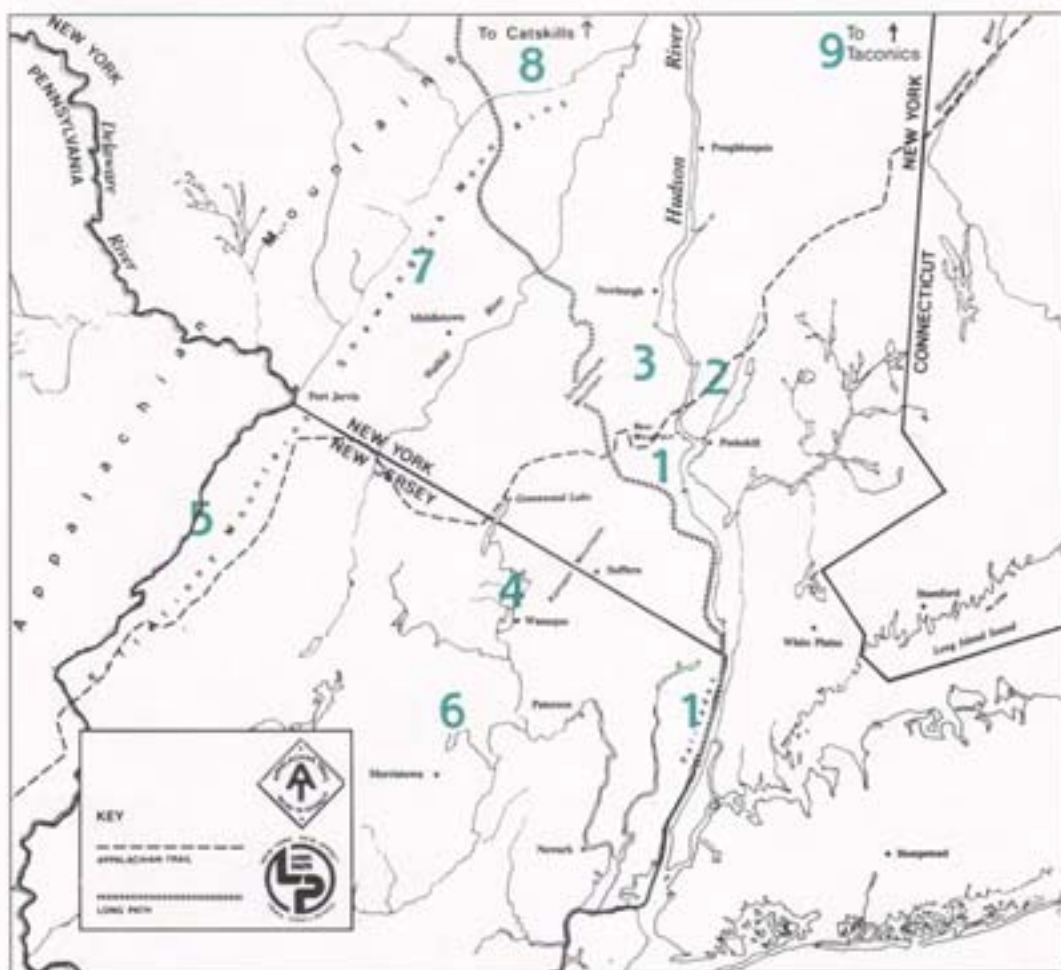




**VISTAS & VISION**—*A History of the  
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference*





### Primary NY-NJ Trail Conference Trail Systems

1. Palisades Interstate Park: Bear Mountain/Harriman, and the Palisades, NY.
2. East Hudson Trails: Anthony's Nose, Breakneck Ridge, Canada Hill, Mount Taurus, Fahnestock Memorial State Park, NY.
3. West Hudson Trails: Black Rock Forest, Schunemunk Mountain, Storm King Mountain, NY.
4. North Jersey Trails: Abram S. Hewitt State Forest, Pequannock Watershed, Ramapo Mountains, Ringwood State Park, Wawayanda State Park, Wyanokies (Norvin Green State Park), NJ.
5. Kittatinny Mountains: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Worthington and Stokes State Forests, High Point State Park, NJ.
6. Pyramid Mountain and High Mountain, NJ.
7. Shawangunks: Minnewaska State Park, Mohonk Preserve, Shawangunk Ridge Trail, NY.
8. Catskill Forest Preserve, NY.
9. The South Taconics, NY.

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Front Cover: Claudius Smith's Den,  
 Harriman State Park  
 Photo by Robert Cresko

Back Cover: View of Crows Nest and  
 the Hudson River from  
 Breakneck Ridge  
 Photo by Michael Warren

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# **VISTAS & VISION—A History of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference**

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This trip last Sunday made us realize how blessed we are, who live in this big metropolitan area, to have so near at hand for our constant enjoyment so many beautiful mountains and trails. And I am afraid that as we go over the trails, we forget that it is the hard work of a few that makes possible the enjoyment by many.

— Angelique Rivolier  
Director of the Inkowa Outdoor Club  
describing a hike on a new section of  
the Appalachian Trail near Sterling Forest  
April 1930

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*This book is dedicated to the thousands of Trail Conference volunteers who, since 1920, have joyfully built and quietly maintained a 1,200-mile trail network, and who have worked tirelessly to preserve our invaluable natural heritage for fellow hikers and for future generations.*

The publication of this book has been made possible  
through the generosity of  
the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation

## President's Message

Although we live in the most densely populated section of the United States, large tracts of natural open space still surround us. Farsighted individuals and families, including the Harrimans, Rockefellers, Fahnestocks, Osborns, Perkinses, Stillmans, Smileys, Sterns, Goldens, Kusers, Drydens, Hewitts and Greens helped preserve this heritage. Widely supported public bond acts have increased their legacy. These great and varied places are now available to all who wish to enjoy them. We hikers are among those who take the fullest advantage of this bounty.

This book traces our 75-year history of dedication to these natural areas. During those decades, volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and its affiliated clubs have helped build and maintain 1,200 miles of public hiking trails. This effort has involved thousands of hikers who gave their time and expertise to aid the hundreds of thousands who use the trail system throughout the year.

Those of us who are active now are just the latest to join the effort to conserve our last natural regions. We enjoy the fruits of the hard work and generosity of many others who came before us. Thank you Mary Harriman. Thank you Raymond Torrey, Leo Rothschild, Joe Bartha and Angelique Rivolier. Thank you Don Derr, Liz Levers, Dick Warner and Dan Chazin, and thank you to the countless others who are part of our past, our present and our future.



Hugh Neil Zimmerman  
President

## Executive Director's Message



Since 1920, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference leaders have been our pathfinders to the wild and scenic places of our region. From the beginning, these visionaries understood how important it was to make wild lands accessible to people from all walks of life, and to protect these lands for future generations.

Today, legions of volunteers continue to fulfill the dream of helping others to connect intimately with the natural landscape. Tens-of-thousands of volunteer hours of labor and dedication help push the 300-mile Long Path north to the Adirondacks, and quickly move the 150-mile Highlands Trail west from the Hudson River toward the Delaware. Thanks to the efforts of our visionary leaders and our volunteers, everyone can enjoy a magnificent network of trails contained within green oases scattered amid the Metropolitan East's urban sprawl.

But, as we all know, development pressures mount in the race for open space with each passing year. Today we face national and state budget cuts of crisis proportion that will undermine support for parks and land preservation. We see the 17,500 wild acres of Sterling Forest threatened with destruction by housing developments and shopping malls.

Like their predecessors, today's Trail Conference volunteers rally to the cause. The "can-do" spirit that built our trails now builds new, broader, stronger partnerships with local communities, land trusts, state agencies and foundations. All join together to save our forests and trail lands for tomorrow.

Through the continuing work of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, the children of this region will have a place to experience the wonder of wild places and to enjoy a lifelong affinity with the natural world for generations to come. This is the legacy of our commitment.

JoAnn Dolan  
Executive Director

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## Author's Foreword

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In February of this year, I climbed Storm King Mountain with friends, ascending the well-blazed yellow trail on one side, and descending an unmarked trail on the other. We slid over steep, snow-covered slopes, past jagged crags where we imagined bears or foxes might have their dens, down toward the Hudson River far below. All that day, we were accompanied by silent, unseen companions: the spirits of Leo Rothschild and Harry Nees. During lunch on the high rock, looking east to Mount Taurus, we paused to thank these men. Without Rothschild and Nees and other volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, we would have looked out on a vastly different panorama that day. Below us, a two-million-kilowatt hydroelectric plant would have cut deeply into the bowels of the mountain. High-voltage power lines, hung on ten-story-high transmission towers, would have arched across the river. On the east side of the Hudson, forested Mount Taurus might have been a scarred jumble of stone quarries, instead of being protected as Hudson Highlands State Park.

And yet, to the thousands of hikers who ascend Storm King each year, the dramatic story of the preservation of this mountain and its trails is largely unknown. The same can be said of the efforts of the many New York-New Jersey Trail Conference volunteers who have devoted countless hours to building, maintaining and protecting over 1,200 miles of hiking trail since 1920. Every mile of these trails has a story to tell, a story of men and women who love the outdoors, who want to share their experiences with others, and who wish to preserve these experiences for generations to come. We all benefit from their efforts.

In the following pages I've tried to reveal this hidden history, from our organization's founding, down to the present, with an eye on the future. In my research, I've spent hours searching through the Trail Conference's archives, studied thousands of microfilmed newspaper articles, and conducted lengthy interviews with Trail

*Afoot and light-hearted, I take to the open road,  
Healthy, free, the world before me,  
The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose.*

—Walt Whitman, "Song of the Open Road"



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**Every single  
mile of  
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"tramping" advocate; Bill Hoeflerlin, whose homespun wit and wisdom guided hikers along the trails for thirty years; Joseph Bartha, a hotel waiter who almost single-handedly kept the Appalachian Trail open throughout World War II; conservationists Sam Wilkinson and Art Beach, and

many others. Reading Conference members. I've walked in spirit with the most wonderful people: Raymond H. Torrey, the Conference's tireless founder and ultimate

tramping" advocate; Bill Hoeflerlin, whose homespun wit and wisdom guided hikers along the trails for thirty years; Joseph Bartha, a hotel waiter who almost single-handedly kept the Appalachian Trail open throughout World War II; conservationists Sam Wilkinson and Art Beach, and many others. Reading correspondence, meeting minutes and Conference newsletters (meticulously organized into an archive by former president John Danielsen), I learned of past struggles—victories and defeats. I learned about the first trails built—protected today within a vast network of public lands—and of other trails and forests lost to the rising tide of urban development.

In documenting the Conference's history, I realize that favorite heroes, trails and mountains were left out. To all I fail to mention, I apologize in advance. The volume of material, and limitations of time and space, made comprehensive coverage impossible. I do hope I've captured some of the sense of wonder in the achievement of all the unsung heroes. Their perseverance, zeal, vision, energy and joy should fill all Trail Conference volunteers with pride, and inspire us to continue their work. Today, when we imagine that we'll never succeed in overcoming overwhelming odds in completing a Highlands Trail or the Long Path, we can look back and remember the creation of the Harriman Park trail system or opening of the

Appalachian Trail. Or, when we despair at volunteers ever having the power to save Sterling Forest, we can climb Storm King. We can look out over the green landscape and remember those who built the trails, those who walked here before us, and who left these mountains to our care.

Glenn D. Scherer  
April 1995

# Introduction

## TRAILHEAD—The Stage Is Set: 1900 to 1920

At the turn of the century, the New York metropolitan area was convulsed by change.

Within the city, the electric light was fast displacing gas light, and automobiles were replacing the horse. At the same time, the modern urban problems of overcrowding, traffic, noise, smog and inner city blight were born.

The mountainous countryside within a hundred miles of Manhattan was undergoing a different kind of change. The once bustling rural villages, farms, mines and mills which had supported New York City's hunger for growth had, by 1900, been bypassed by the transcontinental railroads; trains now brought food and raw materials directly to New York from America's heartland.

**"Walk! Walk! Walk!  
For if you don't, you'll  
have 'Tin Lizzies' and  
No Feet!"**

In the Hudson Highlands and New Jersey's Ramapo Mountains, nature moved in and took over. Many towns and farms, active since before the American Revolution, were abandoned. Pastures, fields, and cellar holes filled up with trees. Mines, which had provided iron for Civil War cannon, were filled with water and covered in dripping moss. Mills and furnaces stood in ruins and became home to chipmunks and woodchucks. Wagon roads, once providing grain, whiskey and cheese to New Yorkers, became quiet ruts through new forest. They invited exploration and rediscovery...

As New York began its love affair with the extravagances of technology—with the automobile, skyscrapers, and Coney Island roller coasters—an equal and opposite reaction took hold. A craze for walking swept the city.

"Walk! Walk! Walk!" proclaimed Dr. Shaw,

Professor of Philosophy at New York University, "For, if you don't, you'll have 'Tin Lizzies' and No Feet!" Walking was proclaimed the cure for every ailment. One book of the time acclaimed it as treatment for anemia, appendicitis, asthma, high and low blood pressure, catarrh, colds, hay fever, constipation, auto-intoxication, diabetes, impotence, and even paralysis! Walking, said the book, would "open for you the gateway to glorious radiant health."

But where could New Yorkers practice this new art? Certainly not on their crowded streets. The newly



*Wandervogel Hiking Club atop Garrett Rock, overlooking Paterson, NJ*

forested hills near Manhattan were the obvious answer, but how was one to find one's way through these wildlands? In 1910, a frustrated resident wrote to *The New York Times*:

To the man shut up in an office all week, a tramp in the woods on Saturday... would be relaxation for his mind and rational exercise for his body; it would better fit him for his week's work. If the women would learn to walk along they might possibly prove themselves part of that inspiration, but they will have to learn that high heels, hobbled skirts and huge hats cannot be part of their equipment.

This same writer pleaded for the formation of hiking clubs to feed this new obsession for walking:

Are there not enthusiasts in New York who would be happy to go to the very slight trouble of forming such a club?... We grown ups in these big cities are, most of us, shut-ins. We do not know how to get out, and need some one to show us the trail.

Metropolitan hiking clubs sprang up to fill the need. The first, the Fresh Air Club (founded in 1877), predated the walking craze. Its members, men recruited from New York athletic clubs, were seen as wild eccentrics. The club, it is said, was named when a ragged group of "trampers" returned from a hike in the Hudson Highlands aboard a train. A fur-coated lady in a seat close by was heard to exclaim, "Oh, look at those poor men with nothing on!"

"Huh," grunted her well-dressed companion, "Just some of those fresh air cranks."

The group's leader, William "Father Bill" Curtis, responded to the insult with pride: "Fresh air crank is good, and this is the Fresh Air Club!"

Other new clubs took to the hills. In 1912, the New York Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) was founded, with its purpose to "induce the largest number of people possible to use their legs in the way that God intended that they should." A young newspaper columnist, Raymond H. Torrey, became an active AMC member. The Tramp and Trail Club (founded in 1914) was led by New York librarian Frank Place. He took his group on vigorous ten-to-twelve-mile hikes every Sunday, rain or shine. In 1916, college professor Will Monroe established a chapter of the Green Mountain Club (GMC) in eastern New Jersey. Monroe and his assistant, New York bank vice president J. Ashton Allis, set to work blazing hiking trails in New Jersey's Wyanokie Mountains. By 1920, seventy-five hiking clubs were active in the New York City area.

These early clubs travelled by ferry and train to the hills within a seventy-five mile radius of New York. There, they would conduct hikes in what historians Guy and Laura Waterman call a "weekend outing style," brief one-or-two-day jaunts into the mountains, cross-country bushwhacks to hidden hemlock ravines, and to

the stirring sweep of Hudson Highland vistas. All landmarks were come on by surprise. All were reached without formal blazed trails.

This was truly a rediscovery of the land. The mountains of the Highlands had first been settled by Dutch and English Colonists, pragmatists with an eye on ways to earn a living from the hills. These new twentieth century explorers found their livelihoods in the cities, and valued the mountains in their wild state, and for the food they provided to their spirits.



Born at the same time as the passion for walking was an equally strong love for wildland, and a will to preserve it. In the late 1890's, New Yorkers were literally blasted into an awareness of the loss of their natural heritage. Across the Hudson River from Manhattan, stone companies were dynamiting the Palisades into oblivion for profit and paving stones. The outraged New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs led a fight to save the spectacular volcanic cliffs. In 1900, they won the battle, and the Palisades Interstate Park was founded under the leadership of George W. Perkins. The new park consisted of 14 miles

of cliff, but contained a mere 700 acres, hugging the west bank of the Hudson River in New York and New Jersey.

Just ten years later, another environmental outrage added greatly to the Interstate Park's size. When New York State began building a temporary stockade for Sing Sing Prison in the deep river gorge at Bear Mountain, the public again reacted with anger. Mary W. Harriman, widow to railroad magnate E. H. Harriman, offered the state a deal. She would donate 10,000 acres of her private Hudson Highlands estate as a park, if New York would move its prison elsewhere. In 1910, the town of Ossining got the prison, and New Yorkers got the Bear Mountain/Harriman State Parks. In 1912, George Perkins invited Major William Welch, an engineer who had built railroads in South America, to become general manager of the vast new Palisades Interstate Park. Welch accepted, and found himself master of a forest fire-scarred landscape of second and third growth forest with almost no recreational amenities. How, he must have wondered, would he open the lands of Harriman Park to the public? □

# Chapter I

## PATHFINDERS—The Birth of the Trail Conference and the First Great Wave of Trail Building: 1920-1930

Major William Welch found his best allies for opening Harriman Park to the public in the New York walking clubs. These trampers needed no "recreational amenities"—roads, boat houses or barbecue pits—to enjoy the Highlands. They had discovered the joys of these mountains long before the region became a park, exploring the many miles of woods roads, Hudson River vistas, lost villages and ruined iron mines.

In the summer of 1920, Welch began informal talks to enlist the walking clubs as

**"...great possibilities of making trails off the beaten paths which will open hidden scenic beauties"**

partners in opening the Interstate Park to other less experienced hikers. Working together with Raymond H. Torrey, a New York outdoor writer; J. Ashton Allis, of New Jersey's Green Mountain Club; and William W. (Billy) Bell, of the New York Appalachian Mountain Club, Welch formulated a plan to build an extensive trail system within Harriman. At a Wall Street luncheon in early October, Welch, Bell, Torrey and Allis agreed that the metropolitan hiking clubs should be invited to participate in the monumental trail building project. The men even sketched out a trunk trail that would sweep for more than twenty miles from one side of Harriman Park to the other. Torrey, editor of the Outdoor Page for the New York Evening Post, publicized

plans for a meeting of the clubs in his column, "The Long Brown Path."

On the evening of October 19, 1920, Major William Welch and representatives from the Appalachian and Green Mountain Clubs, the Tramp and Trail Club, the Fresh Air Club, the Associated Mountaineering Clubs of America and the League of Walkers met at the Log Cabin atop Abercrombie and



Photo by Fossie J. Quinn

Trail Conference founder Raymond Torrey (seated center) with fellow trampers

Fitch (New York's best known outdoor outfitter). The group voted unanimously to form a permanent federation of hiking clubs known as the Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference. The purpose of the new Conference was to promote "a deeper interest in the use of the Palisades Interstate Park for recreational purposes," and its volunteers would work cooperatively with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission "in the development of trails and shelter systems." It was decided then that the new Conference should also be a clearing house for trail and shelter projects covering not only the park, but "regions contiguous thereto, with power to invite other groups to join."



That same night, Albert Britt of *Outing Magazine* was appointed Conference chairman. More importantly, J. Ashton Allis of the Green Mountain Club and William Bell of the Appalachian Mountain Club were selected as joint chairs of a Reconnaissance and Trail Marking Committee. Allis reported that he had already spent four days scouting the west side of the park with Meade C. Dobson (a New York trumper who would help found the Adirondack Mountain Club a year later). The two men had discovered "great possibilities of making trails off the beaten paths which will open hidden scenic beauties." The meeting concluded with the approval of a formal proposal by Welch for the Tuxedo-Jones Point Trail, stretching across Harriman Park from the Ramapo River to the Hudson. With autumn upon them, the clubs decided to begin work immediately. They optimistically declared that this first trail would be complete by spring.

## Building the First Trail

The Tuxedo-Jones Point Trail (later renamed the Ramapo-Dunderberg, or R-D) quickly took shape. Almost 24 miles long and requiring nearly 3,500 feet of climbing, the R-D was planned as an overnight trip. With many New Yorkers concluding their work week on Saturday morning, hikers could catch the ferry to New Jersey by noon, take the main line of the Erie Railroad north to Tuxedo, and hike straight into the woods on the R-D. By Saturday night, they would be deep inside Harriman Park, camp, and continue on to Dunderberg Mountain and Jones Point the next day, arriving in time to catch a Sunday evening train on the West Shore Railroad back to New York.

Welch had mapped out an approximate route for the R-D; now it remained for the Conference to build it. In November 1920, Will Monroe of GMC assembled a group of volunteers to start work, but when he became ill, his assistant J. Ashton Allis took over. Both men brought a great deal of experience to the project, having constructed the spectacular "Monroe Skyline" portion of Vermont's Long Trail beginning in 1916.

"The working parties [on the R-D] were divided according to experience and ability, into scouting, clearing and marking squads," remembered Raymond Torrey years later. "The scouts were those who knew how to lay out a trail to include the highest scenic qualities: directness of route, supplies of water... and occasional ledges and cliff climbs to make the routes interesting. They went out ahead of the rest and made temporary small blazes or rock cairns. When everyone had agreed to the

best route, it was primarily marked with a line of cotton string looped over the bushes and trees."

