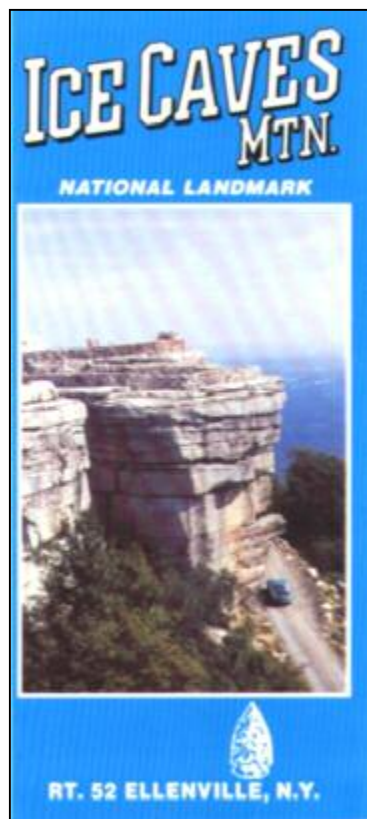


from 1969, according to Town Clerk Lillian Finkelstein. Until December of 1996, *Ice Caves Mountain* continued to run its tourist concession on the mountain (*Old Visitor's Center and parking lot, bottom right; brochure, below*). It was the purchase of this lease by the Open Space Institute (OSI) in 1996 that set the path for the subsequent sale of the full 4,621 acre **Ellenville Tract** by the Village of Ellenville to OSI in October 1997.

The renamed *Sam's Point Dwarf Pine Ridge Preserve* was described in the Fall 1997 "Shawangunk Watch" as "a landscape of superlatives. It protects the only dwarf pitch pine ridge community in the world that is located on bedrock." The Nature Conservancy (TNC) manages the new preserve under an agreement with OSI. The Conservancy considers the **Ellenville Tract** to be of global ecological significance, primarily due to the extensive pine barrens habitat and the occurrence of a variety of rare and endangered species on the tract. TNC designated the **Shawangunk Ridge**, including the **Ellenville Tract**, as one of the 75 "Last Great Places" in the Eastern Hemisphere.



Information for this article was gleaned from the extensive files of the *Ellenville Public Library & Museum*, (as were photos and graphics reproduced with their permission and courtesy), including many issues of "Shawangunk Watch," published by *Friends of the Shawangunks & the Shawangunk Conservancy*. Newspaper clippings, brochures, publications of the New York State Museum, pictures, and related materials are included in the files that are available to the public

during regular *Local History Museum* hours. For hours and additional information, call **845-647-5530**.

And remember: "SHON-gum!"

