

## Town Topics

### Wawarsing to Get Part of Canal Land from Open Space Institute

The Open Space Institute announced it will donate a 1.5-mile stretch of former *D & H Canal* lands to the Town of Wawarsing. The 6-acre section expands the town's open sections of canal trail Greenway to a little more than three continuous miles between Napanoch and Ellenville.

The parcel is part of a 2,000-acre **Witch's Hole Conservation Area** tract that the institute bought in 2000 and 2001. The **Witch's Hole Conservation Area** will be conveyed to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission as part of the *Minnewaska State Park Preserve*.

Andy Helgeson, spokesman for the *D&H Heritage Corridor Alliance*, said the town is adding another mile of usable trail from the middle of Kerhonkson to **Rte. 44/55**. Pilings were installed for a trail bridge at the end of **Mill Street** in Kerhonkson, providing a total of four miles from the center of Accord to **Rte. 44/55** in Wawarsing. (Photos and details in next month's issue.)

### Learning to Live with Fire

Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Overview: Living with fire is not always hell. Join Stephanie Gifford, Director of Ecological management with the Eastern New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy as she describes the adaptations that help plants and other species flourish in the face of fire in the **Shawangunk Mountains**. On a hike to **Verkeerderkill Falls** learn why the lack of fire is considered one of the major threats to the **Ridge**. Find out how land managers intend to reintroduce fire in a safe and manageable way. Bring a lunch. Terrain: moderately difficult.

For all hikes, please come prepared: bring water, sunscreen, bug spray, sturdy, comfortable footwear and a bag lunch for hikes over three hours. Unless otherwise specified, hikes are approximately 2 hours and are limited to 15 people.

Meeting Location: **Sam's Point** parking lot, *Sam's Point Preserve*, Cragmoor, Ulster County  
Registration: Call 647-3123.

### Ellenville Ice Caves/Shingle Gully

Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Overview: Visit the unique terrain and natural communities of **Shingle Gully** with Appalachian Mountain Club's leaders Rick Levine and Franz Rucker. Begin the hike as a slow steady climb before scrambling up 1000 feet to explore the **Grand Canyon** and the **Labyrinth**. Snowballs guaranteed! Pack a flashlight, gloves, and warm clothing for a serious temperature drop. Wear long pants and bring along a lunch. Due to the ecological sensitivity of this area we are limited to a group of 12, so sign up early. Distance: 5-6 miles. Terrain: difficult (experienced hikers only).

For all hikes, please come prepared: bring water, sunscreen, bug spray, sturdy, comfortable footwear and a bag lunch for hikes over three hours. Unless otherwise specified, hikes are approximately 2 hours and are limited to 15 people.

Meeting Location: **Berme Road Park** in Ellenville  
Registration: Call 647-3123.

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