Building Bridges

Trail work yields unexpected lessons

By Denise Vitale

If you had told me 10 years ago that I would be moving 1,000-pound rocks with pry bars and helping to build a 62-foot long, 3-ton bridge, I wouldn’t have believed you. I was coming out of a divorce, having gone from being a good daughter, to being a good wife, and a good day was one where everyone agreed with each other.

But 10 years ago, I made the decision to begin living a life that was more meaningful, and challenged me to be the best person I could be. Close to the beginning of this new life, I found myself working with the East Hudson Trail Crew doing a relocation.

Nearly five years after Tropical Storm Floyd destroyed the bridge in Harriman/Bear Mountain State Park that carries three major trails over the Popolopen Creek, Conference Trails Chair Pete Heckler was at last satisfied. “I am happy to report the bridge across Popolopen Creek has been replaced,” he emailed on May 23. “I feel confident I speak for all the wonderful TC volunteers when I say the camaraderie derived through participation in this project equaled the physical, spiritual, and environmental achievements.” (See separate story, “Building Bridges,” for one participant’s personal view of the project.)

“This bridge once again opens full hiking access to not only the historical 1777 and 1779 Trails, but also to circular hikes via the Popolopen Gorge and Timp-Torne Trails, affording the spectacular panorama from the summit of Popolopen Tote.”

Nearly 40 volunteers turned out on the weekend of May 15 and 16 to help install the new truss bridge, which is 62’ long, weighs three tons, and made of fiberglass. Others contributed countless hours before and after to planning, organizing, preparation, and cleanup work. A dozen people, including PIPC staff and volunteers, helped unload and move materials to the site on the Thursday prior to the construction effort. The project was funded by the Recreational Trails Program of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, built by Trail Conference volunteers, including the West Hudson Trail Crew, manufactured by E.T. Techtronics, Inc., and accomplished in collaboration with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC).

The bridge, down since September 1999, carries the 1777, 1779, and Timp-Torne Trails across the Popolopen Creek from a trailhead north of the creek and on the west side of Route 9W. For the past year, crews have also worked on a related project to restore these three trails. That work continues and is to include adding interpretive signage and installation of a 15’ bridge over a small creek on the Twin forts Trail.

Thanks go to PIPC Executive Director Carol Ash and her staff, especially Sue Smith for her invaluable guidance and assistance in preparation of the grant application, Chief Architect Sal Cacciatore, Chief Ranger Tim Sullivan, and Police Chief Greg Stewart.


State Acquires Shawangunk Land from Trail Conference

New York State recently purchased 151 acres from the Trail Conference on the Shawangunk Ridge that will be managed by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This is the first property the Trail Conference has sold directly to the state as part of its nearly 14-year effort to create and protect the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT). The purchase money will return to the Conference’s Outdoor Fund, which supports conservation and advocacy efforts. The 151-acre Stutzman parcel that was acquired by New York from the
A Sense of Community

Hikers are often considered loners. Many of our coworkers or family members who don’t understand why we hike or how we could enjoy walking for five or even two miles, would be surprised to learn that, in fact, we are part of an extended community. It’s a community that includes people of a variety of ages from a widespread area and diverse backgrounds.

On Saturday, May 22, I saw what a community was as we were very similar to the same situation. The first was at the memorial service for Paul Leikin, a dedicated hiker and Trail Conference volunteer. (See obituary on page 6.) It was a colorful event, since there was a memorial hike scheduled after the service and people were dressed primarily in hiking clothes. We were saying goodbye to Paul with tears, but also with joy as stories of him were told and his life celebrated. We learned about Paul and his family, and they learned about his other family—us hikers.

Shortly after the service, I stopped by to see the new bridge over Popolopen Creek and found the trail crew eating lunch. Was that a community? They were dirty—some might say rag tag—and I felt slightly out of place in my street clothes. But I had served on crews and knew that rock steps did not just happen, and so I was one of them. We talked about working on projects in general, expressed concern for someone who could not be there that day and was in the hospital, and exclaimed about what a great project the bridge was.

Those back-to-back experiences got me thinking about our community and what it means and does. There are as many reasons to belong to a group as there are people; acquiring a Trail Conference membership gave a hiker a chance to feel connected to a larger group of people who share that interest and, for some, also offers the chance to make a difference in the world.

Trail crews are special groups of people interested in building and maintaining trails. They voluntarily give their time and effort to doing hard sweaty work. Although not for everyone, being on one of our trail crews gives a real sense of belonging to a community, even if it is just for the short term of a project.

Other segments of our organization give people additional benefits. Ask any trail committee member and he or she will say that the area they supervise is the (choose one) best, most scenic, rugged, ecologically interesting place to hike in the region. Their pride is evident many times over. Maintainers, the people the committee members supervise, have a sense of ownership for “their” trail and, although they may work alone, that trail links them to the extended Trail Conference family.

The list could go on and on with the various opportunities to volunteer. However, I would be remiss if I failed to mention our club members, which, like the Trail Conference, offer their members opportunities to connect with others who enjoy the outdoors and help to build our hiking community.

A wonderful attribute that hikers have is that they do not care whether you are young, old, speak with an accent, or what you do or did for a living. They do care about being outdoors and walking. While hiking with them you learn of places to visit, equipment, and other things to make hiking more pleasant. Your companions might not know much about your personal life or you of theirs, but they do know what kind of hiking underwear you buy!

Paul Leikin spent most of his 90+ years as a member of the hiking community. The Popolopen Bridge builders enjoyed an intense long weekend of cultivation and camaraderie. As I saw so emphatically that weekend in May, the trail isn’t just for loners.

