

# Adirondack Mountain Club-Ramapo

## The Ramapough

[www.hudsonhikers.org](http://www.hudsonhikers.org)



Summer 2008

## The View From The Summit

Recently, while on a hike in Bear Mountain Park, we were walking along a section of the Appalachian Trail when we came across a combination of trash and garbage left over from some hikers' previous lunches. It was a sad and shocking sight to see the area despoiled by irresponsible people who left their trash behind.

I have been reflecting on the importance of our efforts to protect and improve our environment. It is not only important to pick up trash that other people leave behind, but it is equally important to educate people about the consequences of their thoughtless behavior. Our forests and woods are too important an outdoor asset to allow them to become spoiled over time by allowing trash to accumulate. The guideline of "leave no trace" that we live by on our ADK hikes and outings is a plan of action that benefits everyone and everything.

One thing we can all do on hikes is to inform other hikers that we expect them to clean up any trash they create when using our woods and trails. We can all collect the trash that we spot along the trails and dispose of it properly at the end of the hike. I know a number of hikers who stopped using little plastic bags to hold their lunch items because they can easily blow away, and instead, pack their food in plastic containers, which are reusable. The forest areas are for us to use today and should be left unspoiled for the generations who will come after us.

Be sure to save the dates, October 31- November 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Ramapo Chapter's fall outing to the Shawnee Inn and Resort. You will enjoy a beautiful, activity filled resort, good meals and an opportunity to hike in the Delaware Water Gap area. This area is different from where we usually hike so you're in for some special treats on these trails. If you're not into hiking, there will be

plenty of other things for you or your spouse to do. Read the announcement and reservation deadline in the newsletter and book your spot early.

Hopefully, many of you participated in some activity for National Trails Day on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Many people volunteer to clean up a trail or help to restore an old trail. This event is part of the statewide Trail Celebration sponsored by ADK and local trail associations. If you're not aware of the events, look for them in the newsletter next spring.

Have you visited our website lately? Go to [www.hudsonhikers.org](http://www.hudsonhikers.org) for new photos, copies of the previous and current hike schedules and newsletters. The photos sent in by various members who participated on recent hikes help to remind you of the wonderful places we have visited on the trails. The website has links to the ADK headquarters' home page which gives you access to special announcements and educational opportunities. Check the website frequently so you can stay up to date.

Finally, as I've mentioned in previous newsletters, the growth of our club is dependent on each of us talking to everyone about the joys of hiking. By doing so, you will generate interest which can lead to new members who are the lifeblood of our chapter. Share your enthusiasm for ADK and outdoor activities and help us to grow our chapter.

See you on the trails.

Peter Reiner, President  
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## Conservation Corner

In conjunction with New Jersey Governor Corzine's budget reduction plans, the DEP issued a proposed plan on Mar 31 for the complete closure of nine New Jersey parks - including High Point State Park, Worthington State Forest and Jenny Jump State Park - and the elimination of services at others, including Ringwood State Park. The prospective closures could affect access to portions of the Appalachian and Highlands Trails. While opposition from recreational groups has forced the Governor to backtrack on park staff reductions, the question of park service reductions remains an open issue as the July 1 deadline looms for approval of the state budget. The USDA Invasive Species Survey - a program involving the NY-NJ Trail Conference, PIPC and Rutgers University - continues this year in northeast Harriman/Bear Mountain Parks in New York and Wawayanda State Park and Abram Hewitt State Forest in NJ. Prospective plant pests to be studied are barberry, wineberry, Oriental bitter-sweet, alantus, multiflora rose, Hercules club, burning bush and Norway maple. Ramapoers interested in volunteering as citizen scientists on this project should contact Anne Osborn at the NY-NJ Trail Conference. Also on the invasive invader front, the New York State Parks Department and the Eastern New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy are receiving \$150,000 in state grants to eradicate the growing threat of invasive plants. The Parks Department will use its \$100,000 to attack common reed, barberry, knotweed, stiltgrass, leafy spurge, multiflora rose and spotted knapweed in Minnewaska State Park; The Nature Conservancy will spend \$50,000 to go after black swallow-wort, bush honeysuckle, giant hogweed and mile-a-minute in areas of the Catskills.

