



SPRING 2011

Trail Talk

Adirondack Mountain Club

NORTH JERSEY RAMAPO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER & HIKE SCHEDULE

Why the NY-NJTC?

by Phyllis Stewart

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is well-known to most of us who are active hikers. But have you ever thought what our hiking lives would be like without this fine organization? Just take a minute and think about it (George Bailey missing from Bedford Falls!). There would be no system of marked and unmarked trails, just random paths in the woods leading to unknown destinations. Coming to a fork in the road, which way to turn? Aha! A map would be a handy thing, especially one that is accurately calibrated with mileage and topographical information, and published by the NY-NJTC. Not eager for a 12-mile trek up a mountain and down through a recently rained-on swamp? No bridge over that roaring stream? Get a map and see what's ahead!

You're getting the point, I'm sure, but did you know all the work of the Trail Conference is performed by unpaid volunteers, people who give of their time and energy developing, building and maintaining trails, building bridges, removing blown-down trees? All of this is done by folks like you and me, people who just love to be out in the woods and who work together with great camaraderie just for the joy of accomplishing something that will enhance the outdoor experiences of others.

There is a paid TC office staff to oversee and coordinate all the research, planning, outreach, and marketing that must go into the preservation and acquisition of land to perpetuate the trails system. Both New York and New Jersey become more populated every day, and available open space is being gobbled up by developers. You know the story. NY-NJTC works with the legislatures of both states in endeavoring to have them purchase available land to be integrated into our present trails system and in today's economy, they do need our support.

The NY-NJTC also publishes an informative

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A Message From the Chair

As I write this, it is only 19° outside and there are 6 inches of new snow on the ground. But spring is almost here! That's what the calendar says anyway. The vernal equinox occurs on March 20, 2011 at 7:21 PM EDT. That's when the apparent orbit of the sun crosses the ecliptic and the day and the night are exactly 12 hours each. The days will be getting longer and the sun will be higher in the sky. And the snow will melt. We've had a lot of snow this winter and that means lots of water in the streams, difficult water crossings, and generally soggy trail conditions when spring actually appears.

For me at least, the first real sign of spring is when I'm at a viewpoint overlooking the hills and mountains of Harriman and instead of just shades of black, brown and gray I see just the faintest tinge of green everywhere. After that things change rapidly and it isn't long before trees are fully covered with leaves and the ground is green and sprinkled with little flowers. I'm looking forward to this. Hiking in the winter is fun and the snow allowed a lot of snowshoeing, but I'm ready for warm weather.

If you haven't been hiking lately perhaps the spring schedule will entice you. It's a diverse collection of hikes and outings ranging from a boat ride on the Hudson to hiking up a 4000 footer in the Adirondacks. In between there are lots of interesting hikes and outings in nearby parks. Read the article in this issue, "Much ado about everything" for details of some of the more unusual activities.

The spring schedule includes several C-rated hikes. These C hikes are usually fairly short and on easy trails without steep climbs or rock scrambling. If you're new to hiking or perhaps just a little out of shape, a C hike may be just right. So take a look at the schedule, choose a C hike, call the leader to be sure it's suitable for you, and come out on a hike. We're looking forward to meeting you.

Richard

Rockland Winter Tragedy

by Chris Connolly

Many of you have heard of the February tragedy that befell Colleen Murphy, a Harriman trail maintainer who perished with her dog in a fall over a 300-foot cliff while snowshoeing alone in Rockland Lake State Park. Our hearts go out to her and her family and friends. While we may never know the precise circumstances behind Colleen's death, there are some hard-won winter hiking lessons that bear repeating:

1. GO WITH A GROUP, DON'T HIKE ALONE - There simply is greater safety in numbers. Also, ADK hike leaders change their planned hike routes by choosing safer trails to take account of wintry snow and ice conditions.
2. STAY AWAY FROM THE STEEP AND THE SHEER - The area where Colleen died is famous for its spectacular but sheer 300-foot cliffline, which overlooks the Hudson 200 feet away from the Long Path route. Going off-trail affords panoramic views, but it can be quite dangerous in icy or wet weather whether or not one is wearing foot traction aids. ADK hike leaders avoid such areas in bad weather conditions, and change or cancel hikes as necessary. For example, NJR hike leader Dave Sutter cancelled a hike this winter in the steep Dunderberg Mountain area because of icy conditions.
3. LEASH YOUR PET - This is not only the law, but is prudent in wintry weather.

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HIKER'S GUIDE

RESPONSIBILITIES - Hikers with children under 16 and new hikers are required to contact the hike leader in advance to determine if the hike is suitable for them. Minors under 16 are welcome on day hikes when accompanied by a parent or guardian. No person under 18 shall participate in overnight outings unless accompanied by a parent or adult sponsor over 21. The hike leader may refuse to allow a person to hike who is judged to be poorly equipped or unable to do the published hike. Pets are not permitted on hikes unless the hike description clearly states that it is "dog friendly". Non-members are welcome on two hikes after which ADK membership is required. Participants should get to the hike at least 10 minutes prior to the starting time.

RISKS - As with all physical activities, hiking involves hazards. Persons participate at their own risk and will be asked to sign a statement acknowledging that fact before starting the hike. Prior to the hike please advise the leader of any medical condition or physical liability that could affect you during the hike.

FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING - Wear clothing suited to the weather and carry extra garments for unexpected weather conditions. Dress in thin layers so that you can adjust the number of layers as required to maintain comfort. In winter carry a wool cap and wool or polypropylene gloves or mitts and a windproof shell. Be prepared for rain. Bring a rain jacket and rain pants, preferably of the type that permits venting body moisture. Wear comfortable, sturdy boots. Do not wear cotton garments in winter.

DRINK AND FOOD - Adequate hydration is important year round. Drink frequently during the hike. Carry food to enjoy during the midday lunch stop.

DOG-FRIENDLY HIKES - All hikers with dogs must abide by park leash regulations.

HIKE RATINGS - represent the Pace, Distance and Terrain covered during the hike. A hike's rating is determined by the hike leader.

PACE: A - fast - 2.5 mph or faster
B - moderate - about 2 mph
C - easy - 1.5 mph or less

DISTANCE: is given in miles as noted

TERRAIN: A - Strenuous, long ups and downs, some rock scrambling possible.
B - Moderate ups and downs as occur typically in Harriman.
C - Generally flat with little elevation change.

MAPS - The TC number indicates a NY-NJ Trail Conference map for the area of the hike. For example: TC-118 refers to the Southern Harriman Park map.

ABBREVIATIONS - NCA-No Calls After . . . , Pref.- Leader's contact preference.

EXPENSE SHARING - When car-pooling, passengers are expected to offer the driver funds sufficient to cover the cost of fuel, tolls and parking fees. A \$3.00 minimum per person is recommended. Most hike trailhead meeting locations can be found on NY-NJ Trail Conference maps.

HIKE CANCELLATION POLICY - Sometimes an illness, injury or other unforeseen problem will make it impossible for a hike leader to lead his/her hike as announced in the schedule. When this happens the leader should first try to find a substitute leader so the hike can proceed as scheduled. The hike schedule chair person or any club officer can assist if necessary. If no substitute leader can be found then the leader or a substitute should appear at the hike meeting place to inform hikers of the situation. If a qualified leader volunteers, he/she should be given the sign-in sheet and the hike can proceed as scheduled. The only time a hike may be canceled is if the leader has requested pre-registration of all participants. In that case the leader must inform all who registered of the change by phone or e-mail.

Why the NY-NJTC? *continued from page 1*

newsletter for members every two months. It lists new hiking areas, new trails, washed out bridges, relocated trails, volunteer opportunities, and invitations to join hikes sponsored by other hiking clubs. For more information, check out their website at www.nynjtc.org. When you join, your membership card gets you a discount on all purchases at Campmor, Ramsey Outdoor Store and others. It truly ends up paying for itself! Take it from one who knows! So, if you feel like it might be "payback time", please join a great organization because they need you as much as you need them!

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Trail Talk is published quarterly in December, March, June and September. Deadline for submissions is generally one month prior to publication date. Please send articles, photos or other contributions to newsletter@hudsonhikers.org

HIKE SCHEDULE • SPRING 2011 • APRIL • MAY • JUNE

Note: The following two Aaron Schoenberg trips require registration.
 Saturday, 6/4 – Wednesday, 6/8 White Mountain Trip XXI B 5/12 A
 Part 1

Aaron Schoenberg askus3@optonline.net (pref) 845-986-8645.
 This annual trip to the Whites will include over 35 miles of climbing various peaks on the New Hampshire "52 Peaks with a View" list. We will concentrate our hiking in the southeast portion of the White Mountains (Sandwich area). Mileages range from 5-12 miles per day. Elevation gain per hike will be 1500-3000 feet per day. This is a moderate to strenuous trip. Accommodations will be lodging at house rentals. Inquire with Aaron for detailed itinerary. Deadline to register: April 30.

Saturday, 8/27 – Wednesday, 8/31 White Mountain Trip XXI B 5/9 A
 Part 2

Aaron Schoenberg askus3@optonline.net (pref) 845-986-8645.
 This annual trip to the Whites will include over 30 miles of climbing various peaks on the New Hampshire "52 Peaks with a View" list. We will concentrate our hiking in the southern fringe of the White Mountains (Waterville Valley area). Mileages range from 5-9 miles per day. Elevation gain per hike will be 1500-2800 feet per day. This is a moderate to strenuous trip. Accommodations will be lodging at a local motel or auto camping in the vicinity of Thornton, NH. Inquire with Aaron for a detailed itinerary. Deadline to register: July 9.

Saturday, 4/2 Stonetown's Other Half B 5.5 B
 Despina Metaxatos dmetaxatos@hotmail.com (pref) or 201-952-4151
 (NCA 9 PM)

Meet 9:30 AM at Stonetown Recreation Area ball fields parking off Mary Roth Drive in West Milford. From here we shuttle to Lake Riconda Drive to begin the hike with a challenging uphill on White Trail to Harrison Mountain. We descend south on Red Stonetown Circular Trail, possibly lunching at Tory Rocks or near Signal Rock, hiking through meadows back to the ball fields parking. Register with leader by 4/1. Rain cancels. TC map 115.

Sunday, 4/3 Norvin Green Spectacular B 7 B+
 Robert Permutt rpermutt2003@yahoo.com (pref) or 914-588-0212
 Meet at 9:30 AM at the parking area on Glenwild Avenue (Otter Hole trailhead). A loop hike through Norvin Green State Forest. Highlights are Otter Hole, Chikahoki Falls, Carris Hill, Yoo-Hoo and High Points. Registration required for hike by April 2. TC map 115.