Happy Trails,
Jane Daniels, Chair, Board of Directors

FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to the Crews

On the weekend of May 13 I realized that I’d have that Sunday free, and my first thought was to get up to Harriman for some hiking. Kat had recently had an article on the Trail Walker that there was a work party looking for volunteers for that weekend and suggested I call that. I called the organizer and showed up at the appointed time and place to help build a new bridge in the Popolopen Gorge. I thought I’d be hammering, cutting, nailing, and bolting pieces of wood together. Boy was I wrong!

This new bridge is an engineered structure made of fiberglass components. On Saturday the crew had built together the two side trusses and gotten them ready to be put in place. The first major task of Sunday was to get the first truss across the creek. Now keep in mind that each of these trusses is 26 feet long and weighs 1,500 pounds, according to the engineer. Not something you throw over your shoulder and walk across the creek with. Instead, the crew was a highly-coordinated team working across the gorge and with the use of pulleys and super the truss was “flown” across and lowered into position. Then came the task of holding the first truss in place so the ropes could be disconnected. Each truss is very strong in the vertical plane but rather flexible in the lateral direction; had the truss fallen over I’m sure it would have bent, and so with the use of levers and more ropes it was secured in place. All of that took about two hours.

After a short lunch break it was time to repeat the “flying” act with the second truss. This time it only took about hour and a half. Once a few cross pieces were carefully bolted together the bridge became rigid and strong enough to accommodate the many volunteers waiting to bolt it all together. It just seemed to jump together with everyone working on it. Quite amazing, actually, that a group of diverse volunteers could accomplish so much in such a short time.

I have a whole new appreciation for the work that these crews do and want to thank any of you who are part of them. From now on I’ll be on my way to trails, leafed, cleared blow-downs, shelters, and all other improvements in a new light.

Paul Abdi Via email

A Medical Recommendation

We have camped over many years in the northern U.S. and Canadian wilderness and have sought a practical and readily understood medical guide. There are now several available, including Being Your Own Wilderness Doc!, but the best I have found is from an unusual source, His/Her Majesty’s Stationary Office (HMSO), titled Ship Captain’s Medical Guide. It is produced for officers of commercial ships, principally foghorns, without a doctor on staff and is very informative, designed to be understood by intelligent but non-medical staff, and is full of emergency treatment regimens. It is available, used, from Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Dave Wachniuch Yoskers, NY

Mystery Graffiti

One nice day Ron Fecher and I enjoyed a walk along the Buck Trail (and others) and took the opportunity to paint over the "foreign" graffiti on each marker of the 1.6-mile main trail. It’s a good first coat! We will be interested to see what new defacements occur. If anyone learns who was behind this, or what the markings—see the photo above—signify, that would be interesting, too.

Tom Dunn Via email

If you know what these symbols represent, send your translation to tw@nynjtc.org.

www.NYNJTC.org
Demands for Our Services

Innovating to Meet

I have previously used this column to discuss how the public has responded to sprawling development by creating dedicated funds to acquire public open space. This has resulted in a somewhat counter intuitive situation where the total amount of open space is diminishing at the same time that the amount of publicly held open space is increasing.

As lands come into public hands, there is a natural desire to make them accessible to the public. Trails are usually the least expensive, lowest impact way of providing public access to open space. When people start thinking about where and how to build trails, they often seek technical assistance by contacting the Trail Conference.

There has been a steady increase in the frequency of these external requests, especially from local municipalities and project specific groups. These external requests come on the heels of more than a decade of acquisition by state agencies and the resulting demand for trail building and maintenance on these new lands.

Given our organizational mission, we would like to respond to all requests for trail building and maintenance but our volunteer trail crews, who do outstanding work, already have a backlog of internal requests for assistance. How can we increase our volunteer trail crew capacity? Over the past couple of years we have focused on providing administrative and recruiting support to trail crews. The biggest challenge remains how to recruit and train new volunteers and cultivate volunteer leaders, especially in areas where there are few Trail Conference members or member clubs.

We’ve given this a lot of thought and have been experimenting with trail projects in which the primary focus is recruiting and training volunteers, as opposed to trail clearing and construction per se. The idea is that these introductory trail work experiences will generate an increased number of participants who will go on to become more involved members of trail layout and construction crews. This model would allow trail crews and crew chiefs to focus on their current backlog of projects while providing them with a steady stream of freshly trained recruits.

This might be a way to start new trail maintaining groups in areas where there are few or no trail crew volunteers. Last year, the East Hudson Trail Crew initiated one such project in the village of Wappingers Falls, NY. In a project funded by the New York State Recreational Trail Grant, the Wappingers Falls Hudson River Greenway Trail Conference sought bids to construct a trail system in newly acquired lands adjacent to Bowdoin Park and Audubon Society lands. The East Hudson Trail Crew proposed to recruit, train, and organize volunteers to help build and maintain it on an ongoing basis.

The East Hudson Trail Crew received notice of the grant and plans to complete the project this season. Their goal is to lay out and clear hiking trails on these new lands, establish a cadre of local trail maintainers, and recruit and train new East Hudson Trail Crew volunteers and leaders. Assuming the project is successful, we hope to evaluate and refine the process so it can be applied on other trail projects. Portions of the anticipated multi-year renovation of trails on Bear Mountain will provide just the type of high-profile trail project that could recruit and train a whole new generation of trail volunteers to deploy throughout the region.

The bottom line is that we want to find a way to keep up with the ever-increasing requests for trail-related assistance. If you have ideas or can help us build our trail clearing and construction capacity, I would like to hear from you.

– Ed Goodell
goodell@nynjtc.org

Advocacy & Conservation

NJ Highlands Legislation Okayed!

Just as this issue of Trail Walker was going to press, the New Jersey Legislature overwhelmingly approved the landmark Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act. Among its provisions, the legislation requires development of a regional master plan, identifies almost half of the 800,000-acre New Jersey Highlands as a core “preservation area,” and endorses smart growth development strategies.

Shawangunk Ridge view of preserved lands.

