



Forked River Mountain Views

Newsletter of the Forked River Mountain Coalition

Vol. 5 No. 3

More Land Saved!

In the second major land deal announced this year, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation has recently secured two key parcels of Forked River Mountain wilderness totaling 917 acres.

The larger parcel, known as the Frazee Tract, totaling 817 acres, was purchased from Forked River native and woodsman Cliff Frazee. Cliff has owned and worked these woods for more than 50 years. The remaining 100 acre parcel was purchased from Alan & Annette Kirby of Toms River.

Both parcels will protect more environmentally sensitive land along the North Branch of the Forked River, further helping to protect water quality down stream and in Barnegat Bay.

This is the second major acquisition in the Forked River Mountain area by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. About two years ago the organization purchased nearly 3000 acres to form the first section of the Forked River Mountain Preserve.

Earlier this year the New Jersey Chapter of the Nature Conservancy announced that it had taken ownership to 531 acres and expected the eventual donation of 3,578 acres.

Coalition Gets 501(c)(3) Status!

In what may be the most important development this year, the IRS has determined that the Forked River Mountain Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization. This is a definitive ruling and it is retroactive to the date of our incorporation on October 19, 1994.

So what does all this mean? For us it means that we can now utilize our Green Acres grant to acquire environmentally sensitive land in the Forked River Mountain area. We can also apply for additional grants from Foundations and Trusts to carry out the work

associated with our grass-roots initiative. For you it means that your contributions are tax deductible.

Special recognition and thanks are in order, for without the help and perseverance of the following people this achievement would not have been realized: Trustees Carol Cortelyou, David DiEugenio, John Sly and Dawn and Kerry Jennings; Peter Snyder, CPA; Thomas Butz, Esq from the firm Schuman, Butz and Babcock; and last but not least Judith Trachtenberg from the Center for Non-Profit Corporations.

Upcoming Events

Lacey Founder's Day
August 8

St. Pius Flea Market/Car Show
August 23

Barnegat Bay Decoy Show
September 26 & 27

Pine Barrens Jamboree
October 10

Batsto Country Living Fair
October 18

Chatsworth Cranberry Festival
October 17 & 18

Volunteers are needed for these events. If you would like to help the Coalition at any of these events, please call:
(609) 971-1635.

Save the Date
November 7, 1998 (Rain Date: Nov. 8th)

Special cleanup scheduled this fall to remove debris around remote sections of the Middle Branch. More details in the next newsletter!

Clean Up - Wrap Up



Threatening skies could not keep about 90 hardy volunteers from setting their sights on cleaning up the woods around the Forked River Mountains. About 39 tons of trash were removed during the cleanup. There was so much debris at one of the dumpsters that we had no choice but to pile the excess debris along the side of the dumpster and come back at a later date to remove it.

Cosponsoring the fifth annual Forked River Mountain Cleanup along with the Coalition was the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the Ocean County Parks Department. After the cleanup we all hiked up to the top of the mountain to enjoy the music of singer-songwriter James Halifko and some well deserved refreshments.

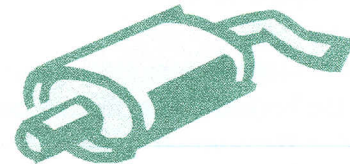
Also of importance to this years cleanup effort was the recovery of about 40 abandoned junk vehicles by the Ocean County Department of Solid Waste. These decaying vehicles were located in some of the most remote and environmentally sensitive areas. Special permission had to be obtained to use the Garden State Parkway for access to undertake the project. Nineteen tons of scrap metal were removed and recycled by this effort alone. Special thanks to Ocean County Freeholder James Lacey and to Alan Avery, Ernie Kuhlwein and Art Burns from the Ocean County Department of Solid Waste Management.



To date more than 150 tons of trash and debris have been removed from the woods around the Forked River Mountain.

