



The Oak Leaf

Newsletter of TRISTATE RAMBLERS

Volume 46 Number 1

SPRING 2023

Message from the President *by John Jurasek*



Thank you to the many volunteers who make TriState Ramblers the great club it is — our outing coordinators and leaders, board members, and those running our online presence as well as SignUpGenius, to name a few.

Speaking of SignUpGenius, we have been using it for several years and most members seem to appreciate it. The obvious advantages are the ability to designate the number of participants for any given activity and to know who will be attending. As you are probably aware, we had to tweak the process a bit by including less descriptive information on the signup screen and weekly email. This was due to the extreme labor intensive-

ness of the process. So, while you may have to spend an extra few seconds on an additional click or two, please remember that there are volunteers spending sometimes hours a day to keep the platform running.

I would like to remind members once again that all participants are required to preregister online when an activity is listed on SignUpGenius. Anyone who shows up for a listed activity without signing up in advance will not be permitted to participate. (Note that Show-and-Go events do not require preregistration.)

Lastly, I encourage everyone to visit our website and take advantage of the many resources it offers. You will find not only the activity schedules and directions, but also a plethora of other useful information. Whether or not you are a leader, I recommend checking out our leader guidelines and first aid instruction. There is lots of valuable advice that could come in handy on any outing. And, armed with this information, perhaps you will consider becoming an activity leader as well!

Hope to see you on an outing soon.

Miscellaneous Announcements

Directions to TSR Locations

To access directions to the club's most-used outing destinations, click [here](#). When in doubt, check these directions and/or call the leader to confirm the exact meeting location.

TSR Officers 2023

President	John Jurasek
Vice President	Gordon Thomas
Treasurer	John Crump
Recording Secretary	open
(volunteer?)	
Schedule Coordinator	Nancy Sierra
Webmaster	Dianne Jones
Editor, <i>The Oak Leaf</i>	Lise Greene
Membership Chair	John Crump
Nominating Chair	Sheree Bennett
Outing Chair	Linda Hetcher
Outreach Chair	Kaat Higham
Social Chair	Elise Morrison
	Kathe Serbin

Membership Renewal Coming Soon

Watch your email for a reminder from John Crump, membership chair, about dues for the new fiscal year that begins July 1. Please especially review the renewal notice to make sure your emergency contact information is correct. Consider all you receive for only \$15 annually! It is very easy to renew [online](#) or by check, if you prefer.

Holiday Party and Annual Meeting — Save the Date

Saturday, December 2, at noon
Masker's Barn, Watchung
Reservation, Berkeley Heights
4 hikes offered prior to meeting/party



The Oak Leaf is a publication of TriState Ramblers of New Jersey. Comments or questions may be addressed to the editor, Lise Greene, at lise.greene@montclair.edu. The newsletter is created electronically by the graphic editor, Jay Winslow, and emailed to all members. It is also posted on the TSR website. In order to ensure receipt of *The Oak Leaf*, please keep your email current with John Crump, membership chair, at johncrump@yahoo.com.

Holiday Party and Annual Meeting 2022 *by Kathe Serbin*

Some TriState Ramblers are hikers, bikers, and boaters; some are chefs, treasurers, organizers, and tech-savvy; and ALL of them are warm, friendly, cooperative, considerate, and generous with their time. As an example:

The 2022 annual meeting and holiday party were held at Masker's Barn in Watchung Reservation on Saturday, December 3 — one of the rainiest days ever! Yet the weather did not deter 85 people from coming to hike and socialize with club members who had become their friends. Four leaders offered morning walks, and hardy hikers showed up despite the rain. When they returned, cold and wet, coffee and tea were ready to warm everyone.

At the business meeting, members elected the slate of officers as presented. One highlight was a new poster board with pictures of the board members and hike coordinators. Another new addition was a microphone system that worked amazingly well so everyone could hear the speakers. The swap table was adorned with stylish new and slightly used clothes. (Perhaps next time, we will present a fashion show to flaunt our new outfits.)

A raffle was held in appreciation and recognition of our volunteer leaders, with tickets entered for each person according to the number of events led. The winners were Gail Biggs, Bill Correa, John Jurasek, and Charlie Stepnowski. Feel free to lead as many events as you can in 2023

and try for a gift certificate in December!

And there was Phil Ross, sitting in a quiet corner sharpening knives, scissors, and other items that members brought. He resembled one of Santa's elves, hard at work all day long.

We look forward to seeing many members at the club picnic on Saturday, July 8 and annual meeting/holiday party on Saturday, December 2.

Editor's note: Hearty thanks to our social chairs, Elise Morrison and Kathe Serbin, for organizing an awesome event!

Photos by Donna Burkat and Gail Waimon



Christmas table decoration



Ready for guests



Elise Morrison, social chair



Kathe Serbin (in apron), social chair



Phil Ross — sharp guy!



Swap table



Let's eat!



