



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 2006 and some of our future goals for 2007 and beyond.

2006 Accomplishments

- Began negotiations to acquire not one, but two parcels of environmentally sensitive land.
- Continued our vital work to document the presence of threatened and endangered species.
- Continued working on the Elizabeth Meirs Morgan hiking and interpretive trail system.
- Awarded our first two memorial scholarships to honor founding members Elizabeth M. Morgan and John A. Sly and continued the construction of a memorial at our Oak Leaf Preserve
- Conducted our Thirteenth Annual Spring Cleanup. Thirteen tons of trash was removed from the vast Pinelands forest around the Forked River Mountains.
- 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 (www.frmc.org) 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, and complete construction of a memorial at our Oak Leaf Preserve.

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 2007. Please help support the grassroots 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 Days, March 10 & 24, 2007. 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.

Annual Cleanup, April 22, 2007. Meet at Lacey Township Municipal Building, 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 13 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, 2007. 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 30, 2007. 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.

2007 Calendar of Events

Field Days

March 10 & 24, 2007, 9 am - 1 pm
Wells Mills Park

Forked River Mountain Cleanup

April 22, 2007, 9 am - 1 pm
Lacey Town Hall

Annual Meeting

May 19, 2007, 4 pm - 6 pm
Wells Mills Park

Cedar Creek Canoe Trip

May 28, 2007, 10 am - 3 pm
Double Trouble State Park

Treefrog Hike

June 1, 2007, 7:30 pm - 9:30 p.m.
Webb's Mill

Barnegat Bay Festival

June 3, 2007, 9 am - 4 pm
Wanamaker Complex

Blueberry Festival

June 30, 2007, 9 am - 4 pm
Whitesbog Village

More details in future newsletters!