Wednesday, 4/6 Iona Island Guided Tour C 2 C
 Louise Parnell 845-290-5287
 Donald "Doc" Bayne, Sterling Forest Ranger/Educator, will lead a guided tour of historic Iona Island. Meet at 10AM at the Kiosk near the entry road parking area before the train tracks. The entry road is opposite the Cornell Mine Trailhead off Rt. 9W. Bring a snack and water. Space is limited. You must register for this walk by calling no later than Sunday, April 3. TC map 119.

Thursday, 4/7 Lake Skannatati Circular B 7 B
 Sol Braun sbm202@msn.com
 Meet at 10 AM Skannatati Parking off Seven Lakes Drive. TC map 119.

Saturday 4/9 Long Path North B 6 B
 Peter Reiner psr7777@gmail.com or 845-323-7697
 Starting at Tallman Mountain State Park, we hike north on the Long Path to the outskirts of Piermont. We continue on the trail through Overlook Park, Tackamack Park to end at Clausland Mountain. Great views of the Hudson River. Car shuttle is required. Meet at parking lot

of Tallman State Park at 9:30 AM. Call or e-mail leader to register for hike. TC map 109.

Sunday, 4/10 Rockland Lake To Haverstraw B 7 B
 Despina Metaxatos dmetaxatos@hotmail.com (pref) or 201-952-4151
 (NCA 9 PM)

Meet 9:30 AM at Landing Hill Road parking off Rockland Lake Road at Rockland Lake State Park. We hike north on Long Path to White Trail, lunch before heading back south on the bike path. Register with leader by 4/9. Rain cancels. TC map 110.

Thursday, 4/14 In the Woods B 6/8 B
 Georgette Fazzari grfhiker@gmail.com (pref) or 551-265-2369
 (NCA 9 PM)

Hike will be in Harriman. Contact leader for details.

Saturday, 4/16 Pyramid Mountain B 4/5 B
 Jeffrey Sovelove Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com

This will be a loop hike past Tripod Rock using a variety of trails. There is quite a bit of elevation change and significant climbing. See the Morris County Parks web site <http://www.morrisparks.net/aspparks/pyrmtmain.asp> for directions and info. Bring lots of water and a light snack. Optional lunch at a local eatery afterward if we get done in time. Meet in the Visitors' Center parking lot at 10 AM. Inclement weather cancels. Joint with Sierra Club. TC map 125.

Sunday, 4/17 Osborn Loop B 7 B
 Chris Connolly c.connolly7@verizon.net or 201-321-6605

Classic East Hudson hike with Sugarloaf Hill side trip and using Carriage Connector and Curry Pond Trails for modified loop. Meet 9:30 AM at Castle Rock Unique Area parking off Route 9D. Precipitation cancels. TC map 101.

Wednesday 4/20 Walk the Bear Mt. Bridge C 2 C
 Louise Parnell 845-290-5287

Meet at 10 AM in the Bear Mt Parking lot. TC map 119.

Thursday, 4/21 Lake Skannatati B 6 B
 Irene Logan 111er378@optonline.net or 845-753-5651 (NCA 9 PM)
 (No e-mails after 8 PM day before the hike and no e-mails day of hike.)
 Meet at Lake Skannatati Parking Area at 10 AM off Seven Lakes Drive. At a moderate pace, we will let the weather determine the route. Appropriate gear required as conditions warrant. Inclement weather or forecast of same will cancel the hike. Call between 7-9 AM the day of the hike if in doubt. TC map 119.

Friday, 4/22 Catskills - Slide Mt. Loop B 7 A
 George Preoteasa gvpreo@gmail.com or 201-694-8344

E-mail or call leader for meeting time and directions by April 20. This trail hike is in the Catskill Mountains, approximately 100 miles north of northern NJ. We will hike to the highest peak in the region at 4180 ft with great views. Total elevation gain is 2200 ft. There may still be snow or ice so please have snowshoes and microspikes (or equivalent) ready. Carpools can be organized from the Harriman train station or the Diner in Kingston. Bad weather cancels. TC map 143.

Saturday, 4/23 Ilgenstein Rock Circular B 7 B
 Hank Zulauf 201-391-5867 or hankz46@verizon.net

With a 10 AM start at Ramapo Reservation off Rt. 202 in Mahwah, we'll take the Halifax Trail past Hawk Rock toward Bear Swamp Lake and then the Yellow and White Trails to Ilgenstein Rock for lunch. Return to Parking Area via the Cannon Ball, Blue, and Red/Silver Trails. Call by 8:30 AM morning of hike if weather is doubtful. TC map 115.

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Sunday, 4/24 Easter Bonnet Hike B 6 B
Karen Rose 201-962-8546 or kkarose@aol.com
Meet 9:30 AM Reeves Brook Visitor Center, Harriman Park. Using Reeves Brook, Raccoon Brook and Kakiat trails we will make a loop arriving back to trailhead by 2PM latest. Prize for best Easter Bonnet at lunch stop! Bad weather cancels, please e-mail or call to register.

Thursday, 4/28 In The Woods B 5/8 B
Debbie Bell deb2@columbia.edu or 845-358-8386 (NCA 9 PM).
Varied terrain in Harriman or nearby parks. Contact leader for hike details.

Thursday, 4/28 Map & Compass Class 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Chris Tausch ctausch@gmail.com
Never get lost in the woods! This 2-hour course will teach you how to read and use a map and compass to understand how to find your way through the woods. Course fee includes all materials, including a new compass and "Hiking 101: Essential Tips." Seating is limited so advance registration is required. Please send your name, phone number, e-mail address and a check for \$10 (\$20 for non members) made out to ADK - NJR Chapter to Chris Tausch, 60 Debaun Avenue, Ramsey NJ 07446.