Some awesome TSR volunteers

An Important Message for Our Hiking Leaders

by Linda Hetcher, *Outing Chair*

On behalf of the TSR membership, I would like to express thanks for your willingness to lead events and guide attendees in the wonderful experience of exploring nature in our tristate area. Your efforts have certainly contributed to the growth of our club and allowed it to remain an excellent choice for those who enjoy the great outdoors.

As a reminder, our website (www.tristateramblers.org) has many good resources for leaders. By simply logging in to the site and looking under the category “For Leaders — Members Only,” you will see a wealth of material detailing their responsibilities. For example, the “Hike Leader Guidelines” include what to do prior to a hike, on that day, and afterward. Additionally, there are directions for procedures if there is an emergency on the trail. I encourage you to take a look just to keep the information fresh in your mind.

There have been some questions from leaders regarding what to do when an expected participant doesn't appear. Please email the individual's name and the date/location of the event to tsrregistration@outlook.com. While this is not a common occurrence, when attendee slots are limited we want to ensure that everyone has a chance to join.

Another question concerns participants who are clearly unable to keep up with the group. As stated in the hike leader guidelines, “Within the first 10 minutes, ensure that everyone is capable of continuing. If it is apparent that someone will be unable to finish, ask another hiker to return to the parking lot with that person. If no one volunteers, walk back to the parking lot with the entire group.”

If you have any questions regarding leader responsibilities or are considering becoming a leader, please reach out to me at linda.hetcher@gmail.com.

A Reminder for Our Hikers, Bikers, and Paddlers

Our club offers a wealth of outdoor opportunities — at various levels of difficulty to accommodate the preferences and abilities of all members. For example, Monday hikes are shorter and slower; Thursdays are longer, faster, and more strenuous. (To refresh your memory, check page 4 of the schedule booklet under “About Our Activities.”)

All members are encouraged to be conscious of the description for each

event. Ensure it is a match for your interest and capability before signing up. If you're uncertain, contact the leader in advance.

Please remember that if any member is unable to keep up with the group, someone will be required to escort that person back to the starting point. It's better for everyone to know “the lay of the land” before heading out so that all participants are happy with the length, pace, and terrain.

From the Social Committee *by Elise Morrison*

Did you know that TriState Ramblers is even more than a hiking, paddling, and biking club? It's also a social club with fun activities organized and led by our own members — whatever you're interested in and want to share, such as:

summer concerts ... picnics ...
post-hike meals at a nearby eatery or drinks at a nearby bar ... day trips to a museum or historical site ...
moonlight and sunrise hikes ...

brunch/lunch/dinner at a favorite restaurant ... overnight trips for hiking/paddling/cycling ...

If you are interested, it's very likely others would also enjoy it! To discuss organizing an event, please contact one of the Social Committee co-chairs: Elise Morrison (TSRSocialcommittee@gmail.com) or Kathe Serbin (katheserbin@yahoo.com). We look forward to hearing your ideas for leading fun social activities for all of us in TSR.

GETTING THERE *by Dianne Jones, Webmaster*

Have you ever gotten lost or been late getting to a hike/bike/paddle because you were not sure of the meeting location? TSR has a [Directions document](#) (also available at the top of the [Directions](#) page on our website) with directions to most meeting places. If the meeting location is not in this document, specific directions are provided in the event description itself.

For those who rely on GPS, there is also a handy feature in the TSR calendar. The calendar entry includes the meeting location. Just click on the location to easily map out the directions (the default map app is Google Maps). You can access the link to the TSR calendar or find instructions to link the TSR calendar

to your own calendar on the [Member Info](#) page of our website (member log-in required).

Remember, a park can have multiple meeting locations. Make sure you know the correct destination by fully reading the event description and referring to the TSR Directions document.

Also remember that the listed time is the start time of the event, which means the ready-to-move time. Give yourself enough time to find the hike start point, get situated, gather your gear, use the facilities (formal, portable, or natural), hear any leader comments, etc. so you are ready to set off at the scheduled time. Out of courtesy to others, the leader is not obligated to wait for any latecomers.

ANNUAL PICNIC FOR TSR MEMBERS

Celebrating TSR's 85th Anniversary!

Saturday, July 8, at Noon
Lewis Morris Park — Sunrise Lake,
Picnic Shelter C

Picnic: The picnic starts at noon. The club will supply burgers, hot dogs, water, salads, and desserts — your homemade dessert is also most welcome!

Register by July 1 on SignUpGenius.

Hikes: Several hikes offering a choice of pace and distance are scheduled prior to the picnic to work up our appetites. As always, carry water and your emergency contact card. Register on SignUpGenius when the links are available.

Swap Table: A good time to shop and the price is right! Bring hiking equipment, clothing, maps, books, etc. in good condition that other club members might enjoy. Please note that any unclaimed items must be taken home by the donor.

