



Closed Trails and Bridges

Numerous trails and trail bridges washed out by storms will likely be closed for some time.

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New Trail at Teatown

Enjoy an easy-moderate hike on a new trail at Teatown Lake Reservation.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 8 ▶](#)



TRAIL WALKER

November/December 2011 New York-New Jersey Trail Conference – Connecting People with Nature since 1920

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In the Wake of the Storms

Trail Conference volunteers were quick to respond to storm damage both on and off trail in the aftermath of late summer's tropical storms Irene and Lee. Even as flood waters from Irene abated, volunteers were sending in reports and photos of washed out trail bridges, heavy blow-downs, and flooded trails. They were also heading out and fixing problems.

On August 30 Richard Sumner sent a full report on access to Harriman State Park: "The east end of Route 106 is closed and badly damaged. The road has obviously been used as a riverbed recently!" he began his documentation of trailheads closed and open.

On August 31, Roland Breault sent in a report on the bridges in the Pine Meadow area of Harriman State Park, an area of the park that was especially hard hit: "Kakiat Trail over Stony Brook – completely gone. Stony Brook and Kakiat over Pine Meadow Brook – Damaged – not safe to use. HTS Trail over Pine Meadow Brook – completely gone. Pine Meadow, 7 Hills and Kakiat Trails over Pine Meadow Brook – completely gone."

On September 2, volunteers with the Dutchess-Putnam AT Committee went chest-deep in water to float the dislodged Swamp River bridge back into place. By September 3, Andrew Seirup and his crew at Wonder Lake State Park in Putnam County had cleared major blow-downs. Trail crews in all regions changed work plans to take on post-storm projects.

These and other reports relating to trails were immediately added to a Post-Irene Trails Updates page created by the Trail Conference on its website to catalog damage. News from the beloved Catskill region quickly dominated the page and public attention: homes, businesses, entire communities washed away or severely damaged.

As the extent of the damage to Catskill communities became evident, Trail Conference volunteer and Catskill Lean-to Supervisor Doug Senterman, along with other employees at Hunter Mountain, organized a network to collect and distribute relief supplies. Trail Conference staff and volunteers donated more than two

nator, worked directly with New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) staff and other organizations to provide real time updates about road and trail conditions on our website, main Facebook account, and on our Catskill Region's Facebook page and Twitter accounts. Our information was shared throughout the region and around the world as people tried to find out about their loved ones, roads, and trails throughout the region, as well as by DEC as they tried to assess and communicate trail conditions.

When the remnants of tropical storm Lee came into the Catskills a week and a half later, the new rains caused the rivers to go back into flood stage, though thankful-



Frank Dogil, Bob Haas and Steve Klauck (not shown) reset the Swamp River AT bridge in Pawling, NY.

"It could be worse." That was the general assessment of storm related trail damage throughout our region. Many foot bridges are out, and it may be years before some are replaced. Damage to roads may be bigger obstacles to trail access in some areas.

full-size van loads worth of relief goods that were distributed to shelters and resource centers throughout the region.

The Trail Conference also put its communications tools behind relief efforts. Jeff Senterman, our Catskill Program Coordi-

ly below the flood levels of Irene. However this caused many of the weakened roads, bridges and homes to fail even more. Following this round of damage, DEC closed all trails in the Catskills throughout Greene

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Trail Conference to Help Girl Scouts Celebrate 100 Years

Appalachian Trail Hikes a Focus; Volunteers Needed

The year 2012 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the USA, and they are holding a variety of events and activities to celebrate the occasion. One such program will involve Girl Scout troops from the entire eastern seaboard of the US (and elsewhere) participating in hikes on the Appalachian Trail (AT).

The project was conceived by the Virginia Skyline Council of the Girl Scouts, based in Roanoke, VA; the plan is for Girl Scouts of every age to participate in hikes or backpacks along the AT sometime during the period from March 12, 2012 (the 100th anniversary of the very first Girl Scout meeting) to October 31, 2012 (the 152nd birthday of the founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA, Juliette Low). Activities might range from Daisy Girl Scouts (kindergarten and first grade girls) taking a half-hour walk on the trail to high-school age girls taking overnight backpacks.

Also planned are camporees at Girl Scout campgrounds near the AT that will include hikes from the camp onto the AT. There will even be an organized group, primarily Girl Scout alumni, doing a full thru-hike of the AT; local groups are invited to hike along with them as they come through the area.

The organizers of "The Great Girl Scout Hike," as it has been dubbed, are coordinating with the Girl Scout councils along the trail and the hiking community, especially AT maintaining clubs, to help with training and assisting Girl Scout leaders so that they will be comfortable leading hikes on the Appalachian Trail. Since the Trail Conference is the AT maintaining club for the states of New York and New Jersey, we have taken the lead in fostering this cooperation among the Girl Scout councils, the NY and NJ AT management committees, the Trail Conference's professional staff, the AT Conservancy (ATC), and the hiking clubs and hikers in the region.

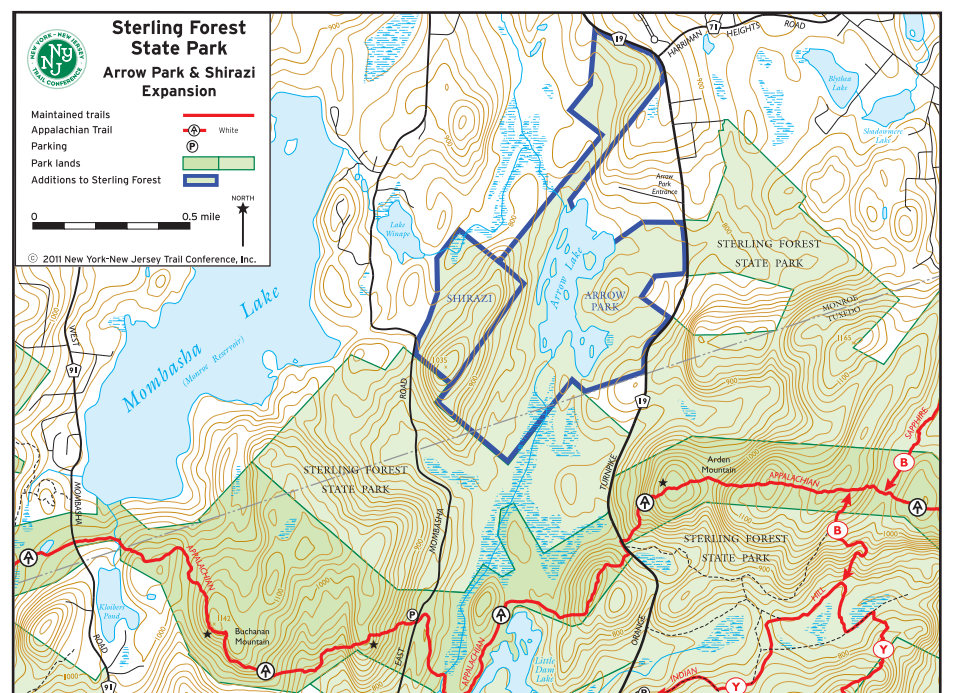
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Protection of Land Around Arrow Lake in Orange County Celebrated

More than 30 Trail Conference members and friends met at the privately owned Arrow Park in Monroe, NY, on September 30 to explore the lay of the recently protected land that has been added to Sterling Forest State Park. Rain swollen streams kept our hike short, but the scenery was inspiring.

The Trail Conference worked with other groups to add more than 400 acres to the park. The hike was part of a commemorative event organized by Paul and JoAnn Dolan, long-time Trail Conference members (JoAnn served as executive director), who brought together many of the organizations that helped protect the land. The event also celebrated the site as a healing place where relatives and friends of those who died in 9-11 have gone annually for memorial retreats and ceremonies at a healing totem created and donated by Lummi

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The area in blue indicates two parcels around Arrow Lake in Orange County, NY, that have been added to Sterling Forest State Park.

TRAIL WALKER

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GEORGETTE WEIR EDITOR
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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 19, 2011, the average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months was 7,205; the actual number of copies of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 7,044. The paper has a total paid and/or requested circulation of 7,205 (average) and 7,044 (actual, most recent issue). The average free distribution for the 12 months preceding the filing date was 3,795 (average) and 3,956 (actual, most recent issue). The total average distribution was 11,000; the actual distribution of the single issue published nearest to the filing date was 11,000.

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

Our Books at a Crossroads

By George Petty

The publication of hiking guides and trails manuals has been essential to the growth of the Trail Conference since 1923, when the first edition of the *New York Walk Book* (NYWB) appeared.

Most everyone has heard that the printed book industry is in trouble. Across the country paper book sales are down at least 15%, and probably more. Your local bookstore is struggling or has closed already. Borders is going out of business.

