



# *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 2009 and some of our future goals for 2010 and beyond.

### **2009 Accomplishments**

- 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 two scholarships to honor founding members Elizabeth M. Morgan and John A. Sly.
- Conducted our Sixteenth Annual Spring Cleanup. Over 28 tons of trash was removed. To date, more than 432 tons of debris has been removed from the vast Pinelands forest surrounding 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](http://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.

- 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 2010. 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 Days, March 13 & 27, 2010.** Scheduled work includes posting signs, planting seedlings, painting trail blazes 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 18, 2010.** 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 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 6, 2010.** 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 26, 2010.** 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.

## 2010 Calendar of Events

### Field Days

March 13 & 27, 2010, 9 am - 1 pm  
Wells Mills Park

### Annual Cleanup

April 18, 2010, 9 am - 1 pm  
Lacey Town Hall

### Annual Meeting

May 15, 2010, 11 am  
Wells Mills County Park

### Cedar Creek Canoe Trip

May 29, 2010, 10 am - 3 pm  
Double Trouble State Park

### Treefrog Hike

June 4, 2010, 7:30 pm - 9:30 p.m.  
Webb's Mill

### Barnegat Bay Festival

June 6, 2010, 9 am - 4 pm  
Wanamaker Complex

### Blueberry Festival

June 26, 2010, 9 am - 4 pm  
Whitesbog Village

**More details in future newsletters!**

### ***PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION: Groups Announce the Preservation of Nearly 1500 Acres of Pinelands in the Vicinity of the Forked River Mountains***

The year ended on a positive note when the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Program announced last month that they have successfully acquired two large parcels of land totaling nearly 1500 acres in Lacey and Ocean Townships.

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation acquired 617 acres from Interboro Holding for \$2.7 million. The land is located in the Forked River and Oyster Creek watersheds and brings the group's total land holdings in the Forked River Mountain area to nearly 4,000 acres. The land helps provide a critical

link between the mountains and Wells Mills County Park located to the south.

The Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Program acquired 950 acres known as the Horner property for \$8.1 million representing the largest acquisition under the county's program to date. The land is located mainly in the Oyster Creek watershed and effectively doubles the size of Wells Mills County Park located to the west. This represents the third significant acquisition by Ocean County in the Forked River Mountain area.

Funding for these acquisitions came from a variety of sources including the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Program, New Jersey Green Acres Program, Pinelands Conservation Fund of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, Victoria Foundation and Conservation Resources Inc.