We would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their donations of help and equipment that made this years cleanup a huge success:

Brick Wall Corp.
Ciba
Cosmos Green Acres Auto Recycling Cennter
Gan's Tree Service
GPU Energy
GPU Nuclear
Joseph Brunetti Constution Co.
Lacey Goodyear
O.C. Clean Communities Task Force
O.C. Department of Solid Waste
O.C. Landfill Corp.
Shoprite of Lacey
Township of Lacey
Parker Associates



***Forked River Mountain Coalition
Election Results***

The fourth annual meeting of the Forked River Mountain Coalition was held on May 25, 1998 at Double Trouble State Park. Elected to two year terms on the Board of Trustees were:

<i>Robert Caffyn</i>	<i>Dawn Jennings</i>
<i>Mickey Coen</i>	<i>Lorraine Sansone</i>
<i>Terry O'Leary</i>	<i>Fred Weber</i>

The Board of Trustees elected the following officers:

<i>Kerry Jennings</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Dave DiEugenio</i>	<i>1st Vice President</i>
<i>Elizabeth Morgan</i>	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
<i>Theresa Lettman</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>John Sly</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>



A Devil of a Contest

Most of us are familiar with the legend of the Jersey Devil: How the 13th child of Mother Leeds was cursed and born a devil on a stormy night more than 250 years ago. It is said that the eerie high pitched cries of the Jersey Devil can still be heard in the swamps of the Barrens today. There have been many accounts of the Jersey Devil over the years so we are searching for what you think the real Jersey Devil may look like. (A visit to your local library may be in order).

The winning entry may be utilized to help promote awareness about the area. The winner will receive a free Forked River Mountain t-shirt and/or sweat shirt as well as a free one year membership in the Coalition. Please submit your original artwork/design by October 10, 1998. Include the following statement on the back of your entry: "I certify that this is the original work of ____" Please print and sign your name.

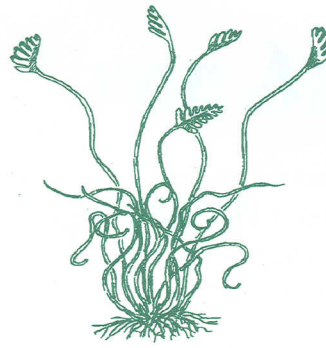
All entries become the property of the Forked River Coalition. The decision of the judges are final and judges reserve the right to accept or reject entries.

A Notice to our Members and Supporters

It has recently come to our attention that the Nature Conservancy has apparently decided to prohibit all motor vehicle use and hunting on their 531 acre portion of the Forked River Mountain Preserve.

The Forked River Mountain Coalition does not entirely support these concepts and will work with the Nature Conservancy to try and resolve differences in management philosophies.

Curly grass fern illustration from A Field Guide to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, illustrated by Mary Finelli, Plexus Publishing Inc.



Curly-grass Fern

Botanical Bounty

Curly-grass Fern
(*Schizaea pusilla*)

Almost impossible to find unless you know exactly where and what to look for. This tiny, rather unfern like plant, looks like its name -- curly-grass. This distinguishing characteristic is actually the plants sterile, evergreen leaves or fronds. The fertile fronds are slightly longer (up to a whopping 2") and fairly erect, and are topped by one-sided fertile segments or fruiting heads.

Almost exclusively found in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey in wet, acid soils, typical of sphagnum and cedar bogs and swamps. The curly grass fern has been found in several locations throughout the Forked River Mountain area. Preservation of the area will help to ensure the survival of this endangered plant and many others like it.

Honorary Members Named

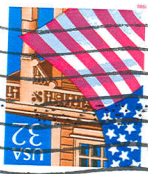
The Board of Trustees wasted no time in conducting business at the Annual Meeting in May by bestowing honorary membership upon the following individuals:

Gladys Eayres, Janice Sherwood, Elizabeth Morgan, Cliff Frazee, Ted Gordon, and Robert Zappalorti.

These individuals were named Honorary Members because of their exemplary dedication and service to the Coalition.



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MONMOUTH NJ

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Forked River, NJ 08731*

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____ Day (____) _____ Eve _____

I have enclosed my membership dues of \$15.
Please circle: New Renewal

I have enclosed an additional contribution of \$ _____
 I would like to volunteer, please call me.

Please make checks payable to:
and mail to:

Forked River Mountain Coalition
P.O. Box 219, Forked River, NJ 08731

Thank you!