lore) Oppenheimer, a hiker, lover of the outdoors, and dedicated office volunteer for the Trail Conference when our headquarters were in Manhattan. Former Executive Director JoAnn Dolan recalls that Lore worked at the office once a week faithfully for 15 years.

Anne Luktenhouse, former Trails Director, wrote of Lore: "For someone so diminutive in size, she certainly packed a wallop of energy for her beloved Trail Conference. She was so very reliable in her attendance at the Trail Conference office in midtown, and 'was' the Membership Renewal Department all by herself. She could still see every trail bend in her mind's eye, even though she had not hiked those trails in quite a while. She loved to hear about people's hiking experiences because she relived her own tramps through their stories. One of the last grande dames of the Trail Conference, Lore experienced the heyday 1930s and the tramping movement so vibrant."

Lore left a generous bequest to the Trail Conference to carry on the work she so avidly supported.

**James Ryo Kiyan**

James Ryo Kiyan of Wurtsboro, NY, a long-time member and volunteer with the Trail Conference, passed away on October 2, 2010, in Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Ryo, born in 1962, had a quirky sense of humor, loved animals, and enjoyed hiking and camping. "He was there for everything we did on the Shawangunk Ridge Trail," recalls Larry Wheelock, West Hudson Regional Representative. "It's a very sad loss." Contributions may be made in Ryo's name to the Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is a new award created by the Volunteer Committee to recognize long years of service or a special achievement by Trail Conference volunteers. They are given on an as-appropriate basis by the committee.

William Stoltzfus

The Trail Conference Volunteer Committee and North Jersey Trails Committee honored William Stoltzfus, Jr., for his many years of dedicated trails service by presenting him with a Distinguished Service Award this past fall.

Bill, of Skillman, NJ, and retired from the United States Foreign Service, maintains sections of the Hewitt-Butler Trail in Norvin Green State Forest (since 1994), the Hasenclever Iron Trail in Ringwood State Park (since 2004), and also co-maintains the Spring North Trail in Wawayanda State Park (since 1994).

In the early 1990s, Bill volunteered as Trails Supervisor for the Northern Wyanokies, coordinating the efforts of Trail Conference trail maintainers in the region, and volunteered as a certified chain sawyer. He has been a frequent participant with the North Jersey Trail Crew headed by Sandy Parr.

DISTINGUISHED TEAM

continued from page 1

ice, setting the record for most hours volunteered in a single year for the project.

"Bob and Artie have the type of spirit that's infectious, volunteers love to work with them because they both honestly love what they're doing," says Project Manager Chris Ingui. "Whenever you witness that kind of work ethic and feel that energy you can't help but get inspired to work alongside them." His confidence in their skills led him to ask that they team up and share their stone work knowledge with a class of new and experienced trail volunteers from various Trail Conference regions. A rehabilitation of the Posts Brooks Trail in Norvin Green State Forest (see page 5), and the need to build a trail retaining wall, became the occasion for an on-site Introduction to Stonework workshop. Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell was one of the participants.

"This is a good example of the diffusion of talent and enthusiasm as a dividend of a great project, in this case, the Bear Mountain project," he says. "Bob and Artie gain skills and become workshop instructors in Norvin Green. Participants in their two-day workshop build this cribbed trail over



Artie Hidalgo, right, oversees on-the-trail training.



Bob Brunner, left, discusses stone work with volunteers.

what was once a perennially wet, low spot next to the Post Brook. Outcome: A new, improved trail experience for hikers and new volunteers with construction experience for trail crews."

For Artie and Bob, the pleasures of volunteering are as much about the people they encounter as they are about the skills they learn and work they do. "The caliber of the people that I've had the pleasure of working with at Bear Mountain and Norvin Green—that alone would bring me back," Bob says. "It makes for a great experience."

Artie cites the crew leaders: "Eddie Walsh, Tom Kindling and Chris Ingui have tremendous skill and patience as mentors, they have an ability to touch people skillfully. I am very grateful to the Trail Conference for giving me this opportunity. I love what I do and look forward to doing more."

He'll get that chance in a new way this spring as he and Bob take on another assignment: leading a new roving trail crew for the Trail Conference. For details about that, see Jolly Rovers, page 4.

Volunteer! The Trail Conference Needs You!

To apply, or for more details about these and other volunteer opportunities, go to the Volunteer Web Page on our website at: www.nynjtc.org/volunteer or contact us at: volunteers@nynjtc.org

OFF-TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Come in from the cold! The Trail Conference has indoor volunteer opportunities available in its Mahwah office or working from home...

Communications/ Editorial Assistant

Work from home and help our Communications Manager keep up with and get out all the news that's fit to print, email, or put on our website!

Communications/ Marketing Ad Hoc Adviser

Put your communications/marketing experience to work for trails! We need your advice on what opportunities the Trail Conference is missing in promoting our maps, books, and volunteer contributions; and what resources we need to take advantage of these opportunities. Help us figure it out by giving us just a few hours of your time in meetings in Mahwah or by phone.

Conservation Coordinator

Do you have 3 to 5 hours a week to help sustain the vitality of one of the metropolitan area's largest membership and volunteer outdoor organizations? You could help our Conservation and Advocacy Committee to work with private landowners whose lands are crossed by Trail Conference trails and help us safeguard trail linkages and promote the viability of long-distance trails in our region.

Member Relations Volunteers

We need volunteers to help us engage with members in our mission of providing access to open space in our region. Help us with mailing, marketing, responding to questions, offering assistance. We will match your skills, qualifications, and interests to the projects on hand.

Order Processing Assistant

Trail Conference customers are familiar with our outstanding trail maps. Do you want to be a part of the team that sells them? We have an opening for volunteer to assist our Fulfillment Coordinator with entering orders from our web store and shipping them. This opportunity can teach you about sales, our maps, how the back office – a vital part of our organization – operates, and more. Come join us in our interesting and educational office environment – we need your help!

Trailworker Editor

Have you ever wanted to be an editor? Here is your chance! We need a volunteer who is "trail maintainer savvy" to edit our semiannual electronic newsletter directed towards trail maintainers and managers. Supply copy and ferret out other writers to produce articles about trail maintenance, tools, interesting projects, and problems solved. Work from home and then find an excuse to visit completed trail projects. You must be computer savvy and willing to learn some layout and design. This is a great opportunity to provide information to other trail workers.

OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES**Appalachian Trail Corridor Monitors - Orange County**

There are two Corridor Monitoring opportunities covering the boundaries of the AT in New York's Orange County. These vacancies are along the Bellvale Ridge above Greenwood Lake – either the east or west side of the ridge – take your pick!

Become a Trail Maintainer!*

We have vacancies on trail sections in many of the regions our trail network covers, including sections of the Long Path in the Slide Mountain Wilderness. Here's an opportunity to help us ensure the preservation of the most expansive area of primary forest growth in the Catskills. Adopt a section of a trail and help to keep the Catskills accessible, pristine and protected.

Hike Writers

Hike Writers wanted for Long Island, NJ Pinelands, and Jersey Shore. We want to add hikes from these regions to our website and need contributors who enjoy hiking, are willing to carefully document routes, and take photos.

**TRAIL CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS**

September 1, 2010 - November 19, 2010

With this issue, the Trail Conference Volunteer Committee begins regular and grateful acknowledgement of NEW volunteers who have completed an assignment and existing volunteers who have taken on ADDITIONAL assignments. We extend our thanks to ALL our volunteers.

