



Move-in Day Nears!

Construction on schedule for our new headquarters.

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Our Annual Awards

We shine the light back onto some of our stars.

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TRAILWALKER

Winter 2015

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

www.nynjtc.org

Trail University Cited in New Jersey Governor's Environmental Excellence Award to Trail Conference

The Trail Conference was named winner of the 2014 New Jersey Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in the Environmental Education (Adult-led) category for its Trail University program. The award was presented by the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Trail University classes work to benefit the environment in New Jersey and New York in several ways. They draw new volunteers to the field of outdoor work, support park staff in executing important projects, improve and create access to beautiful natural areas in the states, and serve to

minimize user impacts by promoting trail-building skills and projects such as Sustainable Layout and Design.

Trail University workshops often focus on improving existing trails by reducing erosion, keeping sediment out of sensitive watersheds and reservoirs, and keeping hikers and recreationalists on a well-defined path to minimize damage caused by wandering off-trail.

In the 12 months from September 2013 to September 2014 (most recent updated period), 263 Trail University attendees contributed 1,132 hours of service in the state of New Jersey, over the course of 32 classes.



Ramapo College students attend Trail U.

Though the numbers for 2014 have not yet been processed, in 2013 Trail Conference volunteers donated a combined total of 16,979 hours to benefiting New Jersey's public lands. Volunteers recruited through Trail University help maintain more than 678 miles of hiking trails in New Jersey.

Cowboy Creek Land Preservation Invigorates Highlands Trail Volunteers

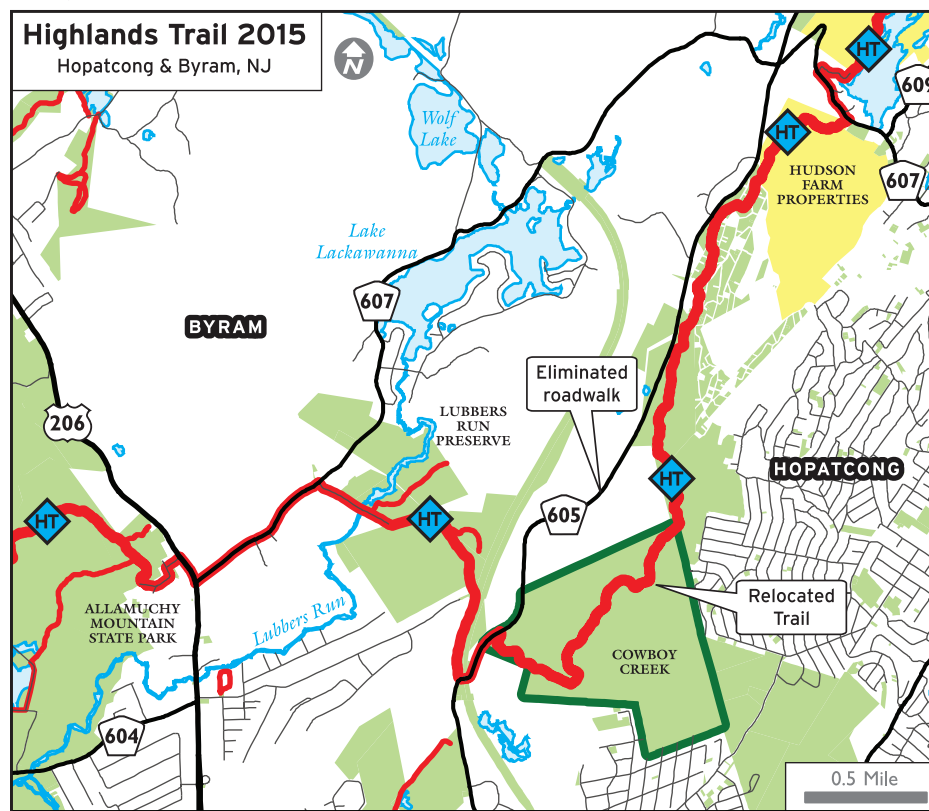
By Glenn Oleksak, Trail Chair, Highlands Trail

In 2008, the cards started falling for the Highlands Trail in the Byram area of Sussex County, NJ. There, the original HT route weaved over a ridge, through Hudson Farm property, and into the woods, all punctuated by road walks on Route 605, Roseville Road, and Route 206.

The first hurdle came when Hudson Farms cleared woods on a ridge, necessitating a reroute that extended the already lengthy road walk along Route 605. Shortly afterwards, we lost the trail through private lands near Lake Lackawanna. We now had a long road walk north to a long ridge walk south... to nowhere!

We'd already lost the HT in two areas in New York, resulting in long road walks, and things were looking bleak for the feasibility of the HT remaining a continuous long-distance trail. Highlands Trail Supervisor Adam Rosenberg and I started doing initial scouting and feasibility studies to go around the Byram area completely. This reroute would be a daunting task that would require years of work.

Late one afternoon, Adam and I were returning from one of these scouting trips. I sat in the passenger seat, brooding. "The



Highlands Trail and I can't take too many more hits," I said. Since taking on the trail, I'd never let setbacks slow me down—instead, I immediately pushed ahead with a work-

around. But this time, I came as close as I've ever come to giving up entirely on the HT.

"Why don't we look into routing the trail down the ridge to our right?" Adam suggested as we drove north on Route 605.

Adam's idea led to the largest and eventually the most successful reroute ever on the HT. After getting permission from Hudson Farm and Hopatcong Township, we moved the trail from one ridge to another ridge on the opposite side of the valley. But at the south end of the new ridge, two large parcels were slated for development. Although we had our ridge walk partway down Route 605, we still had a 1.4-mile road walk along Route 605 to the Byram Bike Trail.

Our big break came in 2014, when Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell arranged a meeting between The Land Conservancy (TLC) of New Jersey's Land Preservation Director Sandy Urgo and

continued on page 10

In February 2014, 305 acres around Cowboy Creek in Sussex County, NJ were preserved by the state's Green Acres Program in a deal that had been long promoted by our partner, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, and endorsed by the Trail Conference. The Trail Conference's interest in the land stemmed primarily for the off-road route it offered in the western part of the state for a section of the long-distance Highlands Trail (HT).

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS



Knox Osborn (in backpack with parents Hank and Alexis) Beacon, NY

How old were you when you took your first hike? I was two months old. My parents walked me around the Dennings Point Loop Trail in Beacon, NY. I rode in a Baby Bjorn front pack worn by my father.

What is your favorite trail? Fishkill Ridge because it's right in Beacon, where I live, yet it is never crowded and it feels far away.

What is your favorite trail food? I love Annie's Organic Bunnyfruit Snacks!

What is the most interesting thing you have seen while hiking with your parents? When I was riding in a backpack worn by my father, the top of the backpack jostled a small branch of a tree and knocked a snake out. The 3-foot garter snake fell through the air and landed at my mother's feet. She doesn't like it when snakes fall from the sky.

What do you like best about trails? All the great things that you can find along them—leaves and sticks and rocks and dirt! Every time my parents put me on a trail, I toddle over to see what I can find off on the side. I don't know why they want to keep walking so fast. You can't find anything that way.

Do you understand your Dad's job? My father supports volunteers to help protect the woods and improve trails so more people—people like me!—will be able to enjoy nature.

We received help in translating Knox's answers from his father Hank, East Hudson Program Coordinator for the Trail Conference.



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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Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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As of the filing date of September 30, 2014, the average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months was 14,200; the actual number of copies of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 15,000. The paper has a total paid and/or requested circulation of 6,407 (average) and 6,392 (actual, most recent issue). The average free distribution for the 12 months preceding the filing date was 6,313 (average) and 6,392 (actual, most recent issue). The total average distribution was 12,720; the actual distribution of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 12,667.

This information is reported on U. S. Postal Service Form 3526 and here as required by 39 USC 3685.



JEREMY APGAR

Darlington Schoolhouse HQ Update Our Move-in Day Approaches!

By the time you receive the Spring edition of *Trail Walker*, we expect to be operating out of our new headquarters at the Darlington Schoolhouse! The address will be 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430 (but don't use it quite yet!). Phone and all other contact information will remain the same.

As this edition goes to press, we are developing plans for a ribbon-cutting this Winter (let's keep our fingers crossed!) and a Grand Opening later in the year to welcome our friends and supporters.

Plans are also in the works for a celebratory 5K Hike/Run in partnership with the Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The event is set for Sunday, May 17, from 7:30am to 12 noon; online registration will be available in January 2015. Event sponsors may register at <http://www.mahwah.com>.

As our move-in date and related events approach, watch for details on our website and in *E-Walker*, our electronic newsletter. Click "Get Our E-newsletter" button on our website if you are not already a subscriber.

We look forward to welcoming and supporting our extended trails community at our soon-to-be new home at the heart of the New Jersey-New York Highlands!

New Parking Lot Coming to Reeves Meadow at Harriman State Park?

That was the "big news" reported by David Barone, PIPC General Park Manager, at the October Trail Conference Members & Friends meeting in Ossining.

The question mark hanging on the news reflects the fact that environmental studies of a new lot's impact were not yet complete. But Barone sounded optimistic that PIPC would be creating a new 50-car, permeable lot in what is now a meadow opposite the visitors center, across Seven Lakes Drive. The construction timetable was uncertain, as was the future of roadside parking in what PIPC Chief Ranger Michael Cahill, also at the meeting, called the busiest hiker trailhead in Harriman State Park.

Barone and Cahill attended the Trail Conference meeting as part of their involvement with our Harriman Trails Access Committee. The committee was created after last year's winter closing of Route 106 led to complaints from many hikers that access to many trails in the park was being reduced. The committee, chaired by Trail Conference volunteer Bob Fuller and including Trail Conference staff and volunteers, collected and documented the complaints, made field trips, compiled suggestions and requests for improvements, and met with PIPC officials.

"We're listening to you," Barone told his audience of 50+ hikers who attended the workshop session at our meeting. He reported on recent park improvements to several trailhead pull-offs, such as leveling and stabilizing along Route 106. Expansion of some of these pull-offs is not possible, he explained, owing to safety concerns prompted by inadequate sight lines along the road.



The park has added safety signage along Route 106.

He noted that park staff has installed Hiker Crossing signs at three different locations near trailheads for the White Bar and Victory Trails along Route 106; that the Sebago Boat Launch parking area has been cleaned up, repaired, redesigned, and reopened, and that portable toilets are being provided at the site on a test basis. They may lead to more permanent bathroom facilities in the future.

He also announced that at the request of the committee, the south end of the Anthony Wayne parking will be kept open in winter, though it may not always be plowed (there is just one plow available for the entire region he said).

Route 106 and the Sterling Forest Casino

Barone also addressed PIPC's response to the casino proposed by the Genting Corp. for the middle of Sterling Forest. The proposal calls for using Route 106, which is an east-west corridor through the park, connecting the Palisades Parkway and Route 17, as a primary access road to the casino. PIPC commissioners voted against concessions that would allow the road to be used in this way.

Barone told his audience that you can "thank your lucky stars that we don't keep the road open in winter, and that we're not going to give it back to [Orange] County," which has been asking for it. The assembled hikers responded with cheers.

Future Communications about Harriman State Park

This workshop session marked the conclusion of the work of the Harriman Trails Access Committee. However it does not mark the end of collaboration between the Trail Conference and the Park. In addition to continuing our 95 years of on-trail work, we look forward to supporting the park with improved communications about trail updates and park news. Watch our website at nynjtc.org/content/trail-alerts-harriman-bear-mountain for regular updates as they relate to trails in the park.

—Georgette Weir

Find the full Fall Report of the Harriman-Trails Access Committee at nynjtc.org/news/news



SAVE THE DATE: Winter Meeting

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

MANHATTAN COLLEGE
WATCH FOR DETAILS

Notice:
 At the Trail Conference Winter Meeting, the delegates will discuss and vote on a proposal to increase basic membership dues. The Trail Conference has not adjusted its membership rates for inflation or cost of living increases for eight years and proposes to implement the following rates during the second half of 2015.

Current Membership Rates Individual/Joint	Proposed Membership Rates Individual/Joint
Regular \$30/40 Senior (65+) \$25/30	Regular \$40/50 Senior (65+) \$35/40

From the Executive Director



My head is spinning. But in a good way.

I'm just looking around at all that is happening at, by, and through the Trail Conference today. This is an organization where caring, enthusiastic people gather to do great things, and do them Now!

Take on major corporations to preserve the landscape of the Palisades, Sterling Forest, or Harriman State Park? Over and over, our Davids and Davidas have challenged Goliath, Inc. And won. We're optimistic we will win again in facing up to LG Electronics, Genting Casino Resorts, and Caesars.

Create an education program—Trail U—that trains and recruits hundreds of hikers to give back as trail maintainers, trail builders, trail leaders, and citizen scientists? Yes! And we are very proud that New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection has just this month honored our program with an Award for excellence (see page 1).

Expand our trail building and education efforts by inaugurating our own AmeriCorps conservation program? Yes! Ninety-five years of volunteer experience

laid the groundwork and gave us the confidence that we could train and put AmeriCorps members to good work on behalf of our trail system. We train them, and they train more of us. Together we build more and better trails. And our park partners get additional public resources. Win-win-win.

Meet hikers (and potential hikers) at the foot of the busiest trailhead in our region, if not the country—Breakneck Ridge—and help them make good choices and enjoy their outdoor experience with education, maps, and water? All we need to get

Strike Force gave us the confidence to move ahead.

Take on management of all outdoor volunteer efforts in the Catskills? When DEC asked us to partner with them to start the Catskill Conservation Corps, we said Yes to that too. Volunteers are us.

Preserve open space for public access and to protect existing trails? The only real question here is how far can we stretch our dollars? Working with our partners, we stretch them quite a bit, as stories in this issue about Cowboy Creek in New Jersey (page 1) and a newly protected parcel on

descriptions and information about 300+ parks with trails, and it attracts more than 300,000 returning visitors annually. That's a lot of interest in hiking, and we feel good that we are meeting the needs of so many. It's an indication of the value we offer to the quality of life in our region. If only those 300,000 visitors would acknowledge our value with a donation or, better, their membership. What a game changer that would be.

People ask me, What are the benefits of membership in the Trail Conference? To be honest, if you don't enjoy getting out in nature, if you never visit a park, or take your family on a walk on a trail, if you are not a hiker, if you don't enjoy wildlife, if you don't want to protect the natural world we are given, then the benefits are few to none.

Because parks and trails and opportunities to enjoy and enhance the outdoor experience in our region are the benefits of supporting the Trail Conference with your membership. Your investment in us helps us invest in our people and services that preserve and enhance things that you love. Please join us.

— Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

This is an organization where caring, enthusiastic people gather to do great things, and do them Now!

started is a roadside pull-off and funds to train and pay a few good trail stewards. (We hope for shelter soon.) Not only are hikers appreciative, but so are the area's first responders, who have had to make many fewer rescue hikes up the mountain. Another win-win.

When New York's Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) asked us to administer the Lower Hudson Partnership for Invasive Species Management, we said Yes. Again, our experience in launching and running the trail-oriented Invasives

the Shawangunk Ridge (below) attest.

Acquire, restore, and renovate a historic schoolhouse in the heart of the Highlands as our headquarters? The project was intimidating. But as I write this, our move-in date approaches and we're getting excited. Staff and volunteers look forward to an end to the musical chairs approach to a seat in the office.

Build and maintain an online headquarters—a website that is the go-to place for hiking and trail information in our region? Of course. Our site now offers 350 hike

Conservation & Advocacy

OUTCOMES

We Protect Shawangunk Ridge Trail Section in Orange County

The Trail Conference has helped to secure protection of 67 acres along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT) in the towns of Greenville and Deerpark in Orange County, NY. The land, adjacent to the 1,500-acre Huckleberry Ridge State Forest and traversed by the SRT, was purchased jointly with the Open Space Institute and facilitated by the Orange County Land Trust (OCLT). The land will be held and managed by OCLT. The purchase was finalized November 3, 2014.

The 70-mile Shawangunk Ridge Trail extends from High Point State Park in New Jersey nearly to Rosendale in New York, and links with the Appalachian Trail and Long Path.

The entire Shawangunk Ridge is listed in the New York State's 2010 and Revised Draft 2014 Open Space Plan as a Regional Priority Conservation Project. Other Trail

Conference-owned parcels on the Ridge have been purchased by the state's Dept. of Environmental Conservation and managed as state forest. The expectation is the same will happen with this and other of our holdings on the Ridge when the land acquisition portion of the Environmental Protection Fund is restored to appropriate levels (see Our View). A more detailed story is posted at nynjtc.org/news/news

Casino Proposals at Sterling Forest, Harriman-Woodbury

The Trail Conference continued to work with partners to oppose massive casino resort proposals for the middle of Sterling Forest State Park and adjacent to Harriman State Park. New York State's Gaming Commission was tasked with selecting up to four casino locations. Their decision was expected to be announced on December 17, after this issue went to press. If either of these sites is selected, we will continue to oppose these developments or, at a minimum, mitigate their negative impacts on the surrounding parklands. Find the latest news via nynjtc.org/panel/protectourtrails

New Jersey Votes for Permanent Open Space Funding

On Nov. 4, New Jersey voters said "Yes" to Question 2, a measure that dedicates a percentage of existing corporate business tax revenues on a long-term basis to ensure reliable funding for land and water protection efforts. The Trail Conference supported this measure. Though the referendum is not perfect, it presented the only opportunity to secure permanent funds for land acquisition and parks improvement, as well as for stewardship of parks. We must now ensure that the enabling legislation allocates a significant portion of the funds for parks improvement. Furthermore, we will need to continue working to ensure parks receive adequate annual budgets.

Public Access to Black Rock Forest Protected

In October, The Open Space Institute (OSI) joined with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey, and the Black Rock Forest Preserve (BRFP) in announcing the largest ever conservation easement in the Hudson

Highlands. The easement on 3,777 acres of mountainous, undeveloped land in the western Hudson Highlands, known as Black Rock Forest Preserve, was purchased by OSI from the Preserve and is to be donated to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

Permanent protection of Black Rock Forest Preserve includes protection of 23 miles of trails.

The easement will assure the permanent protection of Black Rock's prominent open space, significant mature forest, and at least 23 miles of trails, most maintained by Trail Conference volunteers for the benefit of hikers and walkers, who have long been welcome to explore the Preserve. Black

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OUR VIEW

New York State's Draft 2014 Revised Open Space Plan

The Draft 2014 Revised Open Space Plan for the State of New York was released in September, and the Trail Conference is very pleased with the recommendations it includes for our region. The next and crucial step is to persuade lawmakers to budget sufficient funds for land acquisition in next year's Environmental Protection Fund to support the plan. Advocacy work for that will begin in earnest in January.

Trail Conference Regional Programs Manager Jeff Senterman was a member of the committees that drafted recommendations for DEC Regions 3 & 4 in the plan, and, he reports, most of our suggestions were adopted. These include:

Shawangunk Ridge

Continued high priority for protecting trail linkages along the Shawangunk Ridge and associated Basha Kill Wildlife Management Area. The Trail Conference has put its own money into protecting key parcels along the Shawangunk Ridge pending state purchase. Despite the fact that the state has identified the Ridge as a priority area for

open space protection for many years, worked with us in the past to add land to ridge top state forests, and is currently funding our efforts to promote a Gunks Greenway on the Shawangunk Ridge, in recent years it has consistently failed to back up its efforts with funds for additional land acquisition. **We ask DEC and the Governor to make this area a land acquisition funding priority in 2015.**

Hudson Highlands

We also endorse recommendations to expand protection of lands in the Hudson Highlands, both east and west of the Hudson River.

Long Distance Trail Corridors & Links

We strongly support this expanded section and the new trails and trail types that have been included in the 2014 draft. We look forward to working with New York on long distance trails where we have management responsibility, including the Appalachian Trail, Long Path, and the Highlands Trail.

While we have nothing but praise for the goals and recommendations in this plan, the realities of NYS budget decisions in recent years that have essentially wiped out funds for land acquisition by the state, require us to ask:



DANIELA WAGSTAFF

- How are these recommendations going to be achieved?
- Are there plans to restore meaningful funding for land acquisition in next year's EPF?
- If not, what new sources of funding are proposed?

We urge our members and friends in New York to contact the Governor's office and their state representatives in the Assembly and State Senate (especially after

their swearing-in in January), and ask them to **restore meaningful land acquisition funds to the environmental protection fund in 2015**. Specifically, we are asking for restoration to the 2008 level of \$66 million.

Plan Now to Attend March 9, 2015 EPF Lobby Day in Albany.

Find our full comments and keep up with this issue; find it via nynjtc.org/panel/protectourtrails

2014 Trail Conference Awards H

Trail Conference Annual Awards are determined by the Board of Directors upon recommendation by the Volunteer Committee. The following award announcements were made October 18, 2014 at the Annual Meeting in Ossining, NY.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Conveys life member status and the right to vote at Delegate's meetings. Usually given after long (greater than 20) years of extraordinary service to the Trail Conference.



Ron Rosen, Poughkeepsie, NY

Ron has been involved with the Appalachian Trail since 1976 and was chair of the Dutchess Putnam AT Management Committee from its inception until 2009. Ron fostered cooperation among maintainers, monitors, and partners, and recruited and retained volunteers. He kept records of hours of service so that "his" volunteers were eligible for the National Park Service's service awards. When corridor monitors needed to be trained, he developed a workshop that became a model for training for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. With three AT committees in New York and New Jersey, there was a need to coordinate activities. Ron was the obvious choice to head the coordinating committee. He also became the NY-NJ Trail Conference delegate to the Mid Atlantic ATC Regional Partnership Committee. ATC conferred Honorary Membership to Ron in 2011.



Pete & Jo-Ann Senterman, Elka Park, NY

In 1989, starting with the Dutchess-Putnam Appalachian Trail Management Committee (DPATMC), Pete Senterman began his long history of volunteering. He shifted his focus to the Catskills, eventually stepping up to be the chair of the Catskill Trails Committee and serving for 17 years. Pete recruited hundreds of volunteers, offered training and appreciation events, and developed a deep working relationship with the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation. His efforts ensured the continued presence of the Trail Conference in the Catskills. Even after retiring as a Trail Chair, Pete continues to represent the Trail Conference. He leads a special projects trail crew, attends public meetings and informational sessions, and serves on the Catskill Park and Forest Preserve Advisory Committee. Pete is truly Mr. Catskill.

While Pete has been busy with projects in the Catskills, his wife, Jo-Ann, has been busy behind the scenes. She has managed the many trainings, workshops, meetings, and picnics that took place in the Catskills over the years that Pete was the Trails Chair. At many events she made sure dozens of people knew where they were going and were properly fed throughout the day. Even today Jo-Ann remains Mrs. Catskill, Caterer in Chief. She continues to volunteer in the background, attending outreach events and helping with the logistics, planning, and catering of many of our most recent activities.

LEIKIN EXTRA MILE AWARD

This award recognizes those volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to projects such as a book, map or advocacy.



Chris Reyling & the Long Distance Trails Crew

The Long Distance Trails Crew spent many weekends during the last two work seasons on the Long Path in the Catskills. They were the backbone of the multiple weeklong service vacations that were spent on the mountains. The entire crew deserves recognition for the work that they did. Following are the core members of the group: Crew Chief Chris Reyling; Crew Leader Erik Garnjost; Crew members David Booth, Marty Costello, Russ Dooman, Bob Fuller, Charlie Morgan.



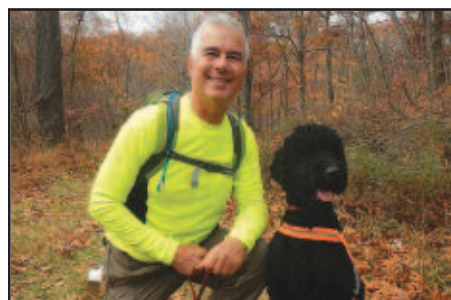
Gely and Jakob Franke, Northvale, NJ

The Long Path is Jakob Franke's "baby" and his wife, Gely, is right there helping behind the scenes. Jakob's septuagenarian ways fill his aura with smiles and good will and he demonstrates by doing. Gely not only did trail work, but for the Phoenician reroute she volunteered to be the camp cook, preparing home-cooked meals that were ready when the crew returned to camp.



John Moran, Glen Rock, NJ

John has served as North Jersey Trails Chair since 2004, during which time which he has expanded our trail network in the Ramapos dramatically and also helped with the North Jersey map set. John has also developed connections with the park managers, nurtured countless people to take on additional responsibilities, and worked with Eagle Scout candidates to complete their projects.



Cliff Berchtold, Monroe, NY

Volunteering in multiple ways, Cliff Berchtold believes in paying back for the decades he has spent enjoying trails. After maintaining a section of the Scenic Trail (Long Path) in Minnewaska State Park Preserve for 18 years, he now maintains the Townsend Trail in Sterling Forest. Cliff helps with Trail U workshops, was the top surveyor for the Invasives Strike Force (ISF)

in 2013, and spends many hours in the Trail Conference office processing ISF data.



Pete Tilgner, Tenafly, NJ

Committed to the trails in our region, Pete Tilgner also volunteers with the Trail Conference office operations. Since 2001, Pete has been coming to the office weekly to mail membership cards and free maps. His reliability in this role is matched by his impeccable manners, sense of humor, and appreciation of the hiking opportunities in the region.

Eugene Reyes, Passaic, NJ

Highly experienced with both print and digital publication, Eugene Reyes helped pave the way for our e-book publications. He informed the Publications Committee about the production process, then guided it through its first e-book publication, including additional guidance to the book designer so that when a book was laid out, it could be more easily converted to the new format.

Steve Weissman, New Brunswick, NJ

Steve puts the "pro" in pro bono. Over the past 10 years, Steve has provided the Trail Conference with countless hours of his professional legal services free of charge. Steve has long been a trusted advisor to the Trail Conference on personnel and legal issues, always available to offer his calm counsel, prompt and objective in his response, and always maintaining confidentiality to the utmost.

KEN LLOYD AWARD

This award recognizes members of Trail Conference member clubs or member clubs who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection. It is usually given after more than seven years of service.



Ralph's Peak Hikers Cabin Volunteers Club

For 15 years, the Ralph's Peak Hikers (RPH) Cabin Volunteers Club, an AT Trail Crew in Dutchess and Putnam Counties, has worked on heavy duty trail projects that are beyond the capacity of the maintainers. In addition to maintaining the RPH Cabin Shelter, their projects have included puncheon, turnpiking, bridges, and steps. In addition, for 15 years they have organized a three-day work weekend with a multi-day BBQ and trail projects suited to all skill levels. This weekend project has attracted local volunteers as well as those coming from a distance.

We give so much thanks
to so many people
doing so much
for the public good.

NEXT GENERATION AWARD

Given to those under age 21 who are making significant contributions of time and energy to trail building or protection. An awardee may be an individual or a group.



Matt Whittle, Oakland, NJ

Matt was a junior in high school when he first volunteered as an Invasives Strike Force intern and fell in love with invasives. For his Eagle project he organized a team to remove invasives and plant native species. He became a certified pesticide applicator and has encouraged adults to volunteer. During the summer of 2014, he served as an AmeriCorps member on the Invasive Strike Force team. In the fall of 2014, Matt matriculated at William Paterson University.



Erika Schneider-Smith, Shrewsbury, NJ

Erika signed up to be a member of our Invasives Strike Force in September 2012, when she was 15 and a sophomore at Bio-Technology High School in Monmouth County, NJ. She was one of the top surveyors that year and returned the following summer, bringing along a friend for most of the miles. Now a senior, she has continued to survey.



Emma Chilton, Suffern, NY

Emma volunteered as a trail builder for more than 100 hours in 2013, first at Sterling Forest and then at Bear Mountain. An environmental engineer major in her junior year at Cornell University in 2014, Emma continues to volunteer at the office and do trail work on her days off from another internship.

WILLIAM HOEFERLIN AWARD

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



Andy Garrison, Wurtsboro, NY

Dedicated describes Andy Garrison for both his land acquisition efforts for the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT) as well as his work building and managing the trail. Andy also has led the effort to reroute the

Honor Our Volunteers & Partners

Long Path in the Catskills to eliminate a road walk. When he leads a work trip, he arrives earlier than the crew members and makes at least one extra trip to bring equipment to the work site. He invited other trail crews to join him and established week-long backcountry work trips disguised as camping trips. The preparation and detail in planning has made these trips a success. Under Andy's leadership the new trail was built and opened to the public in only two years.



Salley Decker, Poughkeepsie, NY
Salley has a multiple decade volunteer history with the Conference that includes being an AT maintainer for over 25 years, active participant in the Dutchess/Putnam AT Management Committee, helping with the 2007 ATC biennial meeting hosted by the Trail Conference, and, in 2014, spearheading the local efforts to establish a trail crew for the historic Stone Church Preserve in Dover, NY.

Chet Morris, Branchville, NJ
Chet has been volunteer trail supervisor in Stokes State Forest and Swartswood State Park since 2003. He is more than just a supervisor; as a certified sawyer, he puts his heart and soul into making sure that downed trees are removed immediately. When a call comes in, he grabs his chainsaw and heads out to the trails to help wherever he is needed.

DON DERR AWARD
Recognizes Trail Conference volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary off-trail service such as publications, advocacy, land conservation, development, membership, and office work. It is usually given after more than seven years of outstanding service.



George Petty, Clinton Corners, NY
George, a poet, writer, editor, and retired college professor, has served on the Trail Conference Publications Committee, for a time as chair, since 2001. In addition to being the author of *Hiking the Jersey Highlands*, George served as project manager and editor of several editions of *Hiking Long Island*. George's words of wisdom, dedication, and exceptional commitment to the Publications Committee exemplify the best characteristics of an off trail volunteer.



George Becker, Franklin Lakes, NJ
George's actions, commitments, and leadership have made significant, positive impacts on the Trail Conference. He was one of the earliest volunteer leaders and

supporters of the Darlington Schoolhouse project and has continued to be a driving force behind our successful fundraising campaign. As a longstanding member of the Darlington Schoolhouse Stakeholder Action Team, he played a significant role in helping the Trail Conference raise public awareness for the Schoolhouse, the campaign, and our organization as a whole.

MAJOR WILLIAM A. WELCH TRAIL PARTNER AWARD
Presented to those outside the Trail Conference (for example, state, federal or local agency partner officials) who have given long and/or significant assistance to the local hiking community. It is usually given after more than seven years of service.



Todd Cochran
Superintendent of the Bergen County Dept. of Parks, Todd has been always at the ready to support Trail Conference volunteers and staff, whether it is a crew, tools, materials, a place to store tools or transportation when and where it is needed within Ramapo Reservation, Camp Glen Gray, and Campgaw. He has assisted with the Darlington Schoolhouse, hosted chainsaw courses, and helped with approvals for projects. Todd has made time for several meetings to prioritize projects and lend support and input for our outreach efforts with Ramapo College.



Staff at Minnewaska State Park Preserve
Park Manager Eric Humphrey (pictured), Assistant Park Manager Jorge Gomez, Educator Laura Connor, and Nick Martin are always helpful with trail projects, transporting materials and tools and in many instances crew members, saving them valuable time to work on projects. They are a pleasure to work with.

CORPORATE PARTNER AWARD
Given to businesses or their employees for outstanding service to the hiking community.



Morgan Outdoors (owner Lisa Lyons)
A small business owner, Lisa Lyons has, since 2011, volunteered her time and her space at Morgan Outdoors in Livingston Manor to promote the Trail Conference and host our workshops and events since 2011. She has recruited volunteers for hikes and trail work and is now the crew chief of the Willowemoc Trail Crew, which is improving the trails in the southwestern Catskills. Lisa's efforts have given the Trail Conference a presence in a region where we traditionally did not adopt trails.

LEO ROTHSCHILD CONSERVATION AWARD
Presented to a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to the protection of our trails and/or the natural lands that surround them.



Friends of the Shawangunks
For more than 50 years, the Friends of the Shawangunks (Friends) has exercised vigilance and vigor in preserving the Shawangunk Ridge. The Friends was founded to "marshal public opposition to a proposed 'Skyline Drive' along the top of the ridge." That battle was won as have many since. Friends was a leader of the coalitions that fought to protect Lake Minnewaska, establish Minnewaska State Park Preserve, and add the Awosting Reserve to the park. Friends has successfully challenged many ridge development proposals, protecting the natural environment for us all.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS
This award is given by the Volunteer Committee to recognize significant service or a special achievement by Trail Conference volunteers.



Howard "Pete" France, Lake Katrine, NY
Pete has been the Northern Catskills Chair since 2009, tirelessly working to ensure that volunteer supervisors and maintainers have the tools and information they need in order to tackle trail maintenance in the Catskill Park. He's always been a good team player, excellent with paperwork and follow-up, and has managed to keep trail maintainer vacancies to a minimum throughout his region.



Rich Weiler, Irvington, NY
Trail maintainer on the Timp-Torne Trail and Appalachian Trail in Harriman State Park for more than 20 years, Rich has also helped to clear countless blow-downs after snowstorms and tropical storms and hurricanes of recent years.



Marci Layton, Brooklyn, NY
Pitching in to help is a way of life for Marci Layton. In 2009, she began volunteering by assisting with trail maintenance; her

contributions to trails soon became greater and broader. She became a trail maintainer, a swamper assisting sawyers, and a trail crew member. Marci also assists in field checking maps and guidebooks in Harriman State Park.



Mark Nurdyke, North Butler, NJ
Since 2012, Mark Nurdyke has been an active invasive plant surveyor and member of the removal crew of the Invasives Strike Force. He has been the crew member with the most number of hours. In 2014, he has surveyed more than 130 miles of trails. It is said that Mark generates data on invasives almost faster than it can be recorded by ISF office volunteers.

Bob Paine, Pleasantville, NY
Trail maintainer on the 1777E Trail in Harriman State Park for more than 20 years, Bob has also helped to clear blow-down after blow-down, especially after the late fall snowstorms and tropical storms and hurricanes of recent years.

Peter Schwartz, Brooklyn, NY
On his own initiative, Peter developed and gave to the Trail Conference "Hike Finder". This addition to our website is a searchable map that pinpoints the locations of the hikes listed on our website; results can be filtered by location, difficulty, and other criteria.



Trail Conference Volunteer Stats

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

2,684 volunteer positions (not including crews)

1,287 volunteers

76,839 volunteer hours

223 work crew trips

354 crew members

278 new volunteers

1,023 participants in Trail U

760 unique people participated in Trail U
151 classes

People for Trails. Trails for People.

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



SONA MASON

Hiking to Know the Places We Save

Exactly how wilderness areas are preserved is likely a bit of a mystery to the average person. The ongoing efforts to conserve and set aside wild lands for perpetuity is mainly the behind-the-scenes work of volunteers and partner organizations such as the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, land trusts and land conservation organizations, and government organizations such as the state and federal parks departments.

But projects like the ongoing preservation of the Shawangunk Ridge deserve greater recognition. The ridge has been an active area for the Trail Conference's Conservation Committee, as two of our longest trails, the Long Path and the Shawangunk Ridge Trail, depend on safe access through the wilderness along this corridor. This requires securing trail access on private, undeveloped land, as well as acquiring land parcels along the ridge. The Land Trust Alliance recently granted funding to purchase more land parcels in this area, with the stipulation that local communities and municipalities be made aware of the recreational opportunities available to them as a result of this conservation work. In cooperation with Trail Conference partners, several hikes were set up at key places along the ridge to showcase the area and its ecological and public value.

The season started off with a much-needed trail-clipping hike at Graham Fire Tower along the ridge, where the Ravine Trail offers an additional cool and verdant rock scramble alongside a stream. Later in the season, a group picked blueberries and cooled off under the Rainbow Kill Falls at Minnewaska State Park Preserve and enjoyed the long view across the entire stretch of the ridge, all the way back to New Jersey. Other hikes explored the newest addition to the ridge, Ridgeview Preserve, and climbed up the Shawangunk Ridge Trail at Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest to views of the Catskills and the Basha Kill—the largest wetland in southeastern New York.

A hearty thanks to volunteer Trails Chair Jakob Franke, Laura Conner of Minnewaska State Park, Andy Mills of the Orange County Land Trust, and Mike Medley of the Basha Kill Area Association for co-leading these hikes and enriching all with their specialized knowledge of the lands along the Shawangunk Ridge! And stay tuned on our website for future events.

—Sona Mason, West Hudson Program Coordinator

We Take On the Wilderness of NJ

The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, only 26 miles west of Times Square in New York City, is 12 square miles of largely undisturbed nature straddling the border between Morris and Somerset counties. Its 10 miles of hiking trails vary from primitive cleared walking paths to elaborate boardwalks that span wildlife management and wilderness areas.



As one of more than 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System (and the very first to receive Wilderness designation), the Great Swamp just helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act. The Trail Conference is proud to be invited to help with stewardship of the hiking trails in this Wilderness area on the heels of this historic occasion.

Federally designated Wilderness areas are chosen from existing federal lands of at least 5,000 acres which have minimal human imprint, opportunities for unconfined recreation, and educational, scientific, or historical value. Motorized and mechanized devices aren't allowed unless deemed absolutely necessary. The result is an area minimally impacted by people, and perfect for hiking and exploring.

Like many Wilderness areas, the Great Swamp had its brush with annihilation—the refuge was established in 1960 after a year-long legal battle in which local residents fought to keep the land from being turned into a major regional airport. Today on these 7,768 acres, instead of jet airplanes, more than 244 species of birds fill the sky. In addition, 39 mammal species and 42 species of reptiles and amphibians variously crawl, run, and slither across the refuge. Beautiful vernal pools and ponds dot the woods to be appreciated by animals and hikers alike.

We look forward to helping the Great Swamp maintain their trails by bringing in workshops, training, and volunteers over the coming years. Hope to see you out there!

—Peter Dolan, New Jersey Program Coordinator



ANDREA MINOFF

Long Distance Trail Crew Celebrates West Mountain Appalachian Trail Relocation

Saturday, Oct. 18, was a big day for the Long Distance Trails Crew (LDTC). The morning began at the Trail Conference Annual Meeting held in Ossining, NY, where the entire crew received the Paul Leiken Extra Mile Award for its members' efforts during the last two work seasons on the Long Path relocation in the Catskills.

Following the awards portion of the meeting, the crew headed out to Harriman State Park to put the final touches on the new Appalachian Trail (AT) relocation. This included closing off the old section of the trail, scraping out and painting over the old blazes, and painting the final new blazes at each end of the relocation. The crew also raked the new trail to make it clearly stand out in the leaf covered terrain for the subsequent trail work hike and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

In the afternoon, the crew led a hike to the north (uphill) end of the relocation, first passing by and highlighting previous work by the West Hudson South and Long Distance Trails Crews. The group traveled up the old, eroded trail so everyone could see why the path was being replaced, and arrived at the ribbon-cutting site.

LDTC member Bob Fuller introduced the crew and our distinguished guests: Ed Goodell, Trail Conference Executive Director; Chris Connolly, Trail Conference Board Chair; Ed McGowan, Palisades Interstate Park Commission Science Director; Sona Mason, West Hudson Program Coordinator; and John Mack, Harriman/Bear Mountain Trails Chair. We talked briefly about the relocation work, which took 10 months to complete with over 35 individuals putting in around 1,800 hours of volunteer time. The new relocation is .4 miles long and is exactly .123 miles longer than the section of trail that it replaces. This is no doubt due to the extensive planning by Crew Chief Chris Reyling, who holds the Long Path End to End certificate number 123, which is a very special number to him.

With the entire LDTC crew behind them, Chris Reyling and Crew Leader Erik Garnjost cut the ribbon using a giant pair of scissors created just for this occasion. The hike down the relocation began with crew members pointing out many of the sustainable features of the new trail, as well as major rock work including steps, massive crib walls, and giant stepping stones.

Then crew and guests enjoyed a celebratory BBQ.

—Bob Fuller, LDTC member



GEORGETTE WEIR

A Better Breakneck By-pass Coming?

On October 28, Trail Conference staff and volunteers met up with trail planners from the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) at the foot of the Wilkinson Trail in the Breakneck Ridge area of Hudson Highlands State Park. Their purpose was to field check possibilities for rerouting a severely eroded section of the popular Breakneck Bypass Trail (red blaze). The group included, left to right: Fred Barnes, volunteer Trail Supervisor for the area; Erik Mickelson, Trail Builder; Evan Thompson, Fahnestock & HH State Parks, OPRHP Biologist; and Mary Dodds, volunteer Trail Crew leader and all-around trail worker.



Ground Broken on Long Path

A crowd of about 100 attend the September 27th ribbon-cutting ceremony in Mount Tremper, in the central Catskills. The project, which has been in the works for decades, starting from his time as the New York State Parks Commissioner, building began this past fall with a grand opening ceremony.

The CIC will provide information to visitors about the area, including the watershed, and ways to recreate and enjoy the area. The project is funded by a \$500,000 grant from New York Works III, \$420,000 from the State Development grant.

The Friends of the Catskill Interpretive Center will be responsible for operating the center once constructed. The New York State Parks will cover the first five years toward operating expenses. The project is a joint effort of the NJ Trail Conference, Catskill Mountain Club, and the New York State Parks.



Hudson Nor'Westers and Hudson North Clippers

The newly formed West Hudson North Clippers and Hudson Nor'Westers crews, both operating under the leadership of crew chief Sandy Cascio, hit the ground in late August.

In July, the Nor'Westers began refurbishing the trail in West Hudson, bridging over slick and sloping trail tread on the trail. Next, they tackled trail and stream blockages in West Hudson Park, where a blowdown across a stream on the King—along with a little residual damage from a storm—had caused the stream to overflow its banks, creating a substantial ice dam across the trail at the foot of the mountain.

Future plans include rehabilitating a short section of the trail, and drainage mitigation in West Hudson, which include Minnewaska, Schunmunk, and Rock Forest. Technical trail skills taught on the trail include stone steps installation, and bog-bypassing.

The Clippers, meanwhile, have made their mark in their region. They offer a hand to other trail sections that has fast vegetation regrowth, which has been unable to get to their trail in a way that is safe for the trail sections.

The Clippers go out every second Saturday and clear a challenging trail section. They invite other trail maintainers and supervisors, to join them.



GEORGETTE WEIR

Long-awaited Catskill Interpretive Center

Construction is well under way for the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center (CIC) along Route 28. The CIC is named in honor of retired Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey, who championed the center as the region's representative in the New York State Assembly. Construction on the 1,700-square foot center is anticipated for early 2015.

The center will protect and interpret the 700,000-acre Catskill Park, New York City's one million-acre Catskill/Delaware drinking water watershed, and these natural resources. The \$1.3 million DEC-managed project will be funded with approximately \$500,000 from the State's Environmental Protection Fund, and \$380,000 federal Housing and Urban Development funds.

The center, working under the umbrella of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, will be managed by the New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) has agreed to contribute \$20,000 per year for the operation of the CIC. The center will be staffed through a partnership including the Catskill Center, the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Ulster County Tourism, and Catskill Mountainkeeper.



SONIA MASON

West Point crews

Trail crews and revived Hudson Highlands Trail at Storm King State Park are leading the way in trail building and running this year.

The crews are working on stepping stone crossings, stream crossings, and building bog mats. They are also working on the verdant Mossy Glen and the Storm King State Park. The Hudson Highlands Trail at Storm King State Park was damaged by Tropical Storm Irene—creating a trail through the winter, creating a new trail through the mountain.

The crews are working on stream crossings, trail building, and clearing. They are also working on the Hudson North Parks, Storm King, and Black Mountain. The job includes drainage, stream crossings, and clearing with rock footings. The crews are available to all volunteers and maintainers with a permit. They will help out a maintainer with a permit, and clear unassigned trails.

They have a blast!



GEORGETTE WEIR

Better Trails to History In Hudson Highlands State Park

In October, nine acres, a new parking lot, and short trail extension built by the Trail Conference's Taconics Crew were added to Hudson Highlands State Park historic North/South Redoubt section along Snake Hill Road in Garrison. Land preservationists and state park and Dept. of Environmental Conservation officials celebrated the occasion with a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony before sitting down to a meeting about other conservation priorities.

The land was donated to the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) by Winter Hill LLC, which also built the new parking area. OPRHP Deputy Commissioner Carol Clark and Winter Hill's Chris Buck signed the transfer papers and cut the ribbon (above) at the event.

With a short and quick climb on a red-blazed trail to the North Redoubt, hikers can get a nice view north over the Hudson River—especially with the leaves off the trees. A longer, but still relatively short, hike to the higher South Redoubt winds through bits of Garrison School Forest.

These trails to the South Redoubt are in the process of being reworked and reblazed by the Garrison School, which maintains all the trails in this area of the park. Already, there are differences in blaze colors between the latest 2014 edition of East Hudson map #101 and what you will find on site. The South Redoubt features a kiosk with information about the Revolution-era history of the redoubts, fortifications built in 1779 with the intent of delaying or stopping British advances on West Point. At both North and South Redoubt, evidence of the now buried fortifications is obvious.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NEW PROGRAMS

Breakneck Trail Stewards

The Trail Conference stewards at Breakneck Ridge were on duty weekends and holidays from Memorial Day Weekend through Columbus Day (45 days total). East Hudson Program Coordinator Hank Osborn reports the stewards counted exactly 26,743 hikers ascending the Breakneck Ridge Trail during that time. (They did not count hikers descending or hikers at the other two nearby trailheads.) The most hikers counted in one day was 1,426, on Oct. 12, the stewards' last day of the season. The fewest: 60 on a "terribly" windy and rainy day.

The stewards evaluated hikers' preparedness and recommended various hiking opportunities and routes. In the course of the season, they sold over 2,000 maps, rescued 99 lost hikers, persuaded almost 400 unprepared people to turn away from the trailhead, referred almost 1,000 hikers to Cold Spring, and nearly 500 hikers to Beacon for food, drink, and other entertainment. They also treated 25 people and one dog for various injuries.

An anonymous donor has made a generous, multi-year Challenge Grant to support the Trail Conference's work on the trails east of the Hudson River, including at Breakneck Ridge.

You can help us meet this challenge—and increase the impact of your own gift by 50 percent—by making a donation to our East Hudson-Breakneck Ridge fund. Here's how it works: If we succeed in raising \$20,000 in the next 12 months, the anonymous donor will match it with an additional \$10,000 gift!

To make your gift qualify for the match, please make your donation to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and designate it to the "East Hudson-Breakneck Challenge."

Thanks to Mountain Tops, our retail partner store in Beacon, for donating all of the uniforms and footwear for the five stewards. Beacon Bagel donated water to fill bottles. The Cold Spring Fire Department donated a first aid kit and resupplies throughout the season, and commended the stewards' efforts in reducing the number of rescues that needed to be performed by fire fighters.



Breakneck Ridge Trail Stewards (blue shirts) welcome AmeriCorps members of our Taconics Crew at the trailhead.

AmeriCorps

In 2014, 17 AmeriCorps members engaged by the Trail Conference to learn and do trail building east and west of the Hudson River in New York or serve with our Invasives Strike Force, leveraged 408 volunteers who contributed 7,758 hours to our trails from May to October. The AmeriCorps members contributed approximately 13,000 hours of effort towards our mission during that time, and formed the nucleus of three trail-building crews—the Palisades and Taconics Crews, who worked on state park trail projects in Sterling Forest, Fahnestock, and Hudson Highlands State Parks, and the Bear Mountain Trails Project crew, working on the Appalachian Trail relocation. Four members also contributed to the monitoring and removal work of our Invasives Strike Force.

Our new programs aim to extend our reach to hikers and potential volunteers and to expand the opportunities and skill development available for them.

Catskill Conservation Corps

Regional Program Coordinator Jeff Senterman was quick to get the word out: The Catskill Conservation Corps (CCC), a new partnership between the Trail Conference and the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that seeks to increase and support nature-oriented volunteers and volunteer opportunities in the Catskills, is in business. A new website and presence on Facebook and Twitter were quickly established to help spread the word, and press releases have been promoting CCC activities since its first workshop, on volunteer leadership training, in June. Work trips tackled trail building at the future site of the Catskill Interpretive Center and litter cleanup at Kaaterskill Falls and along Route 23A in Kaaterskill Clove. An appreciation picnic was held for all Catskill volunteers in October; at the event, we were able to thank many people for their service to trails, lean-tos, and the natural and recreational resources of the Catskill Mountains. Visit the CCC website to learn more and get involved. We will be in touch shortly afterwards with the info you request and will add you to the electronic mailing list for CCC updates. catskillconservationcorps.org



Hikers' Directory

These clubs and organizations support the Trail Conference. Visit their websites to learn about their activities, or find them at www.nynjtc.org/content/member-clubs.

ADK Long Island www.adkli.org	Fox Hill School www.bruderhof.com/en/international-directory/united-states/fox-hill	New Haven Hiking Club www.NHHC.info	SUNY Oneonta Outing Club www.oneonta.edu/outdoors
ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter www.midhudsonadk.org	Friends of Garret Mountain http://friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com	New Jersey Search & Rescue Inc. www.njsar.org	Teatown Lake Reservation www.teatown.org
ADK Mohican Chapter www.adkmohican.org	Friends of Pelham Bay Park www.pelhambaypark.org/	New York Alpine Club www.nyalpine.com	Tenafly Nature Center Association www.tenaflynaturecenter.org
ADK New York Chapter www.adkny.org	Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway in Teaneck www.teaneckgreenway.org	New York City Audubon Society, Inc. www.nycaudobon.org	The Catskill Center for Conservation & Dev. www.catskillcenter.org
ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter www.hudsonhikers.org	Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc. http://aqueduct.org	New York Hiking Club http://nyh.nynjtc.org	The Highlands Natural Pool www.highlandsnaturalpool.org
Adventures for Women www.AdventuresforWomen.org	Friends of The Shawangunks http://shawangunks.org	New York Ramblers www.nyramblers.org	The Nature Place Day Camp http://thenatureplace.com
Alley Pond Environmental Center www.alleypond.com	Friends of Van Cortlandt Park http://vancortlandt.org	Outdoor Promise www.outdoorpromise.org	The Outdoor Club, Inc. www.outdoorsclub.info
AMC Delaware Valley Chapter www.amcdv.org	German-American Hiking Club http://gah.nynjtc.org	Palisades Nature Association www.njpalisades.org/greenbrook.htm	Thendara Mountain Club www.thendaramountainclub.org
AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter www.amcmohawkhudson.org	Greenburgh Nature Center www.greenburghnaturecenter.org	Protect Our Wetlands, Water & Woods (POW) http://box292.bluehost.com/~powwworg	Torne Valley Preservation Association
AMC New York North Jersey Chapter www.amc-ny.org	Hike for Mental Health www.hikeformentalhealth.org	Protectors of Pine Oak Woods www.siprotectors.org	Town of Lewisboro www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec
Bellvale School www.bruderhof.com/en/international-directory/united-states/bellvale	Hilltop Conservancy, Inc. www.hilltopconservancy.org	Rip Van Winkle Hikers http://newyorkheritage.com/rvw	Trail WhippAss www.trailwhippass.com/trail-whippass-home
Black Rock Forest Consortium Inc. www.blackrockforest.org	Hudson Highlands Gateway Task Force www.TownofCortlandt.com	Rock Lodge Club www.rocklodge.com	Tri State Ramblers http://tsr.nynjtc.org
Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council	Hunterdon Hiking Club www.hunterdonhikingclub.org	RPHC Volunteers timtrek.mikentim.com	Union County Department of Parks & Community Renewal http://ucnj.org/community/parks-community-renewal/parks-facilities
Boy Scout Troop 50 Mahwah MAHWAHtroop50.scoutlander.com	Interstate Hiking Club www.interstatehikingclub.org	SAJ - Society for the Advancement of Judaism http://www.thesaj.org	University Outing Club www.universityoutingclub.org
Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn	Jolly Rovers http://jollyrovers.org	Salt Shakers Trail Running Club www.saltshakersrun.com	Urban Trail Conference, Inc. www.urbantrail.org
Boy Scouts of America, Troop 21	Little Stony Point Citizens Association www.littlestonypoint.org	Shorewalkers Inc. www.shorewalkers.org	Valley Stream Hiking Club www.meetup.com/vshclub
Boy Scouts of America-Northern NJ Council www.njbsa.org	Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference www.ligreenbelt.org	Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Outings Committee www.newyork.sierraclub.org/outings	Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee
Byram Township Environmental Commission www.byramtwp.org	Long Path North Hiking Club www.schoharie-conservation.org	Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group http://www.newyork.sierraclub.org/lhg	Warren County Morris Canal Committee www.morriscanal.org
Catskill 3500 Club www.catskill-3500-club.org	Mohonk Preserve www.mohonkpreserve.org	Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group www.newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson	West Milford 13ers http://www.weishike.com
Catskill Mountain Club www.catskillmountainclub.org	Monmouth County Park System www.monmouthcountyparks.com	South Mountain Conservancy Inc. www.somocon.org	Westchester Trails Association www.nynjtc.org/clubpages/wta.html
Chinese Mountain Club of New York www.cmcny.org	Morris County Park Commission www.morrisparks.net	Southampton Trails Preservation Society http://southamptontrails.org	Women About www.womenabout.org
Church Communities Foundation www.bruderhof.com	Mosaic Outdoor Mountain Club www.mosaic-gny.org/joomla	St. Benedicts Prep Backpacking Project http://www.sbp.org	WWW www.weishike.com
Closter Nature Center Association www.closternaturecenter.org	Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy http://mmc.nynjtc.org	Storm King Adventure Tours www.stormkingadventures.com	To add your organization to the list, contact Jennis Watson, watson@nynjtc.org.
East Coast Greenway Alliance www.greenwaynj.org	Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club www.nassauhiking.org	Sullivan County Audubon Society www.sullivanaudubon.org	
East Hampton Trails Preservation Society www.ehtps.org	Nelsonville Greenway Committee VillageofNelsonville.org	Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society www.sundanceoutdoor.org	
Flat Rock Brook Nature Association www.flatrockbrook.org			

To add your organization to the list, contact Jennis Watson, watson@nynjtc.org.

Welcome to Our New Member Clubs

Three organizations joined the Trail Conference ranks this fall.

Greenburgh Nature Center <http://greenburghnaturecenter.org>

The Greenburgh Nature Center (GNC) in Scarsdale, NY, is a 33-acre nature preserve with trails, a pond and gardens. More than 70,000 visitors come to the GNC each year. The property is a significant wildlife habitat refuge, both for indigenous species and for the hundreds of species of migratory birds that use it as a resting place on their spring and fall travels. The property includes 30 acres of woodland, two significant wetland sites, and a wildflower meadow, which is used as a nesting area for Eastern box turtles.

Outdoor Promise www.outdoorpromise.org

Using the world as their classroom, Outdoor Promise helps disadvantaged NYC youth discover the wonder and joy of learning by doing. Through hands-on, project-based outdoor education programs, Outdoor Promise aims to prepare the natural leaders of tomorrow.

Trail WhippAss www.trailwhippass.com

Approximately 90 members comprise Trail WhippAss, a trail-running club based in the New York and New Jersey area. Members are encouraged to give back by volunteering on the trails; recently, they've worked with our Palisades, Bear Mountain, and South Mountain Reservation crews. The club is in the process of adopting a trail to maintain.



New York Restricts Sale & Transport of Some Invasive Species

New York State Enacts Much-Needed Support for Invasive Species Control Efforts

By Linda Rohleder

Many of us know the problems invasive plants cause in our forests and along hiking trails—shrubs like barberry crowding in on the path, vines like oriental bittersweet helping to pull down trees, invasive plants smothering an area that used to have wonderful spring wildflowers.

The Trail Conference's Invasives Strike Force has been working to combat invasive plants along our trails since 2011. We, along with many other park managers and natural resource professionals across the country, work tirelessly to protect our native biodiversity in parks and natural areas, but we often feel unsupported by many facets of society. We go to nurseries and see the very plants we have been



ARTHUR E. MILLER, USDA APHIS PPO, BUGWOOD.ORG

Barberry branch

see in our forests will no longer be able to be sold in New York.

Many of the most common invasive species found along our hiking trails will be prohibited—including barberry (prohibited starting Sept. 10, 2015), oriental bittersweet, Japanese stiltgrass, Japanese honeysuckle, garlic mustard, and knotweed. Yellow iris, water chestnut, and mosquito fish—commonly sold for water gardens and ponds—will also be prohibited, as will border privet, one of the shrubs frequently used for hedges. Two species of bamboo were also placed on the list due to the problems they cause when they spread between neighboring yards.

You will still be allowed to transport prohibited species for the purpose of identification or disposal. For example, if you catch a strange fish in the stream, you are allowed to transport it to an expert to have it identified without fear of having violated the regulations. If you are involved in an invasive plant removal effort, you are allowed to transport and dispose of the removed plants in the trash. In addition, a permit process will be in place to allow use of prohibited species for educational and research purposes.

Some species were deemed too important economically to prohibit outright. These species have been placed on the regulated list. A regulated species may still be sold, but must be accompanied by labeling

identifying it as invasive and providing information on how to prevent the species from becoming introduced into a free-living state in our natural areas. These regulated species include some well-known landscaping plants, such as Norway maple, burning bush, and Chinese silver grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*), and popular aquatic pets such as red-eared slider (a turtle) and goldfish.

To see the complete regulations along with a full list of prohibited and regulated species, go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/93848.html>

Now that New York has passed these regulations, we hope that it will inspire similar efforts in New Jersey. Now that there is legislation backing our efforts, we hope to see a big difference in the invasive species control work in New York.

Linda Rohleder is Trail Conference Director of Land Stewardship and Coordinator of the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM). The Trail Conference is contracted by the state of New York to lead the Lower Hudson PRISM, which brings together individuals, organizations and agencies working on invasive species to coordinate efforts and strategies in the Lower Hudson Valley. See <http://LHprism.org> for more information.



removing being sold to unsuspecting homeowners. We go to pet stores and see the invasive aquatic organisms that are decimating our native aquatic habitats being sold for aquariums. We see lists of recommended street trees promoted by the regional shade tree organization that include species that are popping up as invasive in our forests. We watch garden programs that enthuse over ornamental plants that we know have become invasive in nearby states.

This past September, New York State gave invasives fighters some much-needed legal support for our efforts. The NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued regulations defining a list of 98 prohibited invasive species (NYCRR Part 575) that, starting March 10, 2015, will be illegal to sell, introduce, purchase, import, or transport. This means that, as of this spring, many of the invasive plants we

Bamboo

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Chinese silver grass

Thru-hiking the Shawangunk Ridge Trail—in less than two days

By Amber Ray

It takes preparation and perseverance to hike the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT), a rugged 71-mile trek that starts on the Appalachian Trail in High Point State Park in New Jersey and runs northward along the dramatic Shawangunk Ridge to Mohonk Preserve in New York. But it takes a special kind of dedication to tackle the entirety of the SRT in 31 hours or less, nonstop.

Ultra-runner Kenneth Posner became the first known person to thru-run the SRT in May 2014. (His time: 29 hours.) Inspired by this wild track that weaves past wetlands and waterfalls, climbs over cliffs and rock piles, and traverses abandoned rail beds, Posner created the Shawangunk Ridge Trail

Run/Hike, an event meant to honor and promote this extraordinary path.

The trail itself, initiated by the Trail Conference in 1989, is a work in progress. The Trail Conference and its Shawangunk Ridge Greenway Preservation partners continue to acquire land in the Gunks for permanent protection while maintaining the ridge-length corridor and its connections to other trails along the way. The trail took center stage Sept. 19-21 during the inaugural SRT Run/Hike, which saw 76 participants competing in three divisions: 74-mile, 32-mile, and 20-mile races. Five hearty souls attempted the 74-mile journey from New Jersey's High Point to Rosendale, NY, where the event ended at a restored railroad trestle high above Rondout Creek. Only one completed the entire trek.

George Grzyb was the sole 74-miler to receive the SRT Tomahawk from race director Posner, an award symbolizing "the personal strength and connectedness with the land necessary to complete a challenge of this magnitude." A 31-year-old electrical and computer engineer who does IT security consulting during the day and "crazy outdoors stuff" in his downtime, Grzyb is

no stranger to tough situations in the wilderness—he's a member of the New Jersey Search and Rescue team, which is a Trail Conference affiliate and through which he maintains a section of trail by the Bearfort Fire Tower in the Pequannock Watershed Area.

Still, Grzyb was "definitely not expecting [the SRT] to be as rugged as it was." An



George Grzyb, seen here in the Catskills, completed the 74-mile SRT in under 31 hours.

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS



Regina Willis
Coxsackie, NY

For six peak weekends this past fall, Regina Willis enjoyed what she called "the best 'office' view" of anyone in the DEC (Dept. of Environmental Conservation).

Hired as a temporary Backcountry Steward and assigned to the Kaaterskill Falls area in the Catskills, Regina was on duty Thursdays through Mondays, early September through Columbus Day, sharing information about the history of this iconic landmark and its natural environment, and giving novice trail users tips for hiking safely at the falls and elsewhere. (Tip No. 1: Hiking in flip-flops can be hazardous to your wellbeing.)

Regina is a master's student at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science & Forestry (Syracuse). The temporary job as a trail steward was a great excuse to break away from her computer-focused scholarly task of completing her thesis (statistical analysis of stream data), and get outdoors. Visitors were very receptive to her help, she reports, as were local people, who were happy to see the official presence on site.

Posting a trail steward at Kaaterskill Falls was advocated by the Trail Conference as a step toward improved public safety and protection of the Falls environment. We expect to work with the department through our joint Catskill Conservation Corps (CCC) program to support volunteers and potentially seasonal part-time staff in a Catskills steward program next year.

For Regina, whose last day on the job was Columbus Day, it was back to her thesis.

Learn more about the CCC at CatskillConservationCorps.org.

adventurer who has already ticked most peak-bagging lists and many long-trail hikes in the Northeast off his list, Grzyb says the demanding SRT Run/Hike rates close to the top of the difficult trails and events he's taken on.

"The one thing I really, really like about this race is that it wasn't overbuilt," says Grzyb, who identifies himself as an "insane long-distance hiker" rather than a trail runner. "It wasn't like, 10 sponsors and aid stations left and right—it was actually a low-key, down-to-earth trail run," he explains. "You better know what the hell you're doing, you better know how to hydrate yourself, how to take care of yourself, or you're gonna drop out of the race."

So how does someone not only prepare to thru-hike the SRT, but do the whole thing in 30 hours, 23 minutes, like Grzyb? "It's a lot of preparation," he says. "As long as you're well-planned, for me, it's just a matter of getting it done."

The SRT Run/Hike was sponsored by Bee's Fund, Rock and Snow, and Aroma Thyme Bistro.



CONSERVATION & ADVOCACY

continued from page 3

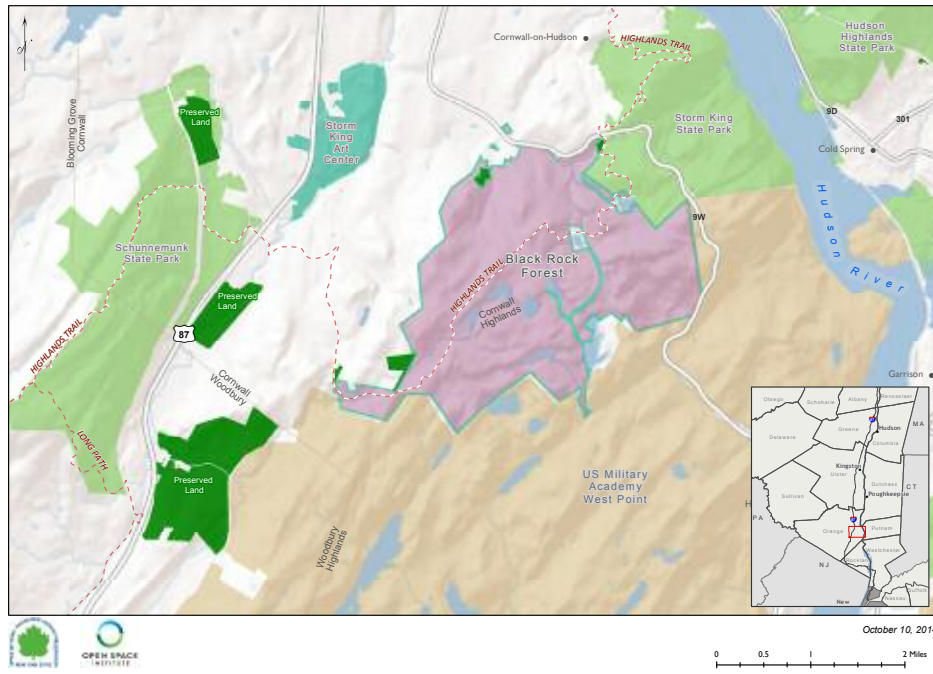
Rock Forest is adjacent to Storm King State Park and the United States Military Academy at West Point (see West Hudson Trails map 113).

Dr. William Schuster, executive director of the Black Rock Forest Consortium, which leases and manages the Preserve for research, education, and recreation purposes, explained that while most of the land had been somewhat protected by deed restrictions, permanent protection was not guaranteed and several areas had no protection at all. Perhaps most significantly, the unprotected land included the extensive parcels that border Route 9W, where there is a trail head for the popular Black Rock Hollow Trail. The conserva-

tion easement provides the long-sought permanent protection.

He noted that the agreement specifically requires that a minimum of 23 miles of trails—the current number—be provided for public use in the future, though the configuration of trails may be subject to change.

In addition to securing long-term protection of the Preserve, Schuster reports that OSI will create a conservation fund, to be co-managed by BRFP, with the goal of protecting additional adjacent parcels that will extend the corridor of protected land toward Schunemunk Mountain State Park. A “public access” fund will also be established to support the Preserve’s maintenance of parking areas and trails.



HIGHLANDS TRAIL

continued from page 1

myself at the TLC offices. The three of us were able to work through a number of maps of potential properties for acquisition. A number of those acquisitions are in process. Best line when we again began to focus on Cowboy Creek: “I reckon we can rustle up some fixings next week to discuss Cowboy Creek, partner!”



Adam Rosenberg (left), HT supervisor, and Glenn Oleksak, HT chair.

As soon as Sandy closed the deal on Cowboy Creek, we made the all-woods connection, thereby eliminating the remaining 1.4-mile Route 605 road walk. Blacking out blazes on utility poles and putting the blazes back in the woods where they belong is so much more satisfying!

Glenn Oleksak has been a trail volunteer since at least 2003. His passion is the Highlands Trail, which highlights the natural beauty of the New Jersey and New York Highlands region from the Delaware River to the Connecticut border and draws public attention to this endangered resource.

Cooperating for Lands and Trails in New Jersey

Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell notes the Cowboy Creek deal is the latest success story in a two-year tale of cooperation between the two organizations. “In our partnership,” Goodell explains, “TLC is primarily responsible for acquiring land interests, while the Trail Conference is primarily responsible for defining trails in the best possible locations. There have been a number of successes, and an even larger number of projects in the works.

“The deal to acquire property around Cowboy Creek in Sussex County—an important tract of land for the Highlands Trail—demonstrates the important roles played by dedicated members of both organizations working together. We look forward to continuing this work for many years in the future.”

Sandy Urgo, Land Preservation Director of TLC, notes that the project was in the works for many years. “The Cowboy Creek land deal includes 305 acres of New Jersey Highlands forest, with the namesake creek traversing the middle of the property. There are vernal pools, extensive granite outcrops, and glacial erratics.

“The Land Conservancy of New Jersey began negotiating with the owners of this very large, forested tract in Hopatcong Borough in 2009 and was finally able to assist the landowner with an offering to the New Jersey Green Acres program in 2010. It took some time, but Green Acres was eventually able to contract to acquire the property and closed on the acquisition in February 2014.”

TLC President David Epstein said, “This is stunning conservation land, and we are thrilled to have preserved it after all of this time, and are very grateful to our partners at Green Acres.”

The property sits at the southern end of a major project area for TLC and is a critically important link for the Highlands Trail (HT). “The TLC was delighted to work with Trail Conference volunteers Glenn Oleksak, Trail Chair of the Highlands Trail, and Adam



A hiking path at Cowboy Creek.

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Rosenberg, Supervisor of the Highlands Trail, in moving the HT onto the parcel.” Urgo adds. “The relocation eliminated a long road walk along County 605 and allows hikers to enjoy this beautiful forest.

“Finally, the property is important because it achieved TLC’s long held goal of preserving 20,000 acres!”

For the Trail Conference’s Highlands Trail volunteers Glenn Oleksak, Trail Chair, and Adam Rosenberg, Trail Supervisor, the newly preserved land around Cowboy Creek gave them the woods route they needed to eliminate a 1.4-mile road walk in Byram.

Glenn reports that the deal helped turn around what had begun to be a discouraging saga of disappointments for the Highlands Trail.

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GEAR CHECK

An occasional series that reviews gear appropriate for hiking.



ThermaCELL ProFLEX Heated Insoles

Reviewed by Jeff Senterman, Regional Programs Manager and Catskills Program Coordinator

Have you ever hiked in the winter and wished your feet could just be a bit warmer? I know I have, and that was the reason I was excited to try out the ProFLEX heated insoles from ThermaCELL.

“Heated insoles?” I hear you asking. The thought conjures images of wires, batteries, and all sorts of uncomfortable things in your boots. However, ThermaCELL has done a decent job of tackling these issues. The insoles are run by rechargeable batteries that fit into the insole itself, and the temperature of the insoles is regulated wirelessly by a small remote control that you carry. The remote is small, light, and easy to carry. The lithium ion batteries are located below your heels and are padded, so

when they are inserted into the insoles, you notice very little difference between the battery area and the rest of the insole.

There are three heat settings for the insoles—standby, medium, and high—and there is an internal thermostat that regulates the insoles to keep them from overheating your feet. The goal of the insoles is to keep your feet at your regular body temperature; the colder it is, the harder they work. On the medium setting the batteries last for about 5 hours, but I have found that I rarely use them continuously, so they last longer.

What about comfort? This is probably the only place I am a bit disappointed with these devices. I do not find them to be as comfortable as a good pair of regular insoles in my hiking boots, but I have been on a couple of hikes with them now without any serious problems. They just feel a bit more stiff (most likely due to the heating elements inside) than a regular insole and take some getting used to. They definitely keep your foot a bit higher up in the boot, so you will have to adjust your lacing a bit.

Overall though, they do keep your feet warm as advertised. And for someone who is often chilly during winter activities, I will be looking forward to having these with me this winter.

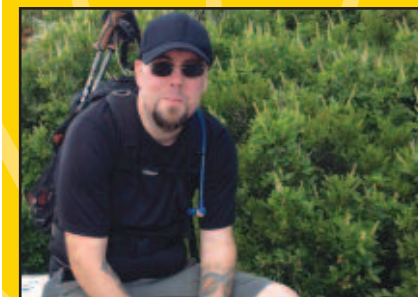
ThermaCELL ProFLEX Heated Insoles are available in sizes small to XXL and can be trimmed to properly fit your boot. They are available through most outdoor retailers and sell for about \$170.



Rating: 3 boots out of 5

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

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS



Patrick Dalton
Staten Island, NY

In May 2014, Patrick Dalton renewed his Trail Conference membership. “It had been three months since my second lower-back surgery, and I wanted to get involved to keep myself active. I didn’t imagine just how far that first step would actually lead.”

An Intro to Trail Maintenance workshop led to Patrick’s adoption of a Long Path section in Harriman State Park. In June, an Intro to Map & Compass/Land Navigation workshop led him in an unexpected direction: to the volunteer position of Trails Supervisor at Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve in Staten Island, newly adopted by the Trail Conference.

Patrick credits careful guidance by Hank Osborn, our East Hudson Program Coordinator, and Dawson Smith, Metro Chair (volunteer) for his quick progress as a trail leader. “They jointly advised me to build a Trail Conference résumé that included a number of specific Trail U workshops—and off I went. From learning about stone cribwall and stair construction at Bear Mountain to tread and drainage at Sterling Forest to leadership training in Haines Falls, I attended over 10 Trail Conference workshops between June and mid-September. I even conducted two Intro to Trail Maintenance workshops myself in Staten Island.”

“When I departed the compass workshop that evening in late June, I was shown a path, and how to traverse it, that wasn’t there for me hours earlier.”

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How Many Miles Have You Hiked? Our New Harriman-Bear Mountain Trail Maps Show You



Improving what is already the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference’s best-selling map set, the new, 16th edition of the *Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails* map set is one of the most significant updates since the 2007 edition. On this revised edition, to be available in early 2015, trail mileage figures are shown next to the trails on the map front and represent distances between trail junctions and significant trail features. With such a large trail network and nearly unlimited hike possibilities in these parks, these mileage figures can be easily referenced for planning or navigating on the trail.

This map set features more than 230 miles of marked trails throughout Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks and surrounding parklands. More than 20 miles of the Appalachian Trail, along with more than 27 miles of the Long Path, are shown on the maps.

Along with the trail mileage figures, this revised edition contains several recent trail relocations, including portions of the Appalachian Trail on West Mountain, the Major Welch Trail on Bear Mountain, and the Arden-Surebridge Trail on Pine Swamp Mountain. Additional corrections and adjustments to the trails and map features make the 16th edition the most accurate and comprehensive trail map yet for Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks.

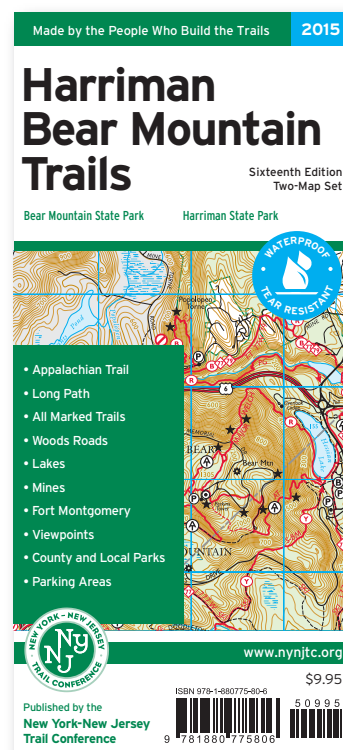
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This map set was produced with support from Campmor, an outdoor store and retail partner of the Trail Conference.



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Featured Hike



Doris Duke Trail Creates New Loop Hike

This 3.5-mile loop hike passes by interesting cliffs and a scenic marsh and climbs to a panoramic viewpoint.

On a cool, crisp, sunny November afternoon, 25 people from all walks of life enjoyed a guided hike on a new trail loop at Sterling Forest State Park made possible by the completion of a final section of the Doris Duke Trail. This trail, commissioned by New York State Parks in 2013 and built by volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, now links up with two of the oldest trails in the region: the Allis and the Appalachian Trails.

The day's hike leaders were Trail Conference's West Hudson Program Coordinator Sona Mason, West Hudson South Trails Chair (volunteer) John Mack, and volunteer Janet Setter, who combined to explain how trails are built and maintained, and why the land over which they cross must be conserved and protected. Friends of Sterling Forest leader Doc Bayne also supplied a wealth of natural and local history along the way, creating a three-hour journey of discovery for all.

The area is open to all for hiking, and the loop can be followed on our Sterling Forest Trails, Map 100, 2013. Although the Doris Duke Wildlife Preserve is off-limits to hunting, it is surrounded by hunting zones, and hikers are advised to wear bright colors during hunting season

To Trailhead: Take Route 17A from junction with Route 17 in Tuxedo for 3.0 miles to Benjamin Meadow Road. Turn right onto Benjamin Meadow Road and, in 0.2 mile, just before letterbox number 52, turn sharply left into a gravel driveway marked by a small "Hikers' Trailhead Parking" sign.

The trail was commissioned by New York State Parks and built by the Trail Conference.

The Loop

From the eastern end of the parking area, enter the woods at a triple blaze for the Doris Duke Trail (yellow "DD" logo on white). The trail follows a woods road and soon crosses a wooden footbridge over a stream (built as an Eagle Scout project). About 200 feet beyond the bridge, watch carefully for a double blaze. Turn right at the double blaze, leaving the woods road, and head into the woods on a footpath.



Wildlife-rich marsh at Sterling Forest.

Follow the DD through the woods, passing a magnificent wall of stone and a marsh that is a magnet for wildlife. The route follows a newly sidehilled, sustainable footpath, which rises gradually toward the Sterling Ridge. Before reaching the crest of the ridge, the trail bears left across a seasonal stream crossing. Along the ridgetop, the trail heads southwest. You will get a panoramic view from a rock outcrop along the crest trail.

This view may be marred by the rooftops of the Genting Group's proposed \$1.5 billion Sterling Forest Resort casino, if it is approved (we are doing our best to stop it).

At a trail junction, follow the now co-aligned DD-Allis-Highlands Trails (DD, dark blue, HT aqua blazes) to the left to a high point, but one that offers no view. About 0.4 mile from here, the DD trail will depart from the Allis Trail. Follow the DD downhill, on and off an old, often eroded woods road (plans are in the works for a re-route off the road). Blazes may be scarce, but just follow the woods road to return to the wooden bridge that you crossed at the start of your hike and then back to the parking area.

Information for this article was provided by Sona Mason, West Hudson Program Coordinator, and Daniel Chazin's written description of the route, which can be found in full on our website. Go to Find a Hike, scroll to Sterling Forest State Park, and select "Sterling Forest Doris Duke Wildlife Sanctuary."





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The Trail Conference maintains more than 2,000 miles of trails, advocates for parks, protects open space, and provides volunteer service opportunities in the great outdoors.

Your membership supports the trails you love and gives you these additional benefits: Go to nynjtc.org/membership

25% Discount on Trail Conference maps, books, and other products. Visit nynjtc.org/panel/goshopping

Great Discounts at supporting outdoor retailers and other businesses. See our partners at nynjtc.org/content/retail-partners

Tuition-Free Enrollment in our Trail University introductory courses

Workshops and Seminars on trail maintenance and construction, leadership training, wilderness first aid, chainsaw operation, environmental monitoring and GPS operation. Learn more about Trail U at nynjtc.org/trailu

Access to a wide range of volunteer opportunities on-trail and off-trail. Visit nynjtc.org/volunteer

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

Join/Renew NY-NJ Trail Conference Membership

2,000 miles of trails; your membership helps us expand our horizons.

Included with membership, *Trail Walker*, 10% discount on purchases at many outdoor stores, and 25% discount on all Trail Conference maps and books purchased directly from the Trail Conference. Save time and a tree by joining or renewing online at www.nynjtc.org. Just click on the Join/Renew Now button.

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Select one: Join Renew Membership # if available _____

	Individual	Joint/Family
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40
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Senior (65+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500

A joint membership is for two adults residing at the same address.

For my membership of \$50 or more, send me a:

Trail Conference Cap OR Harriman-Bear Mountain Map Set

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Make check or money order payable to the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 156 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430.

Tax-deductible. Dues are not refundable.