Friday, 4/29 NJR Chapter Meeting 7:30 PM at Holy Cross Church, 125 Glasgow Terrace and Ramapo Valley Rd. (Rt. 202) Mahwah, NJ
Member and birder, Ivan Kossak, will give a power-point presentation highlighting the things to look and listen for that will help us identify the birds that visit or reside in our area. He will emphasize among other things colors, songs, shapes and habitats, and will help us recognize some of the birds we hear as we walk through the woods or find in our own backyards.

Saturday, 4/30 Garret Mountain Birding C 5 C
Ivan Kossak kossakcpa@verizon.net
Early start at 8 AM at Garret Mountain Reservation, West Paterson, NJ. Park at the first lot encountered off Mountain Avenue. This is a bird walk rather than a hike. It is meant to familiarize participants with the looks and sounds of many common birds that can be encountered on our group hikes so as to enhance future woodland experiences. Walk will last 4-5 hours depending on birding conditions and productivity. Optional lunch to follow.

Sunday, 5/1 Schunemunk Trestle to Trestle B 7.5 A
Chris Connolly c.connolly7@verizon.net or 201-321-6605
We'll traverse Schunemunk's panoramic ridgeline views on the LP, Jessup and Trestle Trails. Meet 9:15 AM at Otterkill Parking Lot. Car shuttle required. Precipitation cancels. TC map 114.

Thursday, 5/5 Skylands Manor to Ilgenstein Rock Loop B 7 B+
Eileen Berch 973-506-7078 No Calls after 8 PM
Meet to hike at 9:30 AM Parking Lot C Skylands Manor at the New Jersey Botanical Gardens, Ringwood, NJ (Directions at www.njbg.org) We'll hike the Crossover, Halifax, Pierson Ridge, Hoeflerlin Memorial, Blue, Ringwood/Ramapo and a couple of woods roads. A moderately strenuous hike (not for beginners) with several ups including one toward the end. No go if steady rain. If weather is doubtful, call by 8 AM morning of hike. TC map 115.

Saturday, 5/7 Long Path From Rt. 6 C 5/6 B
Denis and Joan Kmiec kmiec20@yahoo.com or 845-634-1397 (NCA 9 PM)
We take the Long Path south to Stockbridge Shelter. We return on the Menomine and Nawahunta Fire Rd. Out by 1:30 PM. E-mail or call for directions. Meet 10 AM RT. 6 Long Path crossing Hikers Parking Lot. Rain cancels. TC map 119.

Saturday, 5/7 Stonetown Circular B 10 A
Cliff West 3cliff@gmail.com or 973-886-4072
Meet 9 AM at the Stonetown Recreation Area ball fields parking off Mary Roth Drive in West Milford. This will be a strenuous hike with excellent views. Ascent 2300 ft. TC map 115.

Sunday, 5/8 Noonmark Loop (ascent 2175 ft.) B 5.4 B+
Elie Bijou adirondacks@verizon.net or 718-377-2990 (NCA 9PM, Fri, Sat, 6PM)
Please join me for my annual Spring hike to Noonmark. We'll meet at the AuSable parking lot, and ascend to the summit of Noonmark. Depending upon the speed of the group, we may consider an ascent of Round as well. Please bring lunch, snacks, two liters of water, perhaps a thermos, clothing appropriate to the season, microspikes. Pace slow to moderate. Joint with ADK-Schenectady, Algonquin, North Jersey Ramapo, and Long Island chapters. Contact leader for directions.

Sunday, 5/8 Wanaque Circular C 5 C
Aaron Schoenberg askus3@optonline.net or 845-987-4893
This is a loop hike in the Norvin Green State Forest originating out of the Weis Ecology Center. We will climb to the spectacular open summit of Wanaque High Point and will also visit the Blue Mine. Meet Aaron at 9:45 AM at the Weis Ecology Center or 9 AM at the NY-NJ Trail Conference Office in Mahwah, NJ, Route 202 for carpooling without leader. TC Map 21.

Thursday, 5/12 In the Woods B 7/9 B
Paul Margiotta pjmm11@verizon.net (pref) or 201-693-6705
"Regular" Thursday hikers will receive a group e-mail from leader by Tuesday for location, time and other details of hike. Others can contact the leader by 7:00 PM on Wednesday. No beginners please.

Saturday, 5/14 Lewis Morris Park B 6 B
Jeffrey Sovelove Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com
We will start at Sunrise Lake, then hike to the parking upper lot and back down to the lake using a combination of the Yellow and Red Trails. See the Morris County Parks Commission web site <http://www.morrisparks.net/aspparks/lmain.asp> for directions. Bring lots of water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet in Sunrise Lake parking lot at 10 AM. Heavy/steady rain cancels. Joint with Sierra Club.

Sunday, 5/15 Sam's Point Preserve B 10 B+
Robert Permutt rpermutt2003@yahoo.com (pref) or 914-588-0212
Meet at 10:00 AM at the parking lot for the Sam's Point Conservation Center. Loop hike through one of the "Last Great Places" on Earth. Highlights include the Ice Caves, Verkeerder Falls and Sam's Point. Registration required for hike by May 14. TC map 104.