Communications:

- **Consultants:** Maureen Curran Kleinman, Megan Fraser, Melissa Hart
- **Videographers:** Susan Breault-Brudnak and Michelle Crowther

- **Writers:** Jared Catapano, Daniela Wagstaff
- **Web Content Specialist:** Ken Malkin

Darlington Restoration Grant Manager: Alice Luddington-Cantor

Events Assistants: Dave Abad, Estelle Anderson, Chris Connolly, David Gemmill, Robert Jonas, Ruth Melchionne, Andrea Minoff, Chris Reyling, Marleigh Siebecker, Donald Tripp

Orders Fulfillment Assistant: Jerry Ruocco

Trail Chair: Geoffrey Connor

Trail Crew Member: State Sarles

Trail Maintainers: John Blenninger, Francis Cape, Gina Chiosie, Adam Corbisiero, Michele Corn Farrell, John Culpepper, Michael & Ellen Dwyer, Margery Ennist, Paul Forgie, Mike Garrison, Lemuel Grier, Scott Heller, Christopher Kimberly, Michael Lenhardt, Gregory Martin, David McCullough, Colleen Murphy, James Nolan, Catherine O'Neill, Nicholas Pappas, Jon Patton, Liza Phillips, Jeffrey Roggenburg, Ann Schwartzstein, Michael Stahl, Holly Stewart, Patricia Weiss, Eric Wilson, Scott Workman

Trail Shelter Caretaker: Rod Gonzalez

Web Associate: Charles Yoo

Volunteer Program Assistant: Laura Groppa

Work Trip Volunteers: Madhu Boppane, Boy Scout Troop 258, Adam Corbisiero, Willy Diaz, Timone Ezeev, Jean Fletcher, Hadley Galbraith, Silvio Gollallini, Keith Gosselin, Henri Kalajian, Frank La Pointe, Mike Lenhardt, Paul Makus, Krishnam Narayanan, Glen Nelson, Michael O'Rourke, Liam Patterson, William Patterson, Robert Rex, Bob Rinklin, Dave Watitz

We apologize to any new volunteer whose name has been omitted and offer them and our on-going volunteers our sincere thanks. Please advise the Volunteer Manager at: volunteers@nynjtc.org or 201.512.9348 x22 of any omissions or corrections.

Science & Ecology

Eastern Red Cedar – A Most Unusual Conifer

By Edna Greig

Evergreen trees stand out after the autumn leaf fall. A native evergreen that's easy to spot in a variety of habitats in our area is the eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). Red cedar usually grows to about 40 to 50 feet tall, and it has a dense foliage crown that is columnar or narrowly conical. The attractive reddish brown bark is thin and shaggy and peels in long, narrow strips.



EDNA GREIG

Eastern red cedar: many went to pencils.

Red cedar is a conifer, or cone-bearing, tree like pine and spruce, although it doesn't have the obvious needle-like leaves and hard brown cones of other conifers. Most of its leaves are tiny, overlapping scales that clasp slender twigs. But it also has some sharp, protruding 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch-long needles, especially on new growth. The

needles are sometimes hard to see, but run your hand along the twigs and you should be able to feel them.

The really unique feature of red cedar is its cones, which look like small berries. Found on female trees, the plentiful 1/4-inch wide berries start out light green and mature to a dark blue with a white powdery coating. The sweet, fragrant berries remain on the tree through winter. More than 50 species of birds eat the berries, including the cedar waxwing that takes its name from the tree. Mammals such as foxes, raccoons, and opossums also eat the berries. People have long enjoyed the berries as a flavoring for foods and gin.

Animals pass the seeds within the berries through their digestive systems intact. The seeds can germinate and grow in most soil types, including those that are poor and dry, as long as there is good light available. Red cedar frequently colonizes drier, open uplands alongside hardwoods such as oaks and hickories. As the hardwoods grow, they can outcompete the red cedar for light. But established red cedars sometimes persist in the shade of the hardwoods because their evergreen leaves can photosynthesize when the canopy is leafless. Red cedar also colonizes abandoned fields and farmlands and may form open groves of tidy looking spires.

The dense red cedar foliage provides valuable cover and windbreak for wildlife. Deer will browse the foliage in winter if other food is scarce. During spring and summer, red cedar foliage is the sole food for the caterpillar of an attractive green and rust colored butterfly called the olive hairstreak.

Large stands of tall red cedars were present in eastern North America when the first European settlers arrived. The settlers valued its wood because it's attractive, durable, and easy to work, and they crafted it into fence posts, furniture, and shingles. Because it sharpens easily, red cedar was the wood of choice for making pencils. Only the clearest heartwood was made into pen-



EDNA GREIG

"Berries" of *Juniperus virginiana*

cils, and the rest of the tree usually was abandoned. By the early 1900s, the best red cedar stands were depleted, and the industry began to get its pencil wood from a western cedar species. Today, the aromatic red cedar is still used to line chests, wardrobes, and closets because of its purported ability to repel moths.

The native range of red cedar is large, extending as far west as Kansas and Oklahoma. Ironically, as red cedar is recovering from overharvesting in the eastern part of its range, it also is becoming an invasive pest of the grasslands to the west. Grasslands are adapted to periodic fires and, historically, red cedar couldn't colonize this habitat because its thin bark makes it susceptible to fire. Today, fire often is suppressed in the grasslands, and the bird-dispersed seeds establish readily, threatening the native grasslands flora.

Look for red cedar when you're on the trails this winter. If you're lucky, you may spot some of the many species of birds that feast on its berries.

Trail Conference member Edna Greig is an occasional contributor to Trail Walker.

Trailside History

The Long Path Cemetery

By Joe Henderson

The Long Path, as most of you know, stretches from the George Washington Bridge to about 20 miles from Albany, a total of more than 350 miles. "My" section of the trail, which I have maintained since 2006, is in Rockland County and extends from Call Hollow Road about two miles toward Haverstraw. Along the way it passes through the old Letchworth Village Cemetery. The cemetery is the final resting place of more than 300 men, women, and children who were inmates at what was called The Letchworth Village Home for the Feeble Minded and Epileptics.

The institution was founded in 1908 and was closed in 1996. During that time thousands of individuals were placed there by families or the state to spend the rest of their lives in reasonably gentle care. Upon

the death of an inmate, if the family did not claim them, they were buried in the nearby graveyard with a metal tag and number to note their passing. A few had stones placed over their graves by family members, but most had nothing but a number.

These unknowns lay in this cold state of affairs until recently, when a group of local citizens researched the facility's records and identified about 300 individuals buried on the site. They raised the needed funds and erected a small monument to these unfortunates, a large stone with a brass plate on which are the names of all those known to be interred here. The fitting inscription reads, "THOSE WHO SHALL NOT BE FORGOTTEN." The stone is fronted by three marble benches and the start of a small garden.

The cemetery is just a short walk on the Long Path in from Call Hollow Road; a parking area is at the gate entry.



JOE HENDERSON

The names of 300 deceased patients, previously assigned only numbers.