Equipment Repair/Knife Sharpening Services: From 9:30-noon, TSR member Phil Ross will provide advice and repair hiking equipment. Bring your microspikes with loose chains, hiking poles that need adjustment, etc. He will also sharpen kitchen and pocket knives, scissors, and small garden tools such as shears. Drop them off with a note (name, phone number, description of requested services) and pick them up afterward. Note: two-item limit per person.

Fee: The picnic and hikes are free for TSR members. Spouses and friends are welcome for the modest fee of \$15, payable in advance at www.tristateramblers.org/join. The fee also covers 364 more days of activity including hiking, paddling, biking, and a holiday party! Give TSR memberships to friends and family you'd like to bring to the picnic.

Volunteers: Helpers are needed to set up for the picnic by 10:00 and to clean up afterward.

There is always room for anyone who can volunteer! Please contact

Social Committee co-chairs Elise Morrison at tsrsocialcommittee@gmail.com or Kathe Serbin at katheserbin@yahoo.com. Think warm and clear weather, and bring your sunny smiles to a fun party picnic!

Cancellation: In the event of a forced cancellation due to extreme weather conditions, notification will be sent via Google Groups email.

Directions to Lewis Morris Park (coordinates — N40° 47.50', W74° 31.94'; street address — 270 Mendham Road, Morris Township, NJ 07960):

From I-287 north to exit 30-B (Bernardsville): At light, turn right onto US 202 north. Go about 1.7 miles to light and turn left onto Tempe Wick Road. Pass Jockey Hollow entrance and go another mile on Tempe Wick Road. Turn right onto Corey Lane. Go 1.4 miles and turn right onto NJ 24/CR 510 (Mendham Road). Go 1.7 miles to park entrance on the right.

From I-287 south to exit 35 (Morristown, Madison Avenue): Turn right at traffic light and bear right at next traffic light onto South Street. Continue to Morristown Green. Go around the Green to North Park Place and turn right onto Washington Street, which becomes NJ 24/CR 510 west (Mendham Road). Go 2.8 miles to park entrance on the left.

Sunrise Lake: After entering the park from Mendham Road, go about 0.6 miles and turn right onto Sunrise Lake Road. Go about 0.4 miles and turn left into the parking lots. Park in the second area on the right. The path down to the picnic shelter is at the far end of the parking lot. When planning your arrival time for parking, please keep in mind that Sunrise Lake opens to the public for swimming at 11:00.

Signup Etiquette

by Dianne Jones, Webmaster

Just a reminder about a few things: **Whenever you sign up on the Waitlist**, put in the comment area “1st hike” or “2nd hike.” It helps our hardworking volunteers to more easily monitor the signups.

Do not jump the queue. Before adding your name to the hiker list, review the Waitlist to see if anyone else is a “1st hiker.” If so, add your name to the Waitlist with “1st hike” in the comment area. Our hardworking volunteers will move you to the hiker list if there is availability. Signups are time stamped so it can be verified if the queue is jumped.

Similarly, do not “move” yourself from the waitlist to the hiker list. Our hardworking volunteers will move you when they have the opportunity to do so.

If you need to cancel, please remove your name before 8 pm the day before the hike. Otherwise there may be people on the waitlist who do not get to hike.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Signup Problems?

by Dianne Jones, Webmaster

Now and then, members may find they cannot get to the TSR weekly signup their “usual” way. The reason is hard to diagnose, but the solution is easy.

- Go to www.signupgenius.com.
- Log in or don't log in (it doesn't matter).
- In the top right corner, click on the magnifying glass.
- On the left side of the page under “Search for a Sign Up by sign up creator's email,” type tsrregistration@outlook.com in the box.
- Confirm you are not a robot.
- Click on “Search.”

And that should take you to the open TSR signups.

FAREWELL TO OUR FRIENDS: Martin Frahme (4/27/23) and Leon Wasserman (11/7/22)

Remembering Martin Frahme, Former TSR President: What a Life!

by Nancy Wolff



Martin “Marty” Frahme passed away on April 27, 2023, after a brief illness.

I met him decades ago through the Union County Hiking Club (now TSR). You know the kind of person — quiet, sort of blends in with the group, many different interests, good sense of humor — you just see him on this hike or that canoe trip or at a picnic or party, and pretty soon he’s part of the group.

Marty joined UCHC as a teenager. (Former president Bill Myles called him “the club’s senior junior member.”) Club members would drive Marty back and forth to events, enabling him to hike with UCHC for several years. When Marty got his driver’s license, he stopped hiking for a while.

In 1977, Marty rejoined the club and became an active volunteer. He was president in 1981 and 1982; worked on trail maintenance; and with his partner, Carol Czajkowski, led hiking, biking, and paddling trips. Having grown up in Cranford and canoed there on the Rahway River, Marty particularly enjoyed the club’s water weekends that took place in the 1980s.