Next came the "elephant squad," the trail clearers. They followed the white string, clearing the way with hatchets and large pruning shears. Then, blazes were cut on trees, and cairns were made large and permanent. The last touch was the nailing of Major Welch's metal trail markers to trees.

The building of the R-D proved to be a great challenge, confronting "difficulties such as... swamps, thickets, and broken ridges. The solution of such problems is becoming an interesting game," Torrey remarked wryly in his column.

By spring of 1921 the first great transpark trail was complete and hailed a success. The finished R-D climbed steeply away from Tuxedo, giving broad views of the Ramapo Valley. It twisted north and east, and crossed the summits of eight major mountains including The Timp, with its spectacular views all the way to Manhattan. Finally, it descended the broad loaf of the Dunderberg to Jones Point. "The way to the river is through the woods and over summits," Torrey exclaimed proudly, giving "new and finer views of the Hudson on every mountain."

Major Welch, Torrey and Allis now joined together in looking for new challenges for the Trail Conference, scouting more trails within Harriman. But the group had an even bigger vision. "The efficient manner in which the members of the New York walking clubs have made this path, the speed with which it was cut, promises greater ideas," reported Torrey in "The Long Brown Path." The men eagerly proposed a walking route that would stretch from the Delaware Water Gap to the Hudson, roll on into the Berkshires, join the Long Trail in the Green Mountains and link up with AMC trails in New Hampshire. "Extended cooperation would make this dream a reality in a few seasons' work," Torrey proclaimed. Meanwhile, Will Monroe proposed a trail connecting the R-D with the Wyanokie Plateau in New Jersey by way of Lake Mombasha, Sterling Lake and the mountains above Greenwood Lake.

## R-D Speed Records

Speedhiking was a popular pastime in the '20s, and the newly opened R-D Trail became scene to many speed records. On the first Sunday of May 1921, three hikers accomplished its 24 miles in under nine hours. Later, George Goldthwaite of the Fresh Air Club set an astounding record of just five and a half hours. Helen and Annette Buck of AMC set the women's speed hiking record, finishing the R-D in just under six hours. Leisurely trampers frowned on these "stunts." Wrote Trail Conference member Dick Barton: "They run up hills and stagger down. Their motto is 'hurry, hurry, hurry!'...[There's] no chance for relaxation, no chance for long and inspiring views from hilltops."

## A New Trail Inspires A New Name

While the building of the R-D had been daunting work for Torrey and company, the clubs faced a far greater challenge in 1922. This challenge was offered to them by regional planner Benton MacKaye. His 1921 article in the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects*, calling for a 2,000-mile walking path from Maine to Georgia, electrified Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference members. Suddenly, the 24 finished miles of the R-D were no longer an end in themselves, but a dress rehearsal for big trails to come.

MacKaye pictured "a series of recreational communities throughout the Appalachian chain of mountains from New England to Georgia, these to be connected by a walking trail." The building and protection of this Appalachian Trail, wrote MacKaye, would be a job for some 40,000 souls, a partnership between local groups of volunteers, private landowners, and state and federal park and forest officials. MacKaye's 40,000-person volunteer army "would be a giant in itself. It could walk the skyline and develop its varied opportunities... for recreation, recuperation and employment in the region of the Appalachian skyline." MacKaye saw his trail as a means of revitalizing the spirits of harried urban workers from the East's industrial cities, and as an antidote to "the shackles of commercial civilization." It would provide outdoor experience, perspective, and challenge to all who participated.

On April 25, 1922, the clubs met again at the Log Cabin atop Abercrombie and Fitch, this time to talk with MacKaye about his proposal. Representatives from more than twenty outdoor groups and agencies unanimously voted to dissolve their old organization and create a new one, dedicated to the bigger task of building the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). At that moment, the Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference was reborn as the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. Major Welch was selected as Chairman of the group (a post he would hold until 1931). Other officers selected were New York Vice-Chair, William Bell (AMC); New Jersey Vice Chair, C.P. Wilbur (NJ State Fire Warden); Trails Chair, J. Ashton Allis (GMC); Publicity, Frank Place (Tramp and Trail Club); and Secretary, Raymond H. Torrey, outdoor writer for the *New York Evening Post*.

That same night Allis called for volunteers to begin scouting the 160-mile A.T. route from Kent, Connecticut to the Delaware River. The clubs responded with tremendous enthusiasm.

By October 1923, Torrey and Allis had scouted the very first 6-mile section of the Appalachian Trail from the Ramapo River to Fingerboard Mountain in Harriman State Park, and volunteers from the Adirondack Mountain Club had cleared and blazed the trail. On the weekend of October 26-28, the walking clubs, forestry

and park officials gathered at the Bear Mountain Inn to map out further A.T.-building strategies. Welch's design for a distinctive marker, a tilted copper square embossed with a large monogrammed "A.T.," was unveiled at this meeting (see below). The four hundred attendees also took advantage of the warm autumn weather to walk the completed trail section, and to put up cairns and A.T. trail markers on West Mountain.

By January 4, 1924, twenty continuous miles of Appalachian Trail crossed Bear Mountain/Harriman Parks. This section, the first portion of the 2,100-mile long-distance trail to open, ran from the Erie Railroad station at the Ramapo River, up Green Pond Mountain, and through the rock cleft of the Lemon Squeezer. It then used sections of the Trail Conference's new R-D, Arden-Surebridge, and Timp-Torne Trails to reach the Hudson.

Scouting parties were already moving into the hills north and south of Harriman/Bear Mountain Park to extend the great long-distance trail. In November 1923, Torrey led the Tramp and Trail Club on a "Speed Special" along his recently scouted A.T. route from Arden to Sterling Forest. In New Jersey, volunteers Randall Hains and H. Harriman Grimm of the Quest Club scouted another section over Wawayanda and Pochuck Mountains. C. P. Wilbur, New Jersey State Fire Warden, worked closely with AMC and GMC volunteers to open the route along the north end of the Kittatinny Ridge. By the end of 1928 the A.T. was marked all the way from Vernon to High Point, New Jersey, though the trail included many long road walks.

The route from Bear Mountain north faced serious difficulties. The land was almost all privately owned, and the mountains were broken by roads and towns. Murray H. Stevens of the New York AMC (and a future Trail Conference chair) was the powerhouse who got the trail built here. He laid out his ideal route on a map, then walked it, piecing together scenic mountain destinations. The most time-consuming part of the process was not building the trail, but negotiating with private landowners. A surprisingly large number agreed to give A.T. hikers a right of way, provided they avoided building fires, timber cutting and littering. "It is hoped that those using the trail will closely conform with these requests in appreciation for the privilege granted to hikers," wrote Torrey in "The Long Brown Path." Stevens' route ran from the Bear Mountain Bridge, north over Anthony's Nose, through woodlands and across roads to Fahnestock State Park. From there, the trail picked its way along woods roads until it reached the Connecticut line on the broad summit of Schaghticoke Mountain, overlooking the Housatonic River near Kent.

As the Watermans point out in *Forest and Crag*, the construction of the Appalachian Trail during this period was never truly finished. The Trail was constantly put



## Major William Addams Welch: First Trail Conference Chairman

When Major William Welch was appointed General Manager of the Palisades Interstate Park in 1912, it included a ribbon of land hugging the Hudson River, and the 10,000-acre Highlands parcel near Bear Mountain (newly donated by Mary Harriman). The neglected area had been heavily quarried and ravaged by regular wild fires. The wildlife population had been devastated, and local newspapers published stories every time a white-tailed deer was seen. Beaver and bear had been hunted out of existence.

Over the next forty years, Welch created a unique environment which married recreation with conservation, and which became a model for state parks across America. Under his active leadership, the Palisades Interstate Park grew to over 40,000 acres. Welch organized a massive reforestation program, and fostered the return of wildlife, including the beaver. He built thirty new lakes, and many miles of scenic drive. He constructed 103 wilderness camps hidden from view, where 65,000 urban children

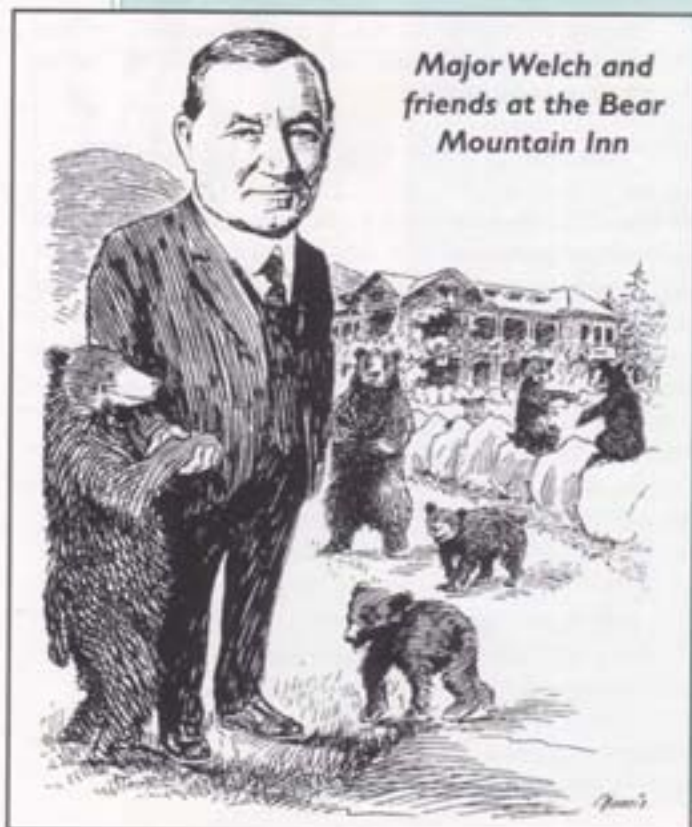
could enjoy the outdoors each summer. By the time Welch retired in 1940, he had turned a fire-scarred desolation into a forest playground annually visited by millions.

It was also Welch who first conceived of the innovative partnership between the public and private sectors in order to get the park's trail and shelter network built. It was he who guided the volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference as Chairman for the first ten years of the organization's life, and he who was appointed first chair of the fledgling Appalachian Trail Conference in 1925. Welch helped to forge that organization's unique cooperative working relationship with federal, state and volunteer groups.

William Welch was born in Kentucky in 1868, a descendant of two U.S. presidents. His mother had been a Rebel patriot who hid the Confederate flag beneath her dress when the Yankees captured their home town of Cynthiana. When Welch graduated from the University of Virginia in 1886, he toured the world, working in Alaska for six years as an engineer. Later he designed railroads in the southwest, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela.

The Major was a strict conservationist. When a guard at the Naval base on Iona Island (inside the Interstate Park) chopped a tree down, Welch had him jailed for two months. When urban high school students left a shady glen littered with trash, Welch had a photo taken and sent to their principal. The students were made to return and clean up the mess.

A private man, Welch never gave an interview during his entire public life. For thirty years, until his retirement, he lived with his family in a secluded cabin on a shoulder of Bear Mountain. Here he was visited by Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Harding, and Hoover. The Major was founder and first president of the National Council of State Parks, and helped establish the state park systems of Kentucky and Virginia, and to design Great Smoky Mountains National Park. There he transplanted many of the ideas which were first tested at Harriman. He died in 1941 at the age of 72.



into jeopardy by the offensive actions of the occasional thoughtless hiker, or simply because of a change in land ownership. Say the Watermans: "The A.T. maintainer had to be one-third trail worker, one-third organizer of other trail workers, but three-fourths diplomat among the landowners."

The Trail Conference's portion of the Appalachian Trail was open and in use by 1930, though it would be another seven years before the entire 2,100-mile trail



An "eclectic" group of trampers atop High Tor Mountain

would be complete. But, thanks to the dynamism of Benton MacKaye's dream, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference had now extended its influence far beyond the confines of Harriman Park.

### The Trail Network Grows

The R-D and A.T. were not the only trails built by the infant Trail Conference. Throughout the 1920's, the clubs established a magnificent trail network in the Palisades Interstate Park, and in New Jersey's Wyanokies—a network that, with some relocations, is still in use today.

After the R-D in Harriman, came the Timp-Torne Trail, which Torrey thought was the most scenic of all the park paths: it was a north-south route with stunning views from The Timp, West Mountain, Bear Mountain and Popolopen Torne. Also in 1921, the clubs blazed the Arden-Surebridge, an east-west trail. In 1923, the Tuxedo-Mount Ivy Trail was opened. It crossed the Ramapo plateau in the southern section of Harriman and had the massive rock outcrop of outlaw Claudius Smith's den as a highlight. Another trail was run from the R-D on Fingerboard Mountain to Storm King Mountain on the Hudson River (the north end of this path was eventually lost due to the closure of West Point to hikers). In 1927, the longest park path, the 24-mile Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail (S-BM), was blazed from south to north by crews led by Frank Place of the Tramp and Trail Club. With the completion of the S-BM, the intense trail building era within Harriman came to an end. In just seven years, the Trail Conference had blazed

eight new trails there, covering well over 100 miles. In addition, they had worked with Welch to build a system of stone "Adirondack style" shelters, some of which still stand today.

To the south of Harriman, in New Jersey, the Green Mountain Club, under Will Monroe, continued to build and maintain trails in the Wyanokies. And to the north of the Interstate Park, in Black Rock Forest Preserve, Conference members established a unique partnership with private landowner Dr. E.G. Stillman. Stillman blazed his own trails throughout his 3,000 acres, then invited the Trail Conference to come enjoy his property, and help with trail maintenance. Stillman cleared out springs for hiker use, and hung a metal cup for trampers.

Despite all of this work, Torrey observed in his column that "demand for new trails by hikers is just barely ahead of the supply." He tells about a group of Conference volunteers working on West Mountain in Harriman Park. They were "laying the string along the top of the cliffs on the western side of the ridge. The string had not been up two hours when eleven persons came along it." The Sunday walkers had just discovered the new path and declared their appreciation to the trail blazers. "You folks are public benefactors," they exclaimed.

By 1930, the new Trail Conference could look back with pride on their achievements. Not only was their section of the A.T. complete, but an extensive network of marked trails had blossomed in the Palisades Interstate Park, the Hudson Highlands and the Ramapo Mountains.

### Tramping with the Clubs in the '20s

The Trail Conference and its twenty member clubs didn't spend all of their time armed with pruning shears and paint cans. Small and large clubs, clubs old and new, set off to explore the countryside. The following description comes from the contemporary book, *In the Hudson Highlands*:

On Sundays and holidays, from September to June, rucksack-laden stalwarts assemble at ferry-houses and railroad stations, bound for the Hudson Highlands, the Ramapos, or whatever other parts the Walks Committee, in its wisdom, may have seen fit to designate as the scene of the day's outing. No fair-weather strollers these, but seasoned hikers, knights of brush and brier, modern Bayards, without fear and above reproach. It would be superfluous to add that they are enthusiasts, and perhaps they are slightly tinged with madness.

The metropolitan clubs were as diverse and varied as imaginable. All—young and old, rich and poor, from every ethnic and political background, and from every walk of life—were invited to come walk by Raymond Torrey in his "Long Brown Path" column. Each week, Torrey announced the Trail Conference's club hikes. The Tramp and Trail Club was off to Harriman; GMC led by Professor Monroe would walk in the Wyanokies. The women of the Inkowa Club were off to explore the Ramapos.

The Appalachian, Green and Adirondack Mountain Clubs quickly became New York's super clubs, with membership in the hundreds, and later, thousands. They welcomed Metro New Yorkers to their ranks. AMC member Marjorie Reid wrote in the *New York Evening Post*:

There is a sort of community of the mountains which can only be understood by entering into it. It is made up of those who have abandoned the occupations and amusements of life in the valleys for a period of days or weeks, who have temporarily forgotten everything outside the carefree and almost aimless existence of the trails.

There was a club for every taste: The Fresh Air Club was an all-male group of athletic speed hikers averaging 25 to 35 miles a day, and sometimes pushing that to over 50 miles. The Inkowa Club was composed of young professional women. Founder Miss Grace Parker named

### The New York Walk Book: The Hiker's Bible

Soil that ever was *Indian* seems never to lose all of that impress. On the island of islands, borne down at one end by the world's biggest burden of steel and stone and pressure of haste and material gain, the primitive sweep of its further free tip, with the forest trees on the stately ledges, still holds the red man's cave, the beached canoe, the air of the Great Spirit.



Dickinson, Place and Torrey (l-r), editors of the first *New York Walk Book*

So opens the first edition of the *New York Walk Book*, which many have since called "The Hiker's Bible." This classic guide to trails within 100 miles of Manhattan is no mere trail atlas. It brings the landscape alive with historical fact, legend, geology, botany and biology, and with extraordinary pen and ink artwork. Raymond Torrey and Frank Place wrote the first edition in 1923, with New York gynecologist Robert L. Dickinson providing the illustrations. The three men joked that the book was "the result of twenty years of shoe erosion." Dickinson quipped: "We have brought out a book and the authors are *still good friends*." The first edition's 3,000 copies sold out in just six weeks, and immediately went into a second printing. Said one reader: "It is splendid missionary work which you are doing in educating people more and more to get out of doors." In 1934 a second edition was issued, placing the Appalachian Trail and all of the newly marked Conference trails firmly on the map.

Ridsdale Ellis and William Burton, with other volunteers, spent eight years preparing the third edition of 1951. Dickinson (who died in 1950) contributed new illustrations, since sadly some of the originals had to be "discarded because the scenes they illustrated have been changed beyond recognition in the passing of the years." Volunteers led by Elizabeth Levers, Elizabeth Snyder and George Zobebelein brought out a fourth edition in 1971, with Dickinson's fine illustrations supplemented by those of Richard Edes Harrison. A fifth edition followed in 1984. Said its editors, Helen Ostrowski and Janet Gross: "The *Walk Book* is a snapshot of the trails at a certain moment in time. Although this might be disconcerting to readers, we think it illustrates very well the dynamic character of the hiking environment."

In 1995, on the Conference's 75th Anniversary, Jane Daniels has taken on the mantle of editor, supervising the endless field-checking, text revisions and map-making required for a sixth edition. "The beauty of the Trail Conference is the way they're willing to let anyone try anything," says Jane. "I've never done book publishing before. Now, I'm in charge of the region's premier hiking guide. It really allows you to grow as a person. It's fun too."

The new *Walk Book*, like the first, invites the reader into "a wilderness of great natural beauty that can be found and enjoyed by anybody willing to put on a sturdy pair of shoes."

the group for a Sioux Indian word meaning "trustworthiness." The Inkowa promoted physical and spiritual development among women. While men were welcome on Inkowa outings as guests, "efforts were made to promote desirable comradeship."

The Young Men's Hebrew Association of the Bronx sponsored an exclusively Jewish hiking club. The City College Hiking Club (later the College Alumni Hiking Club) put college students on the trail. The Naturfreunde (later renamed the Nature Friends) was a working class group mostly of German descent and practicing a mild form of Socialism, whose aim it was to "awaken appreciation of the beauties of nature and, at the same time, kindle 'wanderlust' in all." The All-Tramp Soviet, from Greenwich Village, was an all-Communist group, while the Torrey Botanical Club (named for a distant relative of Raymond Torrey) attracted hikers with a love of botany. The Yosian Brotherhood won the award for



**Outing at West Mountain Shelter, Harriman Park**

being the most unusual club, attracting members who today might be called "New Age" types. The Yosians' Christian / pagan leader J. Otis Swift invited "the sorely puzzled, tired, automobile-dazzled pleasure-weary folk of the modern towns and cities... [to sit] at Pan's Altar, where the great gneiss is piled up, fold on fold. These walkers—poets, artists, stenographers, clerks, housewives, business men and a banker or two—sit like children on the lichened stones and listen, as the story of Creation is retold."

Most of the clubs hiked separately, but all came together on the train ride home. "Hikers would keep getting on at different stations," remembers Meyer Kukle, former Trail Conference board member. "We always took the last car, or maybe spilled over into the one in front of that. There, we could take off our knapsacks, leaving the other cars free for the public. Then came the best part—sharing our leftover food, one person shouting to another, 'Hey, I've got a sandwich, what have you got?'"

Another example of hiker solidarity was the Trail Conference's annual Palm Sunday pilgrimage to St. John's in the Wilderness. This little chapel, with its solid stone walls, slanted slate roof, Gothic windows and simple belfry, had been built for the mountain folk in 1880, but was eventually surrounded by the public lands of Harriman Park. Reverend Walter Frederick Hoffman became known as the "hikers' chaplain," due to his all-denomination Hikers' Day Services established in the 1920's. Walter "Shanks" Shannon, a Trail Conference volunteer, organized the Palm Sunday hikes for 39 years from 1935 to 1974. It is a Conference tradition that unites diverse hiking clubs down to the present.

## End of an Era

By 1930, the first great era of trail building in the Metropolitan Northeast had come to an end. The region which had few marked trails in 1920, just ten years later was crisscrossed by a vast interconnected trail system. Welch's grand design for the Palisades Interstate Park was complete, as was Will Monroe's system in the Wyanokies. The 160-mile section of the Appalachian Trail from the Delaware River to

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***"There is a sort of community of the mountains which can only be understood by entering into it."***

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Kent, Connecticut was finished. The efforts of Trail Conference volunteers were celebrated in Torrey's "Long Brown Path":

Only the workers who are allied to this informal federation of hiking groups... know what an immense amount of work has been done in locating and marking new trails and maintaining them through purely volunteer effort... It is probable that no paid labor would ever have been as effective. No governmental agency would have been able to do this work without a cost of thousands of dollars, and no public agency would have done it with the care, the maintenance of the highest trail standards, and the sense of obligation to do it rightly, as have these volunteers.