WEST JERSEY CREW

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Thank you to everyone who was part of the West Jersey Crew in 2010: Rob Alexander, Ian Blundell, Bob Boysen, Gordon Campbell, Joan Campbell, Christine Contento-Angell, Jonathan Didner, Terry Fiedler, Vinnie Fiedler, Jim Harvey, Joan Theresa Lyons, Gay Mayer, Kirk Moehle, Lee Mott, Philip Nerges, Steve Reiss, Chuck Rood, Keith Scherer, Barbara Simmons, Bill Taggart, Linda Taggart, Hsin-Chien Tai, Lou Van Kirk, and the team from Ramsey Outdoors (Amy DeLorenzo, Andrew DiClemente, Andrew Giordano, Emily Mahon, Jerry Steinhoff, Will Torpie, and Chris Wirt).



MONICA DAY

Gordon Campbell and David Day place a rock

Thank you also to our New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection partners at the state parks, who unlock gates for us, let us borrow their tools, let us use their facilities, let us store our stuff in their yards, and enthusiastically support our work.

The West Jersey Crew will start work again in mid-April 2011. If spending the day with people passionate about trail work, working hard,—getting dirty, and seeing a lasting change—that you were part of—by the end of the day is something that appeals to you, please contact us—or just come join us in the spring! You'll never look at a hiking trail the same way again!

— David & Monica Day
Leaders, West Jersey Crew

Hudson River EagleFest 2011

Saturday, February 5, 2011
Location: Croton Point Park

The Trail Conference will be at this annual event on the banks of the Hudson River in Westchester County. Teatown Lake Reservation partners each year with Westchester County Parks, Friends of Westchester Parks, Club Fit, and 30 collaborating organizations to bring you this celebration of the winter return of the Bald Eagle to the Hudson Hills and Highlands. The event is headquartered at Croton Point with additional sites along the Hudson River. Watch our website (www.nynjtc.org) and Teatown's (www.teatown.org) for details.

AWARDS

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landowner issues, frequent reroutes, and ATV damage. Glenn has effectively met all the challenges he has faced as Supervisor of the Highlands Trail. Glenn's dedication and passion are what make him the driving force behind the Highlands Trail.

KEN LLOYD AWARD

Recognizes members of Member Clubs who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.

Laurie Rankin, Tillman, NY

Laurie Rankin is a very active member of the Catskill 3500 Club. When the John Robb lean-to was burned down several years ago, efforts to get it rebuilt were at a dead end. Laurie took on the project and got results. Without her leadership, hard work, and cheerleading the club members, this lean-to would not have been rebuilt. She also arranged for the DEC Commissioner to send acknowledgement letters to all those who worked on the John Robb project.



LARRY WHEELOCK

Laurie Rankin

Laurie is continuing her work on Catskill lean-to projects by helping with renovations to the Diamond Notch lean-to and leading the construction efforts to build a new outhouse at the John Robb Lean-to. She is working in concert with Trail Conference Lean-to and Trail Supervisors. Laurie's life-long passion for the Catskills inspires her to get these projects done.

OSI PURCHASE

continued from page 1

berg of OSI. "This small parcel made possible a huge accomplishment," Andy says about the long anticipated deal. "Now we have a permanently protected trail corridor 28.5 miles long, stretching from Wurtsboro to Jenny Lane in Minnewaska State Park Preserve."

Ed Goodell, Trail Conference executive director, says, "I want to thank OSI, the Friends of the Shawangunks, and all the other supporters, but especially Andy Garrison, whose tireless efforts to protect the trail were essential to the project's successful and timely completion."

HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes
Sponsored by Member Clubs

Find more hikes at www.nynjtc.org. Click on Scheduled Hikes under Go Hiking!

January

Saturday, January 1

SW. Happy New Year's Day Hike, Manhattan, NY. Leader: Cy Adler, 212-663-2167. Meet: 12 noon at George Washington Bridge Bus Terminal information booth (178th St. and Broadway; take A or #1 train). Explore the north end of Manhattan: Inwood Hill and Highbridge parks, shore of the Hudson and Harlem rivers. See great wild parks, historical sites, some hills.

IHC. New Years Day Hike in Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Dave Sutter, dsuttr@aol.com. Meet: 9:30am at Elk Pen parking, Arden, NY. 7 moderate miles. Come explore the New Year on little traveled routes.

PM. Hike in the New Year, Pyramid Mountain, NJ. Leader: for information and to register, please call 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 1pm; register for Morris County, NJ, location. Remember that New Year's resolution to get more exercise? Join us for this first hike of 2011 at Pyramid Mountain. Great for ages 7 and up.

AMC-NYNJ. Bare Rock Trail End-to-End, Sterling Forest, NY. Leader: Dean Gletsos, 845-354-0738, cgletsos@yahoo.com. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place. Moderate 8 miles with rolling hills. An exciting hike on a newly completed trail in Sterling Forest; educational preview at Visitors Center. Several nice views to west and east.

GS. Tyke Hikes, Morris County, NJ. Leader: for information and to register, please call 973-635-6629 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 10am; register for Morris County location. Youngsters take to the trails to discover the animals and plants found at the Great Swamp in winter. Great for ages 2-6, with an adult. Repeats on Saturday, February 5. Cost \$2 per person.

WTA. Walking Around Rye, NY. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@yahoo.com. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place (\$2 transportation contribution if shuttle from North White Plains train station). 5 easy miles. Explore trails at Rye Nature Center, Edith Read Wildlife Sanctuary, shoreline along Playland/Rye Beach/Oakland Beach, and end in Rye Town Park. Dress warmly against the Long Island Sound winds. Steady precipitation cancels.

WTA. Bridge over Taconic Parkway, and More, Westchester, NY. Leaders: Jane and Walt Daniels, 914-245-1250, jdihikes@gmail.com. Meet: 9am at North White Plains train station (\$4 transportation contribution if shuttle from NWP) or 9:30am at Sylvan Glen. Easy to moderate 6-7 miles. Find out where that bridge goes on this hike, which includes some bushwhacking through newly acquired town property. Explore old quarry, see house-sized glacial erratic, walk to the bridge, walk new trails in Woodlands Park, south on Yorktown Trailway, then return to Sylvan Glen to see an 18-foot wide oak.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, West Orange, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-746-4319. Meet: 10am at Turtle Back Rock parking. Moderate 4-5 miles on various trails. Rain cancels.

Thursday, January 13

UCHC. Ramapo Valley Co. Reservation, Mahwah, NJ. Leader: George Kalosieh, 973-200-0969. Meet: 10am at Ramapo Valley Co. Reservation parking on Rt. 202. Traverse lesser-used areas, passing MacMillan Reservoir and attractive cascades. Climb to panoramic view of Manhattan skyline. Traction aids may be required.

RVW. Westkill Mountain (3,880'), Catskills, NY. Leader: for more information call 607-363-7267. Meet: 8am; call for location. Strenuous 7 miles; 5.5 hours. Snowshoes and crampons may be required. Inclement weather day is the following Monday.

Wednesday, January 19

PM. Full Moon Owl Prowl, Pyramid Mountain, NJ. Leader: for information and to register, please call 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 5:30pm; register for Morris County location. Easy, guided moonlit walk through the winter wonderland of Pyramid Mountain, listening for the calls of owls. Flashlights welcome. Great for ages 7 and up. Cost \$5.

Saturday, January 22

PM. Easy Family Walk, Pyramid Mountain, NJ. Leader: for information and to register, please call 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 1pm; register for location. Guided walk for families with children of various ages. Stroll the wooded Pyramid Mountain trails and discover the animals and plants found here. Great for all ages. Cost \$2 per person ages 3 and up.

