



# Forked River Mountain Views

Newsletter of the Forked River Mountain Coalition

[www.frmc.org](http://www.frmc.org)

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

Below are just some of our accomplishments for 2015, and some of our future goals for 2016 and beyond.

### 2015 Accomplishments

- ✓ Volunteers removed 20 tons of trash during the 22nd Annual Spring Cleanup. To date, more than 619 tons (well over one-million pounds) of debris has been removed from the vast Pinelands forest surrounding the Forked River Mountains.
- ✓ Hosted an annual meeting of stakeholders with representatives from over a dozen agencies and non-profit organizations to discuss ongoing open space acquisition efforts as well as land stewardship and management needs within the Forked River Mountain area.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Volunteers reestablished a portion of the bluebird nest box trail; four bluebirds were successfully fledged.

### 2016 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 2016. 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 19, 2016.** 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.

**Annual Cleanup, April 17, 2016.** 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 5, 2016.** 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 25, 2016.** 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.

## 2016 Calendar of Events

### Field Day

March 19, 2016, 9 am ~ 1 pm  
Wells Mills Park

### Annual Cleanup

April 17, 2016, 9 am ~ 1 pm  
Lacey Township  
Municipal Bldg.

### Annual Meeting

May 28, 2016, 10:00 am  
Jakes Branch County Park

### Annual Canoe Trip

May 28, 2016, 10:30 am ~ 3 pm  
Jakes Branch County Park

### Treefrog Hike

June 3, 2016, 7:30 pm~9:30 pm  
Webb's Mill

### Barnegat Bay Festival

June 5, 2016, 9 am ~ 4 pm  
Wanamaker Complex

### Blueberry Festival

June 25, 2016, 9 am ~ 4 pm  
Whitesbog Village

For more details visit our  
website at [www.frnc.org](http://www.frnc.org)