The great experiment, a partnership between government (represented by Welch and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission) and the volunteers (represented by Torrey and the walking clubs), had been a resounding success. And to many it seemed likely that the Trail Conference, its work done, could now fade away, out of existence. □

## Chapter 2

# TRAIL WARS, WORLD WAR, AND HOLDING THE LINE—The Trail Conference Comes of Age: 1931 to 1960

With the completion of the trail systems in Harriman and the Wyanokies, and of the Appalachian Trail from the Delaware to the Housatonic, it was assumed by many that the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference had outlived its usefulness. But, in 1931, the organization was revitalized, not for the purpose of building new trails, but as peacemaker in clannish feuds.

Open warfare had broken out between the hiking clubs of the Ramapo Mountains. The first battles were fought primarily between two groups: the Green Mountain Club and the Nature Friends. Will S. Monroe, a professor at Montclair Normal School, had, with his Green Mountain Club, blazed a large number of trails in the Wyanokies during the teens. After Monroe's death, William Burton replaced him as president and took over maintenance of the system. Another club, the Nature Friends, had a large camp in the Wyanokies (site of today's Weis Ecology Center), and under their leader, Joseph Bartha, had blazed a complex network of Ramapo trails. In 1931, the two trail systems collided, with each side trying to obtain dominance by painting out the other's blazes. To make matters worse, strong-minded lone wolves had taken to the hills to create their own trail fiefdoms, painting in new trails wherever they wished, and painting out those of their enemies. Among the worst culprits were Kerson Nurian and Alexander Jessup.

It fell on the shoulders of Raymond Torrey, respected by all, to use every form of diplomacy, cajoling, and arm-twisting to bring the makers of these "outlaw trails" under the cooperative wing of the Trail Conference. Torrey, Frank Place and William Burton called a meeting on April 21, 1931. Most of the feuding "war lords" attended, and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference was reinvented. Raymond Torrey was

appointed as Chairman, replacing Major Welch (now busy with plans for the design of Great Smoky Mountains National Park). Angelique Rivolier of the women's

Inkova Outdoor Club (a neutral party in the war) was appointed secretary. Frank Place was given the ticklish job of heading a new committee for "trail allocation," and Bill Burton was made head of a "trail marking" group. These committees, representing all the major clubs, published a booklet outlining newly established standards for trail colors, the size and frequency of blazes, and rules for the coordination of volunteer trail work. The committees ruled emphatically that "the making of new trails...should not be undertaken without reference to the Conference." It appeared for a time that the war was over, and that the fast duplication, complication and confusion of new trails was at an end.

But, in 1937, volunteer Bill Hoeflerlin mournfully reported to Torrey that

**"A war has broken out on the Seven Hills Trail, a feud among mountain climbers, and the weapons are paint cans and brushes."**

A war has broken out on the Seven Hills Trail, a feud among mountain climbers, and the weapons are paint cans and brushes. No less than five different markers adorn the trees from the Torne to Pine Meadow Brook: blue, orange, red and white, white and black are the fighting colors... Each battalion adds another color, and it is likely that more battles will take place. If this keeps on, the trees will soon resemble totem poles.

Hoeflerlin added that the energies of the warring parties would be much better spent in doing routine trail maintenance. Torrey too attacked the anonymous mad blazers. While "the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has no power to compel reasonableness in

the matter, being only an advisory organization....," he warned, "this messy painting of trails... is offensive and dangerous to continued tolerance of marked trails and to hiking in general on private property... All we can hope is that the owner doesn't throw everyone off his land." In fact, an unauthorized yellow trail blazed to New Jersey's Terrace Pond caused all hikers to be banned from the area for several years.

By the end of 1937, the last of the "outlaws" were brought into line, and the Trail Conference was given a new authority and respect which it had not enjoyed since the early 1920's. This strengthening of the organization was fortunate. For as developers put increased pressure on the Highlands, the clubs would need to work closely together to relocate trails and lobby government for land preservation measures.

In the 1930's, forest lands that had once seemed safe from builders were penetrated by roads and saw the sprouting of vacation homes and residential and commercial complexes. Some trails were lost altogether. Others had to be moved. The Appalachian Trail was repeatedly forced to recoil out of the way of developers' bulldozers, twisting this way and that like a snake. A.T. maintainers from Warwick, led by R.R. Goodlatte, designed one such reroute near Greenwood Lake. "This relocation was felt to be called for by the Warwick workers because of the development of a new bungalow colony and an artificial lake on Long House Creek," reported Torrey in his newspaper column in

1932. "The former route of the Appalachian Trail is now occupied by a street called 'Lake Shore Drive.' It did not seem the sort of scenery the A.T. was intended to cover." Another major section of A.T. in Dutchess County was rerouted when a hunting club closed their land to the Conference. With many trails located on private property, there was little the Trail Conference volunteers could do but pick up and move each time the trees began to fall around them.

Over time, the Conference would learn to strengthen their partnership with government. It was realized that only through an alliance with federal and state parks and forest authorities would there be any hope of preserving the trails built on private lands in the 1920's. Advocacy, orchestrated by the Trail Conference, would in coming years help see the expansion of the Palisades Interstate Park at Storm King and Stony Point, along with the establishment of Hudson Highlands and Taconic State Parks in New York, and of Worthington, Ramapo Mountain, Norvin Green and Wawayanda state forests and parks in New Jersey. This work goes on today.

### Birth of the Long Path

As Raymond Torrey and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference had worked throughout the 1920's, building hundreds of miles of new trail, they had also sought to prevent the creation of too many marked paths. It was felt that some old woods roads and wildlands should be left for enterprising hikers to explore with map and compass.

Vincent J. Schaefer, a self-taught General Electric meteorologist and founder of the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club in Schenectady, New York, carried this idea a dramatic step further. Schaefer imagined a "trailless trail," a Long Path, stretching all the way from the towers of the George Washington Bridge, north to the Adirondack Mountains. "As originally conceived, I envisioned a corridor that would utilize secondary and woods roads and trails, as well as cross-country bushwhacking, to tie together most of the scenic, historical and geological landmarks of the regions traversed," remembered Schaefer years later. Long Path markers were not to be placed all along this "path," but only at the location of

### All About Blazes

**Blazes:** you wouldn't think that sane people could get so worked up about them, but attend any Trail Conference meeting and you'll see that they do. In the early days, Major Welch laid down the law: all blazes would be metal markers, nailed to trees, and that was the end of it. Paint blazes were strictly "taboo" in the Interstate Park. But alas, theft and hunters' target practice proved the undoing of this neat system. By 1936 trail maintainer Bill Hoeflerin lamented the chaos of trail markers found in the Highlands: there was the conventional wooden arrow cut from an old fruit box, the tin disk, bottle caps, tin can bottoms and even discarded auto plates. "The best marker yet is the paint blaze applied right to the surface of the tree," said Bill. "It stays put!" Of course, paint did have its problems. Hoeflerin

tells of finding one blaze that "didn't show in our booklet of *Methods of Trail Making*." It was a white strip three yards long. Another bizarre problem: maintainers in the state of Maine discovered that bears sought out the white paint used on the A.T. as a great delicacy. Ultimately, paint did turn out to be the simplest solution... But then, there is that little quarrel over "offset" vs. "in-line" turn blazes! Ah, something to "discuss" at the next meeting.





## Raymond H. Torrey and The Long Brown Path

Raymond H. Torrey, Secretary of the Trail Conference for its first eleven years, and Chairman for the next seven, was an indomitable spirit. He took on many roles: prolific writer, exuberant hiker, brilliant trail builder, unyielding conservationist, volunteer organizer and motivator, shrewd negotiator and diplomat, botanist, amateur geologist and historian.

Beside his duties with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Torrey was the first treasurer of the Appalachian Trail Conference, and held office with the New York State Council of Parks, the National Conference of State Parks, the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks. It's hard to imagine how any one man could fit so much activity into one short lifetime.

Raymond Torrey was born in Georgetown, Massachusetts on July 15, 1880. His father was a sea captain, who sailed four-masted schooners off the New England coast. Upon graduating from school, the young Torrey took jobs with a number of small Massachusetts newspapers. He moved to New York in 1903. There, he worked as a reporter, rewrite-man, and night manager with several major city papers before establishing himself at the *New York Evening Post* in 1918.

In his twenty years of writing for the Outdoor Page of the *Post*, Torrey revealed himself to have a rich personality. This Renaissance man's interests range through every imaginable natural topic. He writes with the same authority and enthusiasm about short-billed marsh wrens as he does about a new Silurian marine fossil found atop Kittatinny Ridge. And Torrey knew trails: he describes every twist and turn of every trail in the Hudson Highlands, and as far afield as the Catskills, Adirondacks and Katahdin. Torrey's column "The Long Brown Path" (named for a line in Walt Whitman's poem, "Song of the Open Road") was a true blessing to New York-New Jersey

Trail Conference members. Who could imagine a major New York daily today sporting a boldly emblazoned headline: "New Short-Cut Trail on Hogencamp Mountain Is Highly Scenic and Bears Interesting Boreal Lichens." Torrey had no prejudices. He gave space in "The Long Brown Path" to every hiking club who asked for it, announcing their weekend trips; he also lent his voice to every important conservation cause. It was Torrey who provided the first major newspaper coverage to Benton MacKaye's Appalachian Trail idea.

By 1920, Raymond Torrey was active in the AMC, GMC, Tramp and Trail Club and Torrey Botanical Club (named for a distant relative, John Torrey). In 1921, he also helped to found the Adirondack Mountain Club. But in reality, Torrey could never be claimed by any one organization. He was leader and spokesperson for all, and a master diplomat. When the "trail wars" broke out between the hiking clubs in 1931, it was he who was called on to smooth ruffled feathers and negotiate a fair settlement.

However, Torrey was not above a good fight. When New York State Park Commissioner Robert Moses' policy of "blacktopping everything" in the parks collided with Torrey's wilderness ethics in 1929, their differences erupted into name calling and a fist fight. Torrey shot off a letter to Governor Roosevelt calling for Moses' resignation. He got a quick response from the amused Roosevelt, suggesting that the two men refer their dispute to the New York

Boxing Commission.

But, without question, Raymond Torrey was at his happiest on the trail. He was the driving force behind all metropolitan trail building, clearing and maintaining from 1920 to 1938. Frank Place recalls that "no elephant squad was complete without Torrey and his clippers."

So, it came as a terrible shock when this dynamo died suddenly at age 58, leaving behind his family, friends and a stunned Trail Conference. He was survived by his wife Elizabeth, a daughter and son. Of his lifelong work, Torrey once said: "Trail scouting, in which many members of the hiking clubs of the New York City metro district have given their volunteer service..., is about the most satisfying outlet for the urge to pioneering and adventure which may be readily found in the East."



*"Trail scouting...is about the most satisfying outlet for the urge to pioneering and adventure which may be readily found in the East."*

the landmarks. These simple markers were to bear a logo and a number keyed to a Long Path guidebook. Schaefer explained the philosophy behind this vast orienteering course. He wanted hikers to "enjoy the sense of uncertainty, exploration and achievement that reaches its highest level when the individual is dependent on the use of compass, marked map, and wood knowledge to reach an objective."

W.W. Cady, a transplanted Colorado hiker, scouted the route of the Long Path from the George Washington Bridge north to the Schoharie Valley at Gilboa. Schaefer himself scouted it from there to Whiteface Mountain. Raymond Torrey ran nineteen *New York Evening Post* columns showcasing this "trailless trail" starting in 1934.

Unfortunately, the unusual idea behind the Long Path never really caught on with hikers. Many misunderstood the concept, wondering why anyone would go through all the trouble of scouting a route, and then not go ahead and clear and blaze it. Schaefer declared that the Long Path "existed as soon as the route had been field explored and then marked on a topo map, and so became available to the person who appreciates such things."

Over the years the Long Path concept languished, and the wild terrain it was to cross became increasingly more civilized. It would remain for Robert Jessen of the Ramapo Ramblers to revive the idea in a new form in 1960.

### The Loss of a Leader

At 6:30 PM on July 15, 1938, Raymond Torrey suffered a fatal heart attack. It was his 58th birthday. The Trail Conference reeled under the loss. Frank Place, long-time friend and co-author of the *New York Walk Book*, wrote of the event: "In the death of Mr. Torrey, chairman since 1931, the Conference lost its inspiring leader; the outdoor life an ardent devotee; and conservation one of its most active champions."

On October 30th, Torrey's ashes were spread amid the fallen autumn leaves atop Long Mountain in Harriman Park. This was a mountain over which Torrey had helped blaze the Fingerboard-Storm King Trail in 1922, and which he had declared as having "one of the finest views... in the entire Highlands." The outlook is unobstructed from the bare rocky summit in all directions, with Bear Mountain visible to the southeast and Black Rock Forest to the north. Five hundred mourners hiked to the spot, representing the "big three" hiking

clubs (AMC, GMC and ADK), the Tramp and Trail Club, Westchester Trails Association, Fresh Air Club, Wanderbirds and others. Frank Place read a poem which ended with the lines:

So we are here, from ev'ry walk of life,  
To scatter to the passing breeze today  
The ashes of a man. May earth and air  
And sun and wind, may stream and tree and rock  
Receive these as we give them to their care.

Torrey's widow Elizabeth unveiled a plaque embedded in stone and donated by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. It read: "In Memory of Raymond H. Torrey, A Great Disciple of 'The Long Brown Path,' 1880-1938."

The following year, Frank Place instituted an enduring Trail Conference tradition. He wrote:

Ever since Torrey's ashes were scattered on Long Mountain, I have been thinking of an annual "march past" that spot, the last Sunday in October. If each club will schedule a walk that will include Long Mountain some time of the day and leave its name with some token, this

rite will signify that we remember him. Major Welch will have men stationed between 10 AM and 4 PM.

That October, Torrey's friends came, leaving their names, flowers, brightly colored stones and wreaths at the tablet on Long Mountain. The Torrey Memorial Hike is a lasting Trail Conference tradition down to the present.

### A New Start

So great had been Raymond Torrey's role in the organization, wrote William Burton of the GMC, that "upon Mr. Torrey's death another method of operation was necessary, since no one man could give the time he had devoted to his work." Frank Place, librarian at the New York Academy of Medicine, head of the Tramp and Trail Club, and long-time trail-builder, was voted in as the next chairman. Formal committees were established to distribute various duties. One of the most important was the new Conservation Committee, which would play a leading role in land preservation and environmental battles in future years.



**Raymond  
Torrey  
Remembered**

## Joseph Bartha: Trail Patriarch

Tough-minded, tireless, and warm-hearted, Joseph Bartha stands as a model to all trail maintainers. Serving as Trails Chair from 1940 to 1955, it is claimed by some that he single-handedly kept the Appalachian Trail open throughout World War II.

Bartha was born in Vienna in 1871, and lived in Paris and London. In 1889, when the Eiffel Tower was new, Bartha went to the Paris Exposition, and climbed its 984 steps to the top. He came to the United States in 1914 and quickly became active in the New York hiking scene. During the 1930's he was a right-hand man to Raymond Torrey, learning trail building and maintenance from him. The two carried on a voluminous correspondence, with Torrey repeatedly seeking out Bartha's help. "I should like to see some work done in carrying the Appalachian Trail west of Greenwood Lake," writes Torrey. "Are you for it?... If you wish to do a further service to hikers, with your clippers and paintbrush, the S-BM Trail needs pruning and renewed blazes... The original line of the T-MI from the Mount Ivy station is very little marked along the road... Could you do the job?..." There are an equal number of warm congratulations in these letters, "You are doing bully good work on the trails," Torrey exclaims.

Appointed as the Conference Trail Inspector in 1939, Bartha walked every important Harriman Park trail, with an eye on improvements. "He goes out regularly each week... to get a true report to the Trail Conference and trail workers direct," said Bill Hoeflerlin. "Yes, Mr. Bartha, with his taste for cleanliness and order, is the best man we could have on the job. He should be on our 'Memories payroll!'" Bartha and the new Trail Patrol were a regular sight along Conference trails until he stepped down as leader in 1951.

Bartha's constant hiking and trail maintenance, and his work as a maitre d' in major New York hotels, kept him on his feet and healthy. A *Trail Conference News* article in 1951 said of the 80-year-old:

**Bartha at 95:  
"The knees are still going. As long as they're not wobbling, I go up in my mountains. I absolutely feel like a youngster."**



Photo by John Dostaco

He carries on with all the spirit and determination with which we have been long familiar. In the years when most men are content to sit and twiddle their fingers, this fine man is planning new trails.

For the next fifteen years, Bartha went on clearing blowdowns and brush, repairing bridges, and repainting blazes. Under his watchful eye, many hikers learned the art of trail making.

At age 95, a plaque to his honor was unveiled on Bear Mountain. When someone tried to hand the old man a walking stick, he became peeved and pointed at his legs: "These are still in perfect walking condition, you know. The knees are still going. As long as they're not wobbling, I go up in my mountains. I feel absolutely like a youngster."

Joseph Bartha passed away in 1969. He was 97 years old. Of his friend Bartha, and the others who diligently maintained their trails, Bill Hoeflerlin wrote:

To them a trail is a living thing, to be cared for, spruced up and opened wide for those who walk in the woods. No orchids for them, no 'Oscars,' but the heartfelt appreciation of their fellow hikers and the everlasting satisfaction in their own hearts for a public-spirited job very well done.

By 1942, a constitution was written and adopted. It stated the objectives of the Conference: "To build and maintain trails and shelters in the states of New York and New Jersey; to aid in the conservation of wild lands and wild life and the protection of places of natural beauty and interest." The organization set up three classes of

### With the Trail Patrol

**Bill Hoeflerlin tells the following story: "Back in the 1940's, Joe Bartha had a Conference Trail Patrol, using Charlie Weber's 1929 Model A Ford. We were clearing the Appalachian Trail near Wawayanda, New Jersey when we reached a spot where a new bungalow stood just 25 feet off the trail. A dog barked and the owner came over to ask what we were doing. We explained: 'This is the A.T. from Maine to Georgia, marked white for hikers.' The owner said: 'And this is my private land, you'll have to mark your trail elsewhere.' Said Weber to Bartha: 'Well Joe, we'll have to notify Washington and let them work out a solution.' When the property owner heard this, he cooled off and replied: 'See here fellows, I don't want no trouble with the government; go ahead and fix up your trail.' We thanked him and continued our work...The trail is still there and the house too. Later, Weber explained that he had only meant there would be a need to call the Appalachian Trail Conference! Through a misunderstanding, this trail route was saved."**

membership. Class A members were trail maintaining clubs, a group which could send delegates to vote at Conference meetings. Classes B and C were reserved for "individuals with special qualifications" (such as state park officials, and a few lone trail maintainers who weren't club affiliated).

In spring of 1941, the Trail Conference and its twenty-five member clubs were host to the Tenth Annual Appalachian Trail Conference Meeting. This was a celebratory moment that also paid tribute to two lost leaders (Torrey had died in 1938, and Major Welch had passed away just weeks before the event). The program read:

This meeting will be held at the very locality where the Appalachian Trail project was first translated from a mere suggestion or vision into a reality... Since this marking of the first blaze in the Palisades Interstate Park some two decades ago, the Trail, for its 2,050 miles of length, has been completed.

At the meeting, the clubs looked into ways to improve trail etiquette on private lands, coordinated trail building and maintenance workshops, and discussed problems along the length of the trail.

### The World at War

The bombing of Pearl Harbor had a devastating effect on the New York hiking scene, and on trails. Bill

Hoeflerlin (Trail Conference Secretary at the time) recorded the discouraging progression of events in his *Walking News*, the monthly mimeographed newsletter that replaced Torrey's "Long Brown Path" as a source of hiking information.

A 1942 report reads:

Railroads are marking time with Defense tool Troop movements are on the come and go. To meet the demand, some railroads have cut our excursion trains. West Shore has cancelled the \$1.25 weekend and holiday excursion fares to Bear Mountain for an indefinite period. The new rate is \$1.80.

As the increased train fares and gas rationing took hold and made it more expensive to reach trailheads, people outside the Trail Conference spoke out against hiking and other such "frivolous" activities as unpatriotic. Saturdays, it was felt, were best spent doing overtime at defense plants. A *Walking News* editorial defended hiking as the most patriotic of vacations:

Vacation to some people means to pick out the liveliest resort and sop up all the thrills and excitement—late to bed and up with a headache. They come home all played out. The purpose is lost! Permitting oneself to become ill is unpatriotic... On the other hand... a walking vacation still is the finest health tonic... Walk the country road, woodland trail, or climb the hills according to your ability... Walk to keep fit and young.

Another blow to the Trail Conference came from the U.S. Military. The Appalachian Trail from Bear Mountain to Manitou Springs was closed to prevent imagined saboteurs from destroying the Bear Mountain Bridge. A trail along the Catskill aqueduct was shut down for the same reason. In April 1942, Arthur C. Purvis, Adjutant General at West Point, closed all Conference trails on the reservation. Many trails built in the '20s were lost, including the Crown Ridge Trail and Long Mountain-Torne trails in their entirety, and the north ends of the Timp-Torne and Fingerboard-Storm King Trails.

The *New York Walk Book* went out of print during the war years, and the publishing of the *NY-NJ Appalachian Trail Guidebook* was suspended for the duration. Trail work also suffered. This was not a time of new trail

## Bill Hoeflerlin: Guiding Star of the Trail

As he scouted a trail on High Mountain one cold, rainy day in 1965, Trail Conference volunteer Dave Sutter spotted an ominous looking person coming at him out of the mist. Dressed in rags, with just one tooth in his head, the figure looked more like an old wild bear than a man. When the two men met, Dave broke the tension with a seemingly irrelevant, nervously asked question: "Do you know if this trail is on Hoeflerlin's map?"