They were also members of Miramar Ski Club in Vermont. (Quite a few members back then belonged to both clubs.) Marty took up downhill skiing at age 45 so he could keep up with Carol, an avid skier. They

worked one winter as ski bums in the club lodge, doing chores in addition to skiing most days. What a life! They also enjoyed extensive RV travel that allowed them to hike and bike and paddle all over the United States and Canada. They spent 20 winters in Florida, where they met up with Miriam and Roger DiPeppe (another former UCHC president) to bike and paddle the beautiful spring runs.

Marty’s education included a BS degree in accounting and an MBA, which led to positions as an accountant and controller. He served as a medic in the New Jersey National Guard and, following retirement, enjoyed driving charter buses. He also volunteered for about 15 years as a SAG (support and gear) driver on Parks and Trails New York’s two annual events: tours of the Erie Canal and Hudson Valley. He worked, Carol biked, and they both had a lot of fun on those rides.

In later years, Marty had some trouble walking and stopped hiking. When Carol led TSR hikes, Marty would meet the group as they returned to the trailhead, and a bunch of folks would then go out for pizza. He continued paddling and biking. Being a very handy guy, he added an electric motor to his recumbent bicycle in 2020. What a life!

Marty: You will be missed.



Remembering Leon Wasserman

by Al MacLennan



2005 hiking trip in Tuscany, Italy, with Carolyn and Jim Canfield and other TSR members

Upon meeting Leon Wasserman approximately 20 years ago when we both participated regularly in alternate Thursday hikes, I was inspired by the way he comported himself. He was quite knowledgeable about hiking and biking and would freely share his gift. It was common to observe Leon offering a helping hand or giving a needed piece of advice. Everyone liked him.

In addition to hike-and-eats, Leon, Pete Beck, and I did several bike rides that were great fun and exercise, too. When I mentioned buying a new bicycle, naturally Leon offered to help. We went to a shop and his advice led me to buy a bike that same day.

For many years, Leon owned a pickup truck that he frequently used to help family members and others. In his eighties, he bought a Subaru; while he liked it, I sensed that he missed the truck. He was such a giving man.

I had the extreme good fortune and pleasure of talking with Leon about the old days shortly before he passed. He was definitely a mensch — a person of integrity and honor. In my view, Leon was one of the most wonderful people ever to walk this earth. I really miss him, and have goose bumps writing this piece.

The Evolution of TSR's Schedule Booklet *by Dianne Jones*

As you may have read in our fall 2022 newsletter, archived issues of schedule booklets are available on our website (www.tristateramblers.org/archives — members only, log-in required). Some of the oldest schedules are especially fascinating to read and they raise so many questions and observations:

They used to build fires and you could roast a hot dog at lunch?!

Why did women have to be told how to dress?

In 1958 you could get a chicken dinner with dessert at a restaurant in Chatham for \$2.70 including tip.

I have no idea how you would call/dial telephone EL 2-8431.

It is nice to see that club hikes way back when are still being done today.

But I also found myself wondering how they physically put the schedule together:

Could typewriters back then allow one to enter text in landscape mode? (I didn't think old-timey typewriters were wide enough, so maybe pages were folded in half before typing.)

Did they use a mimeograph machine to make copies? (I'm old enough to remember those.)

Did they assemble the booklets themselves or use a vendor?

Do you realize how difficult it is to figure out what text goes on what page and on what side of the page for a 20-page booklet? And they did it manually! Makes me wonder how often pages had to be retyped.

While I may have questions about how things were done back in the day, it occurs to me that many of our

members may not appreciate the work that is still required to create the schedule booklet today. So here is some information on our more recent procedures and processes.

We now benefit from word processing software. We have a vendor that prints, assembles, and ships the schedule booklet. We have email and a website to disseminate information, especially last-minute changes.

But not so long ago the process was still very manual. Outing coordinators for each day of the week/activity had to solicit leaders for their events and keep track of who was doing what on which day. Leaders had to write/type the descriptions and send them to the coordinator. Coordinators then organized their day of the week in chronological order. The schedule coordinator received the individual day-of-the-week lists, edited all the entries for consistency, and merged them into one chronological list.

Technology continues to help improve our processes. Some coordinators now use “the cloud” to share what dates have been claimed. We recently updated the process to use an online form for leaders and coordinators to enter their events. It utilizes drop-down menus for meeting locations and leader names to minimize typing and promote consistency. Checkboxes make it easy to enter details about facility availability and what participants should bring (e.g. water, lunch, traction devices).

A combination of an Excel spreadsheet and a mail merge file then generates an electronic document with all events in chronological order for the schedule coordinator (Nancy Sierra) to make final edits. She also notes other significant dates in the schedule and includes all the important pages in the front of the booklet. (You do read those, right?) Longtime member, past president, and volunteer Jay Winslow formats the 30+ pages into a booklet. Membership chair John Crump provides a mailing list for those still receiving a physical booklet and sends out an all-member communication with the electronic version. Webmaster Dianne Jones posts the electronic version on the website. The vendor takes care of printing and distribution.