In this economic environment, the Trail Conference publication program has come to a crossroads. Shall we continue to publish a broad range of printed books in a declining market? Can we find advantage for our publications in new digital technology? We are necessarily considering making our publications available as downloadable e-books, audio books, and in any digital format technology provides.

The continuous publication of our hiking guides from our earliest years records our growth as an organization, and the expansion of marked and maintained trails in our area. Perhaps even more important, it contains commentary on the changing cultural sources of our strength: scouting, Native American history, pioneering, early origins of the environmental movement, emergence and welcoming of strong active women into hiking, and ethnic diversity on the trails. All these ideas appeared in the texts and graphics of our books long before

they became popular in society at large. The disappearance of some of these ideas in our later books may also be a kind of cultural commentary.

The first edition of the NYWB was aimed at a specific audience, the urban worker in and around New York City. It was intended to help "the city dweller... make the best use of the precious hours—all too few—when he escapes the thrall of office, shop, or factory." The authors described trails and scenery accessible by public transportation, almost always either subway or train, and they included the cost of the fare. Country dirt roads often formed part of a "tramp," and "motor roads," better graded and sometimes paved, were thought of as threats to the wilderness. In another interesting cultural stance for the time, the illustrations by Dr. Robert L. Dickinson sometimes showed female hikers comfortably negotiating woodland obstacles, or standing on the edge of a cliff.

The third edition of the *New York Walk Book*, published in 1951, was revised to take account of improved auto roads and the beginnings of sub-urbanization. While our publications adapted to the new motorized middle class clientele, they regretted the need to omit trails compromised by development. Such comments preceded the development of a nationwide conservation movement.

Over the years, our publications have sometimes led, and always participated in, the changes in metropolitan society, helping the Trail Conference grow in size and influence. We can be very proud of the contribution of our books to the growth of our

Next Generation Publishing

Do you have expertise in producing books for electronic publication? The Publications Committee, responsible for publishing Trail Conference books and maps, seeks volunteers with expertise in the area of e-publication to help migrate our catalog to the most popular e-formats. To learn more and to indicate your interest and experience, please visit nynjtc.org/volunteer

organization and to the progress of our society. And we should be eager to continue publishing them, in any form technology offers, even at some organizational cost. More than the publications of other similar organizations, our books demonstrate the importance of the Trail Conference in the social history of the largest American metropolis, and our long leadership in the fields of outdoor recreation and conservation.

George Petty is a member of the Trail Conference Publications Committee and author of *Hiking the Jersey Highlands*.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for the Memories

That is a great spot Arnab Banerjee caught with his photo (Storm King panorama, *Trail Walker*, September/October 2011, page 1). We know it well. In fact, those are the very rocks we sat upon more than a dozen years ago when I proposed to my wife on a hot October afternoon.

It is much steeper then it appears in the photo. I recall taking out the ring. It had fallen loose from its slot in the box and rolled out of the box when I opened it. I caught it with the other hand. Shaky there for a moment, as you can imagine, but, feeling good about it once the ring was firmly in my grasp.

It had been a hot day and we had limited water. I had somewhat dragged Jennifer up there. Let's just say she was a lot happier coming down the mountain than going up.

Things have turned out great. Our second son's middle name is Hudson, named for the great river we got to know as we got to know each other.

Thanks.

— Matthew & Jennifer Coulter
Pound Ridge, NY

Mourning Wawayanda State Park

As a frequent hiker in the New Jersey Highlands, I was heartbroken to see the photo of the pipeline corridor work in Wawayanda State Park, cutting through one of the most unspoiled regions of the Highlands (*Trail Walker*, September/October 2011, page 7). Until recently Wawayanda was one of the most pristine parks in New Jersey with some of the few remaining healthy hemlock communities and old-growth trees.

The pipeline corridor is to be widened by 75 feet to more than double its current width. But the ecological damage will extend far beyond the additional footage as the increased amount of sunlight encourages the growth of invasive plants and makes the surrounding forest more vulnerable to disease and decay. As any observant hiker knows, the quality of the forest deteriorates for many hundreds of meters before and after crossing a pipeline or power line. This is a tragedy for the state of New Jersey and for the hiking community.

I live in northeast Pennsylvania where energy development is rampant and poorly regulated, and the effects are evident at every turn. I hope the people of New Jersey wake up to this threat before it is too late.

— Sondra Wolferman
Albrightsville, PA

New Trail at Silas Condict Gets Another Thumbs Up

We tried out the new trail at the Silas Condict County Park, based on the *Trail Walker* write-up (Sept./Oct. 2011 issue, page 12), and, while we did part of the hike in the rain, we really liked the trail. It had a lot of variety in a short space: rock formations, overlooks, picturesque glens, and a few little streams to cross. While, as the article noted, it is over-blazed in part, we noticed that there were a few sudden turns where there were, surprisingly, no blazes.

Though we did not see the "very large bear" that was mentioned in the article, he (or she) did cross our minds as we walked through the rock tunnel. We thought this part of the trail could be interesting in the winter, as it looked liked quite a nice den for a hibernating bear.

Keep up the good work.

— Peter O'Malley & Carol Ciancia
Oakland, NJ

Send Us a Letter

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

WAKE OF THE STORMS...

continued from page 1

and Ulster Counties, and asked us to get the word out. This temporary closure reduced non-essential traffic so emergency crews could better operate and target resources on the recovery work.

DEC enlisted the volunteers of the Trail Conference and other trail partner organizations (including much help from the Catskill 3500 Club) to quickly assess almost every trail in the Catskills with the aim of getting the region back into business. This work led directly to the reopening of 95% of the trailheads and trails in the Catskills within a week of the closure, an economic boost during the peak tourist season for this hard-hit area. The rest of the trails and trailheads reopened as access was restored and serious damage was repaired.

The Catskill trails assessment revealed that many of the trails in the region came through Irene with minor damage. The

winds did cause some blow-downs, but the extent of these varied widely among locations. A number of bridges were lost and some trailheads and their access roads were also damaged.

Similar findings are being reported from our West Hudson, East Hudson, and New Jersey trail regions. Many trail bridges are gone or damaged—all foot bridges at Minnewaska were washed away and about half of those in Harriman were destroyed or seriously damaged. But for the most part trails seem to have endured the record-breaking rain and floodwaters in surprisingly good shape. Thank you volunteers!

DEC and other park agencies in New York and New Jersey are working to develop plans and funding for the major repairs. In the meantime, the Trail Conference is working closely with our partners to organize crews to clear trails and raise funds to help with reconstruction efforts. Individuals and member clubs have responded generously to our Goodbye Irene Trail

Restoration Fund.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and helped with this effort to date. There is lots of work ahead. If you want to be part of the volunteer effort, please go to the Volunteer section of our website and complete a Volunteer Interest form.



Washed out roads and bridges, such as this road in Tannersville, NY, are the biggest obstacles to full trail access in some areas.

From the Executive Director



The Mystery of the Trail Conference, Explained

Sometimes, I find myself needing to explain the Trail Conference to people who are mystified by our organization.

- The Trail Conference does not own land (except temporarily when we buy land during a preservation effort), yet we act with the zeal of a landowner in protecting public open spaces and the trails that cross them.
- We do not have professional trail builders as staff, yet we build and maintain a trail network that now exceeds 1800 miles.
- Our trail maps and books are the gold standard in the regions they cover, yet they are produced by a committee of volunteers.
- We do not pay for a webmaster or social media consultants, yet we have a content-rich website that gets 2.5 million pageviews a year and half-a-million unique visitors.
- We are not a hiking club, yet we are a primary resource for hikers.

Sometimes, I admit, I too am mystified, not by our structure but by our extraordinary success. How does it happen? Then events take a turn that dramatically reminds me of the answer: it all works because of the passion Trail Conference volunteers bring to their work, the enthusiasm with which our members support them, and because we target our limited financial resources into supporting volunteer efforts, not replacing them.

Two events of late summer-early fall each brought this reminder forcefully home: the immediate response of volunteers to damage caused by two tropical storms in quick succession—as the story and photo on page 1 show, volunteers didn't wait for the water to fully abate before they began fixing problems; and the signing of an agreement with New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that gives us expanded trail responsibilities in the Catskills—see Jeff Senterman's regional report on page 4 for details.

As our storm story indicates, trail chairs, supervisors, crew members, and other volunteers such as Trudy Pojman, Richard Sumner, Roland Breault, Andrew Seirup, Susan Sterngold, Frank Dogil, Bob Haas, Steve Klauck, Doug Senterman, and so many more—needed no prodding to get out on trails to assess damage. Information started streaming into the office before the rain and wind stopped. Our teams of volunteers and staff immediately posted their reports on our website for public awareness, shared them with our agency partners, and



Volunteers Doug Senterman (left) and Moe Lemire help deliver relief supplies in the Catskills.

organized the information to begin planning remedial actions. Those remedies included getting trail assessments done quickly so as many trails and trailheads could be declared open as soon as possible and give a boost to the economically important tourist industry during a peak season.