"I'm Hoeflerlin!" growled back the stranger.

Of all the characters to populate this history, Bill Hoeflerlin of the Wanderbirds Hiking Club is easily the most colorful.

Born in East New York in 1898, the son of a tailor, Bill Hoeflerlin spent part of his youth in Switzerland. Later, he came to Saratoga Springs to fight a case of tuberculosis. He eventually found his own cure for the disease: walking.

Hoeflerlin moved to New York City, and lived for more than 35 years at the same address in Brooklyn. He worked briefly for the Hagstrom Company mapmakers. When he came into a small inheritance, he decided to devote all of his time to his beloved Hudson Highlands.

Starting in 1927, Bill became leader of the Wanderbirds Club, an activity he enjoyed for the rest of his life. A hiking companion described Hoeflerlin:

He had little interest in appearances. Pinned to his old worn hat were two tiny metal shoes. He wore a blue kerchief around his neck, and carried a small knapsack containing paint and a clipper. As a hike leader, Bill was firm and displayed paternal concern for every one of us on the trail. We used to call him "Father Bill." He didn't strive to acquire worldly goods just for the sake of possession. He knew what he wanted, and number one on his list were the green forests, meadows and trails going through them.

Starting in 1934, Hoeflerlin developed a series of more than sixty "Hikers' Regional Maps" which covered virtually every trail from Central Park to the Catskills. In the beginning, Bill sold his maps to hikers for ten to twenty-five cents. To save on postage, Hoeflerlin typically delivered them personally to those living within "walking distance," which for him seemed to include most of New York's five boroughs. Bill's maps were the standard for hikers for more than thirty years.

In 1939, Frank Place asked Hoeflerlin if he would publish a Trail Conference newsletter. Said Place: "It may carry on the idea of Torrey's 'Long Brown Path' as far as in us lies the ability to do so." Hoeflerlin's newsletter, *Walking News*, published continuously until 1965, provided club hiking schedules, Conference news, natural history and a sometimes humorous view of the metropolitan hiking scene. There were stories about high-speed long-distance walkers, whose "latest exploits fixed up Ripley with another gasper." And there were trail maintainer tips: "There's a Brooklyn hardware store where you can find roofing tins that make dandy trail markers." Bill even ran personal ads: "YOUNG MAN, 35, Protestant, fond of walking, camping, bicycling, wants to correspond with



healthy girl of similar age and tastes, home type, brunette, interested in vegetarian diet." On the cover of each *Walking News* issue Hoeflerlin penned a folksy poem with a "Burma Shave" ring to it:

What's the sport that legs were made for,  
What's the purpose trails were layed for?  
Well or ill, in debt or paid for,  
Troubles burden you, just walk them off.

Hoeflerlin's death, on July 12, 1970 at the age of 72, was a fitting one. At the end of a long day's hike with close friends on the Palisades, Bill leaned over to smell a flower. He suffered a stroke and died on the spot.

"Father Bill"  
(center)  
enjoys  
good  
company  
at his  
Blue Bird  
Lodge

building, but of desperate efforts to maintain the existing system without losses. Hoeflerlin (who stayed stateside only because of a 4F draft status) commented on the situation:

With hordes of walkers in the armed forces, with transportation facilities cut, and many hikers on a V-Day work schedule, few foot-steps pound the trails these war days. With trail-working forces reduced, nature will soon add a "bushy" wilder touch to trails.

The Conference Trail Patrol was the answer. This four-man team took on the daunting task of bringing all 400-plus miles of trail back into standard. It was a superhuman task, and a superhuman feat. Joseph Bartha, Bill Hoeflerlin, Mike Quinn and Charles Weber (with his trusted old Model A Ford) seemed to be everywhere: trimming brush on Schunemunk, painting blazes in the Kittatinnies, building a bridge at Little Dam Lake, or running a measuring wheel through Black Rock Forest.

With the war finally won in 1945, everyone assumed that the hiking movement would immediately revive with its old glorious energy. Unfortunately, enthusiasm for hiking among the public languished throughout the 1950's. One *Walking News* editorial asked, "Why is Hiking Dropping Off?"

A canvas among clubs, the past year, has brought to light the sad truth that attendance with most clubs is way down. What could be the reason? Is it the high transportation cost, and lack of excursions? Could it be that people are hanging with their convenient auto, to go to far places with only time left for a picnic? Most GI's who were hikers before the war, have had enough walking for a lifetime. They are spending their free time at home with the family. One or all of these factors may account for the drop off.

The *Walking News* neglected to credit one other potent force holding people captive on their couches: the coming of television. Still, the trail network slowly expanded after the war, achieving 422 miles by 1950, with 79% maintained by member clubs, 15% by individuals, and 6% by the Boy Scouts. One event of note during this period was the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's incorporation in April 1958.

Meanwhile, maintainers quietly worked with their pruners and paint brushes, awaiting a rebirth of an interest in tramping. They wouldn't have long to wait. By 1960, a sudden new interest in the outdoors and the environment would bring on an extraordinary hiking renaissance. □

## Walking with the Clubs in the '30s, '40s & '50s

Club outings were popular throughout this era. Here are two contrasting views of club hikes from *Walking News*.

*A.I. Tobin writes:*

"Hiking through woodland over mountain tops is the 'open sesame' to Nature's University, for it elevates one spiritually...There is nothing so conducive towards blotting out differences of opinions and ideas as mutual admiration of scenic beauty. This is perhaps why a certain fellowship is invariably established between fellow hikers."

*An anonymous club leader (probably Bill Hoeflerlin) had a slightly different view of the fraternity of hikers:*

"Aside from the scenery, which we all enjoy, check off the following for a complete day's entertainment:

The Nervous Nellie who asks every 5 minutes what time it is, and worries whether we will catch the train home.

The Gink who starts to cry: 'When do we eat?' which is taken up contagiously by everybody in no time flat.

The Dleep who is thirsty all the time, never has a canteen, & either hints or asks somebody else who does have one.

The Guys who get into interminable arguments over, (a) relative merits of grease vs. oil for shoes, (b) quality of cloth for jackets, pants, undies or any other article of dress, (c) gruesome details on camera lore, such as lenses, focus, filters, film, and similar jargon unintelligible to all but photo bugs.

The Playboy who throws things at people, puts stones or sticks in knapsacks, and wears the girls' hats just to look cute.

The Jane with shoes just fine for the ballroom, but crippers for up and downhill. Plop! Off comes the heel and she has to limp home.

The Gleep who has a voice like a foghorn & wants to lead in the community sing.

The Cookie who takes bum snapshots of the girls, just to get addresses or phone numbers.

The Airedale who always wants to shed his shirt, so as to absorb every bit of sunshine on his hide.

The Dame who never brings a knapsack, just lunch in a package which is deposited in some Johnny's knapsack, likewise hats, scarfs, etc.

There are more, but why go on.

Signed - *I. Knowem All!*

## Chapter 3

# THE 1,200-MILE MIRACLE—The Second Great Wave of Trail Building: 1960 to 1995

The new decade of the 1960's began quietly enough, but didn't stay that way for long. A sudden enthusiasm for physical fitness and the outdoors burst upon the nation, seemingly out of nowhere. It was as if thousands of people had just sat bolt upright, turned off their televisions, and gone to their windows to see what was going on out there. A 1963 *New York Times* article reported that one in ten Americans had tried backpacking at least once. Increased "disposable" income, more leisure time and better highways were credited with the outdoor recreation boom. Whatever the reason, the number of hikers on the trails soared. Hiking club memberships swelled. And camping stores grew from minor specialty shops into major money makers.

The far-seeing leadership of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference strived to benefit from the boom. A vital first step was to make the hordes of new hikers aware of the group. "At that time, the Trail Conference was an almost invisible organization," recalls George Zobelein, two-time president of the Conference. "We had built all the trails, and quietly maintained them for years. But we had no public profile. We thought it was time to put ourselves before the public eye." Zobelein, an accountant, and Meyer Kukle, a New York salesman, launched a two-man media blitz. "I didn't know beans about PR," laughs George, "but there was a job to be done. So we learned."

The two men had minor successes at first, placing articles with several small newspapers, and receiving one or two hundred responses. Then a letter to the editor of *The New York Times*, entitled "Tips on Hiking,"

truly put the Trail Conference on the map. It resulted in 3,000 reader responses in just twelve days. "I'll never forget it!" Meyer chuckles. "George packed all those letters up in two shopping bags and brought them down to my office." The two men carried the letters in suitcases over to the *Times*, and were soon invited to begin contributing a regular weekly hiking column. "It was a tremendous amount of work, but great fun,"

recalls Meyer. "We had to have the material in to the *Times* by Thursday, and they would print it up on Sunday, ten days later." The column, describing hike destinations and listing weekly club outings, ran for two years before a newspaper strike brought it to an untimely end. But, while they ran, the weekly pieces sparked tremendous interest in the Trail Conference and in hiking.

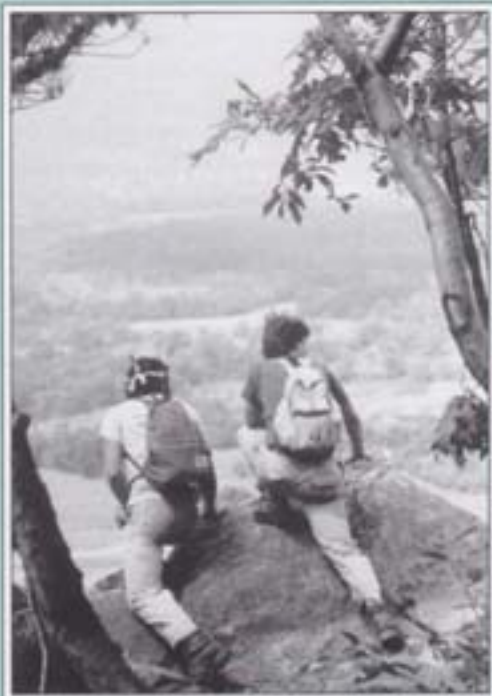
### Birth of the Trail Walker

With the loss of the *Times* column, a new means of communicating with members was urgently needed.

"Bill Hoeflerin was getting pretty old by then," George Zobelein relates. "To save money, he was publishing his *Walking News* as a cheap mimeographed sheet, and sending out Conference correspondence on the flip sides of used International Nickel Company stationery! It was embarrassing. Bill meant well. But we were now getting inquiries from many profes-

sionals, including corporate V.P.'s and a U.N. Ambassador. It was time for a change."

The *Trail Conference News*, revived in 1963, was a temporary answer. But the better-designed and edited



**New trails,  
New challenges,  
New horizons...**

Trail Walker was the permanent solution. Rosa Gottfried was the first somewhat reluctant editor of the newsletter. Rosa had suggested the need for such a publication at a 1964 Trail Conference meeting, and quickly found herself nominated to create it. "I protested that I had no experience whatsoever," Rosa recalled on the fifteenth anniversary of the publication. "I was sure there were more experienced and capable members who could do a better job." Under Rosa's guidance, the Trail Walker took off, reaching 1,000 subscribers by mid-1966. "I felt like a missionary, and wanted to bring the wonders of nature... to everybody," Rosa explained. "I wanted us to reach young people, to make them see how much more inspiring it is to be outdoors, walking through woods and climbing over hills, than to stand around on street corners."

The public relations effort of the early '60s paid off. By 1969, the Trail Conference had grown to 39 member clubs. In the same year, the Conference voted to extend membership beyond clubs to any interested dues-paying individual. The reason given in the Trail Walker for the change: "A large and growing



*The Long Path... a splendid opportunity to appreciate beautiful and historic landscape*

membership alone can carry weight in the constant battles hikers and conservationists must enter to preserve our natural heritage."

Membership was not the only thing growing in the '60s—so was the Conference's trail system.

### The Long Path Reborn

By 1960, the idea for a hiking path running from New York City to the Adirondacks had fallen into near total obscurity. Then, Robert Jessen, a 21-year-old textile worker from Brooklyn and president of the Ramapo Ramblers, came across a 1938 edition of Raymond Torrey's *Guide to the Appalachian Trail* from the

Housatonic River to the Susquehanna River. There, he was intrigued to find a description of the Long Path as proposed by Vincent J. Schaefer of the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club. Jessen, a new Trail Conference member, decided to approach the organization's leadership with an idea.

"We held our meetings back then at the Co-op Cafeteria on 26th Street," recalls Meyer Kukle of that eventful evening. "We would all go eat in the cafeteria, then the club delegates would huddle together around the tables in the unused part of the Co-op and have the meeting. Bob Jessen came in one night, and said: 'My club [the Ramapo Ramblers] wants to get the Long Path going.' And it all sounded very exciting. Everybody listened to this fella. Even Joe Bartha, the old man of the Trail Conference, liked the idea." The organization voted to give Jessen \$25 for supplies, and the Long Path was reborn.

It was, however, not to be the "trailless trail" for map and compass which Vincent Schaefer had first visualized. Suburbanization of the lower half of New York State prevented that. Woodlands had been subdivided and developed, and backroads paved. The Long Path that Jessen proposed would be a fully-blazed 350-mile footpath. And to succeed, it would have to overcome the difficult hurdles thrown up by civilization.

Starting in October 1961, Robert Jessen, Mike Warren and the Ramapo Ramblers began blazing their way north from the George Washington Bridge along the cliffs of the Palisades and toward Harriman Park. Jessen eventually moved out of the New York area, and in 1964, the Trail Conference officially adopted the new trail as one of its own. By then the Long Path had reached an overall length of 130 miles, terminating for the time being, in the heart of the Catskills.

From its inception, the Long Path, traversing heavily populated Rockland and Orange counties, was plagued by closures. As private property quickly changed hands during real estate booms in the '60s and '70s, the trail was repeatedly pushed off onto public roads. One hiker recalls being chased from the blue-blazed path at the point of a shotgun. But, the builders and maintainers persevered, until, by the '90s, the Long Path became one of the Trail Conference's best success stories.

### An Anniversary and Administrative Changes

In October of 1970, two hundred and eighty Trail Conference members gathered at the Bear Mountain Inn to celebrate the organization's Fiftieth Anniversary. That evening, President George Zobelein passed the torch of leadership to the group's first woman president, Elizabeth Levers. The Conference had much to be proud of. In the past ten years, it had increased its public profile, membership had grown to 40 clubs, and the Trail Walker was reaching members six times per



year. The building of the Long Path was progressing rapidly. And, in the environmental protection arena, the Conference had helped launch a battle against the proposed power plant at Storm King Mountain and pioneered an annual Litter Clean-Up Day (see chapter 4).

Also in the fall of 1970, the Trail Conference opened its first permanent office, a 200-square foot space at 15 East 40th Street in Manhattan. "Everyone was storing things in their homes: finances, archives, you name it," remembers George Zobelein. "And it was getting out of hand. So Liz Levers and I negotiated a lease. It was a small space. But you have to start somewhere!"

In 1974, the Trail Conference hired its first executive director, Bob Parnes, a research physicist, college mathematics teacher and active hiker. He worked for the organization just two days per week, and was

brought in to help the president with the increasingly heavy work load. A full-time executive director, Jim Robinson, was hired in 1975.

All of these administrative changes strengthened the Trail Conference, preparing it for one of the greatest challenges it had faced to date.

## Protecting the Appalachian Trail

When the Appalachian Trail was completed in 1937, its wildlands were safe because they were remote. Roads into the mountainous areas were few and poor. Development progressed slowly. For the time being, the trail was relatively safe on private lands.

But by the mid '60s, this was no longer true. Suburbia had spread out from the urban centers and was threatening to engulf the trail at many points.

## The Long Path Goes North

Until late in the '80s, construction of the Long Path was stalled. A "missing link" in the Catskills, a seven-mile section connecting Platte Clove with Kaaterskill Clove, blocked the way. Jim Ross, then Long Path Chair, worked closely with former Trail Conference Executive Director Cap Field to tactfully negotiate private property rights-of-way. In January of '88, the missing link was opened, and the 200-mile Long Path was again on the move. Another 6.5-mile section was completed in 1990, kicking off the big push to the Mohawk River.

Over the next two years, a cooperative effort between the Trail Conference, National Park Service and local governments led to the selection of a seventy-mile scenic route that would link parks, mountain vistas and historic places in Greene, Schoharie, Albany and Schenectady Counties. While three routes were explored, the one that was finally chosen closely followed the original 1930's route proposed by Vincent Schaefer. Says Trail Conference volunteer Ed Walsh, Sr.: "I was amazed to discover that many of the landmarks [which Schaefer had chosen] could be linked by existing trails and back roads."

Local support for the new trail was widespread. "How do you get New York City builders and maintainers to drive all the way up here to work?" asks Howie Dash, Long Path Chair. "The answer is, you don't. The Long Path North Hiking Club is one of the Conference's newest, most active clubs. It's made up of local people who are the ones chiefly responsible for our success."

By June 1994, volunteers had built seventy miles of trail and pushed the northern extension of the Long Path to within twenty-five miles of the Mohawk River.

Harold Vroman, director of the Vroman's Nose Preservation Corporation, said: "The Long Path will be a splendid opportunity for both residents and visitors to appreciate the beautiful and historic landscape of Schoharie County." Now it's on to the Adirondacks!

As important as these victories are at the north end of the Long Path, there have been quiet triumphs in the south. There, George Zobelein has worked for years to get the Long Path on official Rockland County planning maps. His success will help protect the trail against future encroachment by developers.

The "Father of the Long Path," Vincent Schaefer lived to view the trail's progress. "It gives me great satisfaction to see that our dreams are becoming a reality. Have fun!" he wrote in the *Trail Walker*. Schaefer passed away in 1993 at the age of 87.



## Passing the torch...

Vince Schaefer (l)  
"Father of the  
Long Path" with  
Jim Ross at the  
opening of the  
LP's Missing Link  
in the Catskills.



**Into the  
'90s...**



## **THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM**



Nowhere was the danger greater than in New York and New Jersey. In 1962, Harry Nees, Conference President, desperately urged the state of New Jersey to begin purchasing a protected Appalachian Trail corridor before it was too late. And in 1967, a *Trail Walker* article grimly proclaimed that "fast action is needed or hikers following the Appalachian Trail through New York State may one day find themselves walking only on roads." Only 20% of New York's A.T. section was protected on public lands.

Then, the Federal government stepped in. The U.S. Congress passed the National Trails System Act in 1968, designating the Appalachian Trail as a National Scenic Trail, and authorizing the states to acquire land for a protected trail corridor.

Unfortunately, few states reacted by actively preserving the trail. New Jersey, which began purchasing land in the mid 1970's, was one exception. In contrast, Governor Rockefeller of New York blocked all monies for the purchase of A.T. lands. In 1978, the states'

inaction caused Congress to authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to spend ninety million dollars to purchase a thousand-foot-wide protected trail corridor.

While NPS was responsible for land acquisition, the actual selection of a permanent, off-road trail route fell on the shoulders of volunteers. Elizabeth Levers remembers:

The National Park Service called a meeting in Philadelphia. There was one volunteer representing each of the fourteen A.T. states. They gave us a bundle of topographic maps for our section (I had the whole of New York state and Herb Hiller had the whole of New Jersey). And they said: "These maps show you where the trail is now. You go out and figure out where you want to put it. Then you draw that line on the map and give it back to us. We'll look it over, and if we approve, we'll begin buying the land."



NPS gave the volunteers just one month to select a new route for the trail! In New York and New Jersey, teams of volunteers took to the woods. "The State of New York took us up by plane to begin scouting a route," recalls Levers. "Then we got down on the ground. We walked in groups of six or seven with walkie talkies. We spread out and you'd hear everyone talking, 'No don't come over here, it's too swampy,' or 'Let's put it up here, there's a fine view.' We walked it again and again until we had flagged the best route."

The hurried route selection led to lengthy town meetings and landowner negotiations. While many communities and individuals welcomed the trail, some did not. Don Derr, Trail Conference president during the period, remembers one such meeting: "Lively is the wrong word to describe it. I don't think they threw anything at us, but it nearly came to that. They didn't want 'trail weirdos and hippies' threatening their children. We assured them that wouldn't be the case. We set

up a small committee and worked closely with the town to put the trail in an area that would make everybody happy." Liz Levers worked closely with NPS during negotiations with 150 individual property owners. "Most of these meetings went well," she says. "The first landowner we met with was very nice. We sat in the kitchen; we had brownies and coffee. And they even offered to build a shelter for us! They got very enthusiastic."

By 1982, New Jersey became the first state to completely purchase its section of corridor. At a celebration in High Point State Park, the 73-mile section stretching from the Delaware Water Gap to Bearfort Mountain was dedicated by Governor Kean. NPS completed their purchases in New York a short time later. Landmark cooperative agreements were signed between the National Park Service, the states, the Appalachian Trail Conference and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, agreeing to work together to maintain and protect the Appalachian Trail. The

## Elizabeth Levers: Trail Builder and Environmentalist

Liz Levers took her first childhood hike near Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey. Her grandfather made her a tent from an old sail, so she could sleep out under the stars. This introduction led to a lifelong dedication to the outdoors.

As a college student at Columbia in the '30s, Levers joined the Green Mountain Club. Very quickly she learned that "trails aren't just there, you have to put them there." She started out by throwing aside the branches other people had cut. Over time she moved up to clearing and blazing.