Whether the process is manual or more automated, most important is the content of the final product. Our fine volunteers are the heart and soul of TriState Ramblers; our leaders and the robustness of our schedule set our club apart from others. Of course, the members also make TSR what it is: an active club with a darn fine schedule booklet of events.

Refer to the front pages of the schedule booklet for a list of outing coordinators. They are also named on our website on the [For Leaders](#) page. Please respond when the coordinators send out that blast email twice a year looking for leaders.

PS: If anyone has schedule booklets from the 70s, 80s, or 90s, we would love to see them!

**JOIN
BEFORE
YOU
HIKE**

Gordon Thomas decided recently that he wanted to hike Cushtunk Mountain. He tried to sign up and found that the leader had chosen a maximum of 20 hikers — and the hike was full. He was sad.

Later that week he took another hike and ran across the Cushtunk leader. Gordon expressed his disappointment about missing out. The leader said he discovered after the hike that one of the participants had brought a guest who was not a member. Gordon and the leader discussed the TSR rule that restricts all hikes to members only — and a full hike is one reason. They noted that having emergency medical information for every hiker is another reason.

They agreed, amicably, that these are good reasons for the TSR rule: Everyone must join the club before hiking.

Exciting Eighties-Plus!

This is the second in a series of articles by/about TSR leaders age 80 and above. We invite others to share their hiking perspectives and experiences in future newsletters.

HIKING AND US *by Bev and Stan Kaltnecker*

We've been hiking most of our lives. Stan started at 7 years old when his family took him to Jockey Hollow, and Bev started at 16 years old when Stan d-r-a-g-g-e-d her to Jockey Hollow. Stan knew he had a lot of work cut out for him because Bev kept calling the hikes "forced marches." Since then, Bev has fallen in love with the outdoors and prefers to be outside rather than indoors.

We originally joined the Appalachian Mountain Club. Although their hikes were not frequent enough for us, we participated in a weeklong AMC adventure in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in southern California.

Through the years we hiked, biked, and boated with our three children until they were old enough to prefer being with their friends . . . so off we went hiking, biking, and boating with our own friends. To name a few destinations: We have hiked in most of the national parks in the United States, including down to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, and also hiked through Switzerland. We have kayaked the Columbia River in Skamokawa, Washington, following Lewis and Clark's path to the Pacific Ocean; the white waters on the Shoshone River in Wyoming; the New River in West Virginia; the Yellowstone River in Montana; many tributaries and bays in Florida; and 12 miles on the Colorado River, putting in right below Boulder Dam (now called Hoover Dam).

Upon retirement, we spent about five winter months annually for more than 22 years in Florida — playing golf. Hiking opportunities there were limited (lots of jungles and no hills). In New Jersey, we joined the Woodland Walkers, but the group dissolved shortly after we joined (maybe it was us).

In 2013 we joined Union County Hiking Club, which is now TriState



Stan and Bev at the intersection of the Appalachian Trail and Rattlesnake Swamp Trail

Ramblers. Our first club activity was an easy hike in Mahlon Dickerson Reservation. It was too easy. The second was at Watchung Reservation. It was too hard and fast, as everything went by in a blur. We eventually found some hikes that were just right. That's one of the advantages of TSR: the different hiking levels to accommodate everyone's preferences.

We led our first Monday hike in 2015, posted as basically a level 3-mile walk at a social pace. The group met at Dismal Harmony Natural Area in Mendham Township and proceeded to ascend a large hill. The grumbling started, and a few of our "mature" hikers told us emphatically: "This is not a Monday hike!" Needless to say, we avoided doing future hikes that strenuous on a Monday. Since then we have led at least 87 TSR hiking and kayaking events.

In 2017 we became coordinators for TSR's Monday hikes. We try to lead

at least one Monday hike a month in addition to a few on Wednesdays and alternate Thursdays. When planning the routes, we like to include points of interest such as waterfalls, lakes, streams, rock formations, and viewpoints to enhance the experience. Some of our favorite destinations are the Sussex Branch of Allamuchy Mountain State Park and its side trails, Kittatinny Valley State Park, and Blue Mountain/Crater Lake in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. We also lead TSR paddling trips on the Musconetcong River, Saxon Lake, Swartwood Lake, and Cranberry Lake.

We are now in our 80s and have been married 60 years. Both of us immensely enjoy our outings and "forest bathing" with TSR. Along the way, we have made many good friends. So as long as we can, we will hike and paddle, but a little slower now

The Key to Keyless Cars *by Dianne Jones*

On a cloudy, cold, windy December 1, Rosie B. led her first hike for TSR. It was a challenging, fast-paced, 9-mile trek out of the south parking lot at Anthony Wayne. We went up to the Timp for lunch and traversed up West Mountain on the return. Overall, it was an enjoyable hike.

But it was after the hike that the adventure began. Although most of the participants had driven off, three of us were still in the parking lot ready to leave when we noticed Bill C. having trouble getting into his car. Apparently his key fob wasn't working and he could not open the door.