This quick response proved to be especially important in the Catskills, where communities were so hard hit and, for a time, all trails were declared off-limits by DEC. Volunteers were able to quickly report to the agency that trails were in better shape than many had feared, and DEC reopened most of them before the important Columbus Day weekend, providing a much-needed tourist boost to the battered Catskills.

Throughout our regions, the collaborative work between our volunteers, staff, and agency partners in the wake of the storms was, quite frankly, inspiring. More than trails were at stake and Trail Conference volunteers and staff stepped up to the challenges energetically.

That we were scheduled to sign an expanded agreement for trail maintenance in the Catskills with DEC on October 6, as part of the annual Catskill Lark in the Park celebration, emerged as a fitting if poignant coincidence. DEC's confidence in the Trail Conference's ability to help manage trails in the Forest Preserve was based on 20 years of experience of their staff people working with our volunteers and confirmed by storm related follow-up activities.

The unique partnership that is the Trail Conference—between passionate volunteers, dedicated staff, and the agencies charged with managing public open space—usually works so well that it is barely noticeable. Seasons come and seasons go, maintainers and crews go out and do their work as volunteers, and millions use the trails and enjoy the open space unaware of the careful planning, the logistical feats, and the generous contributions of time and money that made their experience better.

On rare occasions, such as post-Irene and Lee, the spotlight shines on the contributions of our volunteers and reminds us all that if there is mystery in the work of the Trail Conference, it is that so many are so energetically dedicated.

— Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

ARROW LAKE

continued from page 1

Tribe of Washington State.

The Trail Conference, with support provided by a \$5,000 grant from the New York-North Jersey Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, led the effort to preserve a 61-acre parcel owned by Mehran Shirazi that helps buffer Arrow Lake and the Appalachian Trail in Monroe (Orange County). The Shirazi parcel features a 1,000-foot high ridgeline, extensive wetlands, a stream that feeds Arrow Lake, woods, and rock outcrops, and is now part of Sterling Forest State Park. Together with an adjacent parcel previously purchased from the privately owned Arrow Park by Orange County Land Trust (OCLT), this makes 462 acres that have been added to Sterling Forest State Park.

These strategic preservation projects significantly enhance the Appalachian Trail corridor and viewshed by creating a protected land buffer along the northern edge of Sterling Forest. The Trail Conference will work with park managers to develop appropriate trails in the area.

Arrow Park has operated as a private non-commercial retreat since 1948. Since 9-11, it has been used extensively by families of the New York Fire Department.

“The Shirazi preservation project represents a great accomplishment and an outstanding partnership. We applaud the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference for expanding recreational opportunities for New Yorkers while adding to the preservation of Sterling Forest, a cherished



The water was at full flow into Arrow Lake on property that the Trail Conference helped protect.

landscape and state park that is an important part of the Hudson Valley's \$4.7 billion tourism industry,” said Ethan Winter, New York Conservation Manager for the Land Trust Alliance. “This project demonstrates how New York's Environmental Protection Fund can enable local communities, New York State, and partners like the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference to strengthen and invest in the region's natural assets.”

Financial support for Trail Conference work on this project came from the Environmental Protection Fund and the New York State Conservation Partnership Program in Collaboration with the Land Trust Alliance and the state Department of Environmental Conservation.



Hikers pass Arrow Lake toward land recently added to Sterling Forest State Park.

Future of Trail Walker: Send Us Your Thoughts

Beginning in 2012, we plan to publish *Trail Walker* every three months. (It is now published every two months.) This change is a result of the increasing reliance many of our members and other trail lovers put on our electronic communications, in particular, our website and *e-Walker* newsletter. These are particularly useful in sharing time-sensitive information—such as unexpected trail closures, workshop schedules, crew outings, and advocacy alerts. Our expectation is that we will use *Trail Walker* less for these categories of information and more for feature articles about trails, parks, and, especially, volunteers. What would you like to see in our print newsletter? Send your thoughts to tw@nynjtc.org.

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Regional Field Notes

Catskills

Jeff Senterman,
Catskills Program Coordinator
jsenterman@nynjtc.org



Storm damage and cleanup was the big news in the Catskills these past few months and is bound to be a continuing story (see page 1). Our trails suffered some damage, but the most significant harm, other than to homes and businesses, was to roadways and bridges—affecting access to some trailheads—and to bridges on our trails.

Our volunteers and staff helped collect relief goods and assess and clear trails, enabling the reopening of many of them.

On October 6, we finalized our Adopt-A-Natural-Resource (AANR) agreement with New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This replaces our original Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in 1990 when the Trail Conference was asked by DEC to begin maintaining trails in the Catskills. This new agreement allows the Trail Conference to take on additional trail work, creates a quicker process for adopting new trails, and calls for more recognition of Trail Conference contributions at trailheads and in DEC reports. We're pleased

with this strengthened partnership.

I continued making visits to local businesses and taking part in discussions and meet-and-greets throughout the Catskills. This included giving a talk on the history of the Catskill trails at the Hunter Village Square Bookstore and a meet-and-greet at Morgan Outdoors in Livingston Manor. Morgan Outdoors is also the Catskill Region's newest Retail Partner with the Trail Conference. Members receive 10% off non-sale items when they show their membership card at checkout.

Our work with the Kaaterskill Rail Trail continues (see last issue, page 1). We hope to start clearing the trail this fall and get in place the last of the easements and agreements, including an amended DEC Unit Management Plan, which will allow for the opening of the trail this spring.

Our volunteers and staff are working



Ed Goodell accepts Adopt-A-Natural-Resource agreement from NYS-DEC Natural Resource Supervisor Bill Rudge.

closely with DEC staff on a number of relocations and new trails, including the relocation of the Long Path near Woodland Valley, a new trail to Silver Hollow Notch, and several smaller relocations throughout the region. Next summer our trail crews are going to be very busy in the Catskills helping to build miles of new trails!

New Jersey

Chris Ingui,
New Jersey Program Coordinator
cingui@nynjtc.org



New North Jersey Trail Crew Launches

After a series of introductory workshops held in the Ramapo Valley County Reservation in mid October, a new North Jersey Trail crew has been launched. The crew, which has been given the name Bear Claw Crew, will be led by Trail Conference volunteer Rich Raschdorff. Rich brings with him years of outdoor leadership experience including being president of the New York Adventure Racing Association (NYARA) for five years. Rich has already recruited three volunteer Crew Leaders including, Frank Schoof, David Chase, and Brian Beckenbaugh, all regular Trail Conference volunteers. The crew's goal will be to hold four work trips a month in Bergen, Passaic, and Essex

Counties from March through December. We aimed to recruit additional volunteers for this crew through workshops in basic trail construction and design scheduled for October at the Ramapo Valley County Reservation, where field work was to focus on several trails that were severely damaged by erosion after Hurricane Irene. If you are interested in joining this new crew for one of their work dates, please check our crew schedules online or email beardlawtrailcrew@gmail.com.

Trail Inventory Begins

Thanks to a 2010 New Jersey Recreational Trails Grant, the Trail Conference has launched an in depth inventory of trail conditions in Wawayanda and High Point State Parks, and Worthington and Stokes State Forests. The inventory will be conducted by volunteers using Trimble GPS units to catalog trail structures including bridges, staircases, and crib walls, points of interest, and areas in need of repair work. Photos will be linked to every point and

placed in a virtual library, allowing Trail Conference volunteers to better assess trails and communicate needs to partner agencies. Trail Conference intern Patrick Czernizer of Pascack Valley High School, is pioneering the field work portion of the inventory. We expect to recruit additional volunteers when the work plan is finalized. It is hoped that with this project, a Trail Conference standard can be created for cataloging the conditions of trails and trail structures that eventually can be used in all our regions.

Pipeline Update

Impacts to be caused to parks and trails by construction of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline through northern New Jersey continue to be of concern to the Trail Conference. Staff and volunteers attended hearings on the project in August and September, and the Trail Conference has submitted comments to New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Our biggest objection, given the inevitability of the project, is to the terms

of the proposed 25-year lease agreement, which, according to our calculations, is a rate far below fair market land rates in the region. We urge the State of New Jersey to seek more just compensation.

At public hearings, TGPC spokesmen said the company: will build bridges over ditches to allow for trail crossings at all pipeline intersections during construction; monitor and eliminate invasive species at the 125-foot-wide worksites for a period of three years after construction; install ATV deterrents such as gates and rock "moonscaping" along the pipeline route; and for three years monitor and replace as needed all trees planted in the work spaces outside the 75-foot right of way; purchase for protection open space at a rate of 4:1 for what they use. The Trail Conference urges that the land purchased adjoin the existing parkland that they are impacting.

Visit nynjtc.org/issue/tennessee-gas-pipeline-northern-new-jersey for details and links, including to our full comments.

