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Looking for a Way to Get Out and Enjoy the Crisp Fall Air?

The following Valley preserves are open for hiking:

- Curlis Lake Woods, on the edge of Pennington Borough
- Cedar Ridge Preserve, on the edge of the Sourland Mountains
- Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed, Mount Rose Trails
- Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed, Main Reserve

For maps, and detailed information about the hikes, please visit the New Jersey Trails Association's website: www.njtrails.org.

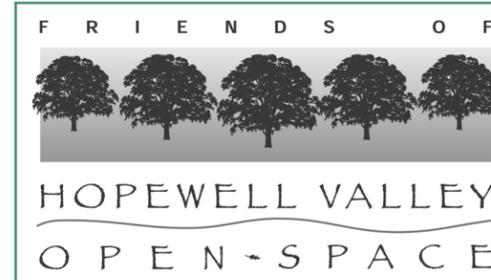
The New Jersey Trails Association is a cooperative project of several environmental organizations dedicated to making free information conveniently available to the public about places to walk.



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FoHVOS News

Blazing Trails: New Trails Slated for Baldpate Mountain

The New Jersey Trails Association is blazing new trails on one of FoHVOS' first major projects, and its largest to date - Baldpate Mountain.

Previously owned by Trap Rock Industries, Baldpate Mountain is now a 1,200+-acre preserve. In addition to being the highest point in Mercer County, Baldpate is home to many unusual plants including the green violet and the redbud as well as some of the largest breeding populations of forest interior birds in this part of the State.

Over the past few weekends, dozens of volunteers have battled invasive species, such as multiflora rose, in order to spruce up existing trails and to begin the construction of a new, one-mile trail. The newest trail will start at Fiddler's Creek Road and will wind up to the summit. Once completed, hikers will have the chance to walk by the old main estate house

and see fantastic, panoramic views from the mountain's peak.

Volunteers will be working on weekends, learning how to build rock steps and how to create trails on steep slopes by side hilling. Trail marking and construction will continue into the winter.

If you are interested in lending a hand while learning about trail construction, please contact Emily Goldman at D&R Greenway Land Trust to find out about a wide range of volunteer opportunities. Emily can be reached at egoldman@drgreenway.org or (609) 924-4646 x128. Please indicate the dates and times you would be available to work. Groups and individuals are welcome to participate.

Once these projects are completed, detailed information about hiking at Baldpate Mountain will be available through the New Jersey Trails

Association's web site (www.njtrails.org). This growing on-line resource for trail information will include maps of Baldpate, as well as other trails in the Hopewell Valley.



Board members, Carol Kleis and Pat Sziber, handed out information about the FoHVOS' land protection program to interested community members during the Hopewell Harvest Fair in September.