TC Shawangunk Ridge

Parcels Now Open

The Trail Conference is proud to announce that several properties along the Shawangunk Ridge that is recently preserved through acquisition are now open to the public. These properties, totaling just over 500 acres in the Town of Greene in New York’s Orange County, straddle 184 and were acquired with funds raised through the Trail Conference’s Campaign, Connecting People With Nature. Another 280 acres in the neighboring Town of Deer Park also have been preserved by the Conference and will open to the public in the future.

The Campaign, Connecting People With Nature, supports the Trail Conference’s Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund, the primary funding mechanism used to acquire and expand our hiking trails and lands. The Shawangunk Ridge Trail (scaloged with the Long Path in this area) has been relocated off of roadway and onto the newly preserved parcels and a new side trail has been added. For more information, please refer to the Trail Conference website at www.nynjtc.org/trails/relos/index.html, which shows a color map of these properties.

AT Buffer Protected In Putnam County

A 10-acre wooded parcel that provides important buffer lands along the Appalachian Trail in the Town of Kent in Putnam County, NY, has been purchased by the New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection with the help of the N.Y. Nature Conservancy and the Appalachian Trail Conference. The National Park Service bought a portion of the property several years ago, and this purchase by DEP completes the acquisition.

Open Trail Project

A new bill has been introduced in the New York State Legislature that would give towns the authority to establish community preservation funds for the purpose of acquiring land for parks and trails. The authority to establish community preservation funds for the purpose of acquiring land for parks and trails is one of the recommendations made by several citizens’ groups and others in the process of developing a plan for the Highlands.

NY Bill Supports Open Trail Conservation

Excellent attendance (67 students), terrific instructors (14), great organization (separate workshops in basic trail maintenance, trail construction and rehabilitation, and trail monitoring), a fine facility (Hubbard Lodge in Fahnestock State Park), and great weather made for “a pretty near perfect weekend” of trail workshops on April 17 and 18, according to Trails Director Larry Wheelock.

These annual workshops aim to...

West Jersey Crew Chiefs Get Award From American Hiking Society

The American Hiking Society has named David Day and Monica Resor, crew chiefs of the West Jersey Trail Crew, as winners of its Volunteer of the Year Award for New Jersey. The award honors volunteers for their tireless efforts to preserve and maintain America’s trails and was presented to David and Monica on National Trails Day, June 5.

David’s engineering background and Monica’s management skills make for a truly dynamic model leadership team. As crew chiefs, they are responsible for planning and supervising trail crew work in the West Jersey Crew’s area of responsibility. In addition to their tireless efforts with the West Jersey Crew, this amazing pair of volunteers also worked with the West Hudson Trail Crew and led four work trips in Harriman State Park.

They were the trainers for a trail building and construction workshop, which taught 30+ new crew members how to build and rehabilitate hiking trails. And they participated in a technical risk workshop that taught crew members how to properly set up and use a highline system, transport 1,000-pound rocks, and set a 32-foot starecase.

Monica and David have also volunteered to design and create a new highly technical database for the Trail Conference. This database will not only allow the organization to track trail data, volunteer information, membership information, and financial contributions to the organization, and other information, it will also integrate with our website and online store to help create a seamless computing environment.

Boot Camp, TC Style

On April 17 and 18, 2004, TC Boot Camp boot campers received their annual crash course in American trail construction.

Volunteers get hands-on training at the Trail Construction workshops.
New Loop in the South Wyankies

The new Will Monroe Loop, dedicated to a pioneer trail builder in the Wyankies, opened this spring. Professor Will S. Monroe, was an active member of the New York-New Jersey Section of the Green Mountain Club and created many of the trails in our area as well as in Vermont.

This one-mile loop travels over a portion of the original Wyankie Crest Trail built by long-time NYNJTC member Dick Redfield. The original trail, which traveled to Saddle Mountain, was severed by the owners of a local quarry and subsequently terminated at the Wyankie Circular Trail.

Estelle Anderson, a NYNJTC trail maintainer and assistant supervisor for the South Wyankie area, lugged for the days when this trail continued over Auxinwium Mountain and afforded hikers 360-degree views of the surrounding landscape. Estelle persuaded this supervisor to consider reopening this trail at least as far as the wonderful view sites, and with her planning assistance and trail-building skills, this mountain, the highest in its range, is available once again to the hiking public.

The trail, whose blue color is rhododen- dron (pink), is accessed from the end of the Wyankie Crest Trail (yellow) at the junction of the Wyankie Circular Trail (red). It loops over the mountain and brings you back to the Wyankie Circular Trail at a lower altitude. The closest parking area to these trails is at Boy Scout Lake on Snake Brook, north of Camp Glen Gray in Ramapo Reservation. Mike had worked for weeks before planning the design and working out the logistics of materials, approvals, etc. However, as Teddy Roosevelt once said regarding the start of work on the Panama Canal, it was “time to make the dirt fly.”

Troop 96 had more formidable challenges. First, the footholds had to be prepared, which would support the poles that span the stream. As the great lack of our troop provides, the ultra-cold temperatures froze the stream, making working in the area much easier and safer. Next, 25-foot long poles had to be cut and moved down the steep hill to the stream banks below.

As the mining got underway, Monica Renor and Roland Breault began building a large water table at the base of where the trail detour would begin. Once the waterbar was completed, they began to construct the rock crib wall that would support the new roadway and prepare the foundation for the first stone steps. By lunchtime, the needed stones had begun the second part of their journey, and the balance of the day continued on page 8.

Crew Cuts: Spring’s First Project

By David H. Day

This spring, the West Jersey Crew began the season with a two-day project in Worthington State Park. The assigned work was to fix a very badly eroded section of the Blue Dot Trail where it climbs out of the Dunsford Creek glen. The roadway, an old road, had been washed out to the point that it was just a deep gulley, and hikers had already abandoned it for a bulldozer detour up on the edge. When we scouted the site a few weeks before, we decided to simply floodpark and harden the detour already in use.