Her early inspirations and role models were Bill Burton and Sam Wilkinson, both

removing all of the Appalachian Trail's white blazes!), Liz didn't call for help. She wrote and printed leaflets, placed them at shelters, then put new blazes on all the poles. When water was needed at a New York campsite, she provided carfare to a dowser who discovered an underground spring on the first try.

Levers' disgust over the trashed condition of Harriman Park shelters inspired the creation of Litter Day in 1965. "Gradually I became interested in conservation, as well as hiking," explains Levers. "I guess when one becomes a hiker, conservation sort of rubs off on you." The effort went far beyond collecting a few gum wrappers. "Along one brook we hauled out furniture, a bathtub, broken glass, tires of course, buckets of

*"Trails aren't just there, you have to put them there."*

paint, you name it. We got two big piles twenty feet across for the town to pick up."

Elizabeth Levers' leadership in New York's Appalachian Trail relocation is legendary, as is her modesty. When asked about her scouting of the 108-mile section, and of her negotiations with 150 property owners, she merely says, "It was great fun! We had a very good time."

Her career in education (Levers was bursar at Columbia University, then student financial aid officer at Long Island University and NYU) has given her a strong interest in young people. She organized thirty Eagle projects for young Boy Scouts. Her motivation is easily explained. "Who is going to take over the trails next?" she demands to know. "You need an ongoing belief in this kind of thing to keep the trails alive."



Photo by Robert Klum

*Liz Levers (front, center) and crew carrying in a 117 lb. fire ring... only one more mile to go!*

Trail Conference Presidents and legendary trail blazers. "These men and the many other leaders I met in the early days of my hiking were all so kind and so generous in their time," relates Levers. "They taught me a great deal about trails, leadership and conservation."

Over the years, Levers became known for her boundless energy. She took on the challenge of becoming co-editor of the *New York Walk Book*, and for a 1976 revision of the *Appalachian Trail Guide* hiked and wheel-measured all 108 miles of A.T. in New York. When she discovered that the phone company had replaced all of their utility poles in Vernon Valley, New Jersey (inadvertently

partnership between government and volunteers, which Major Welch and Raymond Torrey had formed so many years before, had now reached a new level of shared cooperation. It was a friendly relationship from which all parties would benefit.

Now began one of the most monumental volunteer trail-building projects undertaken since the 1920's. Major relocations off roads and into the corridor were needed across northern New Jersey, and in Putnam and Dutchess Counties in New York. Lesser relocations were also needed in New York's Rockland and Orange Counties.

To meet the need, the Trail Conference launched a membership drive. Don Derr wrote in the *Trail Walker*:

It has become clear that protecting the A.T. for posterity will also need a strong volunteer involvement. The impression that the Federal Government will handle the task is a fallacy... However, the skeleton volunteer organization we have had until now cannot possibly do justice to the various aspects of... constructing trail relocations, training the builders and maintainers, negotiating cooperative agreements, and assisting with the management of the corridor on either side of the footpath.

All through the early 1980's, the *Trail Walker* rallied volunteers. Each issue of the newsletter sported a banner headline, reading: "The Appalachian Trail Needs Your Help." Long lists of workdays in Dutchess, Putnam and Sussex Counties followed. One such call to action read:

Here is a chance to... do a valuable public service. The Trail Conference is in the process of moving the A.T. from interminable road walking to a scenic, permanently protected route... No experience is needed. Our trips always combine honest toil with joyful camaraderie.

Starting in 1982, Frank Perutz of AMC led New Jersey crews in relocating fifteen miles of trail between High Point and Sussex County Route 284. The new route replaced a blistering roadwalk with a pleasant hike over small hills and through wetlands, woodlands and meadows alive with wildflowers. "We felt like we were building the pyramids out there," recalls volunteer Paul DeCoste. "Perutz spoke with a heavy accent, and was a little hard to understand. But when he asked us to work, we worked!"

Husband and wife teams of A.T. overseers led the trail building effort in both Dutchess and Putnam Counties. Ron and Marilyn Rosen confronted a variety of difficult problems in Dutchess County. A long-used but unofficial town dump blocked the middle of the narrow corridor in one spot. Another challenge, the

Nuclear Lake parcel (previously occupied by a nuclear fuel processing plant), proved to be a major environmental obstacle (it was not totally cleaned up until 1994). The thirty-mile relocation in Dutchess involved four hundred volunteers and opened for use in 1986.

Jane and Walt Daniels oversaw the relocation of the A.T. in Putnam County starting in 1983. Their crews completed eight miles the first year, with a rainy day ribbon-cutting in late 1984. The last sections, built in Fahnestock State Park and the town of Putnam Valley, required a half mile of sidehilling, 100 feet of bog bridge, countless waterbars, and stone steps. The September 1985 *Trail Walker* quipped: "Finally, the A.T. in Putnam County doesn't need you!"



**The public-private partnership in action:  
Don Derr and George Zobelein with  
New York governor Mario Cuomo (l-r)**

The Appalachian Trail project resulted in tremendous growth for the Trail Conference and its members. For today's participants, new tasks have been added to the traditional volunteer role of trail maintainer. A.T. Management Committees in New York and New Jersey oversee every aspect of the trail; they write management plans, create resource data bases, and work cooperatively with government. Overseers actively manage their trail sections. Caretakers watch over the network of A.T. shelters. Monitors patrol the corridor boundaries, ever on the watch for developers' encroachments, illegal ATV use, timber cutting and dumping. "We felt that protecting the corridor was one of the biggest events along the Appalachian Trail since the Conference opened the first section of A.T. in Harriman Park in 1923," concluded Don Derr.

However, the process of fully relocating and protecting the Appalachian Trail goes on even today. A major roadwalk still remains in Vernon, New Jersey

along Sussex County Route 517. Plans call for this roadwalk to be bypassed by a 110-foot suspension bridge across the Pochuck River, plus a 5,000-foot boardwalk built across the swampy remains of a glacial lake. This project is planned to be handicapped-accessible, and will be built largely by volunteers. "This is probably the single biggest construction project being done on the Appalachian Trail today, and maybe one of the biggest building projects in the history of the trail," says New Jersey A.T. Management Committee Co-Chair Paul DeCoste.

### With the Volunteer Trail Crews

The Appalachian Trail wasn't the only area seeing trail-building action in recent years. In 1980, John Schoen became leader of the Conference's first permanent trail crew to take to the field since Joseph Bartha's Trail Patrol was dissolved in the '50s. The new crew was

**"This is a great opportunity to give back to the trails, for all of the good they've given us over the years."**

*John Schoen (r)  
with volunteer  
trail crew*



organized for jobs requiring more manpower than could be provided by individual clubs.

Schoen's trail-building concepts were far different from those used in the past. His crew didn't merely cut brush. They worked in stone, constructing steps and cribbing that prevented the serious erosion problems which had previously plagued the trails. Schoen also wrote a trail building and maintenance manual which was adopted by the Trail Conference as its standard.

Schoen's four-to-six-person Trail Conference crew made its first major impact in the Hudson Highlands. "We have built stone steps, taken out monstrous blowdowns, rerouted trail around hazardous areas, done some trail clearing, and opened a new and exceptionally fine switchback trail on Storm King," reported Schoen in the *Trail Walker*.

The crew was soon taking on big projects all over the metro area: building stone steps on the Hoeflerlin

Trail, constructing a bridge on the R-D, and removing blowdowns in Norvin Green State Park. Schoen (later joined by leader Dick Warner) and his volunteer crew put in over 1,400 hours of work in the group's first six years. This first crew has since been joined by an East Hudson, West Hudson, Catskills and New Jersey crew. "This is a great opportunity to give back to the trails, for all of the good they've given us over the years," said Dick Warner.

### Shawangunk Trail Magic

The Shawangunk Ridge Trail, dedicated in 1993, is a textbook example of how a grassroots volunteer organization like the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference can team up with government and private landowners to create a new and wonderful outdoor recreation resource. This thirty-six-mile trail, running along cliffs from High Point, New Jersey to Minnewaska

State Park, New York, was originally seen as a trunk route for the Long Path. But, with the Long Path taking a different route across the valleys of Orange County, the ridge trail took on a life of its own (it is now officially recognized as a southern branch of the Long Path).

The Shawangunk Ridge Trail began taking shape during a two-year feasibility study, funded by the National Park Service. Consultant John Myers (working for the Trail Conference) started talks with municipalities and local property owners to clear the way for land purchase, landowner agreements and construction.

A New York State bond act which would have helped finance land acquisition was voted down. Still, work went on. "Who thought we could build thirty miles of trail with no money at all?" laughs Trail Conference President Neil Zimmerman. "When the bond act failed, everybody else believed it was all over. But we had the 'chutzpah' to go in and start negotiating directly with

## The Map Makers

There's probably only one thing that excites hikers more than hiking, and that's a good trail map which points the way to imagined vistas.

For thirty years, Bill Hoeflerlin's "Hikers Region Maps" were the primary source of trail information in the New York metropolitan area.

But by the late 1960's, it was time for the next generation to take over. A map committee was formed. Richard Ringel published the Conference's first map, a rendition of the Eastern Catskills produced on waterproof synthetic paper. The second Conference map project was produced by John Snyder. "It covered Northern New Jersey," says Don Derr, "and was hand lettered, a real work of art."

The next major undertaking was a remapping of Bear Mountain/Harriman Parks. "We used to call the old map of the area the bed sheet, it was so big," remembers Don Derr. "The real challenge wasn't reading it, but folding it." The new map, which required field checking by twelve volunteers, split the park in half. "We divided the park into a north section and south section. The two-map set was much easier to handle," explains Derr.

In recent years Conference map sales have exceeded 150,000 copies. The organization also publishes and sells a wide range of books, including guides to the Catskills, Harriman Park, the Appalachian Trail and Long Path, plus day-hiking opportunities, and hikes for children.

Today's map-making has entered a new era of sophistication. An all-new 1995 map of Harriman Park trails is now being designed using the Global Positioning System; GPS utilizes orbiting satellites and a mobile satellite receiver on the ground to precisely plot positions. Lloyd Buchanan donated his GPS receiver to the Conference for the work. Publications Committee Chair Dan Chazin, who has done the field checking for the new map, is justifiably proud of the results. "We're using 20-foot contours instead of the standard 100-foot, enabling hikers to get a much clearer picture of their surroundings."

The map committee has done far more than produce fine maps; it has also generated a steady stream of quality leaders. Former Trail Conference Presidents Zobelein, Derr and Levers, and current President Neil Zimmerman, all served on or led the committee.



*"...enabling hikers to get a much clearer picture of their surroundings"*

landowners." Using the skills learned in the Appalachian Trail relocation, the Conference was able to negotiate right-of-way permissions with the mountain's property owners. The Trail Conference also used some of its own monies to join with the Open Space Institute and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission to purchase a 300-acre parcel near the Ellenville Ice Caves. Reaching an altitude of 2,225 feet, this parcel includes one of the highest spots on the escarpment, and will be invaluable to the new trail. Once purchased, the land was transferred to the state of New York.

Gary Haugland became overseer for the trail building project. "I took the plunge and volunteered," he says. "It was like jumping into an abyss! It was an incredibly big job, requiring many volunteers. We built on alternate weekends for two seasons, and worked our legs off." Over 150 volunteers, many of whom were local residents, came out to construct the new trail. "We moved like an army of human termites down the ridge," says Haugland. These modern-day "elephant squads" resembled those assembled by Raymond Torrey in the 1920's: A first wave came through with chain saws and

heavy-duty pruning shears. A second wave followed with light-weight pruners, then a third wave with weed whackers to cut the softer brush. A fourth wave came behind, blazing. The new trail was finished in just nine months. On National Trails Day, June 5, 1993, the Shawangunk Ridge Trail was officially dedicated.

### "Adopt-a-Trail" in the Catskills

The New York State Conservation Commission actively began building a Catskill Forest Preserve trail system in 1922 when they crossed the high southern summits of Wittenberg and Cornell with blazed footpaths. By 1926, four trails were built on Hunter Mountain, with another constructed over Mount Tremper. Many more marked trails were added over the years.

Starting in the 1980's, Neil Zimmerman (then the Trail Conference's map chair) began to take an intense interest in the Catskills. "Every other major mountain region had its own volunteer club: the White Mountains had AMC, the Greens had GMC, and the Adirondacks had ADK," remembers Neil. "But the Catskills had no large volunteer group to take care of trails." Neil worked

to produce the Trail Conference's first highly successful Catskill map set. His continued advocacy for these "orphaned" mountains soon earned him the nickname "Catskill Jimmy."

By 1990, severe budget cuts forced the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to begin looking for a foster parent for the spectacular trails in the Catskill Forest Preserve. Zimmerman, now Trail Conference

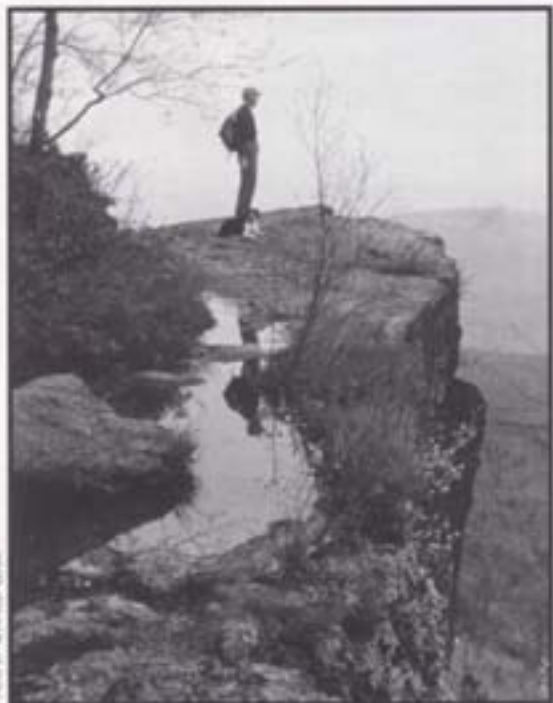


Photo by Whittier Clark

President, saw this as the ideal opportunity to step in. At DEC's request, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference came forward and began adopting some of the trails. Volunteer Stella Green took on the daunting task of finding volunteers to assign as maintainers on each trail.

At first, maintainers travelled from as far away as Long Island and New Jersey to take care of Catskill trails (one maintainer even drove up regularly from Delaware). Soon, however, local people joined in the effort. One challenge in the Forest Preserve: no power tools were permitted, so all trail work had to be done with hand tools. Cooperation between state rangers and maintainers was close from the start, and grew closer. During 1993, an Adopt-a-Trail program was begun. By early 1995, the Conference had adopted 185 miles of trail and 22 shelters in the Catskills.

### *The Catskills: Craggy summits, tumbling waterfalls and hidden valleys*

Almost fifty miles of new trails were also adopted in Worthington and Stokes State Forests in New Jersey, and thirty-five miles more within the 35,000-acre Pequannock Watershed in the New Jersey Highlands.

### Opening New Vistas

Not every new Conference trail is a long-distance marvel. Some are short-distance jewels. The new Howell Trail over Crow's Nest pays tribute to William Thompson

## Building Trails To Last

In the 1920's, trails were built with pruning shears and paint brushes. Today's trails are made with rock bars, picks and shovels. The reason is simple. The old trails received relatively light use and were blazed straight up and down hillsides. Today's trails endure thousands of foot-falls and must be built to prevent severe erosion. "We spend much of our time rehabilitating the old, eroded and gullied trails," says trail builder Bob Marshall. The process, called "trail hardening," involves the construction of rock steps, stone cribbing and water bars to improve water runoff. Bridges are built over streams, and puncheoning across swamps, not only to keep hiker's feet dry, but to protect fragile ecosystems.

Bob Marshall, who led the construction of the new Howell Trail to the summit of Crow's Nest, will take trail work over a game of golf any day. "It was beautiful. We would be working on a switchback, then hear Richard Guzman playing on his flute down below. That was a moment...Then there's Robert Reardon, who is famous for his gigantic rock steps, 'high risers' we call them, and Hanson Wong who uses a little trowel to put the finishing touches on his steps... Some people think we're tampering with nature. But what we're really doing is protecting it." Marshall gets tremendous joy out of knowing that the trails he builds will be there for people to enjoy long after he's gone. "I've been to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and seen those wonderful Hudson River School paintings. One painting shows the beautiful view from Crow's Nest; that's a view we've now opened up for all walkers to enjoy."

*"...Some people think we're tampering with nature. But what we're really doing is protecting it."*



Howell, legendary explorer of the Hudson Highlands at the start of the twentieth century. "Old Cro's Nest" was one of this early trumper's favorite haunts. Built by a crew led by volunteer Bob Marshall, the Howell gives sweeping vistas of Storm King, Breakneck Ridge and the Hudson River.

New in 1994 was the Old Mine Railroad Trail in Fahnestock Park. This path, forming a loop with the Appalachian Trail, follows the route of a nineteenth century mule-drawn narrow-gauge railroad. It took John Magerlein's volunteer trail crew four hundred

hours to build, and will doubtless provide many more hours of hiking pleasure.

Another new trail was also an old trail. In 1993, Jane Daniels negotiated the return of hikers to Anthony's Nose, a spectacular high rock overlooking the Hudson River. Although hikers had been going there for years, they were trespassing on the New York State National Guard's Camp Smith property, officially closed to the public since World War II. The new trail is a segment of the proposed Hudson River Greenway Trail. Jane and Walt Daniels, assisted by Trail Conference volunteers, are

## Ken Lloyd: Why I Maintain Trail

It's hardly a glamorous job. But, for seventy-five years, thousands of volunteers have continued to give up their weekends to cut back brush, repaint blazes, clean clogged water bars, and gather litter. Why?

Trail maintainer Ken Lloyd lists his reasons: "There's the physical exercise, the fresh air, the joy of being in the woods, and the tangible results.

developed a love for the place. This dedication would serve him well during the fifteen-year fight to save the mountain from development.

Among the major benefits of maintaining trail, says Ken, are unexpected happenings in the woods. "Four or five of us were laying down puncheons near Gren Anderson shelter on the A.T.," relates Lloyd. "We put down our tools, and ate our lunch right on the boards. That's when we noticed the bear circling us! He went around us over and over again, getting closer on each run. Finally, he ended up standing on our planks!"

*"What tickles me is seeing all the young people coming out and taking over the trails."*



When you're through working there's a real sense of accomplishment. It's a magnificent sport!"

Lloyd, an accountant now retired, became involved in trails in 1960 when he joined the Woodland Trail Walkers, a small club. At first he only attended the regular outings. Then Herb Hiller, the man who led the effort to protect the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey, took Ken under his wing. "He started me off slowly, with some easy work that wouldn't frighten me away," Lloyd jokes. "Gradually, I can't say when, I went from being a beginner to becoming a full-fledged trail maintainer." Ken eventually took over the maintenance of the trail on Pyramid Mountain in Montville, New Jersey. Through maintaining, he

The crew watched as the bear nuzzled a clip board with its attached volunteer list. "Steve Klein took the bear's picture. Then, when he or she didn't move for a long time, we began to wonder how we would get rid of it. Steve picked up his chain saw, started revving it, and slowly walked toward the animal. But that bear *still* didn't run. In the end, it just turned, and walked away slowly in a very dignified way."

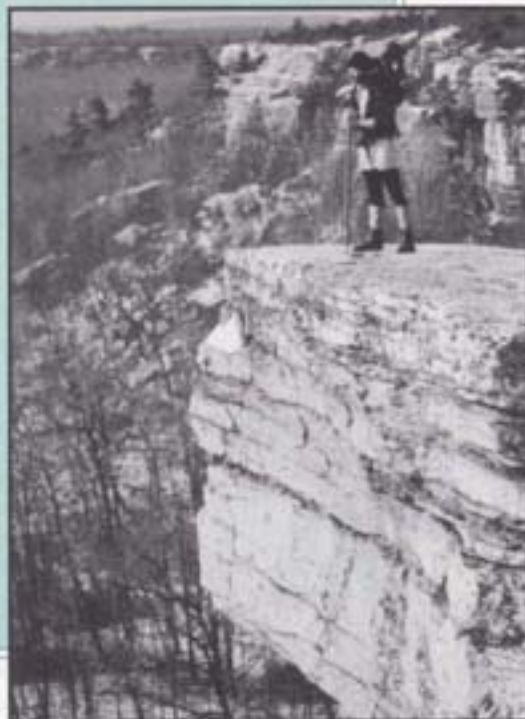
For a time, Ken maintained a long eight-mile section of the A.T. on the Kittatinny Ridge, but with age, he's had to cut back to just 2.5 miles. "What tickles me is seeing all the young people coming out and taking over the trails. You see them enjoying themselves to the maximum. It's tremendous free fun."

## **“Why I Hike” —From the Trail Walker**

Volunteer Edgar Bracco writes eloquently in the grand tradition of Torrey's “Long Brown Path.”

“Why do I hike? I hike because after a week in the marketplace, dealing with the dreariness of commerce and business, the clear uncluttered atmosphere of the high outdoors is like a benediction. Out on the trail I am my own man, answerable only to myself, responsible for myself. On the trail I seek no profit, chase no contract, need please no boss, need meet no deadline. I am a human being, alone with Nature, and with God.”

*This spectacular Shawangunk  
vista speaks for itself*



## **Clubs of the '90s: “It's All in the Family”**

Dave Sutter is a second-generation Trail Conference member. “When I was a little boy, I remember my father taking me on the old Erie Railroad to the Nature Friends' Hiking Club camp in the Wyanokies. We hiked together there and had a great time.”

After World War II, the Nature Friends faded away, and so did Dave's interest in hiking, for a time. “When my son was 13 he begged us to take him walking in the Gunks. The caves, ledges and forest made a real impression on me. It changed my life.” Dave then became active again in hiking and in the Trail Conference, following in his father's footsteps. Since retiring, he has devoted many volunteer hours to his position as Harriman Trails Supervisor. “I felt it was time to give back the joy I had been given,” explains Dave.

Similar family stories are common throughout the Trail Conference. Ed Walsh, Sr. brought his 6-and-7-year old sons out on his first Long Path maintenance trip. “Eddie and Chris jumped right in, helping to clear brush. In fact, over the years they became very possessive of the trail. If somebody had come by and dropped a piece of paper, they would have gladly chased that person down!” The three, along with wife and mother Eudora, are regulars on Adirondack Mountain Club weekend hikes.

Young Eddie became a maintainer on his own section of Long Path at the age of 13. At 16, he became the youngest professional crew member in the Adirondacks. He is a recipient of the Trail Conference's *Next Generation*

*Award.* “For me, the greatest satisfaction comes from doing a good job, knowing I'm helping out,” says Eddie, Jr., “and of course, there's the joy of just being out there in the woods.” As the young Eddie Walsh prepares for college, he has found still another reason to be glad his father introduced him to volunteerism at such an early age. “It doesn't look so bad on a resume either,” he grins.

**“For me,  
the greatest  
satisfaction  
comes from  
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knowing I'm  
helping out.”**

working with Project Challenge, a National Guard program for youth at risk. As part of their community service, the young people are introduced to the challenges of trail building.

### The Birth of the Highlands Trail

In the mid 1960's, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference worked hard and long to establish a Hudson River to Delaware River Greenway. Sadly, the project never got past the planning stages. But some ideas never die: they just get better.

In 1993, the Trail Conference joined with the New Jersey Highlands Coalition to work with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to plan a Highlands Trail that would extend



*“...the unity of our volunteers is one of the greatest strengths of the Trail Conference...”*

from the Hudson River to the Delaware River. Trail Conference consultant John Myers, along with volunteers, are now actively negotiating trail rights-of-way with landowners. A ribbon-cutting ceremony in May 1995 celebrates the opening of the first section of the trail. When finished, the Highlands Trail will stretch for 150 miles across the most densely populated region of the U.S.

“The goal,” says present Trail Conference Executive Director JoAnn Dolan, “is to work with local people, and create a unified vision. We want to connect the dots between existing parklands with this new path.” Dolan has high hopes for the Highlands Trail: “These projects, especially long-distance trails, take on a magical quality. Maybe they fulfill some kind of pioneer spirit. Instead of sapping our strength, such projects draw new members, engage people and get them really excited.”

### The 1,200-Mile Miracle Realized

In the thirty-five years since 1960, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has created a magnificent trail system. At the start of the '60s, the Conference maintained less than 500 miles of trail. By 1969 that

total had grown to 600 miles, and by 1975, to 700. In 1987, the count topped 800. And in 1991 the 1,000-mile mark was reached. But the pace of expansion didn't slow. In 1992, the grand total topped 1,200 miles, and it continues to grow today.

This vast interconnected trail network stretches from Connecticut's South Taconics to within sight of Manhattan, from New York State's Mohawk River south to New Jersey's Delaware Water Gap. And at its heart are



the trails built in the 1920's: those in the Wyanokies and in the Hudson Highlands. Two long-distance trails, the Appalachian Trail and Long Path, crisscross the system, while a third, the Highlands Trail, is under construction.

But the growth of the trail system tells just half the story. The growth of the Trail Conference as an organization was equally dramatic. Current Conference President Neil Zimmerman summarizes the reasons for success:

Our growth has been spectacular, especially when you realize that we are primarily a volunteer organization without a large paid staff... In fact, the unity of our volunteers is one of the greatest strengths of the Trail Conference... This is a classless organization, where you can find a taxi driver and a banker on the same hike, and no one minds. When you're doing trail work, differences in ethnic background, job, economic status, or age don't matter. We all share our love of hiking, and of mountains... With the Trail Conference, the bigger we get the better we get.



## Chapter 4

# FOREVER WILD—75 Years of Environmental Activism

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is primarily known as a group which builds, maintains and promotes hiking trails. But from the very beginning, the organization has had a second, equally important, but less known mission, plainly stated in its constitution, "to aid in the conservation of wild lands and wild life and to protect places of natural beauty and interest." Over the past seventy-five years, the Conference has vigorously dedicated itself to this cause, preserving wilderness wherever its members found it.

A deep respect and reverence for nature grew up within the New York area hiking clubs, and demonstrated itself in many small ways. "After dinner we noted with what care every scrap of paper was collected and burnt up—so there would be no litter left behind," writes a new hiker in his 1921 trail diary, "and then the fire was carefully put out—little things to do, but very important." Founding Trail Conference member Frank Place penned and published *The Trampers' Ten Commandments*, a document which asked walkers to leave no mark on the wildlands, collect their trash, carefully extinguish fires, gather no rare flowers, and leave "any camp site cleaner than you found it."

In 1931, trail maintainer Joseph Bartha discovered a note at the trailhead for New Jersey's Terrace Pond. He hand copied it, and passed it along to Raymond Torrey, who thought it important enough to print in "The Long Brown Path." Written by an anonymous walker who was fearful over the impact fellow hikers were having on the lake's scenery, this note states eloquently the attitude of most trampers then, and hikers today:

Terrace Pond is not waste land: it is a precious piece of living wilderness. It has never been used by any owner. The primal unity of this place has never been broken except by trampers themselves... Remember that you are a trespasser. Walk here as in a private garden.



**"Terrace Pond  
is not  
waste land:  
it is a precious  
piece of living  
wilderness...  
Walk here as  
in a private  
garden."**

The two founders of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Major William Welch and Raymond Torrey, were both well-respected conservationists. Working together, the two men formed the National Conference of State Parks, which actively fought for the establishment of a system of state parks across the fifty states—a radical idea for its time. Welch, known as the "father of the state park system," went on to help create Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Torrey, an active officer in both the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, led national and local land preservation efforts.

Torrey also used the Outing Page of the New York Evening Post as a pulpit for conservation causes. He

railed against litter, a chronic problem in the '20s and '30s. "The Interstate Park, one of the greatest boons to humanity ever provided by private munificence and state support..., is carpeted with newspapers and rubbish..., he complained bitterly, and "the woods on the summit of the Palisade

cliffs are literally paved with newspapers and broken paper cartons, left by outing seekers after every holiday." Torrey appealed repeatedly for stronger anti-litter laws.

He also used his column to urge the preservation of the Adirondacks and Catskills. He informed readers of conservation bills coming to a vote in the New York and New Jersey legislatures. He organized letter-writing campaigns among Conference members to support reforestation measures and appropriation bills proposing new parks.

But there was one environmental cause which Raymond Torrey spoke out on more often than any other, and that was his plea for the preservation of the great mountain sentinels guarding the northern gateway to the Hudson Highlands.

### Crusade To Save the Hudson Highlands

The dynamite blasts which had awakened conservationists at the turn of the century, inspiring the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs to save the Palisades, had moved up river. Starting in 1931, hikers on Storm King Mountain were alarmed by explosions echoing across the Hudson from the base of 1,400-foot-high Mount Taurus.

The Hudson River Stone Company had purchased 1,000 acres on Mount Taurus, and begun gouging out its west face. Torrey, the Trail Conference and other prominent citizens rallied, deluging Governor Roosevelt with letters. A state committee was established to investigate the issue, and to seek ways to finance the purchase of the mountain and preserve it as a park.

But the blasting went on. Torrey appealed to Trail Conference members to continue their pressure on government. The hiking clubs, he said, "have a duty...to do everything that they can on behalf of the protection of Mount Taurus, at the northern gate of the Hudson Highlands, which is faced with defacement by a quarry, now in operation." He mourned the falling away of each stone, and demanded state action. Unfortunately, it was the height of the Depression, and money was not forthcoming.

At that moment, a new hero rose to take up the fight—Leo Rothschild, a New York lawyer, avid hiker and future chair of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's Conservation Committee. In May of 1931 he wrote:

It is almost inconceivable that a mountain located as Taurus is can be sold for quarrying. There is plenty of stone that can be removed elsewhere without wrecking one of the greatest scenic glories of the Eastern United States. If the Hudson is to remain the American Rhine, the quarrying on Taurus must not be allowed to continue.

The stone company's response was an economic defense which would become familiar to environmental activists in future years. They claimed that the quarry provided "work for hundreds of men for a hundred years."

In 1936, the Hudson River Conservation Society, led by William Church Osborn, was founded to fight the quarries (Trail Conference President Frank Place was a director of this group). But still the digging went on.

### Frank Place's "Trampers' Ten Commandments"

*Frank Place, Trail Conference President from 1938 to 1941, published the following rules for walkers:*

1. Respect all property, as a tolerated uninvited guest.
2. Walk through no prohibited ground.
3. Leave gates and rails, fences and walls, markers and signs just as you found them.
4. Gather no rare flowers, and none at all in parks.
5. Pick no cultivated fruit, damage no growing timber.
6. Clear ample space, before a fire is laid, of leaves and twigs; build on pine needles—Never.
7. Make sure the fire is OUT before you leave - nothing is "good enough" but out; drenching is best.
8. Leave any camp site cleaner than you found it; and, at established camps, replenish wood for fires and used supplies.
9. Warn guests of proper dress for the particular country to be covered.
10. Do nothing that could discredit trampers.

**These ten commandments have been simplified down to our time, into one, the motto: "Leave no trace."**

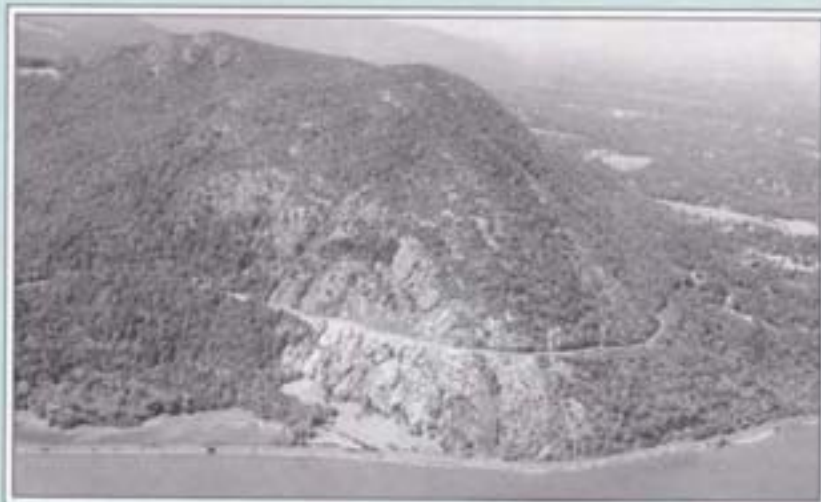
By 1938, a deep gouge had been blasted into the side of Mount Taurus, immense heaps of stone lay heaped at the waterfront, and ships stopped regularly to haul the mountain away piece by piece.

To add insult to injury, the quarry, financially hard hit by the on-going Depression, was kept alive by government. The crushed stone of Mount Taurus was purchased by the Taconic State Park Commission to pave the Taconic State Parkway and by New York City to repave Riverside Drive. Torrey wrote bitterly just months before his death:

3,000 brochures seeking money for the purchase. Bill Hoeflerlin actively supported the cause, writing to members: "Everybody who has ever made a trip by boat or train thru the Hudson Highlands will recollect the grandeur of scenery. A splendid act of devotion to the outdoors would be to sacrifice one outing in February & send the excursion fare to the Save Anthony's Nose Fund." The land purchase was made, and the area protected.

In 1944, the Hudson River Stone Company shut down its mining operation on Mount Taurus. The deep red scar in its rock face remained, but for the time being,

Photo: Historic Park Photo by Scott Mirett



**Storm King  
Mountain, with  
its stunning  
scenic value,  
was assumed  
"safe" and  
beyond danger**

The excuse was that the material was available, and was cheaper than could be obtained elsewhere. That was legally correct, but some of those who have been struggling to stop the further marring of... Mount Taurus wondered why state and city agencies might not have sought elsewhere for stone... We have here a State Park system consenting to the continued defacement of Mount Taurus by using its broken stone.

The battle would rage on. The Hudson River Conservation Society, unable to stop the desecration of Mount Taurus, began searching up and down river for other scenic vistas threatened by the quarrymen. They bought acreage at several crucial Highland locations, then donated it as state park land.

The Trail Conference supported these efforts, dedicating one of the first land purchases to the memory of Raymond Torrey who died in 1938. A February 1939 *Walking News* appealed to members to donate a total of \$5,000 to help buy 200 acres just north of Anthony's Nose. Writes Frank Place: "Your gift will serve a double purpose: Saving beautiful and historic Anthony's Nose from destruction, and creating a memorial to Mr. Torrey in the region he loved so well." The Conference printed

the northern gate to the Highlands was safe. For now, bird song replaced the echoing detonations of dynamite.

But Leo Rothschild still feared for the unprotected mountains. He vowed to continue the fight until it was won. He wrote:

Mount Taurus, Breakneck Ridge and the valley between, have been urged on the State as a park. This land includes a fine lake, beautiful woods... and many other features which would make them a magnificent park. The State has refused to act because, they say, other land is better for mass recreation. That the Hudson should lose its magnificence, seems to be of no concern.

### Storm Over Storm King

On September 23, 1962, Leo Rothschild (Trail Conference Conservation Chair), Harry Nees (Trail Conference President) and a few friends from the Nature Conservancy gathered together to form the Scenic Hudson Preservation Committee. The group, granted a small working budget by the Conservancy, was to strive for the full protection of the Hudson Highlands. The group's attention that day was focused

on the east side of the river: almost twenty years had passed since the Mount Taurus quarry had shut down, but the mountain still lay unprotected. No one ever dreamed that it was the west side of the river that should have concerned them most. Storm King Mountain, the new committee assumed, with its stunning scenic value, and its Revolutionary War heritage, was "safe" and beyond danger.

Just four days later, Consolidated Edison announced its plans for a huge power plant on the Hudson, a facility to be carved into the stark rocky face of Storm King Mountain.

So began a remarkable seventeen-year war in which the "David" of a grassroots environmental coalition would bring down the "Goliath" of industry. The resulting landmark law case would set a precedent in which scenic and natural values were selected over economic concerns. It would be a resounding victory that would benefit environmental organizations for decades to come.

And the Trail Conference was there from the beginning. In fact, Rothschild and Nees fired the first shot. Trail Conference board meeting minutes from October 1, 1962 read:

It is reported Consolidated Edison is planning to build a power plant at Cornwall. There will undoubtedly be construction right at the river which will ruin the heart of the Hudson Highlands. Mr. Rothschild will write the Governor advising we are unalterably opposed to any such construction.

The facility's design was more environmentally destructive than anyone imagined. The 2,000,000-kilowatt Con Edison plant was to be the world's largest pumped storage facility, and would convert Storm King into an immense electrical storage battery. The plan included a powerhouse located inside an 800-foot-long gouge blasted into the north face of the mountain. This powerhouse was to suck 17,000 cubic square feet of water out of the Hudson River during periods of low energy usage, and shoot it up through a forty-foot diameter tunnel penetrating the heart of the mountain, into an eight-million-gallon artificial lake. Then, during periods of peak energy demand, the stored lake water would be drained back down through the tunnel, rush past turbines installed at Storm King's base, and generate power before flooding back into the Hudson. Overhead power lines, on ten-story-high towers, were to carry electricity away across the river.

Rothschild realized immediately that not only would the powerhouse design desecrate Storm King Mountain, but its reservoir would also drown miles of hiking trails in Black Rock Forest. Nevertheless, the utility steadfastly declared:

The construction of the project power plant would not adversely affect, to any significant extent, the natural beauty, the historical significance, or the recreational opportunities of the area in which such plant would be situated. The view of the project power plant... [would] blend with the natural rock of the mountainside.



Con Edison's  
idea of how a  
mountain  
should look,  
circa 1962

Meyer Kukle remembers Leo Rothschild's anger at a spring 1963 Trail Conference board meeting. Leo revealed a Con Edison annual report showing an artist's rendition of the ugly gouge cut into the side of the mountain.

"Fellas," declared Leo, "Con Edison wants to take Storm King Mountain; they want to build a plant on it. Look at this picture! They're going to destroy that mountain. What are we going to do about it?" Conference President Harry Nees answered: "Well, Leo, we can't have that happen. Go right after them!"

The board decided that the Trail Conference, being known primarily as a federation of hiking clubs, lacked the broad-based public support needed to head up the Storm King fight. Instead, they agreed that the Trail Conference should ally with the Nature Conservancy to form a new organization set up for the specific purpose of challenging Con Edison.

On November 8, 1963, the Trail Conference and Nature Conservancy co-founded the Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference. Rothschild became its first president, while Nees served on the board. At a Trail Conference board meeting on November 14, Rothschild reported that Scenic Hudson's "first job is to fight the power plant, [and] we'll try to get more organizations to back us." That same night, Nees and Rothschild told of a discouraging meeting with Con Ed in which the utility continued to claim that its plant would not affect Storm King in any significant way. "At the meeting we got the red carpet treatment, and a lot of hogwash to boot," remembered Nees.

"The Trail Conference couldn't bring in any money [for Scenic Hudson], because we had none," remembers Kukle. "We had only a few hundred dollars in the treasury at the time. But, what we could provide was people through our thirty-five clubs... We [organized] a campaign of signatures and petitions... We got a ton of signatures. So the powers-that-be in the state knew pretty quick that there was trouble over Con Edison."

"Trouble" didn't begin to describe the struggle that unfolded. Scenic Hudson took the fight into public hearings, put it in the papers, on television and radio, took it to Congress, and finally into the courts. When the Federal Power Commission (FPC) approved the power

plant without considering Storm King's scenic values, possible damage to the multi-million dollar river fishing industry, or other energy alternatives, Scenic Hudson, the Trail Conference and Nature Conservancy took the FPC and Con Ed to court.

During the hard-fought case, Con Edison adamantly declared that Black Rock Forest, where their pumped storage reservoir was to be built, was "hilly and unsuited to recreation... [with] no trespassers allowed." The records of Trail Conference hiking clubs were read into the record to refute the claim; it was shown that the New York Ramblers, Woodland Trail Walkers, Interstate

Hiking Club, Appalachian Mountain Club and Sierra Club had logged over 7,000 hiking hours on Black Rock Forest's trails, and that they had been invited to do so by the landowner.

The *New York Walk Book* was also used to prove the area's recreational value. Scenic descriptions of Black Rock Forest were read into the court record: "Here are scores of high viewpoints and wide forest areas that have grown wilder and more beautiful each

year....," as were descriptions of Storm King: "...the most striking of all the mountains along the Hudson. Its glowering eastern end rises sheer from the river to well over 1,300 feet... The views from either summit, over the Hudson and far to the south and to the north...., are among the finest in the region." So it was that *Walk Book* editor Raymond Torrey, dead for almost thirty years, could add his words to Storm King's defense.

In December 1965, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals handed down its landmark decision, requiring the Federal Power Commission to reexamine Con Edison's Storm King plans.

It read in part:

The commission's renewed proceedings must include as a basic concern the preservation of natural beauty and of national historic shrines, keeping in mind that... the cost of a project is only one of several factors to be considered.

The court's Storm King decision gave new teeth to the environmental movement. It set a precedent for protecting natural values which has been felt as nearby as Tocks Island on the Delaware River, and as far away



**Harry Nees  
rallies an  
AMC group  
in defense of  
Storm King**



as the old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest. Not long after the decision, Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act, requiring such building projects in future to develop and file complete environmental impact statements.

Further appeals would cause the Storm King fight to drag on until 1980, when total victory would be declared for the environmentalists. The Scenic Hudson coalition of more than 25 groups with 22,000 contributing individuals spread over 48 states, a group which Con Edison had characterized as "misinformed bird watchers, nature fakers, land grabbers, and militant adversaries of progress," had won.

Sadly, Trail Conference Conservation Chair Leo Rothschild did not live to see this victory. He passed away in 1968. But his words inspired those who took the struggle to its conclusion.

I know of nothing more important than to preserve all wilderness areas in the metropolitan region, which is rapidly becoming a complex of highways and housing developments. Some place must be left where people can (to quote Walt Whitman) "invite our souls."

### The Shawangunks Under Siege

The stunning victory at Storm King would, in coming years, help to prevent other corporate giants from defacing major natural landmarks. In the '80s the Trail Conference would help organize another massive grassroots effort, and ingeniously use an inadequate environmental impact statement to stop the destruction of the Shawangunks.

## Leo Rothschild: Trail Conference Conservationist

Imagine the cliffs of the Palisades as a sprawl of urban blight, Mount Taurus as a scarred heap of rubble, and Storm King Mountain blasted open, penetrated by tunnels, the site of a huge hydroelectric plant. This is the world as it might have looked if Leo Rothschild hadn't lived.

Born in 1889, Rothschild was a lawyer by trade, and a conservationist out of love. He was also an active hiker, long-time conservation chair of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, and co-founder of the Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference.

Meyer Kukle remembers Rothschild: "I would see Leo down at the Chambers Street Ferry, going across the river to catch the Erie Railroad. You couldn't miss him. He was a tall gentleman, standing six-foot-three at least. Slim, gaunt, chiseled face, very outgoing and friendly. Leo also liked to hike where it all started: the Palisades. He was a very down-to-earth man and loved the forest. He didn't have any fancy outfits, but just wore a good pair of hiking shoes, and carried a little knapsack with a simple sandwich."

Over a period of forty years, Rothschild fought and won three major environmental crusades.

The first began in 1928 when he became alarmed over the construction of the George Washington Bridge. "It seemed obvious," Leo said years later, "that the top of the cliffs would furnish ideal sites for apartment houses... that would destroy the magnificence of the cliffs. I immediately started work, which finally resulted in acquisition of the [ten-mile strip of] land between the top of the cliffs and Route 9W by the Rockefeller family and the transfer of that land to the Palisades Interstate Park."

Rothschild's second crusade was his attempt to prevent a New York quarry company from defacing Mount Taurus. In the spring of 1970, two years after Rothschild died, Hudson Highlands State Park was dedicated on the site.

His third crusade, the fight to rescue Storm King from Con Edison, continued long after his death. But in 1968, just before he passed away, Scenic Hudson and the Trail Conference recognized the man's achievements, characterizing him as "an indefatigable champion of wise land use in and around the City of New York, with gratitude for his efforts to save the Palisades and Storm King Mountain, and in appreciation of the sincerity which convinced so many others that conservation of open space is essential to life itself."

Said Meyer Kukle of his friend: "He didn't blow his own horn. He just went ahead and did the job. He got it done, and that's what counts."



Since late in the 1800's, land use along the narrow Shawangunk Ridge had combined respect for nature with economic viability. The Smiley family had built several rustic hotels, more than 200 miles of bridle path, and a successful business within the spectacular cliffside setting.

In 1979, the Marriott Corporation proposed a development plan that would have violently shattered that trust with nature. They contracted to purchase 590 acres for the construction of a 450-room hotel, conference center, 300 condos, and an 18-hole championship golf course. The proposed complex would have occupied ten times the space of all previous developments on the ridge. It would have destroyed many miles of trail, polluted Lake Minnewaska, ruined Awosting Falls, and cut many of the bridle paths which gave pleasure to bikers, cross-country skiers and joggers.

Another showdown between preservationists and developers quickly took shape. Trail Conference President Don Derr declared that:

Minnewaska... has been likened to our Storm King battle of many years. In the case of Storm King we turned over the reins to Scenic Hudson, and by concentrating the power and talent there, the case was finally won.

Similarly, the Trail Conference helped organize a local grassroots citizens' coalition with the preservation of "the Gunks" as its primary purpose. In June 1980, Marriott delivered a draft of its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Within a month, the newly formed Friends of the Shawangunks, the Citizens to Save Minnewaska and the Trail Conference all testified in public hearings against the proposed development. Albert "Cap" Field, then Conference Executive Director, testified to the recreational value of the Shawangunk escarpment. He said:

The Trail Conference was founded in 1920 with two principal purposes: to establish and maintain a system of hiking trails, and to protect places of natural beauty... Our interest in Minnewaska derives from both of these purposes. Hiking in this section of the Shawangunks has been a major activity for over a century.

Field went on to tell how hiking trails and carriage roads would be adversely impacted by Marriott's plans. Expert scientific witnesses recruited by the Conference

## Litter Clean-Up Day

In 1965, five years before the first Earth Day celebration, Elizabeth Levers led the very first litter clean-up day in the New York Metropolitan area.

"I was Conservation Committee chair for the New York Chapter of AMC," Levers recalls, "and trying to think of something that would directly involve lots of people in an activity where they could immediately see results. One February day, a group of us on a hike were eating lunch in a Harriman Park shelter. I looked at the mess around me and said to Sam Wilkinson (former president of the Trail Conference): 'Do you think the Park Commission would mind if we cleaned up the shelters?' Sam consulted the commissioners, who were so delighted with the idea that they supplied the litter bags."

For eight consecutive weekends that spring, sixty volunteers cleaned the shelters. Later, the clean-up was extended to Conference trails and became a tremendous success, involving scout troops, church groups, and corporations from the Connecticut line to the Pennsylvania border.

By 1979, a thousand people came out to clean-up more than seventy woodland areas. They filled over a thousand bags with trash, dismantled five hundred fire rings, and put out several smoldering fires. That year the volunteers found bed springs, mattresses, blankets, old grills, oil drums, a dead goat and a diamond ring!

Levers was given an Environmental Protection Agency Award, recognizing her "significant contributions toward a better environment." But for her, the greatest satisfaction came when areas that had been cleaned up over the years stayed that way. "I was also happy to see that we were able to educate so many people, young and old, families, people from many ethnic backgrounds and groups, about the value of keeping our woods free from litter."



By 1979, a thousand people came out to clean up more than seventy woodland areas.

also raised serious doubts about the accuracy of the EIS. They questioned the adequacy of Lake Minnewaska or a small stream, the Peters Kill, as a primary source for the giant development's water needs. Despite this testimony, the New York DEC gave the green light, granting conditional approval for Marriott's Environmental Impact Statement.

Friends of the Shawangunks, joined by the Trail Conference and the Appalachian Mountain Club, took DEC to court, charging that Marriott had never proven that adequate water supplies existed and that DEC had acted improperly in granting conditional permission. The case was taken all the way to the New York Court of Appeals. The Trail Conference, in expert testimony, declared:

It is plain, from the applicant's [Marriott's] statements, that the supposed use of the Peters Kill as the "primary" water supply for the project is a mere sham. The Peters Kill will not and cannot serve as the primary water source for the simple reason that it is not available as a water source during the dry periods when it is most needed. The alternative, the use of Lake Minnewaska as the primary source of water, has already been rejected by the DEC, and it should again be rejected. Since the applicant does not now propose any viable alternative, the requested DEC approval of the project should be denied.

By 1985, the Marriott Corporation, exhausted by lawsuits (seven were filed in all), and having spent over a million dollars without ever having broken ground, gave up their plan.

Victorious, the environmental coalition pushed for permanent protection of the land, and it was soon absorbed into Minnewaska State Park.

Said Trail Conference Executive Director JoAnn Dolan about the Minnewaska fight: "We were absolutely involved and deeply committed. Our members gave money, signed petitions, and, as friend

of the court, we provided expert testimony. But, ultimately it was the local folks who did the lion's share of the work."

Today, the trail network in the Gunks thrives. The cliffs are lined with trees instead of condos. The deep blue waters of Lake Minnewaska and of Awosting

Falls are protected, and will never be pumped away to irrigate a golf course's fairways. And the crushed stone bridge paths continue to have the same purpose they were built for over a century ago: the enjoyment of nature.

### The Continuing Battle to Save Sterling Forest

As early as 1930, Raymond Torrey recognized the critical importance of preserving Sterling Forest, a 17,500-acre natural corridor connecting New York's Harriman Park with the New Jersey Highlands. He realized that if this wild ridge and valley area were developed, the Appalachian Trail (then located on private property within the corridor) would be severed, and a vast stretch of wild countryside lost to the walking public. Torrey wrote of the A.T.'s route through the region:

It is a highly scenic section, a real skyline trail for much of its length, with wide views over the New York and New Jersey Highlands, the lowlands of the Wallkill Valley, and the Kittatinny and Shawangunks, even the Catskills beyond.

And of the beautiful wooded valley spread out beneath the trail he said:

**Sterling Forest:**  
17,000 wild acres within 50 miles of Manhattan

Sterling Lake is one of the most beautiful bodies of water within fifty miles of New York City. It may be hoped that some time it will come under public ownership, possibly by a western extension of the Harriman section of the Palisades Interstate Park, as has been urged in the Regional Plan fostered by the Russell Sage Foundation.



Photo by Nick Zingales

But Torrey's wish was not to be. The Harriman family offered Sterling Forest to the state of New York as a gift, but the state refused the property, feeling that it already had enough park land to manage. In 1947, the Harrimans put Sterling Forest up for sale. Bill Hoeflerin lamented in the Trail Conference's *Walking News*:

The area of wild land covering 17,000 acres east of Greenwood Lake, including Sterling Lake as far north as Mombasha Lake is to be sold. Price asked... is \$975,000. This tract covers many miles of wild wood trails. Too bad it won't be made into a State Park! Most likely it will be broken into parcels with Sterling Lake the choicest...

City Investing Company bought the land and immediately announced plans for development. But, while several small communities sprang up in the valley, the forests in the area remarkably stayed intact.

In 1958, Trail Conference Conservation Chair Leo Rothschild completed a New York metropolitan land preservation study. In a *New York Times* article, Rothschild and the Conference recommended six key regions which should be protected to meet the future "recreational needs of the population." Second on the list after Mount Taurus was Sterling Forest, but, despite Rothschild's efforts, the land remained in private hands.

By 1980, Sterling Forest had become the largest single tract of undeveloped forested private land remaining in the New York Metro area. The land had been sold several times, finally ending up with a consortium of foreign investors. It was they who began to actively pursue a plan that could destroy the natural beauty of the area forever. It called for the construction of 14,000 homes and eight million square feet of commercial space, plus many miles of new roads. The proposed development would not only devastate local woodlands, but destroy the Appalachian Trail viewed in the area.

Early in 1985, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference took action. Executive Director JoAnn Dolan and her husband Paul invited then Palisades Interstate Park Commission head Nash Castro, Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust director Paul Leicht, and others to their Greenwood Lake cabin. The Dolans had been encouraged by Dave Sherman of

the National Park Service to make efforts to save Sterling Forest and protect the A.T.

The little group took a hike on the Appalachian Trail. Afterward, back at the cabin, Nash Castro promised to bring the Sterling Forest proposal to the Commissioners of the P.I.P.C. A bottle of champagne was popped, and the battle for Sterling Forest had begun. Remembers JoAnn Dolan:

We lived in Greenwood Lake for a year and a half after our first child Jamie was born. We took him with us to endless town meetings. We asked our neighbors to think about saving Sterling Forest for Jamie and all the other children. Paul, being an ABC network news executive, went out and got *The New York Times*, *The Times Herald*, *The Record* and other media involved. We talked to anyone who would listen.



Photo by Marc Zeman

Support for the preservation of Sterling Forest grew. In 1988, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and Appalachian Mountain Club (NY-NJ Chapter) co-founded the Sterling Forest Coalition, chaired by John Humbach of Pace University Law School. In 1992, the Trail Conference established a Sterling Forest Defense Fund to help pay for

costly analysis and dispersal of information about the environmental impacts of the Sterling Forest development plan. Another group was formed called the Public-Private Partnership to Save Sterling Forest, chaired by Larry Rockefeller; it included over 30 support groups representing government, business, the environment and local communities.

By the early '90s the fight had reached the halls of Congress. Said JoAnn Dolan in Congressional testimony in 1992:

—  
**"If Sterling Forest is developed... a dream for future generations will be destroyed."**  
 —

If Sterling Forest is developed, with five towns and 35,000 people, the Highlands region effectively will be severed in half. Habitat will be fragmented and watershed areas compromised. A dream for future generations will be destroyed.

Today, the battle remains unwon, but has come many steps closer to victory. The development

company is willing to sell, but only for the right price. The funding effort is now seen as a "four-legged table," requiring millions of dollars from New York State, New Jersey, the Federal Government and the private sector. One major success: New Jersey has agreed to contribute ten million dollars to the cause. Funding decisions are yet to be made by New York and the U.S. Congress.

"I don't see how we can lose," declares an optimistic JoAnn Dolan. "I can't think of any other effort that has gained more support, or built a stronger partnership between the public and private sectors." The foresight and determination born with Torrey and Rothschild, and flourishing under present Trail Conference leadership, does seem destined for victory. Said the Trail Walker of Sterling Forest: "This is more than a political issue. It is a test of vision and will."

### Trail Lands Preservation

While the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has, in its seventy-five year history, not been frequently recognized as an environmental organization, it has, in fact, "been involved in saving land, in a quiet sort of way, for many years," says volunteer Meyer Kukle.

In the 1950's, Leo Rothschild and the Conference selected six key areas on which to focus their preservation effort: 1) Mount Taurus, 2) Sterling Forest, 3) the Torne Brook Valley south of Harriman Park, 4) the Wyanokie Plateau, 5) Bearfort Mountain and Terrace Pond, and 6) the Ramapo Range of New Jersey. Today, every one of these tracts is protected within state parks, except for Sterling Forest.

Meyer Kukle remembers the land preservation advocacy strategies used by the Conference over the years: "We were really a working organization, maintaining trails, but were also involved in land acquisition... We would just look around at things and sort of bring them to the attention of organizations that were geared financially and legally to pursue the job." The Trail Conference's close relationship with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, New York and New Jersey State Parks systems, New Jersey Green Acres, the Department of Transportation, and groups such as the Nature Conservancy, the Open Space Institute, and Trust for Appalachian Trail Lands has benefited thousands of outdoor enthusiasts. One proof of the value of this public-private partnership is the cooperative protection through purchase or conservation easements of an astounding 12,343 acres of Appalachian Trail lands in New York and New Jersey!

In 1987, the Conference formed its Trail Lands Committee in order to get even more involved in land preservation. An Outdoor Fund, which had been established years earlier by the Conference, was used to

contribute to the purchase of the sizable Mineral Springs tract adjacent to Black Rock Forest. Another important tract in the Shawangunks near the Ice Caves was also purchased. The first chair of the Trail Lands Committee, Lonny Gross, said: "Between now and the year 2000 we can expect tremendous challenges to the Conference's role as trail caretakers... The list of deteriorated hiking experiences is getting longer every year due to loss of trails, loss of access to trails, and severe visual impact on trail corridors." Today, the Conference is actively involved in identifying existing trails on private lands, incorporating that information into a computer data base, and on placing priorities on protection and landowner cooperation.

And so, seventy-five years after the Conference's founding, it is no coincidence that so many of the beautiful woodlands and mountaintops originally visited by the first trampers are protected within parks, or by zoning regulations, landowner agreements and easements. This success is largely due to the continuous support of Trail Conference members, who have donated their time, labor and money, so that others can enjoy our natural heritage.

### A Long, Proud Heritage

Through the years, the Trail Conference has taken an active role in a great number of environmental issues, large and small. The board's meeting minutes for one typical year (1969) show that they supported open space preservation, the Endangered Species Act, the limiting of snowmobile and ATV use, petitioned against the pollution of the Hudson River, opposed a proposed New Jersey jetport, and the destruction of coastal wetlands. They took decisive action against proposed mountaintop power lines and microwave towers.

The Trail Conference's efforts also helped get a New York State bottle bill passed, which has significantly decreased the amount of trash scattered along trails and roadsides.

Much of the support offered by the Conference over the years was given to local crusaders. The organization allied itself with Vernon, New Jersey residents in defeating a proposed radon dump located on the Appalachian Trail. In the Shawangunks, the group backed local citizens' groups to prevent construction of a potentially destructive windfarm. And most recently, Trail Conference volunteers Steve Klein and Ken Lloyd played a vital role in helping to save Pyramid Mountain in Montville, New Jersey from development.

Without the selfless commitment of Conference volunteers, the Highlands skyline would look drastically different today. Much of the beauty and wonder preserved by these volunteers, for generations to come, would have been lost forever. □

## Conclusion

# THE LONG BROWN PATH TOMORROW—

## The Future of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

The future accomplishments of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, like those in the past, will arise from the tremendous energies of volunteers from its eighty-five clubs and 9,500 individual members. Key missions of the organization will be:

- Protection of existing trails and trail lands
- Preservation of Sterling Forest
- Completion of the Long Path
- Building of the Highlands Trail from the Hudson to the Delaware
- Continued membership growth, especially among young people and with groups not formerly associated with the outdoors

Each of these five goals is supported by the fervent beliefs and opinions of the Conference's volunteers.

### Protection of Existing Trails and Trail Lands

"We need first and foremost to assure the carrying out of our central mission," declares Conference board

member John Humbach, "namely, providing for... the protection and maintenance of a system of hiking trails and hiking opportunities for the benefit of the residents of the greater New York metropolitan area."

This will require not only the purchase and preservation of trail lands, but also the protection of the "quality" of the outdoor experience. "While developers endanger much of the land that is in private hands, mountain bikes, motorized vehicles and other user groups threaten the hiking experience in our parks," observes board member Bob Newton.

Harriman Trails Supervisor Dave Sutter agrees: "We've been very successful in getting out the word, and getting more people excited about trails. But selling people our maps isn't enough. For many new hikers, a six-pack of beer and a bonfire are considered a necessary part of the experience. We have to teach all of these new users how to take care of our trails."

### Preservation of Sterling Forest

Former Conference President George Zobelein asserts that "the Trail Conference must be in the forefront of every issue threatening our trail network. And that puts Sterling Forest at the very top of the list."

While the Sterling Forest Coalition is strong, with government and public support growing, the Trail Conference must continue to apply pressure in order to assure preservation of this most valuable and vulnerable natural resource.

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***"We've been very successful in getting out the word, and getting more people excited about trails."***

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## Completion of the Long Path

"The Long Path is a trail in the making," declares Howie Dash, Long Path Chair. It has already grown to 300 miles in length, though it remains 200 miles short of its final goal in the Adirondacks. While it has fostered new partnerships, "the Long Path has extended our reach and spurred membership growth," says Dash enthusiastically. "We've built long-lasting relationships with local volunteers, municipalities, the counties, the state, and private landowners."

## Building the Highlands Trail

"The Highlands Trail is vital to us," says board member Ann Loeb. "It will require hard work and the building of new cooperative agreements. But it is one place where we will find future leaders." Building this 150-mile trail across New York and New Jersey, the most urbanized region in the country, will no doubt be a tremendous challenge. But to the dedicated volunteers doing the work, it's well worth the effort. The Highland Trail's value extends far beyond its use as a hiking trail. It will be at the heart of a continuous green belt, protecting valuable watersheds, scenery and history from the invasion of suburban strip malls and housing projects.

## Continued Membership Growth

All of these objectives will be achieved through the strength of the volunteer organization. Every Trail Conference member can play a part, whether working with clippers and paint brush, a computer or a legal brief.

"The Trail Conference isn't run by me," declares current president Neil Zimmerman. "Nor is it run by our small professional staff. It's run by the volunteers who, it seems, always come popping out of the woodwork whenever there is the greatest need... But new volunteers are not easy to find. You can't just place an ad in *The New York Times*." Volunteerism has to be cultivated.

Board member Pete Heckler agrees: "Volunteer expertise will be a much-sought-after commodity in the coming era of governmental budget-cutting and agency consolidation." In the future, much work that was formerly done by government will probably fall on the shoulders of volunteers. But, points out Eddie Walsh, Jr.: "As the trail network expands, and as mountain bikes and ATV's do more damage, there's more work to be done. There are already too many jobs, and not enough volunteers to do them."

Where will all of these new volunteers come from? Executive Director JoAnn Dolan has one answer: "The demographics are changing. In the past, hiking was largely the pastime of the white middle class. In the future, we'll need to reach out to other ethnic groups, diverse groups which our organization did not traditionally appeal to."