Chris Connolly

### THE ANNUAL MOHONK DAY IS SET

Our fun-filled day at Mohonk in New Paltz, NY is scheduled this fall for Saturday, Sept. 6th with a rain date of Sept 13th.

We will spend our day at the hotel hiking, walking the carriage roads, doing rock scrambles or spending time at the lake or gardens. At 4PM, tea will be served on the veranda overlooking the lake. We may shower and change for dinner in the spa, using their big fluffy towels, soap and shampoo. A four course delicious dinner will be served at 6PM in the main dining room where attire is now "resort casual". Men are not required to wear jackets; nice jeans are OK but no sneakers. We will be on our way home after dinner about 8PM.

The price is LESS than last year, \$49.50 pp. which includes tip and tax. The final date for responding is **Aug. 15**. Call or e-mail me and then send a check made to **Ramapo ADK** for the required amount per person. Details will follow after you have reserved.

Suzan Gordon Programs Chair, Ramapo ADK  
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### Save the dates (Oct. 31- Nov. 2) for a Fall Foliage Hiking Weekend

at the beautiful Shawnee Inn and Resort in Shawnee on the Delaware, Pennsylvania. We will be guests at this beautiful hotel, which is situated overlooking the Delaware River and adjacent to National Park lands, for two days of planned hikes in the Delaware Water Gap National Park. The Appalachian Trail, Bushkills Falls Trails, and many others are just minutes away. Included in the two day package are many amenities for non-hikers, such as a spectacular indoor pool and a nine hole approach golf course. For an additional fee, you can play their famous 18 hole, River Island course. In addition, fishing and canoeing are options along with shopping at nearby, brand name outlet stores. Other options include strolling around the Hotel's magnificent property or treating yourself to a massage at the hotel Spa. Plan to arrive on Friday evening, October 31, to enjoy dinner; the next day after breakfast, take a pack lunch, and hike or engage in other activities, and have dinner on Saturday evening. Check-out is after breakfast on Sunday, November 2. We then have the option of participating in one more hike before heading home. The trip is only 75 minutes by car from the Trail Conference Office in Mahwah.

Please look at the Hotel's web site, [www.shawneeinn.com](http://www.shawneeinn.com). Call or e-mail me for more details.

Suzan Gordon, Programs Chair  
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### Ididaride Adirondack Bike Tour

ADK is sponsoring the Ididaride Adirondack Bike Tour on August 17, 2008. It will be a 75 mile loop beginning in North Creek, NY and is on wide shoulder roads for most of the route, with much of the time on public Forest Preserve land. The start time is 8:30 AM from North Creek. For those who want a shorter ride, ADK is sponsoring a 20 mile ride to Indian Lake and back to North Creek. The start time for the shorter ride is noon and includes a shuttle from North Creek to Indian Lake. For more information or to register go to [www.adk.org](http://www.adk.org), or call ADK at 800-395-8080 Ext. 14.

### In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Alta Sumner. She will be remembered for her radiant smile, sparkling eyes, even disposition, delight in anything chocolate, and thoughtfulness to all who knew her. She and her husband Richard enjoyed music, theater, the arts, traveling, biking, and good food together. But most of all, Alta loved to hike. She heard the birds, observed the trees and flowers, and was swept up in the joys of each season in the woods. Two years ago she began her most difficult climb. She faced it bravely and with courage, never giving up the challenge. She will be missed.

Suzan Gordon, her friend



## HIKE REPORTS

**Stillman on Storm King March 30**

On Sunday, **Eileen Turner** led 11 others on her sophomore outing as a hike leader at Storm King, but with a revised itinerary suggested by hike maven Pete Heckler. Pete proposed a car shuttle circuit of the Stillman Trail, beginning at the trail's northern terminus at the stone posts on Mountain Road one mile off Route 9W and ending 3.5 miles later at the Storm King School parking area (also on Mountain Road but just off 9W). The distance may have been short, but this challenging trail section is studded with scene after scene of arguably the Hudson's most breathtakingly beautiful panorama, overlooking Cornwall and Bannerman's Castle to the north, not to mention views of Black Rock Forest and Schunemunk visible at other viewpoints along the way. The sightseers enjoyed a sunny, cool day, with some ice still present on the trail past the newly installed bridge on the sun-shy and steep northern slope rock ledges. This hike can also be done as a loop hike by parking by the stone posts at the northern trailhead terminus and adding at hike's end a half-mile, downhill road walk between Storm King School and the stone posts.