Since the main supply of materials to build the steps had to be hauled (mostly large rocks) was about 200’ away, we start- ed up a mining and moving operation right away. Dick Gerien, Ian Blundell, and I set up a high-line and began extracting and transporting the 10 to or 200- to 500-pound rocks that would be needed. We had to move them each twice; the first 125 feet to a holding area; later, after moving the rigging, the second move could deliver them to the worksite.

For the latest schedules, check http://www.nynjtc.org/volunteers/trails.html#crew. (Peak trail crew seasons are in the spring and in Fall.) TBA = To be announced.

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

NEW BRIDGES AND MOVING PROJECTS

HIGHLANDS CREW

Contact the leaders for details, no more than one week before the scheduled work days.

Leader: Bob Moss, 973-743-5283

July 11 (Sunday)
July 24 (Saturday)
August 15 (Sunday)
August 29 (Sunday)

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As an entomologist, I am frequently asked what type of insects I work on. When I answer “dung beetles,” most people assume that I travel to exotic places to conduct my research. Alternatively, they think I work in the worst possible places. Neither is the case, however. Dung beetles are common and important parts of our forest ecosystems, including in the Northeast. Though there is no current species list for New Jersey and New York, at least 50 species are known to occur in this region.

Dozens of individuals, and several species, may be attracted to a single dropp- ing of dung. Some of the most intriguing beetles found in association with mammals are the beetles otherwise known as “scarabs” (in the family Scarabaeidae). Within the United States, dung beetles have been known to feed on the excrement of deer (a favorite in the Northeast), fox, opossum, raccoon, horse, rabbit, dog, and even humans, although some are known to feed on fungi, humus, and sometimes car- rion.

Dung beetles belong to the subdivision of the insects known as Order Coleoptera, which includes all the beetles. The dung beetles belong to three families within the order of beetles, including the families Scarabaeidae, Geotrupidae, and Trogidae. Worldwide, 7,000 species of dung beetles have been described, yet this number seems miniscule compared to the total 360,000 species of beetles that have been identified. The scientific name Coleoptera (koleo = sheath, and pteron = wing), refers to the formation of the front wings into hardened wing covers. This adaptation probably evolved as a defense against predators and has allowed beetles to inhabit an enormous variety of terrestrial and freshwater environments, includ- ing dung.

There are three different groups of dung- inhabiting beetles. The groups are based on the way in which the insects make use of the dung, and are termed the “dwellers,” the “tunnelers,” and the “rollers.” The dwellers, usually Aphodius species, live within the dung, feed on it, and then lay their eggs within the mass where the larvae develop into adults. These beetles are usu- ally small and are extremely common in cow pastures. There are also quite a few beetles in this group that have evolved an association with deer excrement. The tunnelers consist of both large and small beetles that usually have front legs with serrated edges for digging. These beetles burrow under the dung, digging tunnels that they pack with dung from the mass above. Piles of soil found next to the dung mass usually indicate tunneler activi- ty.

The third group of dung beetles is the rollers. These beetles chew off pieces of dung, form it into a ball usually much bigger than themselves, and then roll it away from the mass in order to bury it. Rollers often work in pairs (one male and one female), one pushing and the other pulling, rolling the ball with their hind legs. The tunnelers and rollers are referred to as nesters due to their behavior of providing a home for their young. The sacred scarab, revered by ancient Egyptians, is a roller.

One of the most common dung beetles occurring from Canada to Florida and westward to Texas is Onthophagus hecate (see photo above). This species has been reported on many types of dung (human, deer, rabbits, dogs, horses, cows, etc.), rotting fungis and fruit, in carrion, and at lights. During the summer of 2003, I watched nine individuals feeding in and on a finger-size droppings of deer excrement, and more individuals probably had already burrowed under the droppings. A species that has been collected in several eastern habitats is Copris minutis. This species is shining black with deep lines running down the front wings. A larger species (~20mm) found in the open fields of New Jersey is Phaenon virens. This species is iridescent red and green and the large males of the species sport a long horn on the top of the head.

In addition to our native species, several species of Aphodius and Onthophagus have been introduced into this region, because our native populations have not been able to keep up with the increase in livestock production and manure waste. Onthophagus taurus was introduced into two counties in New Jersey in 1987 and has since increased its range northward into New York. Because of its amazing ability to spread, this species may eventually become a strong competitor with our native species for deer dung.

Piles of deer pellets on a trail, and the occasional conspicuous “ugly” of coyotes placed on a rock in the center of trail, usually excite little notice from hikers, if they are observed at all. But these contrib- utions to the forest floor are “home sweet home” to a remarkable and diverse part of the animal community that make up our forest ecosystems.

Dana Price is a graduate student at Rutgers University.

Dana Price
**West Hudson Crew Repairs Another Bridge Over the Popolopen Creek**

In September, 1999 the Popolopen Creek in Hartman-Bear Mountain State Park lost not one, but two of its crossings. The storms damaged the concrete viaduct over the creek just east of Quemoboro Lake at the same time it was destroying its more famous, and bigger, cousin in Popolopen Gorge. Even though passage across the creek was possible at the small structure, the lack of handrails made some people apprehensive about using it. Crossing the creek safely now is possible. On May 1, the West Hudson Trail Crew completed this long-awaited repair.

Using six 4 x 4 posts in five-foot lengths bolted to the side of the viaduct, the trail crew was able to string a wire handline across the full 54-foot width of the creek. Thanks go to the crew members who came out to build the railing and, more important, carry all the tools and materials to the work site. Pictured are, left to right, Chris Ezoo (crew chief), Bob Marshall, Trudy Schneider, and Bruce Shriver.

