

Forked River Mountain Views

Newsletter of the Forked River Mountain Coalition

www.frmc.org

Vol. 11 No. 1

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 2003 and some of our future goals for 2004, and beyond.

Accomplishments

- ✿ Received grants to continue our vital work with threatened and endangered species.
- ✿ Continued work to create the first public hiking and interpretive trail in the Forked River Mountain area. A spring 2004 dedication is planned.
- ✿ Sponsored our third Eagle Scout project to enhance public access and enjoyment of conservation lands within the Forked River Mountain area.
- ✿ Conducted our Tenth Annual Spring Cleanup. Over 28 tons of trash was removed from the forest. To date, more than 287 tons of debris have been removed from the woods around the Forked River Mountains.
- ✿ Continued to monitor and maintain our bluebird nest box trail; unfortunately, due to excessive vandalism, no bluebirds were fledged during 2003. During the past five years we have fledged a total of 44 bluebirds
- ✿ 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.

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 elsewhere.

- ✿ 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 Mountain's and the Coalition.

- ✿ Continue to monitor our bluebird nest box trail and expand other conservation and stewardship activities within the Forked River Mountain area.

- ✿ 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 \$15 membership dues for 2004. Please help support the grass-roots initiative to permanently protect the Forked River Mountains and the vast wilderness that surrounds them.

Volunteers needed. . . see page two for details

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Field Day, March 13, 2004. Scheduled work includes posting signs, painting over offensive graffiti, planting pine seedlings and clearing brush along our hiking/nature trail. We will meet at Wells Mills County Park, Route 532, Waretown at 9:00am and will return around 1:00pm. Volunteers are asked to bring work gloves, hammers, nail pouches, a small spade or shovel, bow saws and loppers, pruners or shears. Volunteers with four wheel drive vehicles are especially needed. If you would like to lend a hand please call 609-971-1635.

Cleanup Promotion & Fundraiser, March 20, 2004. Help promote this year's cleanup at the Lacey Shop-Rite, Route 9, Lanoka Harbor. Event doubles as a fundraiser. Available Shifts: 9am-12pm and 12pm-3pm. Call 609-971-1635.

Annual Cleanup, April 18, 2004. Meet at Wells Mills County Park, Route 532, Waretown. Arrive between 8:30am and 9:00am. Return between 12:30pm and 1:00pm. Last year volunteers helped to clean up 28 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 5, 2004. Help out at our educational exhibit at Berkeley Island County Park, Brennan Concourse, Bayville. Available Shifts: 9am-12pm, 12pm-2pm and 2pm-4pm. Call 609-971-1635.

Blueberry Festival, June 26, 2004. 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.

SAVE THE DATES

Field Day . . .
March 13, 2004

Forked River
Mountain Cleanup . . .
April 18, 2004

Annual Meeting . . .
May 16, 2004

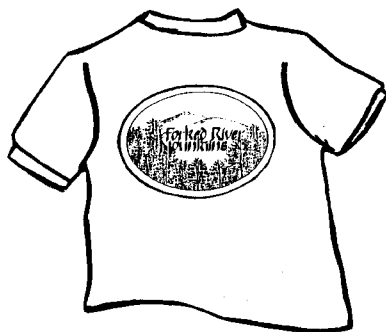
Cedar Creek Canoe Trip . . .
May 31, 2004

Treefrog Hike . . .
June 11, 2004

Barnegat Bay Festival . . .
June 5, 2004

Blueberry Festival . . .
June 26, 2004

more details in future newsletters!



Support the Forked River Mountain Coalition

<i>Cap</i>	<i>\$5</i>
<i>Mug</i>	<i>\$5</i>
<i>Tee Shirt</i>	<i>\$10</i>
<i>Long-sleeve Tee Shirt</i>	<i>\$15</i>
<i>Sweat Shirt</i>	<i>\$20</i>

*Available at : Odd-it-Tees, 405 Route 9, Forked River, NJ 08731
Telephone: (609)693-Tees*