We started offering advice on how to manually open it with a backup key. Bill had a small plastic key that he thought was the backup, but it didn't seem very sturdy and it didn't work. Ursula A. happened to have a small lithium ion battery, so I googled what is needed for a Volvo key fob — it was not the right one. (Luckily there is now cell service at Anthony Wayne, though apparently not for T-Mobile customers.)

I then called Bill's Volvo dealer to ask why the key didn't work. Apparently the key Bill thought was the key is not the key. The correct, metal key is inside the fob. While on the phone with the dealer, we futzed around with frozen fingers, trying to figure out how to open the fob. It finally popped open for Ursula. But the metal key didn't work, either.

Mike G. then got the idea to take the battery out of his key fob and put it in Bill's so he could open his door. I googled how to replace the battery in a Volvo key fob. With cold fingers, we were not able to maneuver whatever little levers are needed to open the other side of the key fob to get to the battery. It was getting darker and colder.

I googled the closest Volvo dealer (25 minutes away) and offered to drive Bill there to have them replace the battery. I was low on gas and had to remember to make a stop so we didn't compound our problems. The dealer provided excellent service,

replacing the battery in minutes without charging anything.

We drove back to Anthony Wayne, about eight hours after first arriving there. The south parking lot was VERY dark and felt even more big and remote than during the day. Bill prayed that the new battery would work. It did! And he was able to drive home. Whew!

Lessons from this experience:

1. If you have keyless ignition, know how to get at the manual key to open the door. Know how to open the door with the manual key. Know how to change the battery. I had an issue with my battery once, but fortunately I was home at the time. I realized I might have been in big trouble had I been elsewhere, so quickly learned what to do in case of a nonworking key fob. (Usually you can still start the car; there's just a trick to it, but

it's different for each car.) I now also carry a 2032 lithium ion battery in my pack.

2. Don't rely on having cell service. We were lucky a cell tower was recently installed . . . and lucky that we didn't all have T-Mobile.

3. Know where you are and how to direct a tow truck to your location if it is remote. If you always rely on GPS and can't explain to someone else how to get to where you are, it might be an issue.

4. Don't leave anyone alone, especially in a remote location, without making sure they are okay to drive.

Even though this was Rosie's hike, there is one other lesson we have learned over the years: If you're with Bill, there's always an adventure waiting to happen!

E.T. on the Trail *by Dianne Jones*



Did E.T. visit the Yellow Trail in Ramapo Valley County Reservation?

TSR Outing Coordinators and Special Volunteers

In addition to our officers, we are fortunate to have members who are generous with their time by volunteering in various ways to keep the club running smoothly. Thank you! They are pictured here. When you see them on the trails or at other events, please let them know you appreciate their work ... which leads to a question: What other “work” do or did they have outside TriState Ramblers? See if you can match the person with one of the current or former professions listed below (answers found on page 10).

TSR Outing Coordinators and Special Volunteers

Actuary

Administrative Assistant

Civil Engineer

Data Analyst in the
Pharmaceutical Industry

Engineer

IT Coordinator

Marriage and
Family Therapist

Pediatrician

Physical Therapist
for Children with
Developmental
Disabilities

Physician

School Administrator

Software Engineer

Systems Programmer and
Math Teacher

Typesetter and
Graphic Designer



Tuesday Hikes:
Louis Thompson



Sunday Hikes:
Sheree Bennett



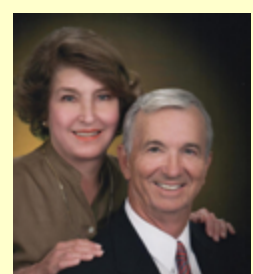
Saturday Hikes:
Lorrie Vece



Wednesday Hikes:
Julie Stanton



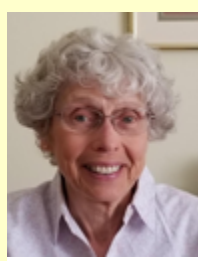
Thursday Hikes:
Dianne Jones



Monday Hikes:
Bev and Stan Kaltnecker



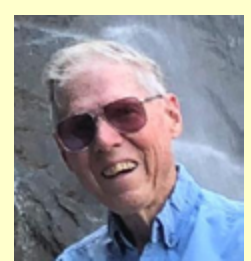
Alt. Thursday Hikes:
Bernadette Miglin



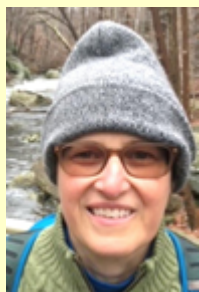
Paddling Trips:
Jean Fletcher



Graphic Designer:
Jay Winslow



Directions Coordinator:
Jim Canfield



SignUpGenius:
Sue Griffin



SignUpGenius and Bike Rides:
Linda Laidlaw



Event Recorder:
Tom Pollard

Dog Encounter by Thea Landesberg

I love dogs. A lot! Ask anyone who has walked with me, anywhere, and he or she will confirm that I stop and chat with every dog owner I meet — and, of course, the dog.