**Hudson River Valley Ramble Expands to Two Weekends**

The Fifth Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble with Hudson River Estuary Days takes place on the weekends of September 18-19 and September 25-26. Nearly 150 guided and interpreted hikes, walks, paddles, biking tours, and other related events will be featured throughout the 10-county Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, which extends from Westchester and Rockland Counties to the Capital Region, and along the length of the 154-mile Hudson River Estuary. Events for all ages will be offered by nearly 100 environmental, trail, historic preservation and cultural organizations, land conservancies, state park preserves, historic sites, the Great Eastern Trail, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

On Saturday, September 18, volunteers can help string a wire handline and maintain the railing at the trail entrance. At 1:00 pm, the 21-km hike to the historic 19th-century black settlement, the West Hudson Crew will lead a hike to Peanut Leap Falls and the remnants of the Lawrence Gardens. The entire hike of about 5 miles is listed as very difficult and will take 4-5 hours. Bring lunch and water, and long pants if you are sensitive to poison ivy. The meeting place is at the entrance of Lamont-Dohe-ry at the start line, on Rt. 9W, and the hike starts at 11:15 am. No registration is necessary. For additional information you may call 201-768-3612 (evenings), or email jf31@columbia.edu.

**Volunteer Classifieds: Get Involved!**

Are you looking for new challenges and opportunities to get involved with Trail Conference activities? Please review the TC Volunteer Classifieds for exciting and interesting ways for members to become involved with the Conference’s efforts. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. Become an active part of our family and get more involved. If you are interested in volunteering with the Tk’s, email them at tk@nynjtc.org.

**Artist/Graphic Designer**

Are you artistically inclined? There are several projects available, ranging from designing recognition patches to developing new logos and signs. If you are interested, please contact Josh at josh@nynjtc.org or phone 201-512-9348, and he will find a way to get you involved.

**Trail Land Monitor**

As the race to protect open space speeds up, the Trail Conference is becoming more active in these efforts. In Wantage Township, Sussex County NJ, the Trail Conference will be helping the public gain access to newly acquired lands by monitoring protected open space. Land monitors will mark the boundaries of the lands, watch for illegal activities and misuse, and keep an eye out for significant environmental changes. For more information about this opportunity, please contact Larry Wheelock at 201-512-9348 or wheelock@nynjtc.org.

**NYC Director**

Do you have a car and live in NYC? Our Metro Trails Committee Chair, Bob Makus, could use a volunteer for some transportation assistance. Bob is no longer able to drive, yet he is still committed as his job as the Trail Chair for Staten Island and Alley Pond in Queens. If you are willing to donate a few car rides to help Bob get to meetings, held by the Trail Conference, please call Bob at 718-471-7036 for more details.

**Our National Treasure Needs You!**

The nation’s greatest historic footpath needs a highly motivated volunteer to coordinate and manage the men and women who maintain the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey. The NJ Appalachian Trail Chair position needs immediate filling. Qualified candidates need to be well organized, detail oriented, good communicators, and have a passion for the AT. Be a part of the team that maintains one of the most diverse and intriguing sections of the Appalachian Trail. If you are interested in this position, please contact Larry Wheelock at 201-512-9348 or wheelock@nynjtc.org.

**Book Review Coordinator**

Help your fellow hikers decide which next great outdoor book to buy. We are looking for someone to coordinate the book reviews for the Trail Walker. Responsibilities include seeking and selecting books to be reviewed, matching reviewers with the appropriate titles, mailing books with covering letters, and sending reviews to the Trail Walker editor when received. If you are interested, please contact Josh at josh@nynjtc.org or call the office 201-512-9348.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Paul Leikin, a life-long hiker and long-time member and volunteer of the Trail Conference, passed away on April 27, 2004, at the age of 91. He died in Arizona under the care of his daughter Celia, but his heart and soul never left the Hudson River Valley and its peace and beauty. Over the course of at least three decades as a member of the Trail Conference, Paul, who became a Life Member, took on many volunteer jobs for the TC, including editing ask for Trail Walker. But he was probably best known in the office as the Conference map keeper, for two decades stoicing TC mups in his base- ment and hosting weekly work meetings at which volunteers packed the map sets and prepared them for delivery.

**Trails Chair Pete Hecler**

trails chair Peter Hecler once described Paul as “a Canadl ebook” as defined by Herman Melville in his book Moby Dick: “[T]here is a Canadl ebook in some souls that can alike dive down into the blackest gorges, and soar out of them again and become invisible in the sunny spaces. And even if he forever flies within the gorge, that gorge is in the mountains; so that even in his lowest swoop the mountain eagle is still higher than the other birds upon the plain, even though they soar.”

A memorial service was held May 22 at St. John’s in the Wilderness in Hartman Park. It drew friends, family, and Trail Conference colleagues, who celebrated a life filled with their memories and stories. Hikes in his memory followed the ceremony.

**Board Candidates Nominated**

Nominees for the Trail Conference Board of Directors: Bob Boysen, Dan Chauvin, Ellen Cronan, Peter Kinnard, and Mary Smart.

Nominees for delegates-at-large: Bob Berlin, Vladimir Bose, Eric Calder, Jim Comstock, Harvey Fishman, Cliff Gersten, Denis Halwess, Jill Hamel, Gary Haugland, John Jurasek, Hal Kaplan, Phyllis Key, Jane Levinson, Mark Liss, John Mack, Bob Makus, Judy Murphy, Anna Parker, Karen Rose, Trudy Schneider, and Naomi Satter.

The election will take place at the Trail Conference Annual Meeting in the fall, date to be set.

