

Town Topics


\$250,000 to Resnick Airport

The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded almost \$254,000 in Federal Aviation Administration funds to the *Joseph Y. Resnick Airport* in Ellenville.

"This is great news for Ulster County," said Senator Charles Schumer. "This funding will help ensure that the *Resnick Airport* remains a safe place to fly in and out of. I will continue to fight for federal funds to assist local airports remain viable and safe as part of the overall transportation network in the Hudson Valley."

"This funding is a very welcome investment in the *Resnick Airport* and in the future of the region," Senator Hillary Clinton said. "For tourism and business alike, safe and affordable air travel is an essential ingredient for economic development. I am pleased that we can support the airport with this funding and continue to ensure the safety and security of planes and passengers."

The grant will provide federal funding to install a perimeter fence at the *Joseph Y. Resnick Airport* to minimize incursions and improve overall airport safety.

In other funding news, Congressman Maurice Hinchey said he is continuing to press forward in his efforts to secure federal funds for the region from several funding bills working their way through Congress. The village of Ellenville would receive \$750,000 for the *Sam's Point Preserve Visitors' Center* in the 4,700-acre wilderness area on the *Shawangunk Ridge* in Cragmoor. The entrance to the *Preserve* and trails would be reconditioned as well as a pedestrian connection to *Minnewaska State Park*. 

Using Prescribed Fire to Save the Ridge

Between July and October 2005, the *Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership* will present five public programs in its latest *Shawangunk Ridge Public Program Series*, about the role of fire in protecting the biodiversity of the *Shawangunk Mountains*. The programs will be held at *Sam's Point Preserve*, *Minnewaska State Park Preserve*, or the *Mohonk Preserve*. (See full schedule for locations and contact information.)

Beginning in late fall 2005, the *Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership* will conduct a series of demonstration, prescribed burns in the *Shawangunks*. This public program series will explore how planned fire can be used as a management tool in the *Shawangunks* to help keep our forests healthy and to reduce the risk of unplanned, devastating wildfires.

Composed of non-profit and public agencies, the *Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership* is dedicated to protecting the sensitive wildlife habitat and other natural resources of the *Shawangunk Mountains*. Informed by field research and scientific analysis, *Partners* manage over 40,000 protected acres of the *Shawangunks*, provide environmental education, and work with local communities to preserve open space on the slopes of the *Ridge*. For more information on the *Partnership*, see:

<http://www.mohonkpreserve.org/about/publications/SRBP%20General.pdf>

Saturday, July 16th, 10 AM – 4 PM
Minnewaska State Park Preserve

FIELD STUDY OF A MINNEWASKA BURN SITE

During the hot, dry summer of 1999, lightning started a fire in the *Minnewaska State Park Preserve* backcountry. Explore the impacts of fire and fire policy on a difficult, five-mile hike to the fire site with Park Interpreter Hatti

Langsford and Gabe Chapin, *Shawangunk Ridge Land Steward* of The Nature Conservancy. See the benefits of fire and discuss its potential to restore forests. For more information or to register please call the *Minnewaska Education Office* at 255-2011. Meet at the Awosting parking area of *Minnewaska State Park Preserve*, Rte. 44/55, Gardiner. Parking fee \$7 per vehicle.

Wednesday, July 27th, 4 – 5 PM
Minnewaska State Park Preserve

FIRE ECOLOGY OF THE SHAWANGUNK RIDGE

An interactive talk on fire ecology and management in the *Shawangunk Ridge*. Gabe Chapin, *Shawangunk Ridge Land Steward* of The Nature Conservancy, will discuss the ecological role of fire in *Shawangunk* ecosystems and the social and ecological implications of 20th century fire suppression policies. We will wrap up with an overview of fire management options for the future including prescribed fire. May include a short, outdoor walk. For more information or to register please call the *Minnewaska Education Office* at 255-2011. Meet at the Nature Center "Yurt" near the upper parking area of *Minnewaska State Park Preserve*, Rte. 44/55, Gardiner. Parking fee \$7 per vehicle.

Saturday, August 27th, 3 – 4 PM
Mohonk Preserve

A LOOK AT FIRE MANAGEMENT – THEN & NOW

Alicia Carroll, *Mohonk Preserve Managing Ranger*, and John Thompson, *Mohonk Preserve Natural Resources Specialist*, will survey some of the current thoughts about controlled burns as a method of field management. John will share findings from Dan Smiley's 1978 and 1979 prescribed burns. Alicia will discuss some of the latest tools and techniques of prescribed burns. Indoor program. Ages 12+. Reservation required: sign-up begins 8/12. Free to *Preserve* members; non-members \$8.

Sunday, August 28th, 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon
Sam's Point Conservation Center

A PERSPECTIVE ON FIRE FROM SAM'S POINT

Learn how plants at *Sam's Point* have actually adapted to fire in this presentation by *Shawangunk Ridge Land Steward* and fire ecologist Gabe Chapin. Gabe will begin with a presentation at the *Conservation Center* and finish with a moderate, 3-mile walk along the *Loop Road*. Historical human influences on the fire regime and reintroduction of fire through the use of prescribed burns will be discussed. Participants will visit areas that have been prepared by the *Nature Conservancy* for prescribed burns in the fall. Meet at the *Sam's Point Conservation Center*, 400 *Sam's Point Road*, Cragmoor. Registration required: 647-7989. \$7 parking fee.

Saturday, October 1st, 2 – 4 PM
Mohonk Preserve

PRESCRIBED BURNS AT THE MOHONK PRESERVE

In the spring of 2005, fire jumped from a camper's illegal fire pit and burned a small section of the forest along Rte. 299 – mostly on *Preserve* lands. Fortunately, the fire was brought under control. Due to years of fire suppression, the *Shawangunk Ridge* is at risk for uncontrolled wildfires. Fire expert Stephanie Gifford of the Eastern New York Chapter of the *Nature Conservancy* will describe how prescribed burns can avert larger disastrous wildfires. Hear an insider's perspective on this land management technique and its relevance for the *Shawangunk Mountains*. Ages 14+. Reservation required: sign-up begins 9/14. Free to *Preserve* members; non-members \$8. 