



Forked River Mountain Views

Newsletter of the Forked River Mountain Coalition

Vol. 3 No. 3

A Look Back. . . A Look Ahead. . .

For the past year, the Forked River Mountain Coalition has been working to permanently protect this vast wilderness. Below are just some of our more notable accomplishments for 1996 and some of our goals for 1997.

Accomplishments

Received a \$500,000 Green Acres Grant, along with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (for a total of \$1 million) to purchase environmentally sensitive land in the region. The grant will help establish a corridor between the Forked River Mountains and Wells Mills County Park in Waretown.

Celebrated the purchase of nearly 3,000 acres of land by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the first permanently protected parcel in the Forked River Mountain area. The parcel, which contains the headwaters to the North Branch and Middle Branch of the Forked River, was formally dedicated on June 18, 1996 at Wells Mills County Park..

Conducted our third Spring Cleanup for Earth Day. Almost 21 tons of trash were removed from the forest. To date, a total of 66 tons of trash have been removed from the woods around the Forked River Mountains.

Sponsored our second canoe trip down Cedar Creek and our second tree frog hike near Webbs Mill. These educational events were fun for young and old alike.

Goals

Secure tax-exempt status, which will in turn help us to . . .

Obtain additional funding to acquire more land. Millions of dollars will be needed to protect the entire forest . . .

Obtain funding to conduct endangered species/wildlife inventories necessary to prepare a future management plan for the area . . .

Conduct a direct mail membership drive to increase support for our grass-roots initiative to permanently protect the Forked River Mountains and the rich wilderness that surrounds them.

But we can only realize our goals with your help. That is why we hope that you will become a member of the Coalition if you are not one already. Please help support the grass-roots initiative to permanently protect the Forked River Mountains and the vast wilderness that surrounds them.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Pinelands occupies 1.1 million acres or almost one quarter of the state. This expanse comprises the largest tract of open space between Boston and Washington, D.C. and flourishes in the nation's most densely populated state; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Pinelands provides the perfect environment for berry agriculture, making New Jersey the third largest producer of cranberries in the United States and home to the first cultivated, hybrid blueberry; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Pinelands is the country's first National Reserve and an international U.N.E.S.C.O. Biosphere Reserve; is home to many rare and endangered plant and animal species; and

WHEREAS; the New Jersey Pinelands contains the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer which retains 17 trillion gallons of clean water; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Pinelands has a rich and colorful history, music, and culture all its own, making this treasured area distinct from any other region in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Pinelands comes alive in Autumn with cranberry harvest celebrations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim

*OCTOBER 1996 as
NEW JERSEY PINELANDS MONTH*

HELP US CELEBRATE AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

Pine Barrens Jamboree
October 12, 10am-4pm

A celebration of Pinelands melodies and memories with food, music and local crafters and artisans at Wells Mills County Park, Route 532, Waretown.
Rain or Shine.

Batsto Country Living Fair
October 20, 10am-4pm

Held annually at the restored historic village in Wharton State Forest, Route 542, Hammonton. Local crafters, antique autos and much more. Rain date: October 27.

Chatsworth Cranberry Festival
October 19 & 20, 10am-4pm

Annual cranberry harvest festival in Chatsworth, Route 563. Harvest tours, arts, crafts, food and music.