Tuesday, 5/17 Ampersand Mt. (ascent 1800 ft.) B 5.4 B
Elie Bijou adirondacks@verizon.net or 718-377-2990 (NCA 9PM, Fri, Sat, 6PM)
Hike to a small peak with a great, open summit and superb views. Pace: slow to moderate. Joint with ADK-Schenectady, Algonquin, North Jersey Ramapo, and Long Island chapters. Contact leader for directions.

Thursday, 5/19 Lake Tiorati Circular B 6 B
Irene Logan 111er378@optonline.net or 845-753-5651 (NCA 9 PM)
(No e-mails after 8 PM day before the hike and no e-mails day of hike.)
Meet at Lake Tiorati Parking Area at 10 AM off Seven Lakes Drive. At a moderate pace, we will let the weather determine the route. Appropriate gear required as conditions warrant. Inclement weather or forecast of same will cancel the hike. Call between 7-9 AM the day of the hike if in doubt. TC map 119.

Pre-registration is advised in case of a change in schedule.

HIKE SCHEDULE • SPRING 2011 • APRIL • MAY • JUNE

Saturday, 5/21 Wild Edibles C 1 C (Rain date Saturday, 5/28)
Paul Tappenden, a well-known Rockland County naturalist and wild edibles educator will be leading a walk through parts of Kennedy Dells County Park where we will be identifying native wild plants and discussing their uses, with a concentration on edible and medicinal species. The park is at the north end of Main Street in New City, just beyond Phillips Hill Rd. We should arrange to meet in the parking lot for a 2 PM start. If you need any more information, please contact Paul at: 845-304-5822 or go to his web site at: www.rocklandforager.com/RocklandForager/Home.html

Saturday, 5/21 Popolopen Torne- Summit and Gorge B 7/8 A
Allison Tully alitully63@optonline.net or 845-656-0442
Meet 10 AM at Fort Montgomery Visitor Center. We will warm up with a hike around Brooks Pond and then head to the summit of Popolopen to eat while having a 360 degree view. We will descend to cross the creek via the footbridge and return following the trail along the gorge. Any precipitation cancels. Registration required by May 20. TC map 119.

Sunday, 5/22 Fahnestock Loop B 7 B
Richard Sumner rls@rsumner.com or 845-362-8470
A pleasant, mostly shady, loop that includes a nice section of the AT. Meet at 9:30 AM at first parking lot (where the AT crosses) on Canopus Lake (take Rt. 301 from Cold Spring). Foul weather will cancel. Call before 8:00 AM if uncertain. TC Map 103.

Sunday, 5/22 Catskills - Halcott Mt. B 4 A+
George Preoteasa gvpreo@gmail.com or 201-694-8344
E-mail or call leader for meeting time and directions by May 20. This hike is a bushwhack in the Catskill Mountains, approximately 100 miles north of northern NJ. Total elevation gain is 1700 ft. Carpools can be organized from the Harriman train station or the Diner in Kingston. Bad weather cancels. TC map 142.

Sunday 5/22 Hudson Boat Ride
Louise Parnell 845 290-5287
Cruise the Hudson River on the Pride Of The Hudson. Narrated 2 hour sightseeing cruise. \$17.00 (seniors) Departs 1PM Torches Landing, 26 Front St., Newburgh NY. Tickets on sale at 12 PM. Call Louise Parnell for info.

Sunday 5/22 Wyanokie High Point Loop B 5/7 B
Brian Horowitz Brian.Horowitz@Yahoo.com (pref) or 908-625-4916
Meet at 10 AM at Weis Ecology Center Parking Lot. We hike at moderate pace stopping to enjoy the scenery on this 5 mile loop hike which takes us by an iron mine, waterfall, and climbs to an outstanding 360° viewpoint from which the NYC skyline can be seen. Call leader day of hike after 8:00 AM to confirm hike is a go and confirm that you are coming. Inclement weather will cancel. After hike we will check out the visitor center and then go to a local restaurant. This is a joint ADK and Mosaic event. Register for hike before 5/19. TC Map 115.

Thursday 5/26 Lake Skenonto Circular B 6/7 B
Hank Zulauf hankz46@verizon.net or 201 391 5867
With a 10 AM start at Johnstown Road Circle we'll take the Blue Disc Trail past Almost Perpendicular and Elbow Brush to the Victory Trail to Lake Skenonto for lunch. We'll return to the Parking Area via the Yellow Triangle and White Bar Trails. Call by 8:30 AM morning of the hike if weather is doubtful. TC map 118.

Saturday, 5/28 Watchung Reservation, Mountainside NJ B 6 B
John Jurasek Jurasek@optonline.net or 845-365-3618 (NCA 10 PM)
Meet: 10 AM Trail side Nature Center parking lot on Coles Ave. where it intersects with New Providence Rd. This will be a moderate hike. We will explore some of the sights in the northern end of the park. Steady rain cancels. Appropriate for beginners. Joint with other groups.

Saturday, 5/28 The Timp B 8/9 B+
Deanna Felicetta 845 216 2021 felicetta.deanna@gmail.com (no e-mails Sat.)
Gorgeous spring hike to the Timp with views of the Hudson, Bear Mt. Bridge and more, as you hike and scramble on West and Dunderberg Mt. This is a day of outdoor fun for strong hikers. Poor weather or rain will cancel this hike. Register by Thursday before 7:30 PM. Contact name and phone number information required. Call at 7 AM the morning of hike if you are uncertain of weather. TC map 119.