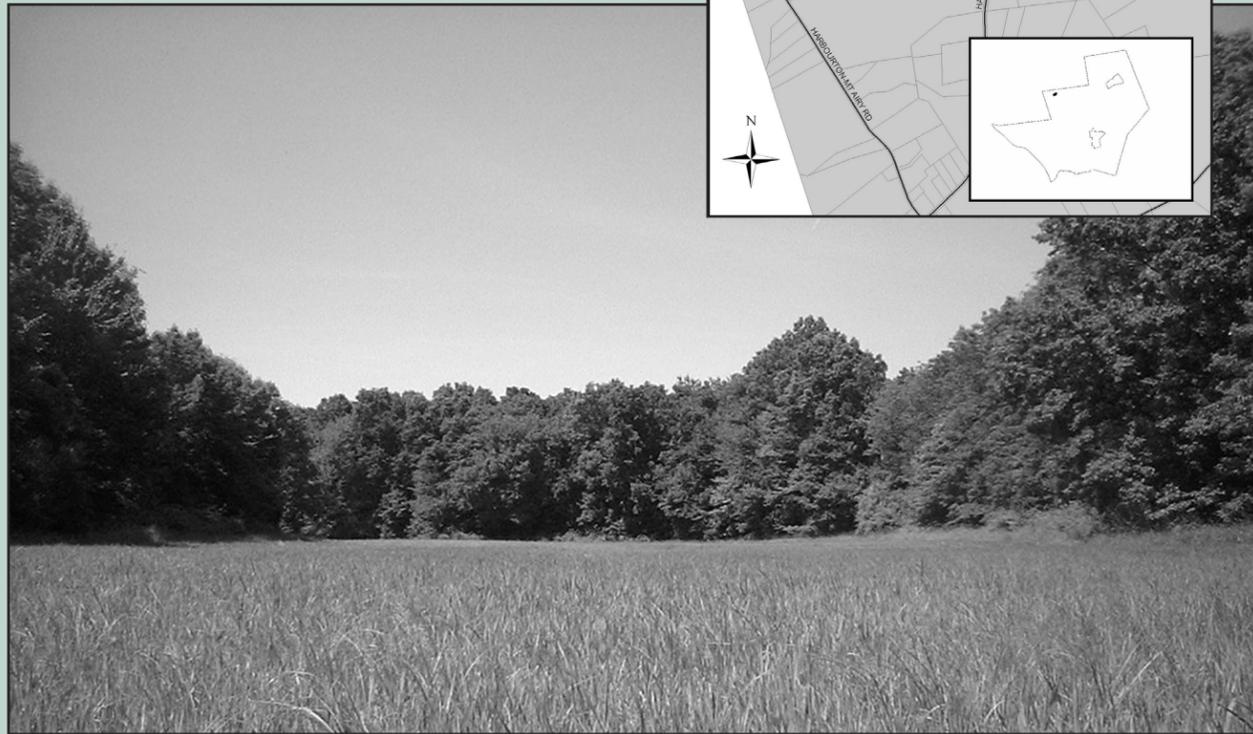
The purpose of the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space is to promote conservation in the Hopewell Valley Region through open space preservation, informed land use, wise stewardship, education and outreach.

Acquisition Update

Guided by the night sky, wind and other natural features, six-inch long, cobalt-blue songbirds travel over 2,000 miles to find a summer home. Their journey begins in southern Mexico, the West Indies and other warm-climate areas. And their final destination is right here in Hopewell Township.

On June 30, the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space ensured that these neotropical songbirds, and countless other species that reside in forests, fields and wetlands, are guaranteed a permanent home in Hopewell. FoHVOS acquired a gorgeous 28-acre parcel that is located just north of Route 518. The land is a known breeding ground for indigo buntings, scarlet tanagers and other migratory birds.

FoHVOS worked for over a year to acquire the property, which was sold by a private owner in a bargain sale. A special thanks to Hopewell Township, Mercer County and New Jersey's Green Acres Program, who all partnered with FoHVOS to protect this critical preserve.



FoHVOS' newest preserve contains acres of deciduous forests, meadows and wetlands

A Cleaner, Greener Valley

Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space hosted its 29th semi-annual Clean-Up Day on Saturday, November 5. Cub Scout packs, Brownie troops and groups such as Hopewell Valley Central High School's Robotics Team spent the unseasonably-warm November day picking up discarded trash from Valley roadways and parks.



One of the younger Clean-Up Day volunteers returns the trash he collected to the Hopewell Township Municipal Building.

In total, over 300 volunteers, adorned with gloves and safety vests, participated in the event.

The results were tremendous. A 30 cubic-yard dumpster was packed-full of volunteer-collected trash. An equal amount of recyclables, such as bottles and cans, were collected and separated by the volunteers as well. Almost all of the Valley's roadways are cleaner as a result.

A special thanks to the hundreds of dedicated volunteers and to Pennington Market, who generously donated food and drinks for the volunteers!



Pat Sziber, FoHVOS Board Member and Clean-Up Day volunteer, shows off one of the day's most unusual finds, a feather-trimmed lamp shade.



In Full Swing

FoHVOS is in the middle of its 2006 membership drive. The response has been fantastic. If you have renewed your membership – **thank you!**

However, we have set our sights high this year so we still have a ways to go. If you haven't renewed your membership, or are able to contribute more, please consider doing so today! Checks can be made out to FoHVOS and mailed to PO Box 395, Pennington, NJ 08534.

Please know that each member's donation makes a tremendous difference!