—Phyllis Stewart
Chair of Nominating Committee
For & About

Member is Rockland Outstanding Volunteer

TC club member and Rockland County resident Constantine Gletsos received this year’s County Executive’s Outstanding Environmental Volunteer Award at an Earth Day ceremony. The award is marked by the planting of a cherry tree with a plaque in Kennedy-Dells County Park. Gletsos is a retired chemist who has worked to protect Rockland’s water and keep his village free of litter. He founded the Pomona Clean-Up Squad (PCUS) in 1997, which has cleaned litter from the village and worked with the Haverstraw Town Park and Highway Department to clean up Congo Mountain Park in 2002. Gletsos also organized the first ‘Stream Team Drain Project’ in Rockland. This group of volunteers marked storm drains with warnings about illegal dumping and the importance of protecting the county’s water. Gletsos is at least the second TC member to receive this award from Rockland County; the late George Zochelits, former TC president, was bestowed the honor posthumously in 2002.

Read Hike of the Week

In Poquoskopie Journal Ralph Ferrusi is coordinating a new Trail Conference outreach effort in collaboration with the Poquoskopie Journal newspaper in Dutchess County, NY. From April through the fall the paper will publish a “Poquoskopie Hike of the Week” column, prepared by a bevy of TC volunteers, led by Ralph. The hikes will run a gamut of difficulty levels, but will be aimed primarily at families. Most will be within an hour of the Poquoskopie area Poquoskopie Journal readers should look for the weekly feature in the Thursday Players sections of the newspaper (Sports). Others can see the write-ups via the TC web site, www.tnncy.org.

Publications Committee Launches Search For Marketing Help

Publications Committee Chair George Petty and staff Volunteer Projects Director Josh Erdnerke have begun a campaign to find member volunteers to help publicize forthcoming Trail Conference books and maps.

“We have four books and one map set coming out this spring and summer,” Petty said, “and we need to do more to get the word out about them.”

The summer publications include the New Jersey Walk Book second edition, already available, the new Kinnatinnes Trail guidebook by West Jersey Trails Chair Bob Boyesen, a second edition of Hiking Long Island, a reprint with corrections of the Long Path Guide, and a new edition of the ‘Had.fun Palisades’ map set.

Under their new plan, the Publications Committee will name a marketing manager for each publication. Marketing tasks include preparing pre-publication press releases, post cards, and email notifications; contacting editors of local weekly and urban daily newspapers to solicit reviews, and setting up media attention, publicity hikes, and other public appearances for authors.

“It would be great if marketing volunteers had experience,” Petty said, “but this is also an opportunity for interested members to acquire skills in an exciting field.” The Publications Committee can provide task instructions and guidance from experienced committee and staff personnel.

Volunteers for publication marketing should have good writing skills and be able to give several hours per week over a three-month period to the task. “Marketers can choose which publication they want to work on,” Petty said, but I guess the early volunteers get the most choices.”

Volunteers should contact Volunteer Projects Director Josh Erdnerke at the Mahwah office, 201-512-9348, or via email at joshi@tnncy.org.

New GPS Users Group Invites Participants

The NJV NJ Trail Conference is forming a GPS Users Group. Many hikers are now using GPS (global positioning system) technology, and this new group will serve as a forum for all aspects of GPS use. The group’s purpose is to discuss and share all types of information regarding GPS technology, use, mapping, geocaching, and any other topics, including various software that is available. All interested parties regardless of experience level—whether or not you own a GPS unit or are just looking to find out more information—should attend this first start-up session. The session will be held on Saturday, August 21, at 10 am at a location to be announced. Please fill out the interest slip below to sign up or contact Josh Erdnerke at joshi@tnncy.org or 845-365-3618 for more information.

STATE ACQUIRES...

continued from page 1

Conference is part of an 860-acre assemblage being targeted for protection along the ridge in the Town of Mamakating, Sullivan County. Three other parcels—the 374-acre Konstiantoff parcel, the 173-acre Howell parcel, and the 162-acre Wurtsboro Steam Laundry parcel—are also expected to be acquired by the state.

The Trail Conference began working on this project in 1991 by identifying the landowners, conducting negotiations with them, acquiring several options, and finally purchasing the Stutzman property. Key roles were also played by the Open Space Institute, which purchased one of the parcels, and the Trust for Public Land (TPL), which optioned another.

“This is our first big assemblage on the Ridge,” said TC Executive Director Ed Goodell of the Trail Conference’s work to preserve the SRT. “It demonstrates how we can take a vision of creating trails that link open spaces and lay the essential groundwork, which enables others to rally around and make it happen.” TC Land Acquisition Director John Myers has been instrumental in preservation work in the Shawangunks since the beginning, talking to landowners, obtaining their permissions for the SRT, and negotiating purchases.

The state’s acquisition of these four critical properties will be a major milestone in creating a permanently protected Shawangunk Ridge corridor between the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in New Jersey and the Cawkill Forest Preserve in New York,” said Goodell. “Now that we have protected this gap, which links the Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest and the Shawangunk Ridge State Forest, very few gaps remain between the Basha Kill and Sam’s Point, making our acquisition work south towards New Jersey even more significant.”

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of planning to get all the necessary people, parts, and resources combined and build the approaches and abutments. In addition to our own views, we had to consider the requirements of the bridge designer, engineers, government officials, and people from the Trail Conference, each of whom had differing concerns and who of whom had to be satisfied in the end. Safety was always an issue with the steep slopes, large rocks, fast-moving water, many moving parts, and people of differing levels of experience helping both building and wandering. Focus on what is working well and the parts of the project provided an education.

Applying these trail-building lessons in my career has helped me transition from being a timid person, struggling under the weight of the status-quo, to being someone who willingly takes on challenging projects and builds solutions that cover all the angles. Combined, lead to a really good outcome.

When you get stuck and can't figure something out, take a hike. Things will look different when you return.

You are less likely to get hurt if you stay soft, tender things—such as your fingers, hearts, and fragile egos—away from the heavy stuff. The big picture, choose the next detail to work on carefully, choose the next detail to tackle, then go. Even the biggest projects are completed one small piece at a time.

Digg out your dogged perseverance, you can get anything done. Look at the big picture, choose the next detail to tackle, then go. Even the biggest projects are completed one small piece at a time.

