



# *Forked River Mountain Views*

*Newsletter of the Forked River Mountain Coalition*

*www.frmc.org*

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## **A LOOK BACK. . . A LOOK AHEAD. . .**

For the past year, the Forked River Mountain Coalition has been busy working to permanently protect this vast wilderness. Below are just some of our accomplishments for 2011 and some of our future goals for 2012 and beyond.

### **2011 Accomplishments**

- ☑ Working with Coalition partners, a team of scientists have made their first assessment on a series of test plots to assess the habitat management needs of a very rare plant species. The Bog Asphodel is found nowhere else but in the New Jersey Pinelands.
- ☑ We were awarded a \$3,500 Barnegat Bay Environmental Grant. This grant will allow us to conduct further research and enhance public outreach efforts that the Coalition is currently involved in or planning.
- ☑ Volunteers removed 20 tons of illegally dumped debris during the Eighteenth Annual Spring Cleanup. To date, more than 496 tons of debris has been removed from the vast Pinelands forest surrounding the Forked River Mountains.
- ☑ Continued working on the Elizabeth Meirs Morgan hiking and interpretive trail system.
- ☑ A scholarship was awarded to honor founding members Elizabeth M. Morgan and John A. Sly.
- ☑ Sponsored and participated in a variety of educational events, like the Barnegat Bay Festival and Pine Barrens Jamboree, to promote a greater awareness about the importance and significance of the Forked River Mountain area.
- ☑ Continued to publish our newsletter, "Forked River Mountain Views," and update our website to report on our activities and educate the public about conservation and stewardship efforts in the area.

### **Goals**

- ☐ Acquire more land. Precious little time remains if we are to protect the entire Forked River Mountain area as open space.
- ☐ Continue plant and wildlife studies. We must understand the habitat requirements of threatened and endangered species if we are to ensure their survival here and else where.
- ☐ Continue work on a comprehensive trails system for the Forked River Mountain area. Eventually over 20 miles of hiking, interpretive, mountain biking, horseback, cross-country skiing and motor vehicle trails are possible.
- ☐ Maintain and expand our web site to bring you all the important information and news you need to know about the Forked River Mountains and the Coalition.
- ☐ Award scholarships in honor of the late Elizabeth M. Morgan and John A. Sly of Forked River, founding members of the Coalition.
- ☐ Conduct the annual spring cleanup, our annual canoe trip and treefrog hike and participate in the Barnegat Bay Festival, Pine Barrens Jamboree and other educational events to promote greater awareness about the importance and significance of the Forked River Mountain area.

But we can only realize our goals with your help. If you are not currently a member of the Coalition and would like to join, or if you are a member and have not yet renewed your membership, simply complete the registration form provided. Be sure to mark the appropriate box and return the form along with your membership dues for 2012. Please help support the grassroots initiative to permanently protect the Forked River Mountains and the vast wilderness that surrounds them.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Field Day, March 17, 2012.** Scheduled work includes posting signs, painting trail blazes and clearing brush along our hiking/nature trail. Some advance work ahead of the cleanup is also necessary. We will meet at Wells Mills County Park, Route 532, Waretown at 9:00 am and will return around 1:00pm. If you would like to lend a hand please call 609-971-1635.

**Field Day, March 31, 2012.** Scheduled work includes general clean-up and maintenance at our Oak Leaf and Cedar Creek Preserves. Some advance work ahead of the cleanup is also necessary. We will meet at Lacey Township Municipal Building, 818 Lacey Road, Forked River at 9:00 am and will return around 1:00pm. If you would like to lend a hand, at either field day, please call 609-971-1635.

**Annual Cleanup, April 22, 2012.** Meet at Lacey Township Municipal Building, 818 Lacey Road, Forked River. Arrive between 8:30am and 9:00am. Return between 12:30pm and 1:00pm. Last year volunteers helped to clean up 20 tons of trash. Please help make this year's clean up another success. Bags and gloves will be supplied. Volunteers with four wheel drive vehicles are especially needed. If you would like to help please call 609-971-1635.

**Barnegat Bay Festival, June 3, 2012.** Help out at our educational exhibit at the Wanamaker Complex, on the Toms River, in Island Heights. Available Shifts: 9am-12pm, 12pm-2pm and 2pm-4pm. Call 609-971-1635.

**Blueberry Festival, June 23, 2012.** Help out at our educational exhibit at Historic Whitesbog Village, Route 530, Browns Mills. Available Shifts: 9am-12pm, 12pm-2pm and 2pm-4pm. Call 609-971-1635.

### OCEAN COUNTY ACQUIRES 85 ACRES

The Ocean County Natural Lands Trust has acquired 85 acres of land in Lacey Township within the Forked River Mountain Project Area. What makes this purchase special is that the parcel of land is immediately adjacent to our Oak Leaf Preserve, so there is now over 100 acres of preserved land. The parcel is mostly uplands with accessible trails for some hiking and bird watching. A portion of the Deep Hollow Branch of the Cedar Creek traverses the northern portion of the parcel. The properties are also now linked to a remote section Double Trouble State Park. We congratulate Ocean County for having the foresight to acquire this valuable piece of property for preservation.

## 2012 Calendar of Events

### Field Day

March 17, 2012, 9 am ~ 1 pm  
Wells Mills Park

### Field Day

March 31, 2012, 9 am ~ 1 pm  
Lacey Town Hall

### Annual Cleanup

April 22, 2012, 9 am ~ 1 pm  
Lacey Town Hall

### Annual Meeting

May 26, 2012, 10:00 am  
Double Trouble State Park

### Cedar Creek Canoe Trip

May 26, 2012, 10:30 am ~ 3 pm  
Double Trouble State Park

### Treefrog Hike

June 1, 2012, 7:30 pm ~ 9:30 pm  
Webb's Mill

### Barnegat Bay Festival

June 3, 2012, 9 am ~ 4 pm  
Wanamaker Complex

### Blueberry Festival

June 23, 2012, 9 am ~ 4 pm  
Whitesbog Village

More details in future  
newsletters!