

Town Topics

Kerhonkson Rail Trail Progressing

by John C. Motzer

Many years ago the citizens of the Hamlet of Kerhonkson wanted to get one mile of trail established. This trail would run from the Rochester Town Line to **Rte. 44/55**. The centerpiece of this trail would be a linear park in the hamlet, and the bridge at the old mill at the end of **Mill St.**

In 2001, the National Park Service, the *Kerhonkson Lions*, the *D&H Canal Corridor Heritage Alliance* and other members of the community had a brain storming session. Two informational sessions were held, at the **Kerhonkson Fire House**. The National Parks Service and Hudson & Pacific Design made presentations. A plan was in place.

Unfortunately for all concerned, the grants that were submitted were turned down and things were stalled again.


This past fall, things opened up for the trail. Progress was being made in getting the trail underway. Dr. Richard Craft met with some of the locals and plans were set in progress to rebuild the bridge and cut the trail. In the spring, with assistance from Supervisor Dolaway, the work began in earnest.

Town crews began cutting dead trees from around the abutments, stumps were removed and the bridge structure was cleared. John Motzer acquired beams from the county. John and Andy Helgeson made a survey. The measurements were submitted to the county and the beams were cut, painted and delivered to the site. After just three short weeks, town employees set the beams on the old RR structure.

On April 27, the deck was placed on the beams (*photo, below*). Employees of the Town of Wawarsing cut holes in the beams and installed the decking. So far, labor has come from various groups; the *Kerhonkson Lions* have paid for the decking. The team is hoping that the chambers of commerce of Wawarsing and Accord-Kerhonkson will also contribute to the completion of the bridge and surrounding area.

National Trail Day is June 9th, and this bridge will be a local showpiece and, hopefully, be complete by this date.



The *D&H Canal Museum* will celebrate National Trails Day on June 5th with a special guided hike from Ellenville to Napanoch. Hikers will meet at the old **Telegraph Office**, now the **Chamber of Commerce Office**, on **Berne Road** in Ellenville and walk along the former canal towpath. The hike ends at the partially restored **O&W Railroad depot** on the grounds of the maximum security *Eastern Correctional Facility* in Napanoch. A representative of the *O&W Railroad Historical Society* will meet the hikers at the depot. Because of the high level of security at the prison, reservations are required. The hike is free and open to the public. The guided walk is on easy, level terrain. Call the *D&H Canal Museum* for time of the walk and to reserve, **687-9311**. 

Geologic Overview of the Shawangunk Ridge and Surrounding Area

Saturday, June 5th, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Overview: From the formation of the rocks of the Hudson Highlands over a billion years ago to the deglaciation of the Hudson Valley a few thousand years ago, eastern New York State has a long and interesting geologic history. *Ulster County Community College* geologist Steven Schimmrich will examine the geologic features of the *Sam's Point Preserve* and discuss how the **Shawangunk Ridge** fits into the geologic evolution of the surrounding Hudson Valley. This loop hike will start and end at the Preserve parking lot and travel to **Sam's Point**, **Verkeerderkill Falls**, **High Point**, and **Indian Rock** with plenty of stops to discuss what is seen along the way. Terrain: 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.


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

Great Sky Spectacles

Friday, June 11th, (Rain date: June 12), 7:30 PM

Overview: The rare headline-making Venus transit is now over, but fabulous sky spectacles are in store for us during 2004 and 2005. We'll look at the upcoming eclipses, unusually rich meteor showers, and extremely rare planet events that require no knowledge of the constellations. Then, as night deepens, Mid-Hudson Astronomy Association members will set up large telescopes to explore the gaseous surface of Jupiter as well as June's deep-space wonders.

Bob Berman is an editor of both *Astronomy* magazine and the *Old Farmers Almanac*, and is the astronomy columnist of *Discover Magazine*. He is author of three books, has a weekly show on Public Radio, and is adjunct professor of astronomy at Marymount College.

Meet Location: *Sam's Point Preserve*, Cragmoor. Registration: Call **647-3123**. 

Dragonfly Display

Saturday, June 12th, (Rain date: June 19), 10:00 AM– 12:00 noon

Overview: Did you ever see dragonflies traveling together in the "wheel position"? Join Karen Strong of DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program for a walk to **Lake Maratanza**. Learn about dragonfly biology and conservation on a leisurely stroll to dragonfly habitat. Terrain: easy.

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 limited to 15 people.

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



ski-doo

WIDE OPEN
Motorsports

BOMBARDIER ATV's

SEA-DOO
WATERCRAFT

STEVE PISCIOTTA
845-626-2779
FAX 845-626-3677
6401 Rte. 209 P.O. Box 670
Kerhonkson, NY 12446

"The Speed of the Leader Sets the Pace of the Pack"