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ADVOCACY & CONSERVATION
continued from page 3

Booting Camp TC Style
continued from page 3

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 Updates Proposed Belleayre Resort Project
April 23, 2004, marked the deadline for public comment on the proposed Cassscorutsdours Ventures project known as the Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park. The enormous project site is located in the center of the Catskill High Peaks to the east and west of the state-owned Belleayre Mountain Ski Center. We have reported on the magnitude of the project and the Trail Conference/ADK Partnership’s concerns about its impact on surrounding Catskill Forest Preserve lands in previous issues of the Trail Walker (see March/April 2004, page 1).

Upon extensive review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed project, the Partnership formally stated that the DEIS fails to adequately address and mitigate the effect of secondary and induced growth from the project on levels of use surrounding state Forest Preserve lands, including the Slide Mountain Wilderness and the newly proposed Hunter-Westkill Wilderness Area. According to the Slide Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan, one of the greatest threats to the area is recreational overuse of the Slide-Cornell-Wittenberg Woodland Valley-Parthenon Giant Ledge hiking complex. These popular trailheads are just a short drive from the project site. The Partnership states in its comments that DEC must evaluate the impact of the resort and its visitors on the carrying capacity of all Catskill Forest Preserve units.

The Trail Conference and ADK also stated a concern about the eventual expansion of the Belleayre Ski Center and the cumulative impact of the expansion and the construction of the Belleayre Resort on the same mountain.

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The new Hasenclever Iron Trail in northern New Jersey runs just over 5 miles from the Ringwood Manor area to the footbridge over the Wanaque River on the Sterling Ridge Trail at the Long Pond Iron Furnaces. It is named for Peter Hasenclever, who established the Long Pond Ironworks in 1766, and follows historic routes used by Colonial miners.

The trail was proposed by Martin Deeks, the late Ringwood Park Historian, who had identified the trails used in Hasenclever’s day. In Martin’s words, “The Ironmaster’s Manor at Ringwood, the complex of mines and the ironworks at Ringwood Mill Pond west to Hewitt. Trail Development: Planning and development of the proposed trail was initially led by Paul Frost, a member of Friends of the Trail Conference Science Director Ed McGowan, resulting in minor rerouting. Finally, clearing and building of the trail was largely accomplished by Sandy Parr’s North Jersey T rail. Several trail turns were populated by urgers and blazes in the reverse direction was scheduled to be completed soon after.

A search of the New Jersey Natural Heritage database for occurrences of any rare wildlife species or natural communities was obtained. The flagged small stream, turn right toward the first of the yellow blazes, which appears on a shagbark hickory tree, and proceed ahead to enter the woodland at the edge of a lawn. Soon you reach a deeply cut wood road thought to be a portion of the original Colonial road. Reaching Hope Mine Road, presumably a section of the old Hasenclever Road, the trail turns southward leading to Peter’s Mine, named for Peter Hasenclever. 

The trail is not a continuous road but a series of roads and connections; the many turns will not generally be described here. Several interesting and historic features are observable along the way.

Beginning at Ringwood Manor in Ringwood State Park, hikers will pass the mansion and proceed through wrought iron gates. Continue past the end of Sally’s Pond (named for Sarah Hewitt, daughter of Alex Hewitt, the last ironmaster to live privately on the property). Just beyond a small stream, turn right toward the first of the yellow blazes, which appears on a shagbark hickory tree, and proceed ahead to enter the woodland at the edge of a lawn. Soon you reach a deeply cut wood road thought to be a portion of the original Colonial road. Reaching Hope Mine Road, presumably a section of the old Hasenclever Road, the trail turns southward leading to Peter’s Mine, named for Peter Hasenclever. 

Working from 1740 to 1931, the main mine shaft is now seen as a pool on top of the fill and is sheltered by overgrowth. On the hill top owned by the Borough of Ringwood, a specific ordinance was passed. Tax maps were used to avoid encroaching upon private lands.

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The activity listed may be sponsored by member clubs of the NY/NJ Trail Conference. All walks are welcome to all club regulations and rules of the trail. You are responsible for your own safety. Wear hiking shoes or boots, long pants, hat, and sunglasses. Bring lots of water, food, first aid, and a backpacking kitchen. Leaders have the final responsibility to remove anyone who they believe cannot complete the trail. More than 100 clubs belong to the Trail Conference, and many of our affiliate groups sponsor hikes not listed in this Hikers’ Almanac. For a descriptive list of Trail Conference clubs, consult our web site at www.nynjtc.org with your request for a report with your request for a report.

**Club Codes**

Only those clubs with hikes listed at the bottom of this page. Please consult the list to confirm.

- **GCR** German-American Hiking Club
- **PNNH** Pyramid Mountain Natural History Association
- **SCHI** Sierra Club New Jersey Section
- **UCHC** Union County Hiking Club
- **RW** Rip Van Winkle Hiking Club
- **WEC** Wind Energy Coalition

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**July 1**

UCCH. Storm King Mountain, NY. Leader: Jim Conlon, CH文献中未找到对应内容。 Storm King Mountain, NY. Parking near pond; call for directions. A stroll where you can talk and road walking, plus swim at Lake Awosting. Inclement weather date is following Monday. Meet: 8 am at Sawyer Savings Bank, 87 Market St., Saugerties, NY. Strenuous hike: 6.5 miles, 4 hours, 1400’ ascent. Inclement weather date, following Monday.

**July 2**


**July 3**


**July 4**

UCCH. Frenchtown State Park, NJ. Leader: call 845-246-7987 for information. Meet: 10 am at Frenchtown parking lot at D&R Canal Towpath; call for directions. 609-397-7267, between 8 am-10 pm only. Meet: 10 am at Leafy E. Bank parking lot; call for directions. Leaders: call 973-334-3130 for more information. Meet: 9 am at Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area visitor center, 4274 Bovina Ave., Monticello Township, NY. Moderate pace 8-10 miles on the AT to Deckertown. Rain cancels.