Photo by Dennis Coxon



Photo by Robert J. Jones

**"We need to share  
the vistas with our  
young people..."**

# Chronology

- 1920**  
Welch, Bell, Torrey and Ellis meet informally to plan system of trails in Harriman Park (October)  
Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference organized (October 19)  
Work begins on the Tuwedo-Jones Point (R-D) Trail (November)
- 1921**  
Tuwedo-Jones Point Trail (R-D) completed (spring)  
Welch proposes Delaware Water Gap-Hudson River trail  
MacKaye proposes Appalachian Trail  
Timp-Torne Trail blazed  
Arden-Surebridge Trail blazed
- 1922**  
Walking clubs meet to discuss MacKaye's A.T. proposal;  
Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference is reorganized as the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference; Welch is elected first Chairman, and scouting of A.T. begins (April 25)
- 1923**  
First six-mile section of A.T. completed, from the Ramapo River to Fingerboard Mountain (October)  
Meeting at Bear Mountain Inn to plan A.T. strategy (October 26)  
First edition of the *New York Walk Book*, by Torrey, Place and Dickinson, published  
Tuwedo-Mount Ivy Trail blazed
- 1924**  
First portion of A.T., twenty miles through Bear Mountain/Harriman State Parks, opens (January 4)
- 1925**  
Appalachian Trail Conference formed, Welch appointed first chair
- 1926**  
Murray Stevens scouts A.T. north from Hudson River toward Connecticut
- 1927**  
Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail blazed
- 1928**  
A.T. marked from Vernon to High Point, New Jersey
- 1930**  
NY-NJ Trail Conference's section of A.T. (160 miles) complete and in use  
Vincent Schaefer proposes Long Path
- 1931**  
NY-NJ Trail Conference "reinvented" to unite hiking clubs and end the trail wars; Raymond Torrey becomes Chairman (April 21)  
Torrey and Rothschild begin effort to stop Mount Taurus quarrying
- 1934**  
Bill Hoeflerlin starts "Hikers Region Maps" series  
Second edition of the *New York Walk Book* published
- 1936**  
Hudson River Conservation Society founded to fight quarrying on Mount Taurus
- 1937**  
Appalachian Trail completed
- 1938**  
Raymond Torrey dies (July 15); Frank Place becomes Conference Chair  
Torrey's ashes scattered atop Long Mountain (October 30)
- 1939**  
Trail Conference contributes to purchase of land north of Anthony's Nose to protect it from quarrying  
Joseph Bartha appointed Conference Trail Inspector  
Bill Hoeflerlin begins Trail Conference newsletter, *Walking News*  
First Torrey Memorial Hike to Long Mountain  
Trail Conference has 25 member clubs
- 1941**  
Major William Welch dies (May 4)  
NY-NJ Trail Conference hosts Tenth Annual Appalachian Trail Conference Meeting  
World War II brings drastic decrease in trail activities and closing of Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain Bridge
- 1942**  
NY-NJ Trail Conference adopts constitution and sets up permanent committees  
All Conference trails on West Point Reservation closed (April)
- 1950**  
NY-NJ trail network achieves 422 miles
- 1951**  
Third edition of the *New York Walk Book*, prepared by Ridsdale Ellis and William Burton, published
- 1958**  
Incorporation of NY-NJ Trail Conference (April 19)  
Rothschild completes New York metropolitan area land preservation study; recommends saving Sterling Forest
- 1960**  
Robert Jensen revitalizes interest in the Long Path
- 1962**  
Rothschild and Nees help form Nature Conservancy's Scenic Hudson Preservation Committee (September 23)  
Con Edison announces plans for hydroelectric plant on Storm King Mountain (September 27)
- 1963**  
NY-NJ Trail Conference and the Nature Conservancy co-found the Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference (November 8)
- 1964**  
Rosa Gotfried becomes first editor of the *Trail Walker*  
Long Path reaches 130 miles from George Washington Bridge to Catskills
- 1965**  
Elizabeth Leven initiates first Litter Day in Harriman Park  
United States Circuit Court of Appeals landmark decision blocks Con Edison's Storm King plans (December)
- 1968**  
U.S. Congress passes National Trails System Act, proposing the protection of entire Appalachian Trail  
Leo Rothschild dies
- 1969**  
Joseph Bartha dies  
Trail Conference grows to 39 member clubs  
Trail Conference maintains 600 miles of trail
- 1970**  
Map committee formed  
Hudson Highlands State Park dedicated on Mount Taurus  
Bill Hoeflerlin dies (July 12)  
Fiftieth Anniversary of the NY-NJ Trail Conference (October)  
NY-NJ Trail Conference opens first permanent office
- 1971**  
Fourth edition of the *New York Walk Book*, prepared by Elizabeth Levens, Elizabeth Snyder and George Zobelein, published
- 1974**  
NY-NJ Trail Conference hires first part-time executive director
- 1975**  
NY-NJ Trail Conference hires full-time executive director  
Trail Conference maintains 700 miles of trail
- 1978**  
Congress authorizes National Park Service to purchase A.T. corridor; volunteers are called on to map out and relocate the Trail
- 1979**  
Marriott Corporation proposes massive development in Shawangunks; NY-NJ Trail Conference organizes to fight the plan
- 1980**  
NY-NJ Trail Conference develops permanent trail crew under John Schoen  
Con Edison finally loses battle for Storm King
- 1982**  
New Jersey becomes first state to purchase its section of A.T. corridor
- 1983**  
Appalachian Trail relocation efforts under full swing in New York
- 1984**  
Fifth edition of the *New York Walk Book*, edited by Helen Ostrowski and Janet Gross, published
- 1985**  
A.T. relocation through Putnam County, New York completed  
Marriott Corporation gives up plans for development in the Shawangunks  
NY-NJ Trail Conference begins fight to save Sterling Forest
- 1986**  
Dutchess County, NY—Appalachian Trail relocation completed
- 1987**  
NY-NJ Trail Conference forms Trail Lands Committee to promote land preservation  
Trail Conference maintains 800 miles of trail
- 1988**  
NY-NJ Trail Conference and AMC co-found Sterling Forest Coalition  
Long Path "missing link" in Catskills completed, opening the way to the north
- 1990**  
Trail Conference begins adopting trails in the Catskills
- 1991**  
NY-NJ Trail Conference reaches the 1,000-mile mark for trails maintained
- 1992**  
NY-NJ Trail Conference establishes Sterling Forest Defense Fund  
Trail Conference maintains 1,200 miles of trail
- 1993**  
Vincent Schaefer, the "Father of the Long Path," dies  
Dedication of 36-mile Shawangunk Ridge Trail (June 5)  
Adopt-a-Leaf program developed in Catskills  
Trail to Anthony's Nose reopened  
Launching of the 150-mile Hudson to Delaware River Highlands Trail
- 1994**  
Long Path stretches 300 miles, coming within 25 miles of Mohawk River
- 1995**  
Trail Conference is composed of 85 clubs and 9,500 individual members  
First piece of Highlands Trail dedicated (May)  
New Harriman map set, using GPS technology, published  
75th anniversary of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference celebrated



# End Notes

End note abbreviations are as follows: **FFM:** Frank Place Trail Gippings Microfilm; **LBP:** Raymond Torrey's Long Brown Path, New York Evening Post; **NYT:** New York Times; **TCA:** Trail Conference Archives; **TW:** Trail Walker; **WN:** Bill Hoeflerin's Walking News; ¶: paragraph.

## Trailhead:

- Page 1  
 ¶ 6: "Walk! Walk! Walk!" FPM, circa 1908, "open for you..." advertisement for *The Walking Cure*, FPM, circa 1908.  
 ¶ 8: "To the man shut up in an office..." FPM, 6/27/10.  
 Page 2  
 ¶ 2: "Oh look at those poor men..." FPM, *Walking Clubs of New York*, 5/5/16.  
 ¶ 6: "Induce the largest number..." FPM, *Walking Clubs of New York* 5/5/16.

## Pathfinders

- Page 3  
 ¶ 2: In the summer of 1920..., FPM, letters from Major Welch, circa 1940.  
 ¶ 3: On the evening of..., LBP, 10/22/20.  
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 ¶ 1: The same night..., LBP, 10/22/20.  
 ¶ 2-7: LBP series of articles from 2/10/21 to 10/14/21.  
 ¶ 4: "The working parties..." LBP, 5/2/26.  
 ¶ 6: "Difficulties such as..." LBP, 2/10/21.  
 ¶ 7: "The way to the river..." LBP, 10/14/21.  
 ¶ 8: "The efficient manner..." LBP, 1/28/21.  
 • Sidebar: Speed Records, LBP, 11/30/23.  
 • Sidebar: "They run up hills..." WN, 2/39.  
 Page 5  
 ¶ 2: "A series of..." *Journal of American Institute of Architects*, 10/21/21.  
 ¶ 3-4: On April 25..., LBP, 4/28/22.  
 ¶ 5: By October 1923..., LBP, 11/2/23.  
 ¶ 6: By January 4..., LBP, 1/4/24.  
 ¶ 7-9: Series of LBP articles from 1923-1930.  
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 • Sidebar: Major Welch, NYT 2/3/40, NYT 5/41.  
 Page 7  
 ¶ 1: "The #1 maintainer..." *Forest and Grog*, Chapter 45.  
 ¶ 4: After the R.O..., LBP, 5/2/26.  
 ¶ 5: To the south..., LBP, 5/26/22.  
 ¶ 6: "Demand for new trails..." LBP, 10/28/21.  
 ¶ 9: "On Sundays and..." *In the Hudson Highlands*, Preface.  
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 ¶ 3: "There is a sort of community..." LBP, 10/11/20.  
 • Sidebar: *The New York Walk Book*, "Soil that..." first edition, "the result of twenty years..." LBP, 11/23, "It is splendid..." LBP, 12/11/23, "The beauty..." Jane Daniels interview, "a wilderness of great..." fourth edition.

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 ¶ 1: In Iowa, LBP circa 1921.  
 ¶ 2: "he sorely puzzled..." FPM, 3/26.  
 ¶ 3: "Hikers would keep getting..." Meyer Kukle interview.  
 ¶ 6: "Only the workers..." LBP, 1/14/32.  
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 ¶ 1-4 *Forest and Grog* "Metropolitan Trails" p. 426, and in the *Hudson Highlands* (Trail Conference chapter p. 169).  
 ¶ 5: "A war has broken out..." LBP, 11/20/37.  
 ¶ 6: "the New York-New Jersey..." LBP, 11/20/37.  
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 ¶ 3: "This relocation was felt..." LBP, 8/25/33. "A hunting club..." LBP, 2/24/38.  
 ¶ 4: Over time, the Conference..., TCA, Board of Directors meeting minutes.  
 ¶ 6: "As originally conceived..." TW, circa 1965.  
 • Sidebar: All About Blazes, WN, 10/39.  
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 • Sidebar: Raymond H. Torrey, FPM, 7/16/38 (obituary), TCA, Raymond Torrey file, "Trail scouting, in which..." LBP, 4/20/26.  
 Page 13  
 ¶ 1-4: *Forest and Grog*, pp. 426-430.  
 ¶ 5: "In the death of..." WN, 4/39.  
 ¶ 6: "one of the finest views..." LBP, 12/8/22.  
 ¶ 7: "So we are here..." TCA, Raymond Torrey file.  
 ¶ 10: "Ever since Torrey's ashes..." WN, 4/39.  
 ¶ 12: "Upon Mr. Torrey's..." *In the Hudson Highlands*, p. 170.  
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 • Sidebar: Joseph Bartha, TCA, Joseph Bartha file, "He goes out..." WN, 10/39, "He carries on..." *Trail Conference News* 2/1/51, "to them a trail..." WN, circa 1949.  
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 ¶ 1: By 1942..., *In the Hudson Highlands*, p. 170.  
 ¶ 2-4: "This meeting will be held..." TCA, Early History file, meeting program.

- ¶ 6: "Railroads are making time..." WN, 1/42.  
 ¶ 8-9: "Vacation to some people..." WN, 4/42.  
 • Sidebar: *With the Trail Patrol*, TW, circa 1969.  
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 • Sidebar: Bill Hoeflerin, Dave Sutter interview, TCA, Bill Hoeflerin file, "He had little interest in appearances..." TW, 9/70, "It may carry on the idea..." WN, 1/39, "YOUNG MAN..." WN, 6/39, "What's the sport..." WN, 10/39.  
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 ¶ 2: "With hordes of..." WN, 2/43.  
 ¶ 3: The Trail Conference Patrol..., TCA, TC Patrol report by Joseph Bartha.  
 ¶ 5: "A canvas among clubs..." WN, 9/48.  
 ¶ 6: TCA, Administrative file, 1949 report to all clubs.  
 • Sidebar: *Walking with the Clubs*, WN, 1/42.

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 ¶ 1: The new decade... *Forest and Grog*, p. 563, *The Gentle Art of Walking*, p. 83.  
 ¶ 2: The lancing..., M. Kukle, G. Zoebel interview.  
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 ¶ 1: "I protested that..." TW, 11/78.  
 ¶ 2: The public relations..., TW, Circa 1969.  
 ¶ 4: By 1960..., TCA, Long Path file, unidentified newspaper clipping, 4/11/65, *Long Path Guidebook*.  
 ¶ 5-7: "We held our..." Meyer Kukle interview.  
 ¶ 8: One hiker recalls..., Emile Joannemy interview.  
 ¶ 9: In October 1970..., Meyer Kukle interview.  
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 ¶ 1-3: Meyer Kukle and George Zoebel interview.  
 • Sidebar: The Long Path Goes North: TW, 3/88, TW circa 1992, Howie Dash interview, "The Long Path will..." TW, 10/93, "It gives me great..." TW, 2/85.

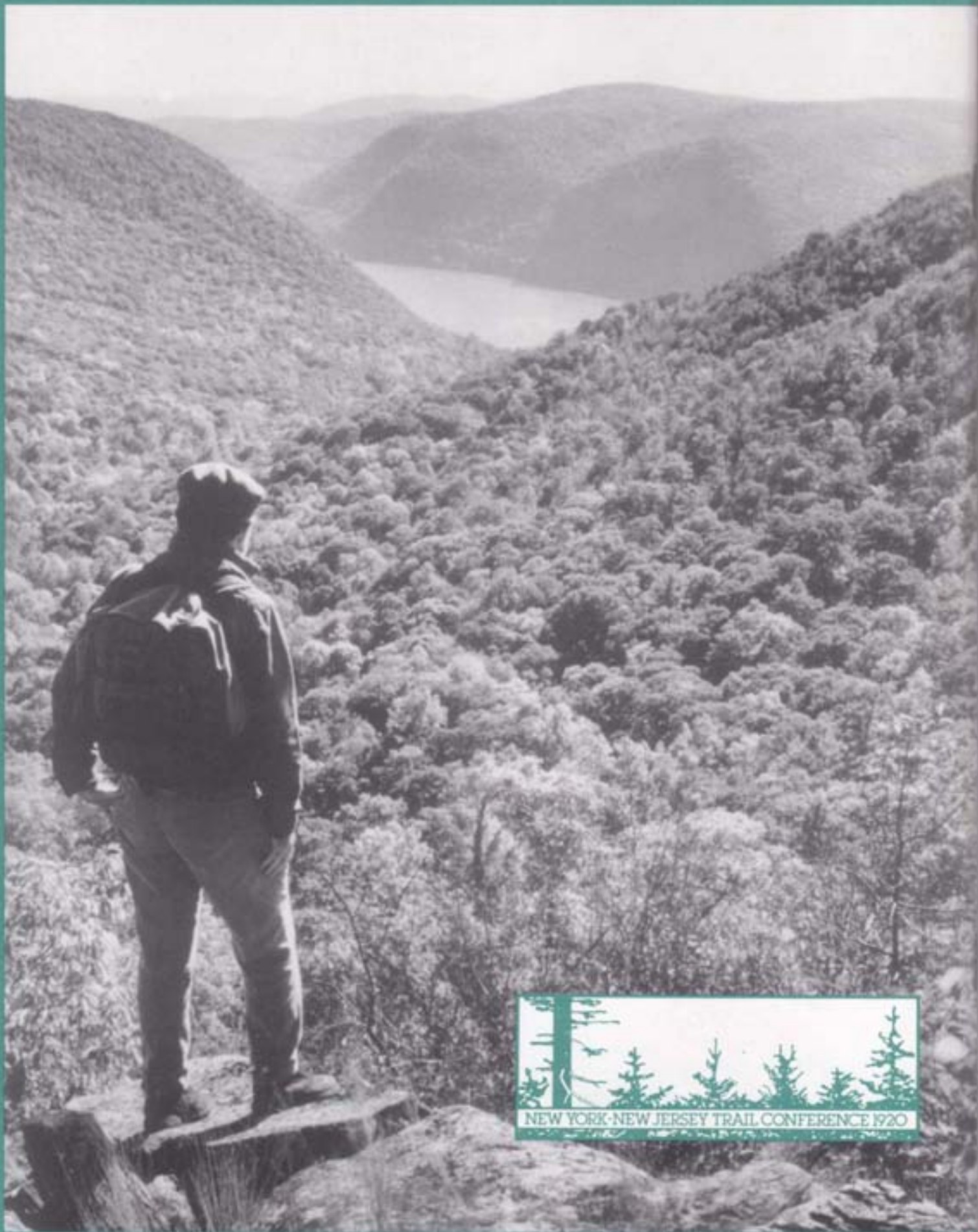
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 ¶ 1: TW, 11/67.  
 ¶ 2-3: AIC Member Handbook, p. 58-62.  
 ¶ 8: "The National Park Service..." E. Levers interview.  
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 ¶ 1: "The state of..." Elizabeth Levers interview.  
 ¶ 2: "Lively is the wrong word..." Don Derr interview.  
 ¶ 2: "Most of these meetings..." Elizabeth Levers interview.  
 ¶ 3: By 1982, New Jersey..., Don Derr interview.  
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 • Sidebar, Elizabeth Levers: Elizabeth Levers interview, TCA, Elizabeth Levers file.  
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 ¶ 4: "It has become clear..." TW, 11/79.  
 ¶ 6: "Here is a chance..." TW, circa 1982.  
 ¶ 7: "We felt like..." Paul DeCoste interview.  
 ¶ 8: Husband and wife..., Jane and Walt Daniels interview, Ron Rosen interview, "Finally the A.T..." TW, 9/85.  
 ¶ 9: "We felt that..." Don Derr interview.  
 Page 25  
 ¶ 1: "This is probably..." Paul DeCoste interview.  
 ¶ 2-4: TW, circa 1980.  
 ¶ 5: TW, 12/86.  
 ¶ 5: "This is a great..." Dick Warner interview.  
 ¶ 6-8: The Shawangunk Ridge..., N. Zimmerman interview.  
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 ¶ 2: "I took the plunge..." Gary Haugland interview.  
 ¶ 3: The New York State..., LBP, 6/22/23, LBP, circa 1926.  
 ¶ 4: "Every other major..." Neil Zimmerman interview.  
 • Sidebar: The Map Makers, Don Derr, Dan Chazin interview.  
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 ¶ 2-4: Stella Green comments on original manuscript.  
 • Sidebar: Building Trails To Last, Bob Marshall interview.  
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 ¶ 2: New in 1994..., TW, 11/94.  
 ¶ 3: Another new trail... TW, 2/94.  
 • Sidebar: Ken Lloyd interview.  
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 • Sidebar: Why I Hike, TW, 12/86.  
 • Sidebar: Clubs of the '90s, Dave Sutter, Ed Walsh, Sr. and Jr. interviews.  
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 ¶ 2-3: JoAnn Dolan interview.  
 ¶ 4: "The goal is to work..." TW, 11/94.  
 ¶ 5: In the 35..., N. Zimmerman interview, TW, 1965-1995.  
 ¶ 7: "Our growth has been..." Neil Zimmerman interview.

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 ¶ 1: "to aid in the..." TCA, TC Constitution.  
 ¶ 2: "After dinner we noted..." TCA, Trip and Trail Club newsletters (no page numbers given).  
 ¶ 3-4: "Terrace Pond is..." LBP, 4/24/31.  
 ¶ 5: The two founders, TCA, Welch and Torrey files.  
 ¶ 6: The Interstate Park... LBP, 6/21/23.  
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 ¶ 4-5: The Hudson River Highlands, Ch. 11.  
 ¶ 6: "have a duty to..." LBP, 12/9/31.  
 ¶ 7-8: "It is almost..." TCA, Rothschild file, document dated 5/13/31.  
 ¶ 9: LBP, 12/9/31.  
 ¶ 10: In 1936..., The Hudson River Highlands, Ch. 11., TCA, HRC Society memo.  
 • Sidebar: Frank Place's Ten Commandments, FPM, 5/25/41, unknown newspaper.  
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 ¶ 2-3: "The excuse was that..." LBP, 2/43.  
 ¶ 4: The Hudson River Highlands, Ch. 11.  
 ¶ 5: "bur gift..." WN, 2/39, TCA, Anthony's Nose Brochure.  
 ¶ 6: In 1944..., The Hudson River Highlands, Ch. 11.  
 ¶ 8: "Mount Taurus, Breakneck Ridge..." TCA, Rothschild file.  
 ¶ 9: On September 23, 1962..., TCA, Rothschild and Storm King files, The Hudson River Highlands, Ch. 12.  
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 ¶ 1-3: The Hudson River Highlands, Ch. 12.  
 ¶ 4-5: "It is reported..." TCA, TC directors meeting minutes 10/1/62.  
 ¶ 6-8: The facility's design... TCA, Storm King file, various Con Edison and Scenic Hudson publications.  
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 ¶ 1-3: "Fellas..." Meyer Kukle interview.  
 ¶ 4: On November, 8..., The Hudson River Highlands, Ch. 12, "first job is to fight..." TCA, TC directors meeting minutes, 11/14/63, "At the meeting we got..." TCA, Storm King file, Scenic Hudson chronology.  
 ¶ 5: "The Trail Conference couldn't..." M. Kukle interview.  
 ¶ 7-8: "hilly and unspoiled..." "Here are scores..." TCA, Storm King file, Statement of Calvin W. Sollman 2/25/64.  
 ¶ 10: "the commission's renewed..." TCA, Storm King file, Environmental Litigation, 8.02 [1].  
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 ¶ 2: Further appeals would..., The Hudson River Highlands, Ch. 12.  
 ¶ 4: "I know of nothing more important..." TCA, Rothschild file (from his Con Edison testimony).  
 • Sidebar: Leo Rothschild, TCA, Rothschild file, Meyer Kukle interview.  
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 ¶ 1-7: TCA, Minnewaska file, JoAnn Dolan interview, TW running series of articles 1979-1985.  
 • Sidebar: Limer Clean Up Day, Elizabeth Levers interview.  
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 ¶ 1-2: JoAnn Dolan interview.  
 ¶ 3: "It is plain..." TCA, Minnewaska file, NY Court of Appeals transcript.  
 ¶ 4-6: "We were absolutely involved..." J. Dolan interview.  
 ¶ 9: "It is a highly..." LBP, circa 1927.  
 ¶ 11: "Sterling Lake is one of..." LBP, circa 1927.  
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 ¶ 1-3: "The area of wild land..." WN, 9/47.  
 ¶ 4: In 1958..., TCA, Rothschild file.  
 ¶ 5-11: JoAnn Dolan, various TW articles from 1985 to 1995.  
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 ¶ 2: "I don't see..." JoAnn Dolan interview.  
 ¶ 4: In the 1950's, Leo..., NYT 9/10/59, TCA, Rothschild file, land report.  
 ¶ 5: "We were really..." Meyer Kukle interview, Appalachian Trail Conference phone inquiry 2/95.  
 ¶ 6: In 1987..., TW, circa 1987, N. Zimmerman interview.  
 ¶ 8: Through the..., TCA, board meeting minutes for 1969.  
 ¶ 9: Much of the support, TCA, Ellenville Wind Farm file, interview with Ken Lloyd.

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 ¶ 2: Active TC files, Project Assessments.  
 ¶ 4-7: Written statements by board members 2/95, various interviews.  
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 ¶ 1-6: Written statements by board members 2/95, various interviews.  
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 ¶ 8-9: Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*, "Song of the Open Road."

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 ¶ 1-6: Written statements by board members 2/95, various interviews.  
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 ¶ 1-3: Written statements by board members 2/95, various interviews.  
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