“What’s your doggie’s name?”

“How old is he?”

“Where did you get her?”

“What a cute doggie! May I pet him?”

“Hi, Bella, you are soooo sweet!”

“Duke, what a big boy you are!!”

To me, every dog is cute or special in some way. Old or young, big or small, shy or outgoing — every dog makes me smile.

On hiking trails we frequently encounter dogs. They usually appear joyful and full of energy, romping around trees and inhaling the forest aromas (wild fragrances we humans can never appreciate). The woods provide our canine friends with fresh air, exercise, and a measure of freedom they may not get on the home front. Hikers and dogs can appreciate the outdoors together.

But not so in my recent dog encounter!

On an early winter morning, Bill and I were hiking a three-mile route

in Harriman State Park that started from Lake Skannataki. We were almost back to the car when we spotted two women and two dogs ahead. Both dogs ran up to us and one planted himself a foot in front of me, barking ferociously and baring his teeth. A large German Shepherd, he growled menacingly and looked ready to attack. This went on for maybe a minute (it seemed much longer) while the humans remained both silent and immobile, making no move to control the dog.

Neither Bill nor I moved an inch, just waiting for the dog to back off; he didn’t. Feeling certain I was about to be mauled, I yelled to the hikers to get their dog away. Finally one of them searched around in her backpack, located a whistle, and blew it. The dog ignored the whistle and continued growling at us before finally turning around and running back down the hill.

Now emancipated from danger, we hiked past the women, who were holding on to both dogs and staring at us. Bill very politely said, “We love dogs, but yours was in attack mode.” Both women apologized over and over and, by

the looks on their faces, seemed stunned by what had happened.

According to the Harriman page that describes visitor rules in New York state parks (<https://parks.ny.gov/parks>), “Dogs must be on a leash not more than 6 feet at all times.” While this might seem harsh in limiting dogs’ enjoyment of the park, it prevents the kind of threatening behavior we experienced. True, most dogs do not threaten or attack people, but even overly eager dogs can be scary. While hiking a few years ago at Ramapo Reservation, a “friendly” dog leaped onto my jacket. Dog lover though I am, I was frightened — and angry at the dirty paw marks left on my jacket.

Even if big Duke or little Bella is a sweetheart in your home, dogs need to be leashed and managed on the trail. That’s the law as well as basic courtesy. I suppose that if you are hiking in a remote area (Bob Marshall Wilderness? the Aleutian Islands?) you don’t need to worry about encountering other hikers. But in New Jersey and New York, the Harriman leash rule makes sense for all of us.

TSR Outing Coordinators and Special Volunteers



Tuesday Hikes:
Louis Thompson



Sunday Hikes:
Sheree Bennett



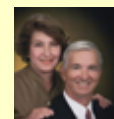
Saturday Hikes:
Lorrie Vece



Wednesday Hikes:
Julie Stanton



Thursday Hikes:
Dianne Jones



Monday Hikes:
Bev and Stan Kaltnecker



Alt. Thursday Hikes:
Bernadette Miglin



Paddling Trips:
Jean Fletcher



Graphic Designer:
Jay Winslow



Directions Coordinator:
Tom Pollard



SignUpGenius:
Sue Griffin



SignUpGenius and Bike Rides:
Linda Laidlaw



Event Recorder:
Tom Pollard

THE ANSWERS

Sheree Bennett — Physician

Jim Canfield — Engineer

Jean Fletcher — Administrative Assistant

Sue Griffin — Data Analyst in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Dianne Jones — Actuary