RVW. Walkway Over the Hudson, Highland/Poughkeepsie, NY. Leader: for more information call 845-758-6143. Meet: 10am; call for location. Easy 3-mile walk over the Hudson River.

WTA. New Teatown-Kitchawan Trail, Westchester, NY. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@yahoo.com. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place (\$3 transportation contribution if shuttle from North White Plains train station). 7 moderate miles. Scout out this brand new trail, from Teatown Lake Reservation, through John Hand County Park, along New Croton Reservoir, and ending in Kitchawan Preserve. Traction aids may be required.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10am at Trailside Nature Center. Moderate 4-5 miles. Easy walking and some hills on possibly rough, icy terrain. Deep snow means we X-C ski or snowshoe. Steady rain/heavy snow falling cancels.

Sunday, January 23

AFW. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information and to register, or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 9:30am; register for meeting place. Moderate hike; out by 2:30pm.

IHC. Kittatinny Valley State Park, Newton, NJ. Leader: Charlie Kientzler, 973-835-1060. Meet: 9am at Kittatinny Park on Goodale Rd. (exit 25 from I-80, Rt. 206N). Moderately strenuous. Ski along Sussex Branch Trail or hike in Kittatinny Valley Park.

WTA. Silver Lake Preserve, Harrison, NY. Leader: Catharine Raffaele; email Eileen West at eileenw1000@yahoo.com for information. Meet: 10am at North White Plains train station (\$1 trans. contribution). 4-5 easy miles. This wooded preserve at the edge of White Plains feels surprisingly removed from the city. Walk through woods and along the lake shore, exploring historic sites. Out by 2pm.

Monday, January 24

RVW. North/South Lake and Escarpment Trail Snowshoe, Catskills, NY. Leader: for more information call 518-895-8474. Meet: 9am; call for location. Moderately strenuous 5-mile snowshoe hike; 4 hours. Snowshoes required. Inclement weather day is the following Monday.

Thursday, January 27

UCHC. Stoney Lake, Stokes State Forest, NJ. Leader: Alan Breach, 973-875-4376. Meet: 10am at Kittle Field parking, 2 miles into park. 7-8 miles; bring traction aids. Lunch at Spring Cabin and beautiful views on the AT. Optional early out.

Saturday, January 29

AMC NY-NJ. Intro to Winter Hiking, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Stuart Kurtz, 732-469-5344, stuartkurtz@verizon.net. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place. 7 miles with many hills, but moderate pace so we'll have plenty of time for discussions. Appropriate gear required; I have extra so ask me what you need to borrow. All-weather hike, providing road conditions acceptable.

WTA. Black Rock Forest, NY. Leader: Debbie Farrell, 914-282-9942; call before 9pm; dfarpr@optonline.net. Meet: 10am at main lot off Reservoir Rd.; contact leader for rides from Bronville RR station or carpool from North White Plains (\$8 transportation contribution). 6-7 moderate miles. Take trails and forest roads to take in views and water vistas.

Sunday, January 30

IHC. Sourland Mountain Preserve, NJ. Leaders: Udi and Neli Cohen, udi.cohen@audiocodes.com. Meet: 9:30am at Sourland Mountain Preserve, E. Mountain Rd., Hillsborough, NJ. Moderate 7 miles. We'll scale the valley of rocks, see the Devil's Half Acre, and have a lovely view of surrounding farm fields.

PM. Pyramid Mountain Snowshoe Trek, NJ. Leader: for information and to register, please call 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 12:30pm; register for Morris County location. Moderate afternoon of snowshoeing; reserve a pair of snowshoes from our partner, REI of East Hanover. Great for ages 8 and up. Cost \$10 including snowshoes or \$3 to use your own snowshoes.

WTA. Rockland Lake State Park, NY. Leader: Eileen Carren; contact Eileen West, eileenw1000@yahoo.com, for information. Meet: 10am at North White Plains train station (\$4 trans. contribution). 3-4 easy miles. Hike around the lake and stop to view the exhibits and ice sculptures in the making, part of the Knickerbocker Ice Festival.



DANIEL FERNANDES

Sunday, January 2

AMC-NYNJ. Wish for a Winter Wonderland at Tuxedo, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Christine Benton, 718-768-7937 (call before 9pm) or cbentonhiker@yahoo.com. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place. Hilly hike at a moderate pace; 6-8 miles. Route and length depend on conditions. Must have traction aids; others will be turned away. If we are fortunate to have deep snow, this will be a snowshoe hike.

Tuesday, January 4

GS. Baby and Me Hikes, Morris County, NJ. Leader: for information and to register, please call 973-635-6629 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 9:30am; register for Morris County location. Put your infant in a pack and join a Great Swamp naturalist out on the trail. Various locations; Tuesdays through February. Out by 11am; cost \$1.

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Ellie King, 908-233-8411. Meet: 10am at Locust Grove. 5-6 miles to Hemlock Falls; one steep hill at start. Ice/snow shortens. Steady precipitation cancels.

Saturday, January 8

AFW. High Point State Park, NJ. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information and to register, or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am; register for meeting place. Moderate hike (or snowshoe); out by 2pm.

ADK-LI. Sugarloaf, Hudson Highlands, NY. Leader: Micheline Kagan, 718-746-4753 (call before 10pm) or mfkagan@gmail.com. Meet: register with leader by Thursday, January 6 for meeting place and time. 6 miles. Walk from Garrison train station, passing Castle Rock Unique Area, then gentle uphill with short steep push up to Sugarloaf Hill. Great views of Hudson River. Finish by watching sunset from Arden Point along the Hudson. Traction gear may be needed.

Manuel Fernandez snowshoeing in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, NJ

Saturday, January 15

AMC NY-NJ. Doodletown Mine and the Timp, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Hallie Wolfe, 914-643-4856, halliewolfe@optonline.net. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place. Moderate pace over hilly terrain; 7 miles. Search for the Doodletown Mine then climb to breathtaking views from the Timp. Leader sets the pace, which may be quite slow at times; limited stops. Traction aids are required.

AFW. Watchung Reservation, NJ. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information and to register, or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am; register for meeting place. Moderate hike; out by 2pm.

IHC. Northern Manhattan & Hispanic Society, NY. Leader: Chris Davis, 609-924-2563. Meet: Call leader starting Jan. 10 for meeting time and place. Moderately strenuous walk. Start with free admission to Hispanic Society, then walk through Riverside, Fort Tryon, Inwood parks (and perhaps Riverdale).

WTA. Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, NY. Leaders: Deirdre Feeny, 914-591-5112, and Sarah Davis, sewdavis@gmail.com. Meet: contact leaders for details and to register. 4 easy miles with some hills. Enjoy the brisk winter air in this pretty park; climb a few hills and have lunch by a stream. Parking fee (\$8 without park pass). If carpool from North White Plains train station, \$4 transportation contribution.

UCHC. South River, East Brunswick, NJ. Leader: Gary Petrie, 732-257-0137. Meet: 9:30am at Rt. 18 and Tides Lane (Boston Market) in Mid-State Mall, E. Brunswick. 8-9 miles on varied terrain and some sidewalks. Up and down hills, through parks, wooded and residential areas, along ponds and meadowlands. Come explore the area where the leader grew up. Rain/heavy snow cancels.

Sunday, January 16

NYR. Mountainside to Rahway, Union County, NJ. Leader: Joel Pomerantz, 212-691-3844. Meet: 8:55am at Port Authority Bus Terminal for 9:15 NJT bus to Mountainside (one-way, bus #114). We'll hike through Echo Lake, Lenape, and Nomahegan parks along the Rahway River as it meanders south.

WTA. Old Croton Aqueduct: New Croton Dam to Scarborough, NY. Leader: Herb Hochberg, 914-723-6566, h_hochberg@hotmail.com. Meet: 9am at North White Plains train station (\$3 transportation contribution). 7 moderate miles. Lovely walk along the Croton River, through Ossining, then on to Scarborough.

Monday, January 17

AMC NY-NJ. Dog Friendly Hike, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Susan Sterngold, 845-519-4890, banjolady.susan@verizon.net. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place. Moderate 7 miles. Rolling hills, lakes, and maybe a cemetery, in the Lake Sebago area. Dogs must be under control of owner and park leash laws must be followed. Bring lunch and water for people and dogs.

UCHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Ellen Jeydel, 908-868-7510. Meet: 10am at Trailside Nature Center. Moderate 5-6 miles suitable for intermediate hikers. Variety of scenic trails. Rain cancels.

WEC. Weis Women's Hikes, NJ. Leader: WEC naturalist, contact 973-835-2160. Meet: 8am at Weis (may carpool to the trailhead if needed). Moderately paced, 2- to 3-mile hike; finish at 10am. A great way to enjoy some time outdoors, get some exercise, and get home early enough to spend the rest of the day with family and friends! Wear appropriate hiking footwear, dress in layers appropriate for weather, and bring plenty of water. Hazardous driving conditions will cancel. Cost: \$5.

Sunday, January 9

AMC-NYNJ. Harriman State Park Unknown, NY. Leader: Ellen Blumenkrantz, 201-784-8417, eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place. Moderate 9 miles, avoiding the hills. Route determined by conditions. Limited to 12 people.

IHC. White Lake to Footbridge Park, Blairstown, NJ. Leader: Ursula Davis, 973-786-7087, udavis@ptd.net. Meet: 9am at Footbridge Park, off Rt. 94 in Blairstown. Moderately strenuous 8 miles. Nice winter hike from White Lake Wildlife to Paulinskill River, then along rail trail to Footbridge Park. Shuttle required.

www.nynjtc.org/content/scheduled-hikes

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

More than 100 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in the Hikers' Almanac. For a descriptive list of Conference clubs, consult our website or send a SASE with your request to NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Club Codes

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

ADK-LI	ADK Long Island Chapter	RVW	Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
AFW	Adventures for Women	SW	Shorewalkers
AMC NY-NJ	AMC New York-North Jersey Chapter	UCHC	Union County Hiking Club
GS	Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center	WEC	Weis Ecology Center
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club	WTA	Westchester Trails Association
NYR	New York Ramblers		
PM	Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area		

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 March/April issue is January 15.

Monday, January 31

R.V.W. Panther Mountain (3,720'), Catskills, NY. Leader: for more information call 845-246-8074. Meet: 8am; call for location. Strenuous 6.5 miles; 6 hours. Snowshoes and crampons may be required.

UHC. Mills Reservation, Cedar Grove, NJ. Leader: Joe McLaughlin, 973-263-2799. Meet: 10am at parking lot. Easy hike on Lenape and Blue trails.

February

Thursday, February 3

UHC. Waywayanda State Park, Hewitt, NJ. Leader: Kathleen Grifone, 201-891-5161. Meet: 10am at beach parking lot. 7 miles; bring traction aids.

Saturday, February 5

AFW. Pine Meadow Trail, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information and to register, or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am; register for meeting place. Moderate hike; out by 2pm.

WTA. Butler Sanctuary, Westchester County, NY. Leader: Carol Harting, 845-669-6731. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time (\$2 transportation contribution). 4 easy miles with a few hills. 2-3 hour hike to get you out in the fresh air on a winter day; snowshoe if plenty of snow. Traction aids may be needed. After hike, we adjourn to Borders in Mt. Kisco for hot chocolate.

UHC. Watchung Reservation, Mountainside, NJ. Leader: Ellen Jeydel, 908-868-7510. Meet: 10am at Trailside Nature Center. Moderate 5-6 miles suitable for intermediate hikers. Rain cancels.

WEC. Weis Women's Hikes, NJ. Leader: WEC naturalist, contact 973-835-2160. Meet: 8am at Weis (may carpool to the trailhead if needed). Moderately paced, 2- to 3-mile hike; finish at 10am. A great way to enjoy some time outdoors, get some exercise, and get home early enough to spend the rest of the day with family and friends! Wear appropriate hiking footwear, dress in layers appropriate for weather, and bring plenty of water. Hazardous driving conditions will cancel. Cost: \$5.

Sunday, February 6

AMC NY-NJ. Breakneck Pond Loop, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Joe Bonner, hikerman4169@yahoo.com. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place. Moderately paced 9 miles with rolling hills. Hike along the woods roads to the pond, then loop around and back. Rain/snow cancels. Limited to 12 people.

IHC. Great Swamp and Raptor Trust, NJ. Leaders: Guy and Jen Percival, 973-590-7437, jenguy@optonline.net. Meet: 9am at Somerset Co. Environmental Center, Lord Sterling Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ. Moderately strenuous 8 miles. Come explore the Great Swamp in winter. Path and boardwalks in the swamp; short shuttle required to return to start. After hike, optional visit to view raptors being rehabilitated (small donation appreciated).

WTA. Long Path, The Palisades, NJ. Leader: Rudy Garfinkle, 914-337-6612. Meet: 9:30am at North White Plains train station for carpool (\$5 transportation contribution). 4-6 moderate miles. From PIP Headquarters we head north on Long Path and other trails, all affording multiple Hudson River views. Precipitation cancels.

Thursday, February 10

UHC. Ramapo State Forest, Ringwood, NJ. Leader: Dave Hogenauer, 973-762-1475. Meet: 10am at lot C in Ringwood State Park. 7-8 miles to Ilgenstein Rock; lunch at the lookout.

Saturday, February 12

AMC NY-NJ. Taurus without Tears, Hudson Highlands, NY. Leader: Hallie Wolfe, 914-643-4856, halliewolfe@optonline.net. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place. Moderately paced 6 miles with lots of hills. See ruins and Hudson River views. Pace may be slow at times. Traction aids required.

WTA. Croton Point Park, NY. Leader: Catharine Raffaele; for info contact Eileen West at eileenw1000@yahoo.com. Meet: 10am at North White Plains train station for carpool (\$3 transportation contribution). 3 easy miles. Beautiful views of Hudson River and an excellent place to sight owls and eagles. Dress warmly for cold winds. Optional lunch at Croton Diner after the walk.

Find More Scheduled Hikes on our website!
Go to www.nynjtc.org and Click on
Scheduled Hikes under Go Hiking.



JEREMY APGAR

Monday, February 14

GS. Winter Bird Walk, Morris County, NJ. Leader: for information and to register, please call 973-635-6629 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 3:30pm; register for Morris County location. Take an hour-long, easy afternoon walk to learn about the avian friends who remain in NJ for the winter. Bring binoculars and your curiosity; some binoculars available to borrow.

UHC. Great Swamp Nature Center, Chatham, NJ. Leader: Len Shnitzer, 732-499-9176. Meet: 10am at Morris County Education Center parking. Level walk along the boardwalk and Laurel Trail.

Saturday, February 19

AMC NY-NJ. Skannatati Skedaddle, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Art Almeida, 914-271-8659, arta@croton10520.com. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place. Moderately paced 9 miles, but with many hills. Steep initial climb, then wander around as many interesting trails as we can find. If icy/snow, traction aids will be necessary; bring snowshoes if appropriate.

PM. Taylortown Reservoir Ramble, NJ. Leader: for information and to register, please call 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 1pm; register for Morris County location. Moderate 3.5-mile hike; great for ages 7 and up.

WTA. Piermont to Nyack, NY. Leader: Marvin Malater, 718-376-3608. Meet: 9:17am at Bunbury Café, 460 Piermont Ave. at Tate Ave. to meet northbound bus (\$4 trans. contribution). 9 miles on moderate terrain at a brisk pace. Tallman Mountain loop, then trek on the old Erie RR bed, ending in Nyack (optional dinner). Nearby bus stop returns drivers to Piermont in just 10 minutes.

Sunday, February 20

WTA. Harriman in Winter, NY. Leader: Carol Ann Benton, aquarius2950@hotmail.com. Meet: 9:30am at commuter lot, Rt. 17 at Rt. 106 for short shuttle to trailhead (\$6 transportation contribution). 6 moderate miles. Enjoy the woods in what may be a winter wonderland. Victory, R-D, White Bar trails and passing Lake Skenonto; snowshoe if lots of snow. Inclement weather cancels.

Thursday, February 24

AFW. Ringwood State Park, NJ. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information and to register, or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 10am; register for meeting place. Moderate hike; out by 2pm.

UHC. Weis Ecology Center, Wanaque, NJ. Leader: Kathleen Grifone, 201-891-5161. Meet: 10am at parking lot. 7 miles, moderately strenuous. For experienced hikers.

Saturday, February 26

WTA. Old Croton Aqueduct, NY. Leader: Ellie Carren. Call Eileen West at eileenw1000@yahoo.com for information. Meet: 10am at North White Plains train station for carpool (\$2 transportation contribution). 5 easy to moderate miles. Hike from Sleepy Hollow H.S., with detour into Rockwood Hall State Park for Hudson River views. Lunch at Phelps Memorial cafeteria (buy there or bring lunch).

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, W. Orange, NJ. Leader: Jim Schlegel, 973-731-4339. Meet: 10am at Turtle Back Rock parking. Moderate 4-5 miles on various trails. Rain cancels.

Sunday, February 27

NYR. Sherwood Path to Sloatsburg, NY. Leader: Lee Ruelle, 212-388-0354, leeruelle@gmail.com. Meet: 8:25am at Port Authority Bus Terminal for 8:45 Shortline bus to Pomona (one-way). Strenuous 9+ miles over challenging terrain. Traction aids essential; compass optional (we'll compare readings at summits). From Rt. 202 and Lime Kiln Rd., ascend Sherwood Path then proceed along various trails, including Raccoon Brook Hills, HTS to summits of Russian Bear and Ramapo Torne. Then Seven Hills and Pine Meadow trails out to Sloatsburg.

IHC. The Palisades in Winter, NJ. Leader: Jim Schlenker, 908-561-0228. Meet: 9am at Fort Lee Historic Park, Hudson Terrace, Fort Lee, NJ. Moderately strenuous 9 miles. Hike along the Shore Path with beautiful views of the Hudson River. Bad weather cancels.

Member Club News

Find links to all Trail Conference member groups online under the Community tab at www.nynjtc.org. Member groups: submit your news and photos for *Trail Walker* and the website via email: tw@nynjtc.org.

Teatown Acquires Croft Property

Teatown Lake Reservation in Westchester County announced in November that it had acquired a critically important 59-acre environmentally sensitive tract adjacent to its own lands in the southwest end of the Town of Yorktown. The property, known as *The Croft*, includes a pristine nine-acre lake and mature hardwood forest and provides an important link in the extensive system of preserved open space that includes Teatown's 834 acres. This spring-fed lake lies between Shadow Lake upstream and to the east and Teatown Lake downstream to the west. This three-lake system drains directly into the Croton Reservoir near Croton Dam. The property not only protects vital watershed lands, but will add 1.5 miles of hiking trails to the Teatown trail system. The acquisition completes a multi-year effort to assure that the environmentally sensitive area remains unspoiled.

Friends of Pelham Bay Plants Trees

After planting 500 trees on Million Trees Day on November 1, Friends of Pelham Bay planted an additional 550 herbaceous plants and shrubs on November 6 between Glover's Rock at North Turtle Cove and a small bridge that was completed after planting was finished. Thanks to Pelham volunteers for their hard work!



The Trail Conference Comes to NYC!

SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Winter Meeting

Friday, February 18

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35th Street (between Park and Madison)

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View from Overlook Mountain in the Catskills.

UHC. South Mountain Reservation, S. Orange, NJ. Leader: Jim Schlegel, 973-731-4339. Meet: 10am at Tulip Springs. 4 miles on mix of trails.

Sunday, February 13

AFW. Lake Wanoksink, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: call 973-644-3592 for information and to register, or go to www.adventuresforwomen.org. Meet: 9:30am; register for meeting place. Moderate hike; out by 2:30pm.

IHC. Pete's Path and Wanaque Ridge, NJ. Leader: Pete Heckler, 973-831-2307, p_heckler@msn.com. Meet: 9:30am at Hagerstrom Blvd. ballfield, Wanaque. Moderately strenuous. Come see beautiful views from Wanaque Ridge. Bad weather cancels. Snowshoes or traction aids may be required.

WTA. New Trail from the Old Croton Aqueduct, NY. Leader: Hal Kaplan, 914-376-3156; call for message Saturday after 10am. Meet: 12:05pm at Irvington RR station (\$1 transportation contribution). 6 easy to moderate miles. See portions of the OCA not often hiked and the brand new Kraft-Tappan Zee trail-part of Westchester County RiverWalk. Start and end in downtown Irvington; optional coffee/food stop after the hike.

PM. Pyramid Mountain Snowshoe Adventure, NJ. Leader: for information and to register, please call 973-334-3130 or visit www.morrisparks.net. Meet: 12:30pm; register for Morris County location. Moderate afternoon of snowshoeing; reserve a pair of snowshoes from our partner, REI of East Hanover. Great for ages 7 and up. Cost \$10 including snowshoes or \$3 to use your own snowshoes.

WTA. Hubbard-Perkins-Jordan Pond, Fahnestock State Park, NY. Leader: Peter Hibbard, 914-285-9211. Meet: 9am at North White Plains train station for carpool (\$6 transportation contribution). 6-7 moderate miles. Enjoy this pretty hike along woods roads and trails, with views of three ponds.

UHC. Round Valley Recreation Area, Lebanon, NJ. Leader: Pat Horsch, 908-693-8331 (cell). Meet: 10am at south parking area. Easy to moderate 4-5 miles, mostly level. Cushetunk Trail, with views of the reservoir. Steady rain/significant snow cancels.

Monday, February 28

UHC. Patriot's Path, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Marcia Sutherland, 973-655-1855. Meet: 10am at Speedwell Lake. Easy hike along the old Rock-a-Bye Railroad and the Whippany River.

Shopping Online?

Start your shopping trip from the Trail Conference website and your purchases may help support our programs.

It's easy:

1. Click on the "Go Shopping" tab.
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The Trail Conference gets a rebate from the listed merchants whenever shoppers connect to them through our website.

Harriman AT Maintainer Finishes Section Hike of the AT

Chris Reyling recently completed an almost decade-long quest. This summer, Chris, a Trail Conference member and Appalachian Trail maintainer/certified (chainsaw) sawyer, finished section-hiking the 2,175-mile AT. Chris, a resident of Hartsdale, NY, hiked the last 262 miles of the trail, summiting Katahdin, the trail terminus in northern Maine, with his partner, Andrea Minoff, in late August.



Chris Reyling (right) and Andrea Minoff at the top of Katahdin in Maine, ending Chris's multi-year section hike of the Appalachian Trail.

Running Harriman State Park

By Todd Jennings

On Sunday, November 28, I ran a 4.5-mile trail loop in Harriman State Park that traversed one of the most popular sections of trails in our area. The route traced the Appalachian Trail from Elk Pen to the Lemon Squeezer, and then back again via the Arden-Surebridge Trail, a circuit that has been hiked probably thousands times over the history of these trails.

In fact, I had previously hiked or run this section a number of times myself. But this day's run was my most anticipated trail run ever. I'd been looking forward to it for months. *This* particular run was my Completion Run.

I have been running the roads and trails of Orange County for about eight years now, with eight marathons, five long trail races, and about 130 other races both locally and elsewhere to my credit during that time. Happily, the trails that are so beautifully managed by the NY-NJ Trail Conference (thank you, volunteers!) have been at the core of my running.

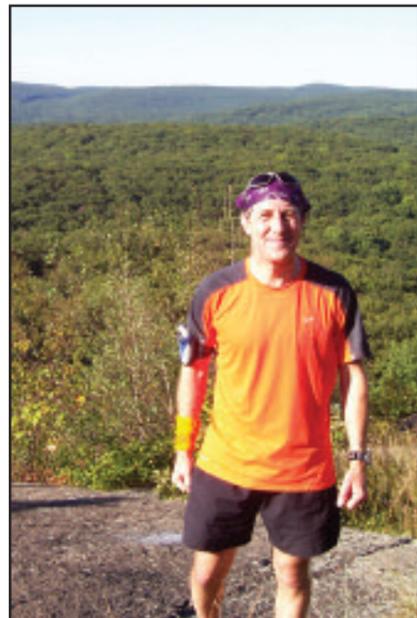
But this year, my trail running took on a new complexion. In May, I began a project to run all of the marked and maintained trails in Harriman State Park, preferably within one outdoor season. Approximately 240 miles of trails in all, according to several sources I reviewed, the terrain they cross varies in difficulty from woods roads to hand-over-fist rock scrambles.

My goal emerged as a suggestion by a loved one who saw me constantly poring over Trail Conference Harriman Park Maps 118 and 119 for new trails to run. "Do you keep track of the trails that you've run in the park?" she asked. "Maybe you can run them all!"

I'm a very goal-oriented person, and the suggestion clicked with me. I bought a cork board on which to mount the Trail Conference maps, some colored map pins to track my progress, and began the runs that culminated on November 28.

With no way to run these trails in one continuous straight line, planning the routes and logistics was a bit of a challenge. In the end, I did 33 separate runs, of lengths between 4 and 25 miles. Many trail sections had to be run more than once. All in all, I probably ran almost 300 miles in total.

I've been asked by many people, "Why, Todd? What's the motivation for this?" Aside from the obvious answer, "Because it's there," I would say that a transition in my personal life manifested itself as a transition in my running. Moving myself off the streets and onto the trails is, in a way, analogous to the shift I have been making about where to seek personal fulfillment. I find that going into the woods is much the same as going inside myself. There's a solitude and a beauty there that is like no other. The mountains of the Hudson Valley became a beacon in the fog, drawing me both onward and into myself. And so I ran...



Trail runner Todd Jennings takes a break in Harriman.

It has been worth every bit of the effort involved. As far as I know, I am the only person to have run all of Harriman's trails, and for that, I am both proud and happy.

Friends now ask me, "What next?" I don't know the answer to that yet, but I know that thanks to the hard work of all of the wonderful volunteers and supporters of the NY-NJ Trail Conference, I am definitely not lacking in options.

For the past three years Trail Conference member Todd Jennings has been president of the Middletown, NY-based Orange Runners Club, a social running organization founded in 1980.

In 2001, Chris, whose trail name is "critter," a nickname that predates the beginning of his AT quest, caught the "AT bug" after hiking south from Route 17 to the Delaware Water Gap with a friend. Over the next year, Chris hiked many short sections in New York as day trips and conducted an extensive amount of research on pack weight and equipment.

He and his friend hiked the White Mountains hut-to-hut in summer 2003. Chris continued in New Hampshire doing the Carter and Mahoosic ranges and on into central New Hampshire, hiking solo long distance for the first time. While hiking alone, Chris picked up tips from long distance and thru hikers. That fall, he and his hiking partner hiked the northern part of Vermont, after which Chris completed Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut solo. Realizing that he needed to do longer sections, particularly when he traveled down south, the following spring Chris hiked his longest stretch—500 miles in 29 days, from Springer Mountain, Georgia, to Damascus, Virginia.

From 2005 to 2010, Chris had to take a five-year hiatus due to the illness and ultimate passing of his partner of 26 years. After taking some time to recover, and helped along by a new relationship, he resolved to complete the trail this past summer in two sections, both in Maine: from Grafton Notch to Monson, and then the "100-Mile Wilderness."

Getting so involved with hiking and receiving support from those connected with the trail, Chris decided to give back by volunteering. Since 2003, he has maintained the first blazed section of the AT—a two-mile piece from NY Route 17 to the

Lemon Squeezer in Harriman State Park. This section was part of the first major portion of the AT that was constructed and blazed in Harriman, and opened in 1924 by the Trail Conference. Since work commenced in 1923 from west to east towards Bear Mountain, Reyling proudly claims his piece of the AT on the west side of the park as the First Section.

What words of advice does Reyling have for aspiring AT thru hikers? "On that first hike, I carried a 65-pound pack and almost died after hiking nine miles," he said. "Like many novice hikers, I made the mistake of carrying too much weight," he remarks. "Over the next several days, as my load got lighter, I enjoyed it more and by the end I was hooked on long distance hiking."

Ultimately, Chris' pack weighed about 30 pounds. Before each hike, his dining room table resembled a sporting goods store with equipment and supplies covering every square inch and the scale occupying a prominent place. Every item was carefully considered and weighed before making the cut. "That enabled me to finish a significant amount of mileage each day," he says. His longest one-day mileage: 26 miles in Tennessee in the rain!

Chris, a naval architect, consultant for a New Jersey container shipping company, and avid amateur ocean racing sailor (he and his skipper have won the Newport to Bermuda race three times in the past on his skipper's 37-foot sailboat) recently took the Trail Conference's Introduction to Stonework course at Norvin Green and has been helping on Bear Mountain rerouting of the AT and with the accessible trail project. He looks forward to more crew work constructing crib walls and stairways.

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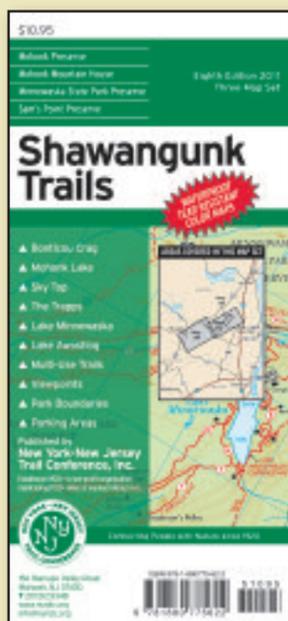
New 8th Edition of Shawangunk Trails Map Set

This three-map set shows all designated trails within Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Mohonk Preserve, Sam's Point Preserve, and Mohonk Mountain House. A large-scale map of the complex trail network in the area of Mohonk Mountain House is also included. As always, the maps are printed on waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek.

What's New?

The maps contain a number of revisions from the previous edition, including the new route of the Long Path from Route 52 to the Sam's Point Preserve via the beautiful South Gully Trail. In addition, the contour lines have been completely redrawn to more accurately depict the terrain of the Shawangunks. The former Awosting Reserve, 2,500 acres that are now part of Minnewaska State Park Preserve, is identified on the map, and some additional trails in that section are now shown.

Shawangunk Trails was produced with support from Campmor, an outdoor store and retail partner of the Trail Conference.

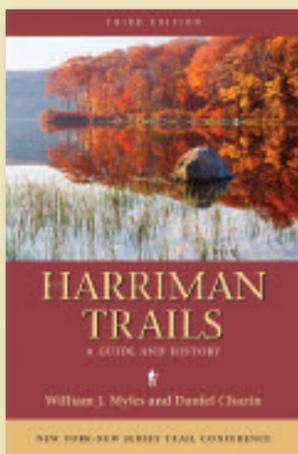


New Edition of Harriman Trails Guide Book

Harriman Trails: A Guide and History, is now available in a new, completely updated and revised edition (\$19.95; \$14.96 for members).

Trail descriptions have been updated, and the section on Unmarked Trails has been totally reorganized.

It is an excellent companion to the Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails map set (\$9.95; \$7.46 for members), which was published in a new edition in 2010.



Order both from our website: www.nynjtc.org. Click on Go Shopping. Or see the Hikers' Marketplace on page 12, call 201-512-9348 ext. 11, or stop in at the Trail Conference office.

(Not) All in a Day's Work



One of 18 trees cleared on the Townsend and Wild Cat Mountain Trail in Sterling Forest by the chainsaw crew of Jack Driller and Mark Liss. Trail Supervisors Pete Tilgner and Suzan Gordon did the "swamping."



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Get Free, Downloadable Maps from Our Website

A limited number of simplified trail maps are now available in PDF format for free download and printing from the Trail Conference website. Many of them are adapted from our full-featured map sets, but lack details such as contour lines; others are for areas not covered by any of our current map sets but where Trail Conference volunteers maintain trails for the hiking public. Some of the maps are offered in both black-and-white and color versions.



Among the offerings are trail maps for Wonder Lake State Park, Teatown-Kitchawan Trail, Shawangunk Ridge Trail (in three sections), Appalachian Trail Pochuck Boardwalk area, and the Neversink Gorge.

Go to www.nynjtc.org/view/maps to view the complete, current selection of downloadable maps.

90th Anniversary Sales Event: A Stretch to Success

When the Trail Conference Publications Committee decided to mark our organization's 90th anniversary with a big 40%-off sale on October 19 (the official birthday), they were exploring new terrain. The Trail Conference had never managed such a sale before: How many customers could be expected? Would the website—the primary venue for the sale in addition to in-office purchases—support the volume if numbers were high? Could our small staff (one fulfillment coordinator, Gary Willick) and operations handle the load if business was brisk?

In the event, there was more business than expected (500 web transactions in a day, compared to an average of 10 per day). The website did crash, but just briefly; volunteer webmaster Walt Daniels quickly had service restored and most customers were able to complete their purchases (others called in and were given their discount). Other staff members, with support from volunteers, rallied to the cause, fielding phone calls and in-office sales, and pack-

ing and shipping maps and books steadily until all orders were fulfilled.

"It was a real stretch for our operations," says Deputy Executive Director Josh Howard, who packaged orders nonstop for two long days. "But we learned a lot about this kind of sales event. We thank our many members and others who supported this sale. And I especially thank the staff and volunteers who worked so hard to respond to our customers and fill their orders."

The total revenue for one-day's activities amounted to \$22,778.29, equivalent to nearly 10% of the Publications Committee's projected revenue goal for the fiscal year.

Special thank-yous go to volunteers Walt Daniels, Joanne Reinhardt, Ron Quackenbush, Jerry Ruocco, Joe Henderson, and Don Tripp, and to staff members Gary Willick, Hedy Abad, and Catherine Gemmell for service above and beyond the call of duty.



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Find ticket information, film lists, and directions,
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Featured Hike



By Georgette Weir

Wonder Lake Loop Includes New Highlands Trail Segment



Volunteers have built a new Highlands Trail segment at Wonder Lake (above and top right).

Winter is a great time to explore the trails at Wonder Lake State Park, and a new 3.7-mile section of the Highlands Trail completed by Trail Conference volunteers in November makes exploration even more pleasant for hikers. The park, 973 acres in northeast Putnam County, NY, primarily comprises wooded hills and Wonder Lake and Laurel Pond—two small water bodies created by dams. Picturesque stone walls criss-cross the property as do old bridle paths and woods roads. Views of the 30-acre Wonder Lake from the trails that circle it open up when the leaves are off the trees. The woods roads and open woods also make it a destination to consider for snowshoeing and perhaps cross-country skiing when snow falls.

The opening of the first trails at the park was celebrated on National Trails Day in June 2009. The latest addition to that network—the Highlands Trail (HT) segment—opened on November 14, 2010, when Gary Haugland, Highlands Trail North Chair, and Andrew Sierup, Wonder Lake trails supervisor, led local officials and other hikers on the new trail and others with which it connects.

You can follow in their footsteps, or improvise your own route among several possibilities. All possible routes include moderate ups and downs. This route, which follows the complete length of the HT out and back, is approximately 6 miles. The starting point is the parking area on the east side of Ludingtonville Road (between exits 17 and 18 on I-84). Head up the hill from the parking lot, on a trail co-blazed yellow and HT teal. They will soon split; follow the HT to the right (south). Keep on it passing a junction to the left with the red trail (it ascends Bare Hill (which is no longer bare), crossing, in order, intersections with the yellow trail and the white trail before wending along the edge of Wonder Lake. On the other side of the lake, the HT heads northeastward into the woods, crossing the yellow trail again, then passing by Laurel Pond and north, to its current endpoint on Mooney Road. Stone walls on both sides of this road preclude off-road parking here.

Retrace your steps back to the yellow trail and turn right onto it, following it briefly to a dammed outflow for Wonder Lake, where you will pick up and turn left

on the white trail. Follow this, completing the circuit around Wonder Lake, then retracing your steps on the HT when you come to it. Continue on the HT back to the red trail and take it up and over Bare Hill. This will connect with the yellow trail on the north side of the park. Turn left onto it, and head downhill back to the intersection of the HT. Turn right on the co-blazed trails back to the parking area.

The views at the park are limited; and on the west side of the hills, the noise of traffic on I-84 will be heard. The free, downloadable map available on the Trail Conference website is an essential guide to finding your way. Go to www.nynjtc.org/map/wonder-lake-trail-map.

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