



Forked River Mountain Views

Newsletter of the Forked River Mountain Coalition

www.frmc.org

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A LOOK BACK. . . A LOOK AHEAD. . .

Below are just some of our accomplishments for 2013, and some of our future goals for 2014 and beyond.

2013 Accomplishments

- ✓ Volunteers removed 24 tons of trash during the Twentieth Annual Spring Cleanup. To date, more than 563 tons (well over one-million pounds) of debris has been removed from the vast Pinelands forest surrounding the Forked River Mountains.
- ✓ Working with Coalition partners, continued 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Conducted general cleanup and maintenance along our hiking/interpretive trail and at our four main preserves. The total of all the land protected in our preserves stands at just over 106 acres.

2014 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 to seek grants that will support our acquisition and stewardship activities.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Sponsor additional Eagle Scout projects to support conservation and stewardship activities.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 2014. Please help support the grass-roots initiative to permanently protect the Forked River Mountains and the vast wilderness that surrounds them.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Field Day, March 15, 2014. 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 1:00 pm. If you would like to lend a hand please call 609-971-1635.

Field Day, March 29, 2014. 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 1:00 pm. If you would like to lend a hand, at either field day, please call 609-971-1635.

Annual Cleanup, April 27, 2014. 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 24 tons of trash. Please help make this year's clean up another success. Bags and gloves will be supplied. A lite lunch and refreshments will be provided once the cleanup concludes on the top of the Forked River Mountain. Volunteers with four wheel drive vehicles are especially needed. If you would like to help please call 609-971-1635.

Barnegat Bay Festival, June 1, 2014. 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 28, 2014. 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.

2014 Calendar of Events

Field Day
March 15, 2014, 9 am ~ 1 pm
Wells Mills Park

Field Day
March 29, 2014, 9 am ~ 1 pm
Lacey Town Hall

Annual Cleanup
April 27, 2014, 9 am ~ 1 pm
Lacey Town Hall

Annual Meeting
May 24, 2014, 10:00 am
Double Trouble State Park

Cedar Creek Canoe Trip
May 24, 2014, 10:30 am ~ 3 pm
Double Trouble State Park

Treefrog Hike
May 30, 2014, 7:30 pm~ 9:30 pm
Webb's Mill

Barnegat Bay Festival
June 1, 2014, 9 am ~ 4 pm
Wanamaker Complex

Blueberry Festival
June 28, 2014, 9 am ~ 4 pm
Whitesbog Village

For more details visit our
website at www.frnc.org