East Hudson

Leigh Draper,
East Hudson Program Coordinator
draper@nynjtc.org



East Hudson Community Trails

A joint program with Teatown Lake Reservation.

The Fishkill Greenway Trail Committee has reformed and is eager to get local support. The proposed trail will run parallel to the Hudson River extending from the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge at I-84 to the Wappinger Greenway Trail at the Fishkill-Wappinger boundary. Total length: approximately 2 miles. The Fishkill Greenway Trail is expected to become part of the much larger Hudson River Greenway Trail that will eventually run from Manhattan to Albany. The committee will meet the second Tuesday



Visitors get a sneak peek at Fresh Kills, Staten Island, as it transitions from landfill to city park.

of every month and seeks volunteers to serve on key sub-committees to promote and implement the project. For info: www.facebook.com/fishkillgreenway

Crews in Fahnestock and Hudson Highlands State Parks and the Dutchess/Putnam County section of the Appalachian Trail provided trail clean-up

after Tropical Storm Irene. A bridge on the AT over the Swamp River was dislodged and floated back into place just days after the storm. Some erosion repair will be ongoing. Contact the East Hudson Program Coordinator to find out about joining a work date or trail crew.

Metro: The Friends of Pelham Bay Park

and NYC Parks & Recreation, with business and donor support, purchased two new beach wheelchairs for Orchard Beach. The beach has a mobility mat that enables wheelchair-bound users to access the sand; however, a wheelchair cannot go beyond the mat's end. A beach wheelchair is made with larger, lightweight wheels, similar to a dune buggy that allows it to travel across the sand to the water. Orchard Beach is the only public beach in the Bronx and is visited by over 1 million people a season. This fall the Friends will continue to restore the Orchard Beach Meadow. Contact drobin5255@yahoo.com for information.

NYC Parks held the second annual Sneak Peek of the 2,200-acre Fresh Kills Landfill, located on Staten Island's west shore, as it begins to transform into NYC's biggest park. Trail Conference volunteers assisted with hosting visitors to the site. Learn more at www.nycgovparks.org.

West Hudson

Larry Wheelock,
West Hudson Program Coordinator
Wheelock@nynjtc.org



Hurricane Irene left lots of work for our illustrious chain saw crew, but the big post-storm issue in the West Hudson region is trail bridges.

In Minnewaska State Park all four foot bridges over the Peters Kill, (Mossy Glen Trail, Blueberry Run Trail, and two on the High Peters Kill Trail) were washed away. We're helping the park assess replacement priorities based on use and safety issues. In addition, carriage ways suffered severe erosion, with the Lower Awosting Carriage Way

over Fly Brook completely destroyed.

In Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks, of 36 trail bridges, 16 maintained by the Trail Conference are in good order, 11 need to be replaced completely or get major repairs, two are useable but will need some repair. Of the remaining bridges maintained by the park, five are in good shape; one, the Stahahe Brook Trail over Stahahe Brook, was completely washed away, stone structures and all; while the Nurian Iron bridge over the Ramapo River in Southfields appeared to be structurally sound but was blocked with debris and missing steps on the west end as of late September. The park planned to clear this quickly.

In Storm King S. P. the one bridge over the ledges on the Stillman/Highlands Trail on the east face of the mountain is

fine. A significant number of blow-downs have been reported. At Schunemunk Mountain S. P. there have been a couple reports of wash-outs and some blow-downs. Black Rock Forest trails are being repaired by the maintenance staff there and were all open at this time (though the preserve closes to hikers during hunting season). We have not received any reports of significant damage from Sterling Forest S. P. — just some blow-downs.

How long will all this take to repair? I'd guess a couple years to get every bridge back in place and up to standards. Of course, critical issues will be looked to first. With the help of hikers and hiking clubs, we will assist the parks with funding and volunteers to start work on replacing them.



Volunteers turned out for a work trip to repair storm damage at Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

Trail Crew Schedules

Late Fall 2011

Individual Trail Conference volunteers and those with our member clubs keep 1800+ miles of trails open for the public. In addition, we field regional crews of volunteers who take on the heavy lifting of building new trails, rehabilitating damaged trails, and constructing bridges.

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

TBD = To Be Determined

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

REGIONAL TRAIL CREWS

FRIENDS OF PELHAM BAY PARK

Leader: Clinton Robinson
Phone: 347-512-5048
Email: cl.robinson@verizon.net

Saturday, November 5

Location TBD
Clear invasives in Huntington Woods.

WEST JERSEY CREW

Leaders: Monica and David Day
Phone: 732-937-9098 **Cell:** 908-307-5049
Email: westjerseycrew@trailstobuild.com
Website: www.trailstobuild.com

Note: Check our webpage or at www.nynjtc.org/content/trail-crew-schedules for expanded schedule and details.

All events begin at 9am. Please phone/email the leaders for meeting location and driving directions. There is usually a walk to the work site, so please be there on time (call the leaders' cell phone if you are coming to an event and are running late). Rain cancels—if in doubt, call the leaders between 6 and 6:30 that morning.

Carpooling: if anyone is interested in carpooling (offering a ride or riding), please let the leaders know and we will try to arrange a shared ride. (Passengers please be prepared to contribute for gas.)

Saturday, November 5
Post-Irene trail work at a location TBD.

Saturday, November 12
Post-Irene trail work at a location TBD.

WEST HUDSON SOUTH CREW

Leaders: Chris Ezzo (crew chief): 516-431-1148, musicbynumbers59@yahoo.com
Bob Marshall: 914-737-4792, rmarshall@webtv.net

Thursday, November 10
Will work in Popolopen Gorge
Leader: Bob Marshall

Saturday, November 12
Work and location TBD
Leader: Chris Ezzo

NEW NORTH JERSEY BEAR CLAW TRAIL CREW
Contact: bearclawtrailcrew@gmail.com

As of the deadline for this issue, this new crew was planning its November/December schedule.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Trail Conference frequently collaborates with Friends groups, park and preserve land managers, and our member clubs and organizations on special trail projects. Often, these welcome new volunteers and provide training.

BEAR MOUNTAIN TRAILS PROJECT

Trail Conference partners include the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service Appalachian Trail Park Office, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

Through November 20
Thursday-Monday, 8:30am-4:30pm

Work trips involve a variety of tasks, such as: corridor clearing, prepping work sites, quarrying stone, using an overhead highline to transport stone, creating crushed stone (with mash and sledge hammers), building crib walls, setting rock steps, and splitting stone.

While training is provided every day, individuals who have no trail building experience are REQUIRED to either attend one Trail U course on Bear Mountain or a Trail Building 101 course at another location. If you cannot meet these requirements but still wish to volunteer, please contact Wheelock@nynjtc.org.



Trail News

Pipe Work to Close Trails in Popolopen Gorge into Spring 2012

Work to replace a water line that runs through the Popolopen Gorge has closed the Popolopen Gorge Trail and portions of the 1779, 1777W and Timp Torne Trails. The closure was announced by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission in September and will affect trails for a distance of 2.2 miles through the Gorge.

The Queensboro Water Transmission Main Replacement work will involve directional drilling and trenching, likely including some blasting, to replace the old aqueduct that provides water to Bear Mountain facilities. The project is expected to last into the spring of 2012. The work will destroy the trail surface; reconditioning of the surface is included in the work plan.

The map below indicates (yellow outline) the area of the trails to be closed. Also indicated on the map is the location of the former Popolopen Creek bridge that was washed aside by Hurricane Irene. Replacement or repair of this long fiberglass bridge will be an extended process, and a timetable is not yet in place.



Post-Storm Status Report: Trails and Trail Bridges That Are Expected to Be Closed for Some Time

Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park
All known trail bridge locations (36) have been examined: 11 bridges were signifi-

cantly damaged or totally destroyed by hurricane Irene. Locations that are impractical to cross or pose significant difficulty are as follows.

- **Hillburn-Torne-Sebago Trail over Pine Meadow Brook:** The bridge (just above Cascade of Slid) is gone. Attempting to cross is inadvisable due to swift current and proximity to the cascade.

- **Kakiat Trail bridge over Stony Brook** is gone; crossing is impractical.

- **Long Path bridge over Horsechock Creek,** just north of Call Hollow Road is gone. Passage can be achieved by use of nearby "Old Turnpike" and crossing at the first reservoir.

- **Nurian Trail Bridge over the Ramapo River** between NYS Route 17 and the Thruway is impassable as of this writing; the structure is secure. The Park expects to have it open within a short period.

- **Pine Meadow, Kakiat, & 7-Hills Trails bridge over Pine Meadow Brook** is gone. Some users are wading through two-foot deep water over the very rocky stream bottom at the former bridge location to reach Pine Meadow Lake.

- **Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail bridge** just south of the departure of R-D Trail from the Appalachian Trail (south of Anthony Wayne Recreation Area) is gone. Bypass is possible by utilizing a short section of the ski/biking trail.

