

# Hyde Park Trails Newsletter



Issue #1, Winter 2008

## Healthy Trails Walkabout

Marilyn Littlefoot, Dutchess County Department of Health

### Walk five trails and earn a free sew-on patch!

The Hyde Park Healthy Trails Walkabout invites people to walk 5 out of 9 selected trails in town parks, nature preserves and National Park sites. The goals are to get people physically active, to enjoy nature, to realize how easy it is to incorporate any one of these hikes into your day, and to receive a Hyde Park Trails Walkabout Patch. At least 200 people each year have earned patches since Walkabout started in 2006.

The Dutchess County Department of Health has helped us reach out to new groups and individuals. Participants have included seniors in the Bard College Lifetime Learning Institute, Girl Scouts, residential and day treatment students of the Deveraux Foundation, as well as staff, students, and parents at local Hyde Park schools. Perhaps most importantly, dozens of Hyde Park residents have found new close-to-home places to enjoy.

In 2007, we outreached to the Dutchess County community trying to spread the word about this great availability of trails. Outreach activities included brochures distributed to Dutchess County Tourism, Vassar Brothers Hospital Employee Health Fair, Girls Scouts Jubilee Celebration, Mid-Hudson River Region Trails Summit, Dutchess County Fair and the many bed and breakfasts, inns and motels in Hyde Park. Interested in bringing Hyde Park Trails to your group, or vice versa? Please call Marilyn Littlefoot at (845) 486-3443.

**Note: It's not too late to complete your 2007 Walkabout patch.** Yes, we know the calendar changed. But the patch for 2007 will be available until the official 2008 Walkabout kickoff on Earth Day weekend, April 20th. There is a new patch each year, so we hope to see you on the trails.



### Earn Your 2007 Hyde Park Walkabout Patch Today!

For more information or to pick up your patch, go to [www.hydeparkny.us](http://www.hydeparkny.us) & click on "Recreation." Or stop by in person:

- Vanderbilt Mansion Visitor Center
- Hyde Park Recreation Department at Hackett Hill
- Wallace Center at FDR Home & Library
- The River Connection on West Market St

## Heard on the Trail

What are people saying about Hyde Park Trails? Here are some samples written to us by "Walkabout" trail users:

"...the trails here are beautiful and lush – well marked - good program!" (Visitors from Colorado)

"We have to move to Hyde Park. You have so many trails!"

"We had a blast!" (Family)

## IMBA Trail Building Day Frank Hildenbrand, Fats in the Cats

At the invitation of the National Park Service *Rivers & Trails* Program, the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) Trail Care Crew traveled to Hyde Park on September 13-15, 2007 to collaborate with the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites in Hyde Park and The Fats In The Cats Bicycle Club. The goal of the event was to explore the local potential for building sustainable trails that can support shared use by hikers and mountain bikers. IMBA and the NPS have been working together over the past few years to foster mountain biking in National Parks.

The event included information-sharing sessions to educate each other on mission and goals, trail management and building, property boundaries, and to choose a specific trail area needing some attention. Valuable support in planning the event was also provided by the Hyde Park Recreation Commission.

A trail building school on Saturday September 15 drew approximately 35 people. The IMBA Trail Care Crew first led the attendees through their cutting-edge trail design and construction techniques in a classroom setting. The NPS provided the group with an overview of the FDR property, trail planning, along with sharing their views on the partnership with IMBA and Fats In The Cats. After the classroom session, a hands-on trail-building exercise re-routed a trail to avoid a swampy area, and also reclaimed the avoided section of the old trail. The result is a beautiful new piece of single track trail, often referred to as the "IMBA Trail " which can be used to connect between the Roosevelt Farm Lane Trail and commonly called Newbold Trail.

For more information on IMBA and Fats In the Cats, visit: [www.imba.com](http://www.imba.com) and [www.fatsinthecats.com](http://www.fatsinthecats.com)



**Tom Smith and Rick Halstein  
grading the trail**

## Scenic Hudson Protects Dominican Camp

In December, Scenic Hudson Land Trust announced its purchase of the Dominican Camp in Hyde Park. The 72-acre former boys' camp is located on Route 9 between Norrie Point and the Vanderbilt Mansion. The camp operated for 72 years before it closed in 1986, and has been unused since then. In addition to an assortment of ageing camp structures, the site includes direct access to the Hudson River and wonderful views.

We look forward to Scenic Hudson's exploration of the property's potential, ideally including an addition to the Hyde Park Trail system.

### A growing legacy

Scenic Hudson has previously helped protect other important areas in Hyde Park. In 2004, Scenic Hudson purchased 334 acres between Routes 9 and 9G, an area known as the Roosevelt Farm & Forest, linking FDR's home with Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill. The land was transferred to the National Park Service in spring of 2007. The NPS plans to reconstruct the historic woods road through this parcel this year, making it fully useable as a bicycle & foot path. Plans are also being developed for a park shuttle to carry visitors along the route between the two sites.

Read more about Scenic Hudson's efforts to "save the land that matters most" in the Hudson River Valley at [www.scenichudson.org](http://www.scenichudson.org).

## Anderson Center Provides New Trail Easement

Thanks to the Anderson Center for Autism and Winnakee Land Trust, the Hyde Park Trail system is ready to grow a stretch. A new trail agreement signed between the two parties and the Town of Hyde Park will enable about 2400 feet of new trail access through school property.