Sunday, 5/29 Phelps (ascent 1942 ft.) B 8.8 A
Elie Bijou adirondacks@verizon.net or 718-377-2990 (NCA 9PM, Fri, Sat, 6PM)
Hike to a nice peak with great views. Pace slow to moderate. Joint with ADK-Schenectady, Algonquin, North Jersey Ramapo, and Long Island chapters. Contact leader for directions.

Sunday, 5/29 Sterling Forest Twofer B 8 B+
Fred Hodde Bullwnk1@aol.com or (H) 973-728-3223 (C) 973-722-7824
We'll meet at the upper parking lot for the Sterling Forest Visitors; Center at 9:30 AM. We'll start with a climb to the Sterling Forest Fire Tower. After taking in the view, we'll hike to the Bare Rock Vista where we'll enjoy lunch while enjoying the view. After lunch, we'll continue down the Bare Rock Trail, then climb back to the tower (mini-scramble) from the south via the Fire Tower and Sterling Ridge Trails. Registration by e-mail is preferred. Call cell before 8:30 AM if the weather is questionable. Not for beginners. TC Map 100.

Thursday, 6/2 In The Woods B 5/8 B
Debbie Bell deb2@columbia.edu or 845-358-8386 (NCA 9 PM).
Varied terrain in Harriman or nearby parks. Contact leader for hike details.

Saturday, 6/4 Wildcat and Townsend Trails In and Out B 7.5 B
Pete Tilgner and Suzan Gordon browning.27@verizon.net or 201-871-3531
These Sterling Forest Trails offer several fine viewpoints to the south and west. Meet 9:30 AM in the Commuter Parking Lot top of the exit ramp leading from Rt.17 to Rt. 17 A. The exit at a traffic light is about 2.5 miles north of the Tuxedo Train Station. We will car shuttle to Hall Drive trailhead. Register with leaders for this hike. TC map 100.

Saturday, 6/4 – Wednesday, 6/8 White Mountain Trip XXI B 5/12 A
Part 1
Aaron Schoenberg askus3@optonline.net (pref) or 845-986-8645.

Sunday, 6/5 Tiorati Lollipop B 7 B
Richard Sumner rls@rsumner.com or 845 362 8470
Meet 9:30 AM in the Tiorati picnic area. We'll follow the R-D south to the Lichen, then A-S-B and Bottle Cap back to the R-D. Lots of ups and downs, some rock scrambling, but a nice hike overall. Steady rain cancels, call before 8 AM if uncertain. TC map 119.

HIKE SCHEDULE • SPRING 2011 • APRIL • MAY • JUNE

Thursday, 6/9 In the Woods B 6/8 B
Linda Schutz lindaschutz@msn.com (pref) or 973-335-6973
Varied terrain in Harriman or nearby park. "Regular" Thursday hikers will receive a group e-mail from leader by Tuesday for location, time and other details of hike. Others can contact the leader by 7:00 PM on Wednesday.

Saturday, 6/11 St. Regis Mtn.(ascent 1700 ft.) B 6.2 B
Elie Bijou adirondacks@verizon.net or 718-377-2990 (NCA 9pm, Fri, Sat, 6PM)
A little peak with a firetower and outstanding views of both lake country and the High Peaks. Pace slow to moderate. Joint with ADK-Schenectady, Algonquin, North Jersey Ramapo, and Long Island chapters. Contact leader for directions.

Saturday, 6/11 Skannatati Lollipop Loop B+ 8 B
Allison Tully alitully63@optonline.net or 845-656-0442
This will be a moderately fast-paced hike considering the length. Meet 9:30 AM at Lake Skannatati parking lot. We will take several different trails: Long Path, Dunning, RD, Lichen, and White Bar. Registration required by June 10. Rain cancels. If in doubt, call morning of hike. TC map 119.

Sunday 6/12 Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail B 8 B
Peggy Wissler 914-260-7506
Meet 9:30 AM sharp at Suffern parking lot. We will car shuttle to Kakiat County Park. At a steady pace we will climb the Kakiat Trail to the Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail. We will travel south-west over Valley of Dry Bones, Kitchen Stairs and Nordkop Mountain. Heavy rain cancels. Must call leader during the week before hike to register. TC map 118.

Thursday, 6/16 Reeves Brook Circular B 7 B
Sol Braun sbm202@msn.com
Meet at 10 AM Reeves Meadow Visitor Center Parking off Seven Lakes Drive. TC map 118.

Saturday, 6/18 Sterling Forest Fire Tower Ramble B 5 B+
Jeffrey Sovelove Hiker_Dood@yahoo.com
We will hike the Sterling Forest Fire Tower Trail with the option to extend if the group desires. This is a moderately strenuous hike with a considerable amount of climbing. Bring water, lunch, and wear hiking boots. Meet at the Visitors' Center at 10 AM sharp. See the Sterling Forest web site for information and directions nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/74/details.aspx. Inclement weather cancels. Joint with Sierra Club. TC map 100.

Sunday, 6/19 Catskills - Plateau Mt. Traverse B 6.5 A+
George Preoteasa gvpreo@gmail.com or 201-694-8344
E-mail or call leader for meeting time and directions by June 17. This trail hike is in the Catskill Mountains, approximately 100 miles north of northern NJ, on the famous Devil's Path. Great views. Total elevation gain is 2100 ft. Shuttle required. Carpools can be organized from the Harriman train station or the Diner in Kingston. Bad weather cancels. TC map 141.