**July 5**


**July 6**


**July 7**

UCCH. Old Short Hills Park, Millburn, NJ. Leader: Cheryl Short, 973-299-0212. Meet: 10 am at Ridgedale Park entrance; call for directions. Easy hike 1400’ ascent. Inclement weather date is following Monday.

**July 8**

UCCH. Ramapo State Forest State Park, NJ. Leader: Carol Schmid, 973-768-7065. Meet: 10 am at parking lot on rail; call for directions. Moderate pace 8 miles.

**July 9**

UCCH. Frenchtown/Kittatinny, NJ. Leader: Valerie Brown, 908-359-0700. Meet: 10 am at Frenchtown parking lot at D&R Canal Towpath; call for directions. Enjoy a walk through country road wash, includes a cow path and a stop for ice cream along the D&R Canal Towpath. Moderate pace 3-4 miles on trails. Rain cancels.

**July 10**

UCCH. Kitchelliny Valley State Park, NJ. Leader: Bethy Miller, 908-229-0532. Meet: 10 am at parking lot; call for directions. Pleasant, easy hike along wood roads.

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**August 1**


**August 2**

UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, W. Orange, NJ. Leader: Louise White, 973-483-4179. Meet: 9 am only. Meet: 10 am at Fort Lee Rock parking lot in Fort Lee, call for directions. Meet: 10 am at Fort Lee Rock parking lot in Fort Lee, call for directions. Moderate pace 4-5 miles on rocky wood roads, various some rough spots; see Fort Lee Rock.

**August 3**


**August 4**


**August 5**

UCHC. High Point State Forest, NJ. Leader: Carol Chisler, 973-728-7705. Meet: 10 am at High Point visitor center; call for directions. Entrance fee. Rain cancels.

**August 6**


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**Notes:** The deadline for the September/October issue is July 15, 2004.

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**Hikers’ Almanac**

More than 85 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 Trail Conference clubs, consult our web site at www.nynjtc.org with your request for a report with your request for a report.
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Sunrise, August 15


Monday, August 16


UCHC. UConn Trail Company, W. Hartford, CT. Leader: Bob Laffey, 860-529-0690. Meet: 8 am at the Sawyers Bridge parking lot, 5 miles, 3 hours. Scenic hike through the brush and woods. Rain cancels.

Tuesday, August 17


Thursday, August 19


Saturday, August 21


RVV. Sun's Place and Blue Sky Festival in Wenonah, NJ. For more information call: 609-327-7280. Meet: 9 am at Sawyers Bridge parking lot. 5 miles, 3 hours. Easy walk to waterfall, 5 miles, all-day (fee involved). Inclement weather date, following Monday.

PMNHA. Tripod Rocks, NJ. Leader: call 201-334-3130 for more information. Meet: 11 am at Puapanaw Natural History Area visitor center, 24A Booton Ave, Montville Township, NJ. Moderate hike to our scenic perennial garden.


Sunday, August 22

RVV. Robert Mouny State Park, Fire Island, NY. Leader: Robert Mouny, 631-582-1233. Meet: 9 am at parking lot, 8 miles, 4 hours. Scenic hike to our famous glacial erratic.

UCHC. Jacky Hole, Morrisville, NJ. Leader: David Callowhill, 973-684-5528. Meet: 8 am at 1951 Edgemont Rd, Rockaway Township. For more information call: 973-684-5175. Moderate hike under the cool tree canopy on Turkey Mountain.

Tuesday, August 24


UCHC. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Louise Whitto, 908-707-8733. Meet: 7:30 am at parking lot, 4 miles. 4 hours through pine woods to Hidden Falls, then back along the Rahway River. Fast section at a quick clip and today.

Monday, August 23

PMNHA. HK. Hope Carpenter Lakes, PA. Leader: call 201-334-3130 for meeting place and to register. Moderate hike in Rockingham Township.

RVV. Bourquey (1907), NJ. For more information call: 609-327-7280. Meet: 7:30 am, Sawyers Bridge parking lot. 6 miles at Sawyers, Moderate 12 mile, 6.5 hours, 2500’ ascent. Inclement weather: Following Wednesday.

Wednesday, August 25

UCHC. Maloke Dickerson, Jefferson Township, NJ. Leader: call 973-334-3130 for meeting place and to register. Easy to moderate hike. Paved easy way to the high point in Morris County.

Thursday, August 26

UCHC. Skaneateles Lake, Finger Lakes, Skaneateles State Park, NY. Leader: call 315-968-6464. Meet: 9 am at Skaneateles State Park, 70 miles at Skaneateles, Moderate 1-3 hours. 8 miles, 4.5 hours. Inclement weather: Following Thursday.

Saturday, August 28

SQL. Single Fish Lake, Rockland State Park, NY. Leader: call 973-681-0510. Meet: 9 am at the parking lot, 8 miles, 6 hours. Scenic hike.

Sunday, August 29

UCHC. Robert Mouny State Park, Fire Island, NY. Leader: Robert Mouny, 631-582-1233. Meet: 9 am at parking lot, 8 miles, 4 hours. Scenic hike to our famous glacial erratic.


NYC & NJ Walk Books $35.91 $28.73 +$3.50 ______

Hiking Long Island (2002) $19.95 $15.96 +$2.00 ______

Sunrise Forest Trails (2003) $9.75 $5.95 +$1.00 ______

Adirondacks: The Great Northway (1997) $21.95 $17.55 +$4.00 ______

A.T. Guide for NY & NJ (2002) w/maps $19.95 $15.95 +$2.00 ______

NY-NJ TC member? YES NO JOINING NOW

Method of Payment

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Total enclosed $ ______

Postage/handling from above, or $6.00, whichever is LESS

For non-clothing items, New Jersey residents pay 6% tax*

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ ______