

President's Foreword

Welcome to the newest edition of the Long Path Guide. The Trail Conference's mission is to protect the outdoors and educate people in its wise use. This book plays a role in fulfilling that mission as it describes one of the two long distance hiking trails whose lengths mainly are in New York State.

There are three main reasons why this trail is important to us. First, it offers opportunities for hikers to experience different types of terrain and passes through urban, suburban, rural, and wild areas. The road walks show how vulnerable our landscape is. Second, the trail shows how public and private interests can work together to preserve our open spaces. The trail passes through more private land than any other trail maintained by the Trail Conference. This would not have been possible without us learning how to interact with private landowners and other environmental groups to obtain rights-of-way for the trail. Third, by forming the Long Path North Hiking Club to construct the northern parts of the trail, it showed how we could create more trails to be maintained by the Trail Conference and create public support through trail construction.

Thank you and enjoy the Long Path and this guide. Your purchase provides support for Trail Conference activities such as its conservation and advocacy efforts.

— Jane Daniels
President, Board of Directors

Preface

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

Technology has made easily possible for the first time an accurate trace of the entire route of the Long Path. The maps in this book are produced from a complete GPS trace of the entire Long Path, both on the traditional route and along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail route. The thickness of the line representing the Long Path route on the maps greatly exceeds the error of the GPS units in marking its actual trace.

There are many changes in the presentation in this edition of the Long Path Guide. First of all, it's larger in overall dimensions, reducing the amount of page turning and making room for larger photographs and more readable maps. This edition features all new maps designed specifically for it. The section maps now all overlap each other so that there is no ambiguity in how to go between sections. Also new are the section profiles showing how the elevation changes with distance traveled. The Guide includes GPS co-ordinates for the official parking areas for those that are inclined to use the latest technology. Ed Walsh has allowed me to add his "Backpacking the Long Path" booklet as a new part of this book so that more people can take their wandering spirit a little farther afield. Finally, all of the photographs are new.

— Herb Chong
Cartographer and Editor

The route of the Long Path is in a constant state of flux. As this book goes to press, there are two major relocations planned for the Long Path, one at the northern end of Minnewaska State Park in Sections 12 and 13, and the other near Woodland Valley State Campground in Sections 16 and 17. Each of the relocations will eliminate most of the road walking in these sections. Many more changes may take place between the publication of this book and the next edition. The latest information on the Long Path is always available from the Trail Conference at <http://www.nynjtc.org/trails/longpath/index.html>.

Acknowledgments

One person, no matter how large their pretensions may be, simply can't do a project of the size of producing this book. Listed below are the different specialized tasks that go into the making of this book and the people who worked on each task. Everyone here pulled hard and made this book into a reality. However, the technical aspects of the book are only one part of producing a hiking trail guidebook. There are also the many people who provided moral support and companionship as I walked many sections of the Long Path myself to see how things really were on the trail. Of these dozens of people, I'd like to single out a few for special thanks: Ed Walsh, who seemed to walk everywhere with his GPS to check out just where things really went now that they had finished moving the trail again; Mike Warren for setting the standard that all of the other photographers, including myself, had to meet; John Jurasek for putting up with my demands for "more GPS data, more GPS data;" and finally Jane Daniels for letting me convince myself that I could do this book, for letting me do the book with so many new things in it, and then helping me see the project through to its end.

—HC, *January 9, 2002*

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