**Long Path from Fort Lee, NJ April 5**

On a beautiful, sunny, and mildly breezy day, a group of five people, led by **Dean Gletsos**, gathered at the Fort Lee Visitor Center for a northbound hike beginning at the southern terminus of the Long Path. After dodging some road construction, we moved north at a comfortable pace. We could see Manhattan across the Hudson River, the huge George Washington Bridge, the East River north branch, and Yonkers. We passed the G. W. bridge, Allison Park where a lot of charity walks start, and St. Peter's College, and then we left the Long Path and followed the yellow Dyckman Hill trail, which leads down to the Englewood Boat Basin and picnic area. As we went down, the soothing sounds of the numerous waterfalls accompanied us, along with spectacular views. After lunch at the picnic area, we then headed south, following the easy white trail along the River, passing Ross Dock and picnic area and Hazards Beach, where several people were fishing. While passing under the G. W. Bridge, the continuous car sounds on bridge were impressive. Then via a steep footpath, we merged into the circular road at the base of the Fort Lee area. After the hike, I was glad that I visited the beautiful and modern Historical Museum at Fort Lee. Very impressive and full of our Revolutionary history! It is free and the museum personnel were very helpful and friendly. I strongly recommend this seven mile hike, which took us about four hours, including a half hour for lunch.

**Seven Hills Trails End to End, April 13**

For anyone seeking a challenging hike, you should try the Seven Hills Trail in Harriman. **Peter Reiner** led a group of 12 people on the 8 mile trail beginning at the Reeves center and ending at the Lake Sebago boat launch. Filled with interesting and sometimes, almost

vertical climbs, the hike proved each person's stamina and endurance. There are two climbs in particular, climbing up to Torne View Diamond Mountain, which provided a real sense of satisfaction among our hearty group. Our lunchtime was along Pine Meadow Brook and everyone felt a sense of accomplishment when the hike was over.

**Perkins/Popolopen Circular, April 21**

**Chris Connolly** led a dozen-strong coterie on an 8-mile circuit of Bear Mountain and Popolopen Torne on a very warm, and very buggy, day. Beginning at the main Bear Mountain parking lot (no fee charged that day), the group trooped the entire length of the Major Welch, up to Perkins Tower and then downhill along the red rock slopes, where a breeze mercifully kept the flying critters away while a luncheon repast was had. The sojourn on the AT consisted only of the Perkins Drive road walk portion, for once the trail re-entered the woods the hikers detoured down the wide roadbed of the old Bear Mountain Bypass to the Palisades Parkway, where the guardrails were successfully assaulted and a short downhill walk led to the Popolopen Gorge/Timp-Torne footpath. From thence the hikers crossed Popolopen Creek (where two souls refreshed their feet) and ascended the Torne to Cadet Cairn. Continuing on the Timp-Torne, the foot-draggers traveled below Route 9W to Fort Montgomery Visitor Center, took the Twin Forts Trail across Popolopen Creek and under Bear Mountain Bridge to a Hudson overlook. The trip culminated in a stroll on the AT thru the zoo (with sightings of 3 bears and 1 bobcat, fox and coyote). To do this hike without peril of a parking fee, use the Fort Montgomery Visitor Center parking lot as an alternate meeting place.

**Schunemunk Trestle to Trestle, May 11**

On Mother's Day, **Chris Connolly** led a lucky 7 on one of his Top Ten hikes - the 7.5 mile car shuttle trek beginning at the Long Path's junction with the Route 32 railroad trestle overpass and ending at the Otterkill parking area below the 3,200-foot long Moodna Viaduct railroad bridge. Using the Long Path/Jessup/Barton Swamp/Trestle Trails, this hike features an initial 900-foot climb up to a High Tor lookout before reaching the stunningly scenic east ridge of Schunemunk, from which one can at 1,600 feet savor to the west continual views of the Kittatinny/Shawangunk ridgeline and the Catskills beyond, and to the east Hudson River vistas and Storm King Arts Center outdoor sculptures. 'Twas a perfect day - 70 degrees, sunny and delightfully breezy on the ridgetop and at the Megaliths lunch stop. Another highlight was meeting Terry Murphy, the park ranger who is the Sentinel of Schunemunk and to whom all hikers should be grateful for his ever-vigilant care of the trails.