- **Stahahe Brook Trail:** This major bridge, on the old Harriman Arden Road over Stahahe Brook south of the Elk Pen, is totally washed out; crossing is not possible.

- **Timp-Torne, 1777E & 1779 Trails over Popolopen Creek:** Crossing the Creek is not possible (see first item regarding Popolopen Gorge Trail closings.)

- **Stony Brook/Kakiat Trails bridge over Pine Meadow Brook has been repaired** thanks to ever ambitious volunteer Roland Breault.

Crossing with due care is possible at several additional sites where less significant bridges are missing or damaged. A schedule for rebuilding bridges is undetermined at this time and will be done in cooperation with park staff. Use of our trail maps is recommended for planning hikes to avoid these known obstacles.

Thanks go to Arnie Seymour-Jones for his exceptional effort in creating the bridge

inventory that guided this assessment. Many other volunteers contributed to post-storm examinations and reporting.

— *John Mack, Trails Chair for Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park*

Minnewaska State Park Preserve
See West Hudson Field Notes, page 4.

Fahnestock State Park

Bridges are out on School Mountain Road (multiuse trail) at junction with Fahnestock Trail (0.4 mile from Hubbard Lodge) and at junction with Perkins Trail (one washed out, one severely damaged).

New Jersey Trails

- Black Creek Bridge on AT near Canal Road is closed.
- Long House Creek Bridge on AT near Bearfort Mountain/Greenwood Lake is washed out.
- Green Brook Bridge is washed out near Warwick Tpke. on Terrace Pond North trail.
- Long Pond Bridge over the Wanaque River at Hasenclever/Sterling Ridge/Highlands Trails is washed out.
- In Stokes State Forest, Tillman Ravine and Stony Lake Trails are closed. Crigger, Grau, and Sunrise Mtn. Rds. are also closed.

Catskills

DEC has stated these trails and trailheads will remain closed due to trail damage and/or damage to roads that access the trails. We will post updates at nynjtc.org/content/catskill-trails-updates.

- Biscuit Brook Trailhead
- Giant Ledge Trailhead
- Lost Clove Trailhead
- Kenape Brook (Ashokan High Point)
- McKinley Hollow Trailhead
- Rider Hollow Trailhead
- Seager Trailhead
- Slide Mountain Trailhead (Olivera, Town of Shandaken, Ulster County)
- Spruceton Trailheads (including the Spruceton Trail Trailhead and the Diamond Notch Trailhead).



Invasives Strike Force Expands Operations

The Invasives Strike Force is closing in on a very successful first season of monitoring and managing invasive plants along the hiking trails we maintain. This year we trained over 100 volunteers to identify a set of 14 common, wide-spread invasive plants. We had volunteers come from all over the region. Most of our volunteers were Trail Conference members, but we also had several master gardeners who were participating in their first Trail Conference activity. We also trained several people from outside the region who were interested in setting up similar programs in their own areas.

Thanks go to the organizations that hosted training sessions at their facilities: Flat Rock Brook Nature Center in Bergen County, NJ; NJ DEP Div. of Fish & Wildlife's Pequest Trout Hatchery; Teatown Lake Reservation in Westchester, NY; and Highlands Environmental Research Institute (HENRI) in Sterling Forest, NY.

Collectively, our Invasives Strike Force volunteers have given us a solid start on our monitoring program. They have surveyed more than 132 miles of trails so far – 83 miles in New Jersey and 49 miles in New York. Several volunteers have surveyed more than 5 miles of trails each.

A team of interns from the NJ Invasives Strike Team (NJSST) completed almost 15 miles on New Jersey trails as they surveyed for 79 plants that are emerging as invasive in the area but are not yet widespread. Our set of 11 invasives that we are targeting for our Phase 2 surveys is drawn from this comprehensive NJSST list. Fifteen of our Invasives Strike Force volunteers were trained to identify these Phase 2 species, and they surveyed 44 miles of trails for emerging invasives.

"It was slow going at first but then it picked up. Now I find myself [identifying] these invasives just in passing (driving/hiking). Never thought that would have been possible! Gathering the data was interesting and I did enjoy learning about plant identification in general."
— ISF volunteer

As of the deadline for this issue, we had work trips scheduled to remove invasive populations along a northern section of the Otter Hole Trail in Norvin Green State Forest in New Jersey. The ISF Trail Crew will be implementing our management portion of the Invasives Strike Force program using the data collected in our monitoring efforts.

I'd like to thank all of our volunteers who helped us achieve our goals this year and start our first season off so well.

— *Linda Rohleder, ISF project manager*

Trail Conference member and volunteer Linda Rohleder is a PhD candidate at Rutgers University in the Dept. Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources

Hunting Season

Late Fall is Hunting Season in both New York and New Jersey. Find details and links on our website: nynjtc.org/news/deer-hunting-dates-new-york-and-new-jersey-2011

Also find great No Hunting Zones for hiking: <http://www.nynjtc.org/content/top-10-nohunting-hike-areas-new-york-and-new-jersey>



HIKERS' ALMANAC

A Sampling of Upcoming Hikes
Sponsored by Member Clubs

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

November

Saturday, November 5

VSHC. Blydenburgh County Park, Smithtown, NY. Leader: Joel Berman, 516-608-9880. Meet: Contact leader for meeting time and place. 5 miles around Blydenburgh Lake.

WTA. Parker Cabin Mountain, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Marvin Malater, 718-376-3608. Meet: 10:17am at Tuxedo, NY, parking; contact leader for details and public transportation. 7-8 moderate miles with hills. Lunch at gem-like Lake Skenonto, stop at Claudius Smith's Den on the return.

SW. Bridges and Waterways of Central Park, NY. Leader: Matthew Brozyna, 917-912-9533. Meet: 9am at atrium entrance, 59th St. at Columbus Circle, Manhattan. Moderately paced 8-mile walk admiring many of the architectural wonders of Central Park. We'll walk up to the Harlem Meer at 100th St., finish at Sheep's Meadow. Expect the walk to take about 5 hours. Rain or shine! Non-members \$3.

IHC. Wildcat Ridge Wildlife Management Area, NJ. Leader: Jim McKay, 973-538-0756 or jrmckay@verizon.net. Meet: 9:30am at Wildcat Ridge (Hibernia Rd.) parking lot, Rt. 513 (Green Pond Rd.), Rockaway, NJ. We will hike 6 to 7 miles at a moderate pace to the hawk watch and then to the Beach Glen area on some old and new trails. Rain or foul weather cancels.

Sunday, November 6

NYR. Wildcat Mountain Trail, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Shizuko Okumura, 718-997-6186. Meet: Take 8:30am Shortline bus from Port Authority Bus Terminal to Harriman, NY (one-way). Strenuous hike. We'll take Sapphire Trail to Indian Hill and Furnace loops, then Wildcat Mountain Trail to Rt. 17A where we'll cross the Thruway and take Parker Cabin Hollow Trail to the White Bar. Then out to Tuxedo via the WB and RD Trails.

NYHC. Bear Mountain State Park, NY. Leader: Bob Ward, 718-471-7036; call after 8pm for meeting time. Meet: Port Authority Bus Terminal info booth in north building; call for time. Easy 3 miles. Walk the lowest point on the Appalachian Trail and visit animals native to our area. Then take a long leg-stretcher before taking the 5:19pm bus back to the city.

AFW. Doodletown, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for info and to register. Meet: 9:30am; register for location. Moderate hike at a leisurely pace; out by 2:30pm.

Saturday, November 12

AFW. South Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for info and to register. Meet: 10am; register for location. Moderate hike at a moderate pace; out by 2pm.

UCHC. Pyramid Mountain Reservation, NJ. Leader: Gail Waimon, 973-467-4661. Meet: 10am at Pyramid Mountain parking lot. Brisk 5 miles. Rain cancels.

Sunday, November 13

AMC-NYNJ. Breakneck Up, Over and Out Early, Hudson Highlands State Park, NY. Leader: Nathan Baker, 862-591-6844, nbbalance@verizon.net. Meet: Contact leader for meeting place and time. 6 miles. Slow climb up this steep, exposed ridge, then steady but moderate pace with few breaks so we can be out early.

WTA. Two Lakes in Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Carol Ann Benton, aquarius2950@hotmail.com. Meet: 9:45am at Lake Sebago boat launch parking. 7 moderate miles. Beautiful hike combining Seven Hills Trail (climb up Diamond Mountain), woods roads and several other trails past Pine Meadow Lake and Lake Wanokink. Bad weather cancels.

NYHC. Riverside Park, NY. Leader: Bob Ward, 718-471-7036; call to register after 8pm. Meet: 11am at NW corner of W. 72nd St. and Broadway. Easy 3 miles. Walk this lovely park along the Hudson and view statues plus three gravesites.

SW. Astoria, Queens, Shoreline Walk, NY. Leader: Ellen, 212-861-4261. Meet: 11am at Ditmars Blvd. subway station (take N or Q train); call to confirm walk is still on. Walk 5 miles along Astoria's shoreline to Socrates Sculpture Park. Non-members \$3.

IHC. Palisades to Riverdale, NY. Leader: Chris Davis, 973-590-7437 or chrisdavis08558@yahoo.com. Meet: 9am Ross's Dock, Henry Hudson Dr, Fort Lee, NJ. Starting at Ross's Dock at river level, just N. GW Bridge, we hike up the cliff and across the GWB to Manhattan. Then we continue north through Ft. Tryon, Inwood Hill, and Riverdale Parks. En route we pass the Cloisters and, perhaps, Wave Hill. Return by subway (B-way line) to 181 St. Then walk the GWB and down the cliff to Ross's Dock. About 9 miles. Rain or foul weather cancels.

Saturday, November 19

ADK-MH. Bear Mountain Area, Harriman State Park, NY. Leaders: Jean-Claude Fouere and Georgette Weir, jcfouere@gmail.com, 845-462-1909. Meet: Contact leaders for meeting time and place, and car pooling arrangements. 8 strenuous miles. Our second "Walk the Past" hike will take us near several old mines. Lake Askoti to Times Square (of Harriman, not NYC!), then Surebridge road to Long Path. We will discuss mining history in the Hudson Valley and its past importance.

NYR. Bloomfield Avenue, End to End, NJ. Leader: Camille Cooper, 212-838-0714, camille_cooper@earthlink.net. Meet: Take 8:30am Lakeland bus (#46) from Port Authority Bus Terminal to Arlington Plaza park & ride (one-way). Follow old Bloomfield Avenue in Parsippany through Montville, to W. Caldwell, then through five more towns including Montclair, ending in Newark. Possible detours into parks en route.

VSHC. Connetquot River State Park, Oakdale, NY. Leader: Joel Berman, 516-608-9880. Meet: contact leader for meeting time and place. 5 miles.

SW. Hudson River Saunter on the Jersey Side, NJ. Leader: Matthew Brozyna, 917-912-9533. Meet: 9:15am at Info Booth in George Washington Bridge bus terminal, 178th St. and Broadway. 14+ mile moderately paced walk. We'll walk across the bridge, then south along the Palisades and New Jersey shore, ending at the new pier near Jersey City. Visually stunning, 7+ hour saunter. Return to Manhattan via PATH train. Rain or snow cancels. Non-members \$3.

EHTPS. Long Island Cranberry and Dune Hike, NY. Leader: Lee Dion 631-375-2339. Meet: 10am at the end of Napeague Harbor Road, off Rte. 27 in Napeague. There is something romantic about picking wild cranberries just in time for your Thanksgiving table. Join Lee for the 12th anniversary of this 1.5-mile hike. We will learn about the walking dunes and spend some time picking cranberries. Bring a plastic bag and wear low boots for the bog. He will also give away his secret cranberry recipe. Recommended for families.

Sunday, November 20

AMC-NYNJ. Island Pond, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Joe Bonner, hikerman4169@yahoo.com. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time. Moderately paced 9 miles with some hills. Hike from Lake Skannatati to Island Pond and back; several views and only moderate hills. Heavy rain cancels. Limited to 12.

WTA. Teatown Lake Reservation, NY. Leader: Herb Hochberg, h_hochberg@hotmail.com, 914-723-6566. Meet: 9am at North White Plains train station for shuttle; trans. contribution \$3. Moderate 7 miles. Enjoy the less frequented trails at Teatown. Return to NWP by 4pm.

NYHC. Staten Island Beach Hike, NY. Leader: Ray Krant, 718-435-4994; call before 10pm. Meet: 10:15am at Staten Island Ferry waiting room (Manhattan side). Easy terrain, 6 miles. Beach hike from Tottenville to Pleasant Plains. Variety of scenery and views of marine life and coastal regions.

AFW. Merrill Creek Reservoir Environmental Preserve, NJ. Leader: call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for info and to register. Meet: 10am; register for location. Moderate hike at a moderate pace; out by 2pm.

IHC. Wawayanda to Pinwheel Vista, NJ. Leader: Steve Rikon, 973-962-4149 or rikon4@optonline.net. Meet: 9am Wawayanda State Park Ranger Station, Hewitt, NJ, then drive to Rt. 94/AT crossing site and climb up the "Stairway to Heaven" to viewpoint; then hike eastward back through the park a distance of about 7 miles. Moderately strenuous. Shuttle required. Rain or foul weather cancels.

Saturday, November 26

AMC-NYNJ. Skannatati Skedaddle, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Art Almeida, 914-271-8659, arta@crotton10520.com. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time. Hilly 9 miles but at a moderate pace. Steep initial climb, then wander around as many interesting trails as we can find. Crampons/stabilicers or snowshoes may be required, if appropriate.

SW. Walk Off the Turkey - Battery to Little Red Lighthouse, NY. Leader: Cy Adler and friends, call 212-330-7686 for info. Meet: 10am at Staten Island Ferry Terminal. 12 miles (5 hours); ending at the George Washington Bridge. Bring your friends, socialize, and enjoy the Hudson River shoreline at this annual event. Non-members \$3.

Sunday, November 27

ADK-MH. Northern Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Russ Faller, russoutdoors@yahoo.com, 845-297-5126; call before 9:30pm. Meet: 9am at Rt. 9W parking about four miles south of Bear Mtn. Bridge. Strenuous hike of 11 miles (early out option is 7.5 miles). From just south of Jones Pt., we'll head over the Timp, West, Bald and Dunderburg Mountains. The route maximizes viewpoints, with fantastic panoramas of the Hudson River and NYC skyline. Visit to Cornell Mine. Rain cancels.

WTA. After Thanksgiving Hike, Turkey Mountain Preserve, NY. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, earthwormch@aol.com, 914-948-0608. Meet: 9:30am at North White Plains train station for shuttle; trans. contribution \$3. Easy 3 miles at Turkey Mountain, with great views from the top, then optional easy 2 mile walk on the North County Trailway.

UCHC. Palisades Interstate Park, Alpine, NY/NJ. Leader: Jay Dibble, 908-289-8813. Meet: 10am at Stateline Lookout. 6 miles, mostly flat with one 400-foot climb, at moderate pace. Beautiful views of the Hudson River from both the shore and cliff top; out by 2pm.

IHC. Storm King State Park, NY. Leader: Dave Sutter, 973-778-0992 or dsutr@aol.com. Meet: 9:30am at Butter Hill-Storm King Rt. 9W parking area. Moderately strenuous. Eagle's aerie hike with 11 stars on our map. Count them. Return thru ancient clove. Rain or foul weather cancels. Joint with AMC.

Sunday, December 4

AFW. Lake Wanokink, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for info and to register. Meet: 9:30am; register for location. Moderate hike at a moderate pace; out by 2:30pm.

UCHC. Coppermines Trail, Delaware Water Gap, NJ. Leader: Pat Horsch, 908-693-8331. Meet: 10am at Coppermines parking lot, Old Mine Rd. Moderately strenuous 5 miles; not for beginners. Climb at a moderate pace up to AT and Catfish Pond. Traction aids may be needed.

Saturday, December 10

AMC-NYNJ. Stahahe Views, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Christine Benton, cbentonhiker@yahoo.com, 347-464-6367; call before 8:30pm. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time. Hilly 9 miles but at a moderate pace with stops to admire scenery; expect to be out about 4pm. Valley of Boulders, Stahahe High Pt., Black Rock, and visits to Boston Mine and Green Pond.

ADK-MH. Lake to Lake Hike in Southern Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Russ Faller, russoutdoors@yahoo.com, 845-297-5126; call before 9:30pm. Meet: 9am at Lake Skannatati parking, Seven Lakes Dr.; shuttle required. Strenuous 7.5 miles. One of the most beautiful hikes in Harriman. We'll climb Black Rock, Tom Jones and Parker Cabin Mountains, ending at Lake Sebago. Traction aids (or snowshoes) may be required. Rain cancels.

SW. Great South Bay and Bayard Arboretum, NY. Leader: Quinn Pham, 631-234-5486; call 8-10pm and morning of hike. Meet: 10:33am at Great River, NY, LIRR train station (take 9:16 LIRR from Penn Station to Great River). 6 or 11 miles at a moderately brisk pace. Hike to fantastic view of the bay in Heckscher State Park, then explore the beautiful arboretum. Bad weather cancels. Non-members \$3.

AFW. Timp Torne, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for info and to register. Meet: 10am; register for location. Moderate to strenuous hike at a moderate pace; out by 3pm.

VSHC. Paumanok Trail, Suffolk County, NY. Leader: David Spiwak, 516-764-0607. Meet: Contact leader for meeting time and place. 5 mile section of this 46-mile trail.

Sunday, December 11

NYHC. Staten Island, Towns and Woods, NY. Leader: Bettye Soffer, 718-720-1593; call 7-9pm. Meet: Take 10:30am Staten Island Ferry from Manhattan, then S74 bus to meet leader at Spring St. in Staten Island. Call to register. Moderate 4-5 miles. Hike to top of Todt Hill, then wander through residential streets with interesting homes and holiday decorations. Possible visit to High Rock Park.

UCHC. Jockey Hollow National Park, Morristown, NJ. Leader: Mae Deas, 908-233-6641. Meet: 10am at visitor center parking lot A. 4-5 miles in this historical park. Rain cancels.

IHC. Bare Rock and Sterling Ridge, Sterling Forest State Park, NY. Leaders: Guy & Jennifer Percival, 973-590-7437 or jenguy@optonline.net. Meet: 9am Sterling Forest Visitor Center. We will explore the new Bare Rock Trail then return to the visitors center. Bare Rock offers very pretty views both north and south. Strenuous 9 miles total in loop. Rain or foul weather cancels.

Saturday, December 17

AMC-NYNJ. Cornell Climb, Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: Christine Benton, cbentonhiker@yahoo.com, 347-464-6367; call before 8:30pm. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time. Hilly 8 miles. Strenuous terrain at a moderate pace with stops to admire scenery; expect to be out at about 4pm. Up Cornell Trail to Bald Mtn., then on to the Timp, where we'll look down on the turkey vultures.

ADK-MH. Sugarloaf, Woodstock, NY. Leader: David Koehler, k2david121@gmail.com, 917-613-2043. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time. 7 strenuous miles, 1800 ft. elevation gain. To the summit of Sugarloaf and back, passing small waterfalls, a massive beaver dam, and mysterious Dibbles Quarry. Snowshoes or traction aids may be required.

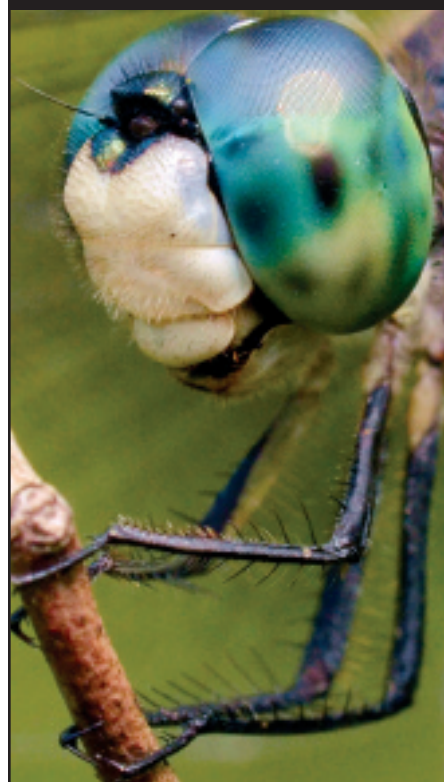
AFW. Harriman State Park, NY. Leader: call 973-644-3592 or visit www.adventuresforwomen.org for info and to register. Meet: 9am; register for location. Moderate hike at a moderate pace; out by 2pm.

Sunday December 25

IHC. Christmas & Hanukkah Hike, NY. Leaders: Dave & Naomi Sutter, 973-778-0992 or dsutr@aol.com. Meet: 10am at Sloatsburg Municipal Plaza parking lot, Sloatsburg, NY. Sutter & Sutter combine to lead this joint, moderately strenuous venture hike to who knows where. Shuttle required. Foul weather or poor driving conditions cancels this hike.

Editors' Photo Pick

Selected from submissions on our Flickr site by web photo editor Arnab Banerjee and Trail Walker editor Georgette Weir



Dragonfly along trail at Angle Fly Preserve in Westchester County.

MINE LUBCHENKO

December

Saturday, December 3

AMC-NYNJ. Schunemunk Mountain State Park, NY. Leader: Richard Seibel, richard@richardseibel.com, 973-839-7795; call 11am-10pm. Meet: contact leader for meeting place and time. Hilly 7 miles but at a moderate pace. Steep initial climb rewarded by magnificent views. Expect to do both ridges. Beginner friendly. Cold rain cancels.

SW. Rockland Lake to Nyack, NY. Leader: Marvin Malater, 718-376-3608. Meet: 8:50am at white commuter statues in south wing of Port Authority bus terminal (9:15 bus to Rockland Lake, NY; one-way). 7 miles on the Long Path with several climbs. Many panoramic vistas overlooking the Hudson River along the Hook Mountain ridgeline and summit. Optional dinner in Nyack or visit to Edward Hopper art gallery. Non-members \$3.

IHC. Trenton to NYC, Part 1, NJ. Leaders: Craig Nunn, 551-206-6823 or dystopicnj@gmail.com; Al MacLennan, 973-451-1435 or maclellan_al@comcast.net. Meet: contact leaders a week prior to register and learn meeting location and time. Trenton to Hamilton Township. First in a series of about a dozen hikes crossing the Garden State. Start by walking from Trenton RR Station to Pennsylvania then back across the Delaware River to NJ on the Calhoun Street Bridge. Walk past historic sites in Trenton including the state capitol, then on to Hamilton Township via the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park. 8-12 essentially flat miles on city streets and park paths. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Strenuous. Shuttle may be required. Foul weather or poor driving conditions cancels this hike. Joint with Shorewalkers.

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

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

Club Codes

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

ADK-MH	Adirondack Mountain Club,	NYHC	New York Hiking Club
	Mid-Hudson Chapter	NYR	New York Ramblers
AFW	Adventures for Women	SW	Shorewalkers
AMC-NYNJ	Appalachian Mountain Club,	UCHC	Union County Hiking Club
	New York-North Jersey Chapter	VSHC	Valley Stream Hiking Club
EHTPS	East Hampton Trails Preservation Society	WTA	Westchester Trails Association
IHC	Interstate Hiking Club		

Clubs wishing to have hikes listed in Hikers' Almanac should send their schedules to tw@nynjtc.org or to the Trail Conference Office. The deadline for the January/February issue is November 15.

We Welcome Two New Retail Partners



Find details about member benefits offered by our business partners at nynjtc.org/content/retail-partners

Science & Ecology

American Beech

Can science bring this silver pillar of eastern forests back to its earlier grandeur?

By Edna Greig

American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) is an eastern North American forest tree that has a characteristic smooth, silvery gray bark that's easy to spot, even from a distance. Beech is especially conspicuous after autumn leaf fall because its leaves persist on the tree through winter. Beech leaves first turn a rusty orange in autumn and fade to a light tan by winter's end. The leaves make a pleasant rustling sound when stirred by a winter breeze.

Beech usually is found on moist, well-drained uplands and lowlands, often with sugar maple and yellow birch. It can grow 70 to 80 feet high with a stout 2- to 3-foot diameter trunk. Beech leaves are oblong with prominent parallel veins that end in small, incurved teeth on the margins. The smooth, thin bark of beech is susceptible to injury from fire, sunscald, freeze cracks, insects, and physical damage caused by animals or humans. The bark's light color reflects the winter sun's rays and helps to minimize the temperature fluctuations that can cause freeze cracks.

An introduced blight has weakened this familiar native tree.

Beech reproduces vegetatively by sending up sprouts along its wide-spreading surface root system, sometimes forming groves. Beech also reproduces by seed. The fruit is a soft-bristled, four-part husk that matures in late summer and usually contains two triangular nuts. Beeches produce an abundant nut crop every five years or so, making a thick blanket of husks on the ground beneath the trees. Many mammals and birds relish the nuts. Before their extinction, passenger pigeons flocked in large numbers to beech groves to devour the nuts.

People and their livestock also have enjoyed beech nuts. Early farmers released their hogs into beech groves to fatten up on the nuts. Meat from these hogs had a unique flavor that was prized in local markets. The Beech Nut Company of upstate New York (now best known for its baby food) got its name from its 19th-century origins as a maker of beech nut-fattened smoked ham products.

The wood of beech is hard and tough although it does warp and split. Its toughness made it a popular factory flooring material for years. The wood also is easily bent after steaming and is used to make curved furni-



EDNA GREIG

A double-trunked giant American Beech

ture parts. Beech makes excellent firewood because it burns long and clean.

Unfortunately, in many parts of its range, American beech is declining due to beech bark disease, an introduced blight. The disease starts when tiny beech scale insects (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*) pierce the bark to feed on sap, creating small wounds. The scale insects carry a *Neonectria* fungus which then penetrates the wounds and destroys inner bark tissue. Beech bark disease is believed to have entered Nova Scotia around 1890 on imported European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) logs or ornamental trees. The disease then spread southward and westward, reaching Maine around 1935.

It may also have entered New York City separately, spreading northward through Westchester County and into the Catskills by the 1940s. In infected areas, up to 50% of trees have been killed and another 30% to 40% have been weakened. Many larger trees have died, but smaller root sprouts have survived, though weakened and deformed.

So, the forests still have beech trees, but they are not of the size and vigor as in the past. On a small positive note, scientists have found that 5 to 20% of trees in a given area are resistant to beech bark disease. They are working to improve beech health by culling the diseased trees and propagating and planting resistant trees.

Let's hope the scientists succeed so that American beech can return to its grandeur of earlier times.



Bristly husks contain nutritious nuts.

Member Edna Greig writes regularly for Trail Walker on natural history topics.



MEMORIAM



Ann M. Gruhn

Ann M. Gruhn of Mount Kisco, NY, died on Sept. 18, 2011 after a long illness. She was a graduate of Middlebury College, Vermont and received a master's degree from New York University. She spent most of her career at the IBM Corporation, where she held a variety of technical and management positions. Ann shared an enthusiasm for hiking with her husband, Peter Franaszek, and together they explored trails in our region and abroad. Ann brought these two strains of her life together for the benefit of the Trail Conference. In 2008 she assumed a project management role on the Trail Conference's website committee and assisted with development and launch of the current website. Ann was elected to the Board of Directors of the Trail Conference in June 2008 and co-chaired the Technology Committee, where she gently but effectively exercised her management skills. Memorial contributions can be made to the Women's Cancer Center Foundation for Research, 3131 La Canada Street, Suite 241, Las Vegas, Nevada 89169.



GIRL SCOUTS...

continued from page 1

The Trail Conference's AT Coordinating Committee, headed by Ron Rosen, has already held a planning meeting attended by representatives of four Girl Scout councils (Heart of the Hudson [NY], Northern New Jersey, Heart of NJ, and Central and Southern NJ), chairs of the AT Management Committees, the three Trail Conference program coordinators whose area includes the AT, and Girl Scout volunteer leaders.

This coordinating group is looking for volunteers willing to assist the Girl Scout leaders in preparation for the actual events next year. Any hikers already involved with the Girl Scouts (including Girl Scout alumni) are especially encouraged to come forward. Assistance can include:

1. attending leaders' meetings to talk about hike leadership and the history and maintenance of the AT,
2. taking Girl Scout leaders on a hike to give them experience with the issues of hike leadership,
3. attending actual Girl Scout meetings to talk to the girls, or
4. joining Girl Scout troops on a hike on the AT.



We aim to get more girls out to enjoy hiking.

The coordinating committee can provide volunteers with additional information or handouts to help with the training events. Also, experienced hike leaders are especially encouraged to volunteer!

More information on the program as a whole can be obtained by visiting the website www.gshike.org, or on Facebook at "Great Girl Scout Hike." Those wishing more information on the activities in New York or New Jersey, or wishing to volunteer to help with the training or leadership, can contact Ron Rosen at rosen@alum.mit.edu or 845-454-4936.



TRAIL CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

July 25 - September 23, 2011

The Volunteer Committee acknowledges these new volunteers who took on or completed an assignment during the time period noted above, as well as existing volunteers who have accepted additional assignments. We extend our thanks to them, and to all our volunteers.

Conservation Coordinator:
Joe Altavilla

Publications Book Field Checker
Kenneth Bitz, Zachary Gold, Carol Jensen, Eric Jensen, John Jurasek, Michael Katz, Barry Mark, Naomi Mark, Paul Meck, James O'Connell, Catharine Raffaele, Will Raffaele

Publications Guidebook Author:
Jane Daniels, Walt Daniels (new edition of *Walkable Westchester*)

Trail Crew Chief:
Richard Raschdorf
(North Jersey Bear Claw Crew)

Trail Maintainer: Melissa Bean, Michael Bellew, John Bradley, Riley Hennessy, Hi-Camp Outdoor Activity Club, Hal Hill, Georgia Koval, Tom McCutcheon, Hiroyuki Nishide, Joanne Reinhardt, Wendy Rettig, Fred Schneider, John Pappas, Joe Passeti, Nancy Seus, Richard Vacek, Robert Vann, Suzanne Wilcox

Trail Shelter Caretaker: Brad Lamel

Trail Supervisor: Hal Hill

Did we miss you or someone you know? Please tell us so we can correct our records and give you the thanks you deserve. Contact the Volunteer Administrator via email: volunteers@nynjtc.org



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

Featured Hike



Croft Trail to Vernay Lake at Teatown



DANIEL CHAZIN

Over the spring and summer, volunteers established a new hiking trail at Teatown Lake Reservation. This is the most recent trail addition by East Hudson Community Trails, a partnership between Teatown and the Trail Conference that expands the capacity to provide service to local parks and open space.

The Croft Trail is short, easy, and connects the 59-acre parcel known as The Croft with the well established Teatown trail network. The property was acquired by Teatown in November 2010.

The Croft is situated directly opposite Teatown's headquarters on Spring Valley Road in Ossining, NY (Westchester County), features pristine, 9-acre Vernay Lake, and provides a crucial link in the biotic corridor that stretches from the Ossining area to the Hudson Highlands of western Putnam County. It also provides the opportunity for this integral trail link in an expanding trail network in the area. The Croft Trail can be used to create several interesting hikes in the Teatown area.

An easy-to-moderate 2.2-mile circuit hike that incorporates the Croft Trail is described by Trail Conference hike writer Daniel Chazin on our website. (Find his complete description of this hike at nynjtc.org/view/hike.)

The Croft Trail begins across the street from the Nature Center on a grassy woods

road and is blazed orange. The trail leaves the road as it descends to Vernay Lake. Continue to follow the orange blazes to the left on a narrow footpath (the red-blazed Back 40 Trail goes right) and along the lake.

At the end of the lake, the trail turns left and begins to climb a small hill and passes through a break in a stone fence. After crossing a grassy field, the Croft Trail ends at a gate in a stone wall along Spring Valley Road.

Turn right and follow the road for 50 feet, then turn left onto a black-blazed connector trail, which climbs to a stone wall at the crest of the rise and then descends. Near the base of the descent, you'll reach a T-intersection. The black-blazed trail ends here, and you should turn right (uphill) onto the red-blazed Hidden Valley Trail. This trail will pass rock outcrops, laurel thickets, and a stream and pass over a wetland on a boardwalk. Continue on it past the yellow-blazed Overlook Trail, and up and out of Hidden Valley.

Continue to follow the red-blazed trail through several trail intersections, following signs to return to the Nature Center.

Directions:

Teatown is located at 1600 Spring Valley Road Ossining, NY 10562, just minutes from the Taconic State Parkway, Exit 134. Find directions at teatown.org.

Support Trails, Parks and Open Space in the New York-New Jersey region by joining the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

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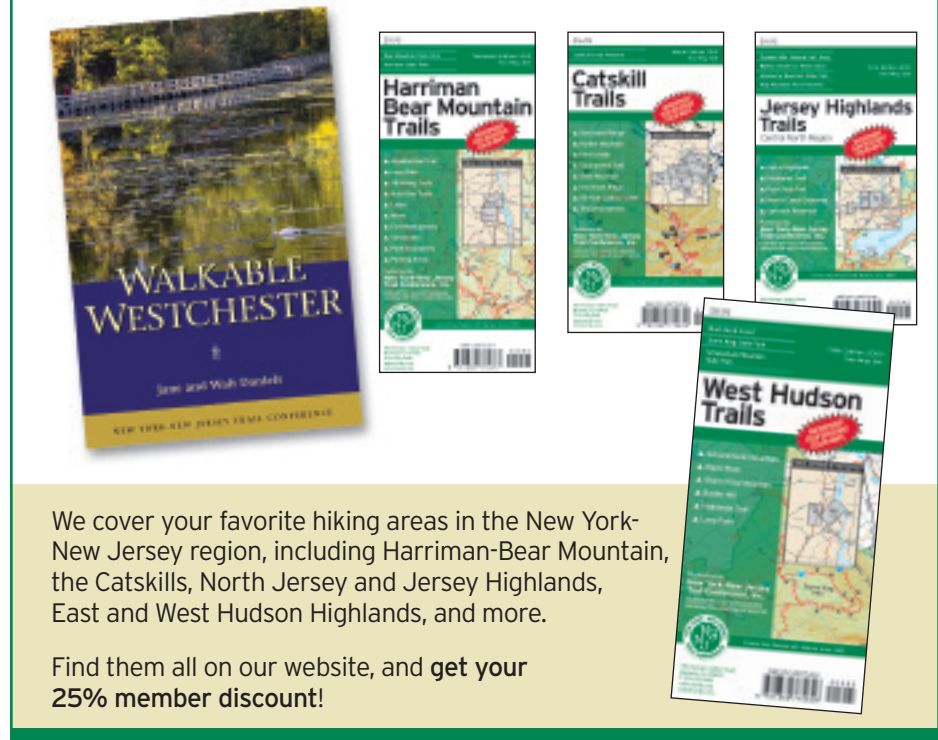
Find links to all these and more at nynjtc.org

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