Sunday, 6/19 Seven Hills Plus B 9 A
Karen Rose kkarose@aol.com or 201-962-8546
Meet 9 AM Reeves Meadow Visitor Center, Harriman Park. We will take Seven Hills Trail returning on TMI and Stony Brook. Lots of climbs, a few scrambles, great views. Bad weather cancels. Please e-mail or call to register. TC map 118.

Thursday, 6/23 North Of Route 106 B 6 B
Irene Logan 111er378@optonline.net or 845-753-5651 (NCA 9 PM)
(No e-mails after 8 PM day before the hike and no e-mails day of hike.)
Meet at 10 AM in the Parking Area on Route 106 where the White Bar Trail crosses Route 106. At a moderate pace, we will let the weather determine the route. Appropriate gear required as conditions warrant—it could be hot. Inclement weather or forecast of same will cancel the hike. Call between 7-9 AM the day of the hike if in doubt. TC map 119.

Saturday, 6/25 Skylands Meander C 3/4 B
Betty Heald ebheald@aol.com or 201-967-2937
Contact leader for details before 9 PM June 24.

Saturday, 6/25 Little Stony Point-Historic Cold Spring Foundry B 5 B
John Jurasek Jurasek@optonline.net or 845-365-3618 (NCA 10 PM)
Hear all about the history of this fantastic area as professional storyteller Jonathan Kruk points out the sights and enthalls us with tales of history and mystery. Appropriate for beginners. Meet at the foot of Main St. in Cold Spring, NY near the train station by 10:15 AM.

Sunday, 6/26 Fahnestock/Canopus Lake to Hubbard Lodge B 8 B+
Peter Tilgner and Suzan Gordon browning.27@verizon.net or 201-871-3531
Driving east on Rt. 301 from Cold Spring, NY meet 9 AM at the NE corner of Rt. 9 and Rt. 301. We drive short distance to Hubbard Lodge just off Rt. 9. Then car pool to start of hike at Canopus Lake. The hike will start out on the AT taking us to the Fahnestock Trail which we hike end to end. Steady rain cancels. Please register for this hike. TC map 103.

Sunday, 6/26 Mt. Marcy (ascent 5344 ft.) B 14.8 A+
Elie Bijou adirondacks@verizon.net or 718-377-2990 (NCA 9PM, Fri, Sat, 6PM)
Please join me for my annual June hike. Our route takes us from the parking area via the Van Hovenberg Trail to the summit of Marcy. Please bring lunch, snacks and at least three liters of water. Joint with ADK-Schenectady, Algonquin, North Jersey Ramapo, and Long Island chapters. Contact leader for directions.

Thursday, 6/30 Parker Cabin Hollow-Parker Cabin Mt. Loop B 7 B
Pete Tilgner and Suzan Gordon browning.27@verizon.net or 201-871-3531
Meet 9:30 AM at overflow commuter parking at the traffic light for the ramp from Rt. 17 to 17 A (about 2.5 miles north of Tuxedo Train Station. Register with leaders for this hike. TC map 118.

First Central NJ Trail Map Published

The NY-NJ Trail Conference is publishing this Spring a Jersey Highlands Trails - Central map set (no. 125) covering, for the first time, hiking trails in north central New Jersey between Wawayanda State Park in the east and the Kittatinny in the west. The new areas in Passaic, Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties include Allamuchy SP, Apshawa Preserve, Farny SP, High Mountain Park Preserve, Mahlon Dickerson Reservation and Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area. NJR members should take advantage of this new resource to visit prime hiking territories that are currently under-utilized by both our hikers and hike leaders. Please check the nynjtc.org website for hike map availability.

Much Ado About Everything (To Do)

I know we are ALL looking forward to the beginning of spring, and with it will arrive numerous flowers and an abundance of club activities, Louise Parnell is planning a variety of fun things to do for our club. Iona Island is a fascinating place to visit and on Wednesday, April 6th at 10 AM Doc Bayne will lead us on a private tour of the Island. Register with Louise before April 3rd as space is limited. She will guide us on a walk over the Bear Mountain Bridge on Wednesday, April 20th at 10 AM. On Sunday, May 22nd, at 12 noon she has planned a two-hour cruise on the Hudson River. Call Louise early to sign up for these events, 845-290-5287.

Chris Tausch is giving a map and compass course entitled "Hiking 101" for those of us who want to be better navigators in the woods. It is on Thursday, April 28th from 7 to 9 PM. The location will be determined; call Chris to register, 201-819-3034. The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. Course fees include a new compass and a book of hiking tips. All proceeds will go to the club.

Our next Chapter meeting will be on Friday, April 29th, 7:30 PM at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 125 Glasgow Terrace, Mahwah, NJ. Ivan Kossak, bird expert, will present a power-point program highlighting how to identify birds by sound and sight. He will emphasize colors, shapes, sizes, and habitats of local birds. We will be amazed by the numbers of birds in our own neighborhood. Please bring friends and family to this interesting evening. Of course, refreshments and conversation will be a part of the meeting.

Following Ivan's program, on Saturday, April 30th, he will lead us on a bird walk leaving at 8 AM from Garret Mountain Reservation, West Paterson, NJ. See the hike schedule for details.

On Saturday, May 21st (rain date May 28th) Paul Tappenden, a well-known Rockland County naturalist and wild edibles educator, will be leading a walk through parts of Kennedy Dells County Park, where we will be identifying native wild plants and discussing their uses, with a concentration on edible and medicinal species. Paul will suggest ways to harvest and prepare wild foods and effective herbal remedies. Expect to sample some surprisingly delicious trailside treats, and to make some fascinating discoveries. The park is at the north end of main street in New City, just beyond Phillips Hill Rd. See the map for where to park. We should arrange to meet in the parking lot by 1:30 PM for a 2 PM start. The cost is \$5 pp. Please register with Suzan Gordon before May 21st. 201-871-3531 or browning.27@verizon.net.

I hope to see you on some, or all, of these enjoyable events.

Suzan Gordon, Program Chair



Parking at Kennedy Dells Park for the Wild Edibles Outing (map image from Google earth)

Bistate Park News

by Chris Connolly

At press time, it appears that neither the New Jersey nor New York state park or environmental conservation budgets will suffer further cutbacks in the new fiscal year beginning July 1. While the New York situation remains somewhat in flux, Governor Christie's February 15 budget spares the NJ parks' operating funds and increases environmental protection funding. Meanwhile, Governor Cuomo has nominated Joe Martens, President of the Open Space Institute (OSI), as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. NJR applauds this appointment. Under Martens' leadership, OSI preserved 86,000 acres in New York, including, most notably for NJR members, the Awesting Reserve that is now part of Minnewaska State Park.

This good news should not obscure what previous bad budget years have wrought. New Jersey park operating budgets remain 35% below what is necessary for regular maintenance and upkeep. The New York State Council of Parks' 2010 report highlights the deteriorating situation for NYS parks and sets five priorities for this year:

1. Keep Parks Open - The parks' operating funding is inadequate. In the past three years the parks budget has been slashed by 35%, with the loss of 1,500 permanent and seasonal jobs.
2. Stop Park Facility Deterioration - The capital costs of updating park facilities is \$1.1 billion. New York had previously agreed to fund these costs through an annual \$100 million capital budget, but this budget

was also slashed last year to \$30 million. The \$100 million commitment needs to be reinstated.

3. Provide Dedicated Park Funding Mechanism - The record 57 million people who visited the NYS park system last year generated \$1.9 billion in economic activity for the state. This economic engine merits more secure funding to maintain the parks that keep it going.
4. Increase Public-Private Partnerships - Sixteen "Friends" groups consisting of private citizens and organizations have formed since 2007 to advocate the interests of specific parks. Last year, for example, the Friends of the Minnewaska and Fahnestock parks lobbied effectively to prevent their parks' closures.
5. Increase Private Fundraising - Since 2009, \$5.6 million has been raised.

NJR members should check the nynjtc.org website to stay apprised of the latest budget developments and learn how they can advocate for the parks.

Rockland Winter Tragedy *continued from page 1*

Finally, please don't take this tragedy as a reason not to go winter hiking. Many of us safely snowshoe and hike with stabilicers all winter long, and can testify that winter hiking is an exhilarating experience. Trails and landscapes that you think you know are altogether different, and more wonderful, when dressed in snow-white.

Adirondack Mountain Club
 North Jersey Ramapo Chapter
 385 N Franklin Tpke, Box 7
 Ramsey, NJ 07446

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Spring 2011

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Dates to Remember!

Iona Island Guided Tour
Wednesday April 6th 10 AM
 with Doc Bayne
 Call Louise Parnell before 4/3 to register
 845-290-5287

Walk the Bear Mountain Bridge,
Wed. April 20th 10 AM
 Call Louise Parnell 845-290-5287

Map and Compass Course Thurs. April 28th 7-9 PM
 "Hiking 101" with Chris Tausch Location to be announced
 \$10 members \$20 non-members Money will go to the Chapter
 Call Chris to register 201-819-3034

Chapter Meeting Friday April 29th 7:30 PM
 Holy Cross Church, Mahwah, NJ
 Ivan Kossak, member and bird expert will present a program on birds
 to watch this spring

Bird Walk with Ivan Saturday April 30th 8 AM
 Garret Mountain Reservation, Paterson, NJ
 Ivan will lead us on a bird walk following his presentation Friday night.

Cruise the Hudson River Sunday May 22nd 12 noon
 Two-hour cruise on the Hudson \$17 pp
 Call Louise Parnell 845-290-5287

Wild Edible Workshop and Walk with Paul Tappenden
Saturday May 21, rain date May 28 2 PM
 Kennedy Dallas County Park, New City, NY
 \$5 pp RSVP to Suzan Gordon before 5/15
 201-871-3531 or browning.27@verizon.net

Welcome New Members!

John Booth – New City NY
 Beverley Eckel – N. Plainfield NJ
 Charles Ferguson – Plainfield NJ
 Kim & Keith Mackay – Maplewood NJ
 Ronald Pearce – Frenchtown NJ
 Stephanie Wolfe & Anthony Danese – Morristown NJ
 Seth Glasser – New City NJ
 Mark Brownstein & Johanna Ginsberg – Maplewood NJ
 Barbara & Peter Kohlberger – Warwick NY
 Christopher Johnson – Suffern NY
 Henry Kassell – Stony Point NY
 Louis Silver – New City NY
 Lary Wasserman – Wharton NJ
 Richard Dowling – Valley Cottage NY
 Rosalie Des Rosiers - Wood-Ridge NJ

Welcome Back
 Travis Cosaboom – Oldwick NJ
 Todd Dubovy & Dawn Arnold – W. Orange NJ
 Theodore & Brooke Koven – Springtown PA
 Alan & Elizabeth Sproul – Middletown NY
 Maureen Dinkelmeyer – Highland Lakes NJ
 Thomas Gillian – North River NY
 Scott Herland – Oak Ridge NJ