**NEWS on the TRAILS**

Hikers should be aware of the following trail/road closures: (1) In Harriman, Route 106 between Little Long Lake and Kanawauke Lake is closed to car traffic until at least the end of summer for bridge culvert repairs. Auto access to the White Bar, Victory and R-D pull-off parking areas is available only from Route 17, not Seven Lakes Drive. (2) Also in Harriman, the Diltz Road parking area in Ladentown is closed until further notice due to use for the Algonquin pipeline project. (3) In Minnewaska, Jenny Lane Trail, Old Smiley Carriage way and all of the Stony Kill falls access area are closed until further notice following the April 15 cigarette fire along Route 44/55.

The missing link of the Highlands Trail between the Stonetown Circular Trail on Windbeam Mountain and the Wyanokie Circular/Mine Trails at Blue Mine in Norvin Green State Forest is now completed. There is limited parking on Townsend Road and additional parking at Ringwood's Recreation Area on Stonetown Road.

In March, the NYNJTC North Jersey Weekday Trail Crew completed a mile-long relocation of the northern section of the Hewitt-Butler Trail off a power line in Norvin Green State Forest north of West Brook Road. The new route follows a wooded ridgeline with a picturesque view of Carpi Lake and Bearfort Mountain to the west. The 7.2-mile northern trail section can be accessed to the north at the junction of Route 511 (Greenwood Lake Turnpike) and East Shore Road, and to the south by shoulder parking immediately west of 711 West Brook Road.

NYNJTC Shawangunk Ridge/Long Path trail crews opened the 2.7-mile South Gully Trail from Sam's Point Preserve down 1,400 feet to Route 52, where parking for several cars is available just south of the bridge over the gully. The new aqua-blazed trail (it will be part of a future re-route of the Long Path) follows a mostly linear course through the scenic South Gully ravine on the west flank of the Shawangunks. Submitted by Chris Connolly

**Walkway Over The Hudson**

Walkway over the Hudson is a non-profit organization founded in 1992 with the mission to preserve the landmark Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge and to transform the bridge into a railway. Their goal is provide public access to the Hudson River's scenic landscape for pedestrians, joggers and hikers by fall 2009, in time for the 400<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Henry Hudson's river voyage. You can learn more about the Bridge Across The Hudson at the website [www.walkway.org](http://www.walkway.org) to see photos, updates and articles. This will become a great connector to the trail systems on both sides of the Hudson River, with the walkway linking over 30 miles of continuous paths for hikers.

**Clarkstown has Big Plans for Davenport Preserve**

The Town of Clarkstown is currently working on a master plan for the Charles Davenport Park Preserve in New City. The Davenport Preserve is an 86 acre parcel of land that will be developed with various recreational activities and will stress ecology and bio-diversity study. A network of trails is planned to give wide access to this park preserve.

**BOOK REVIEW: 50 Hikes in the Lower Hudson Valley: Hikes and Walks from Westchester County to Albany County (2nd edition 2008)**

Chapter member H. Neil Zimmerman and affiliate member Stella Green, both veteran hiking compatriots, have published a completely revised edition of this hiking guide of favorite treks and walks in the scenic Hudson Valley. These 296 pages provide a widely-assorted selection of outings from all geographical areas: 6 hikes in Westchester County; 7 in East Hudson Highlands; 10 in Rockland County/Harriman Park; 8 in West Hudson Hills (Sterling Forest/Storm King/Schunemunk/Black Rock Forest); 6 in the Shawangunks; and 13 in North Country/Catskills. Each separate hike entry contains travel directions to trailhead, detailed topographic map, mileage, elevation rise, and comprehensive trail description, and the authors' inimitable commentary on the fascinating cultural and natural history connected with each hike. Other book features include a 50 Hikes at a Glance summary chart up front (with every hike's distance, difficulty, rise, time and views); 26 full-page photographs (in addition to numerous half-page photos); and glossary, bibliography and index. The picture of Mountain Man Zimmerman atop the 'dozer on p.74 is alone worth the \$16.95 purchase price (\$12.71 with NY-NJ Trail Conference discount). Many thanks to Neil and Stella for updating this classic hiking guide, and thanks also to Chapter members Chris Connolly, Dean Gletsos, Pete Heckler and Steve Zubarik, who contributed information on specific hikes. Chris Connolly