Lucy Hayden, Executive Director of Winnakee Land Trust said, "The Anderson Center should be commended for their public spiritedness. This is a special gift to Hyde Park's residents and visitors, who will soon be able to hike along the Hudson."

The trail easement will not become fully activated until a continuous trail route is identified on either side of the Anderson property. The easement is part of a larger effort to extend a key section of the Hyde Park Trail along the Hudson River from the Vanderbilt National Historic Site to Staatsburgh State Park.

"Of course, we will continue to work with our Hyde Park Trail partners on establishing further links in the trail system," said Hayden, "The Hyde Park Trails Committee is a terrific team and sets a great example of partners on the federal and local level working together."



Cove Trail in winter

## Easements Explained

Easements are legal agreements that allow people or organizations to use property for a specific purpose or to restrict uses on a site. A trail easement allows people to travel along a specific path through a landowner's property with minimal liability to the landowner.

A trail easement may be accompanied by a conservation easement, which may also provide tax benefits to the owners. Trail access can be granted for a specific time period or indefinitely. With a permanent easement, the trail stays on the land even when the land ownership changes. In Hyde Park, trail easements and conservation easements can be made with the Town, Scenic Hudson Land Trust, and the Winnakee Land Trust. They all work together to help build the Hyde Park Trail system, and for the betterment of the whole town.

To find out more, a great booklet called **Getting Involved: A Community Trail Handbook for Landowners** is posted on the *Parks & Trails New York* website. Log onto [www.ptny.org](http://www.ptny.org), and click on "Publications."

## Community Hikes

All hikes are on Sundays and start at 1:00 PM. Wear walking shoes and bring water and snacks if desired.

**April 20<sup>th</sup>** Riverfront Park to Bard Rock, meet at Riverfront Park

This hike will be the 2008 Walkabout Kickoff!

**May 4<sup>th</sup>** Pinewoods, meet at the parking lot off Pinewoods Ave

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** Val-kill, meet at the Val-kill parking lot

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** FDR Woods, meet at the Wallace Center

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** FDR to CIA, meet at the Wallace Center **NOTE: THIS HIKE CANCELLED**

For more information contact the Hyde Park Recreation Department at (845) 229-8086.

The Hyde Park Trails Newsletter is looking for your trail stories!

If you would like to contribute a story about your adventures hiking in Hyde Park, or if you know something of the biology, geology, or history of the trails please email Alanna Hjortland at:  
Alanna\_Hjortland@partner.nps.gov

## Volunteers Needed!

### Would you like to Adopt-a-Trail?

Come join us out on the trails and become a trail maintainer! Volunteers will learn how to blaze (mark trails), clip and trim brush, and general trail maintenance techniques. All experience levels encouraged to join in. If maintaining trails is not your thing; we are looking for people to help write and create the next newsletter.

### Trail maintenance dates:

#### **Saturday April 12**

Meet at Val-kill parking lot at 9 A.M. Program runs from 9 to noon.

#### **Sunday April 27**

Meet at Hackett Hill at 3 P.M. Program runs from 3 to 5:30.

**Trail Volunteers are invited to the Town of Hyde Park Volunteer Recognition Event on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at Hackett Hill.**

### **For more information contact:**

**Alanna Hjortland**

**Phone: (845) 229-9115 x 36**

**Email: Alanna\_Hjortland@partner.nps.gov**

## Visit Hyde Park Trails on-line

For pictures, maps, event listings, and to download your Healthy Trails Walkabout map/brochure, go to [www.hydeparkny.us](http://www.hydeparkny.us) and click on "Recreation" and "Trails"

## Spring Break Hikes for Kids

Hyde Park Trails will host nature hikes for children and their parents Spring Break week. Come hike with us!

The Healthy Trails Walkabout project awards a sew-on patch to people of all ages for hiking 5 Hyde Park trails. Each of the Spring Break hikes will count as ONE trail toward earning your patch.

- All hikes start at 10:00 a.m.
- Bring your own snacks and water
- Dress appropriately for hiking
- For ages 5-10; all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt NHS is also putting on afternoon programs for children at 2:00 P.M at the FDR Home. For more information on all programs and to pre-register please call Ann Murray at (845) 486-1966.

### **Day 1 – Monday April 14 – Trail Blazers Hike**

Hackett Hill Town Park; meet at main parking lot

### **Day 2 – Tuesday April 15 - Trail Tale Hike**

Val-kill; Meet at Val-kill parking lot

### **Day 3 – Wednesday April 16 - Scavenger Hike**

Winnakee Nature Preserve; meet in parking lot behind Pete's Famous Restaurant

### **Day 4 – Thursday April 17 - Nature Senses Hike**

Pinewoods; meet at Pinewoods Town Park, off of Pinewoods Ave

### **Day 5 - Friday April 18 - Animal Signs Hike**

FDR National Historic Site; Meet at Wallace Visitor Center

## Winnakee Nature Preserve Starts Friends Group

Winnakee Land Trust will be starting a community group to help care for the Winnakee Nature Preserve. The new Friends of Winnakee Nature Preserve will have a social for interested community members in April.

For more information please email the Winnakee Land Trust at: [info@winnakeeland.org](mailto:info@winnakeeland.org)

### **The Hyde Park Trail Partnership:**

The members of the Hyde Park Trail committee and many dedicated volunteers have worked since 1988 to build and promote trails in Hyde Park. They include: Town of Hyde Park, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Winnakee Land Trust, Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development, Dutchess County Department of Health, Adirondack Mountain Club Mid-Hudson Chapter, National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program