



Forked River Mountain Views

Newsletter of the Forked River Mountain Coalition

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22 Tons!

Give 80 volunteers three hours on a Sunday morning and what do you get? 22 tons of trash removed from the pine woods around the Forked River Mountains. That's exactly what happened on April 23, 1995 as the Forked River Mountain Coalition sponsored the second annual Forked River Mountain clean up. Cosponsoring the event again this year was the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the Ocean County Parks Department. After the clean up we climbed to the top of the mountain for some refreshments and to take in the sights. Entertainment was provided by the Pineconers, who performed "Forked River Mountain Blues" as well as some other Piney tunes.

We would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their donations of help and equipment:

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
William Penn Foundation
Ocean County Landfill Corp.
Brick Wall Corp.
Ocean County Department of Solid Waste
Jersey Central Power & Light
GPU Nuclear
Lacey Used Auto Parts
Joseph Burnett Construction Co.
Township of Lacey
Parker Associates
Ciba
Underwater Discovery

Election Results

The first Annual Meeting of the Forked River Mountain Coalition was held on Monday, May 29, 1995 at Double Trouble State Park. Elected to the Board of Trustees were:

Kerry Jennings, President
Dave DiEugenio, First Vice-President
Elizabeth Morgan, Second Vice-President
Theresa Lettman, Secretary
Carol Cortelyou, Treasurer
Mickey Coen
Ted Gordon
Terry O'Leary
Lorraine Sansone
Janice Sherwood
John Sly
Robert Zappalorti

About 20 members were present for the meeting. Afterwards we went canoeing down Cedar Creek. Luckily, the weather cooperated and it was a great end to a long holiday weekend.

Local History Celebrated

May was local history month for the Ocean County Library System. The Coalition was pleased to participate by placing our display at the Lacey Township Library in Forked River. In addition, Elizabeth Morgan, the Coalition's historian, made several presentations on the Forked River Mountains during this time. The Forked River Mountains are rich in culture and history. Sand trails that criss-cross the area once carried forest products from traditional Pine Barren industries such as charcoal, cedar and bog iron. Aserdaten, the Homeplace and the old Tuckerton Railroad are just a few of the names and places that helped to shape the area and although they are now gone, they will never be forgotten.

Forked River Mountain Preserve Proposed

The Coalition, along with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, has recently applied for funding from the New Jersey Green Acres Program to acquire several critical tracts of land. If funded, the projects would help create a corridor to link Wells Mills County Park with the proposed Forked River Mountain Preserve. The proposed projects would help provide public access to the Forked River Mountains for such passive activities as hiking, fishing, bird watching and wildlife photography. The projects would not only protect the headwaters of streams and wetlands which harbor rare, threatened and endangered species but, they would also help protect water quality downstream in Forked River and Oyster Creek as well as Barnegat Bay. Barnegat Bay, which is also utilized for recreation, is a vital part of Ocean County's economy. Finally, culture and history would be preserved as the Albert Brother's Home- place is a part of the project area. Keep your fingers crossed!

The Coalition has also applied for funding through the Barnegat Bay Environmental Grant Fund to continue and expand ongoing rare, threatened and endangered species inventory work on portions of the vast 20,000 acres that surround the mountains. The inventory will be a valuable tool in preparing a future management plan for the area.