**A Warm Welcome to New Members**

- Pam Backus, Montvale, NJ
- Catherine Kim & Sophia Chun, Piermont, NY
- George Corbett, Franklin Square, NY
- Sarah Davis, New York, NY
- Marjorie Hyatt, Chester, NY
- Ellen Murray, Wyckoff, NJ
- Sylvia and Jack Schmitt, Glen Rock, NJ
- Lee & Patricia Steinmetz, Ft. Montgomery, NY

**RAMAPO CHAPTER HISTORY 1991-2006**

By Chris Connolly

The breadth and depth of individual Ramapo members' service to the NY-NJ Trail Conference - the organization responsible for building and maintaining 1750+ trail miles in our metropolitan region - is truly exceptional. Two members have served as President of the TC (Don Derr from 1978 to 1984 and Neil Zimmerman from 1987 to 1999); six as Trail Chairs (Gail Neffinger in Orange/Rockland AT, Pete Heckler in West Hudson, Dick Warner in North Jersey, Charlie and Cora Sanders in East Hudson, and Stella Green in Upstate NY); and 12 others as Trail Supervisors (currently Ike and Marilyn Siskind and Manny Silberberg in Harriman, Suzan Gordon and Pete Tilgner in Sterling Forest, George Perkinson and Pete Kohlberger in Orange/Rockland AT, and Chris Connolly in Schunemunk and NJ Palisades; and formerly Paul Leikin in Schunemunk, Mary Sive in the Catskills, Susan Gerhardt in Minnewaska, and Ed Walsh in LP South). In addition to Neil Zimmerman and Don Derr, Pete Heckler served as a member of the Trail Conference's Board of Directors from 1995 to 2004, while Chris Connolly has been a director since 2005. Moreover, five other members (Suzan Gordon, John Jurasek, Margo Moss, Pete Tilgner and Richard Zinn) serve(d) as Delegates-at-Large, and Pete Heckler began a second stint as Trails Council Chair. The Chapter has also assisted in Trail Conference publications, with Ike Siskind leading a team of Ramapo members who participated in the 1998 edition of the "New York Walk Book." In addition, Neil Zimmerman and Stella Green co-authored "Fifty Hikes in New Jersey".

Our members' record of acknowledgment for service to the trails is equally remarkable - Ramapoers have been recipients of Trail Conference honors on 21 occasions. The last two of only seven recipients of the Trail Conference's highest award - the Raymond H. Torrey Award for significant and lasting contributions for protection of hiking trails and land - are Chapter members Neil Zimmerman (2004) and Pete Heckler (2006). So are five of only 14 Honorary Members recognized for long-time service to the Trail Conference - Don Derr (1989), Paul Leikin (1991), Stella Green (1996), Dick Warner (1996) and Neil Zimmerman (2002). In addition, ten members have received the William Hoefler Award for exemplary service to trail management - Dick Warner and Paul Leikin (1989), Ed Walsh and Frank Bouton (1990), Dave Sutter (1995), Stella Green (1996), Ike and Marilyn Siskind (1997), Susan Gerhardt (1999) and Pete Heckler (2004) - and three others the Ken Lloyd Club Award - Ilse Dunham (2003) and Suzan Gordon and Pete Tilgner (2004). In 2005, the Trail Conference's Extra Mile Award for special project achievement was named in honor of Paul Leikin, one of the Chapter's most illustrious members. The first honoree of the renamed award in 2005 was, appropriately, another

Chapter member, Steve Zubarik, who was recognized for his chainsaw labors in Harriman.

Dedication has also been a hallmark of Ramapo members' service on the Chapter's Executive Committee. Ron Javer is the senior Committee member, having served as Conservation Chair from 1981 to 1989 and from 1991 to the present. Manny Silberberg is next in seniority - he has been Chapter Director or alternate since 1991. Among other current Committee members, Suzan Gordon has served as Programs/Special Outings Chair since 1998, and June Slade, Pete Tilgner and Peter Reiner as Secretary, Hiking Chair and Newsletter Editor, respectively, since 2001. Previously, Marilyn Siskind had served as Membership Chair from 1980 to 1987 and, again, from 1994 to 2003, while Ruth Livant was Publicity and then Trails Chair from 1989 to 2001.

The longevity of Executive Committee members is in curious contrast with Chapter presidential tenure, where the tradition of a single two-year term has remained unchanged for 35 years. Current president Peter Reiner is the 18<sup>th</sup> person to occupy the executive chair. The 17 previous incumbents were:

<b>1971-74 Manfred d'Elia</b>	<b>1975-76 Ike Siskind</b>
<b>1976-77 Graham Yarbrough</b>	<b>1977-78 Mary Sive</b>
<b>1978-79 Ken Garrison</b>	<b>1979-81 Roy Sengstacken</b>
<b>1982-83 John Giuffrida</b>	<b>1984-86 Dick Warner</b>
<b>1987-88 Lou Thibault</b>	<b>1989-91 Ron Javer</b>
<b>1992-94 George Perkinson</b>	<b>1995-96 Sue Gerhardt</b>
<b>1997-98 George Sheedy</b>	<b>1999-00 Pete Tilgner</b>
<b>2001-02 Aaron Schoenberg</b>	<b>2003-04 Dean Gletsos</b>
<b>2005-06 Chris Connolly</b>	

Nor should the durability of our hike leaders go unmentioned - a special salute goes to the Chapter's "Lou Gehrig", Nick Viggiano, who has led two Chapter hikes each quarter (8 per year) since 1984. Chapter President Dean Gletsos took the initiative in 2003 of recognizing Ramapo members' exceptional service to their Chapter with the distribution of ADK's White Birch Award at our annual meeting. There have been a dozen White Birch honorees to date - Paul Leikin, Ike Siskind and June Slade in 2003; Suzan Gordon, Ron Javer, Aaron Schoenberg, George Sheedy, Marilyn Siskind and Pete Tilgner in 2004; and Manny Silberberg, Nick Viggiano and Neil Zimmerman in 2006. While looking to the future, Ramapo looks back to honor the contributions of those who have left for happier trails - Frank Bouton and Charlie Sanders (1997), Chapter co-founder Fred d'Elia (2000), Ken Dukes, Roy Sengstacken and Anne Silberberg (2001), Paul Leikin and Ruth Livant (2004), Shirley Williams (2005) and Marty Last (2006). Each year during the last week of July, the Chapter remembers them with a Memorial Hike that Aaron Schoenberg often leads.

The Chapter's 35 years are filled with a long history of members who devoted their time and energy to their passion for the outdoors and conservation activities. Their efforts and accomplishments now live on in this history of the Ramapo Chapter, 1971-2006.

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### **SAVE THESE DATES**

- **September 6, Hiking in Mohonk, see page 2 for details.**
- **September 18, Chapter Meeting and Program** Do you love to view the landscapes of the Hudson River School painters? At our meeting on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, the speaker will be Geoff Welch, curator of Harmony Hall in Sloatsburg, NY. His topic will be "Jasper F. Cropsey, Artist of the Highlands". Jasper Francis Cropsey (1823-1900) is known to have been in the Highlands region as early as 1843. The main body of his artistic output depicts a variety of highlands scenes, far more than any other artist of that time produced. Using sketches and paintings we will tour the NY/NJ highlands of the 19th century through the eye of this great artist and a few of his remarkable friends in the Hudson River School of Art. Over 100 images will be shown including Greenwood Lake, Torne Mountain, Lake Waywayanda and the Ramapo River Valley. We will also hear quotes from Cropsey's unpublished journal and letters. Please join us and bring friends for an interesting and visually exciting evening. Refreshments at 7PM, meeting at 7:30 in the Nanuet Public Library, Nanuet NY, with refreshments and conversation following the presentation. Suzan Gordon, Programs Chair
- **October 31-November 2, Fall Foliage Hiking Weekend, see page 2 for details.**

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**A big thanks to Chris Connolly for "RAMAPO CHAPTER HISTORY 1991-2006", the last installment of which can be found on page 5.**