Bev Kaltnecker — IT Coordinator

Stan Kaltnecker — Civil Engineer

Linda Laidlaw — Systems Programmer and Math Teacher

Bernadette Miglin — School Administrator

Tom Pollard — Software Engineer

Julie Stanton — Marriage and Family Therapist

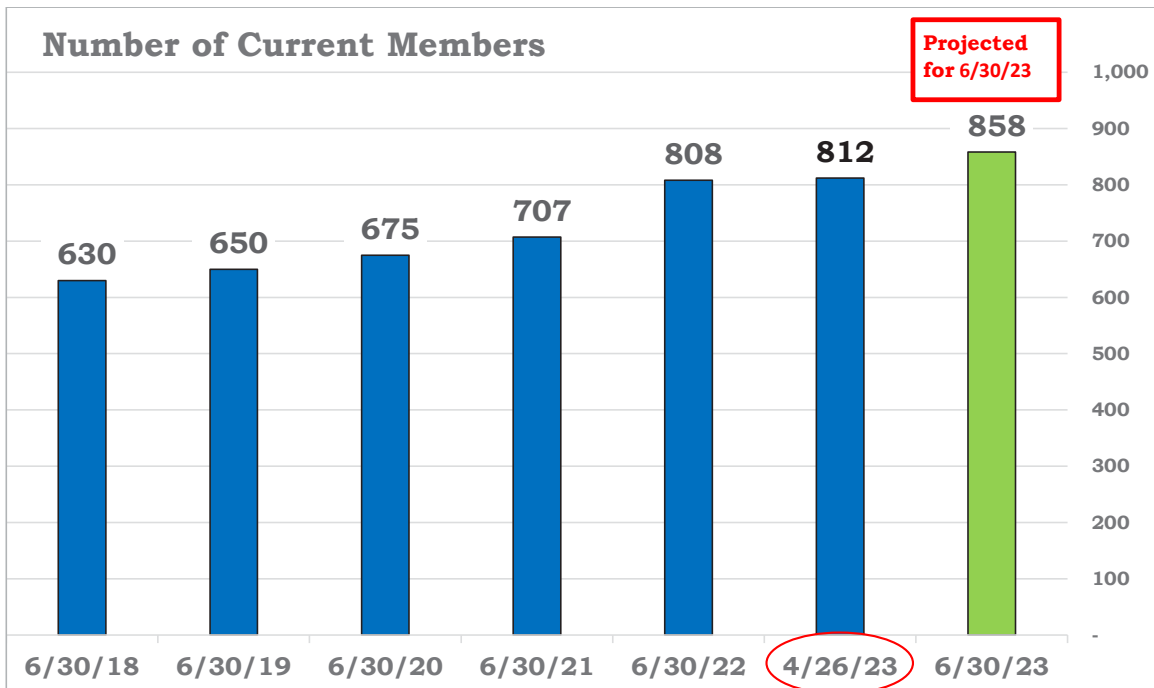
Louis Thompson — Physical Therapist for Children with Developmental Disabilities

Lorrie Vece — Pediatrician

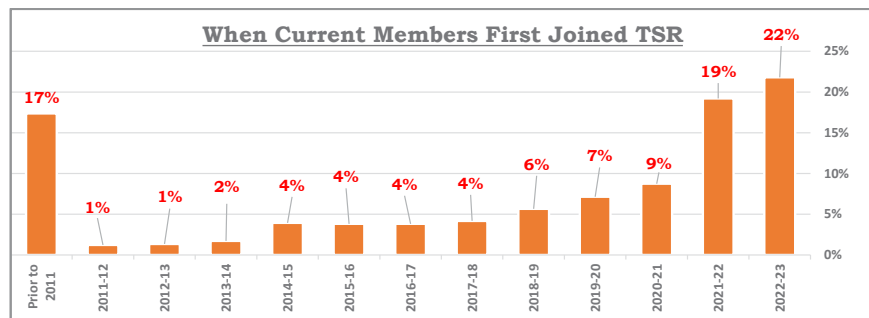
Jay Winslow — Typesetter and Graphic Designer

TriState Ramblers Continues Growth in Membership *by John Crump*

TriState Ramblers has grown strongly with a record 818 members as of April 26, 2023, and a projected record of 858 at the end of this membership year (June 30, 2023).



The strong recent growth means that many of our members are new, with 41% having joined in the last two years.



Where do our current members live?

Current Members by State	NJ	NY	PA	Other
Current Members (number)	751	44	5	8
Current Members (percentage)	92%	5%	1%	1%

Current Members by New Jersey County	Number	%
<i>(Northwest to Southeast)</i>		
Sussex	21	3%
Passaic	48	6%
Warren	16	2%
Bergen	100	13%
Morris	147	20%
Essex	110	15%
Hudson	9	1%
Union	113	15%
Hunterdon	9	1%
Somerset	48	6%
Middlesex	51	7%
Mercer	16	2%
Monmouth	21	3%
Burlington	3	0%
Ocean	17	2%
Camden	23	3%
Gloucester	6	1%
Atlantic	14	2%
Salem	0	0%
Cumberland	0	0%
Cape May	2	0%

Chimney Rock State Park *by Carolyn and Jim Canfield*

In late March, on our way home from a winter motor home trip to Arizona and Florida, we made a stop to visit friends in western North Carolina. When looking for some local scenery and easy hiking in the area, we found Chimney Rock State Park and Chimney Rock overlook near Lake Lure.

A tunnel and a 26-story elevator, built in 1949, gave us easy access to the stairs leading to the top of the rock with views of both Lake Lure and the Blue Ridge Foothills. From the rock summit, we descended on stairs to the Hickory Nut Falls trail for a short hike to the base of the waterfall, where small areas of ice and snow remained. At 404 feet, Hickory Nut is one of the tallest falls east of the Mississippi. Along the trail, we unexpectedly found many early wildflowers in bloom. To further explore the park, several more strenuous trails are accessible by climbing a series of stairways built along the rock face and among the boulders.

After spending the day here, we felt very fortunate to have discovered this popular park and would recommend it as a stop for anyone who is in that area of North Carolina.



Carolyn and Jim Canfield at the base of Hickory Nut Falls

View of Chimney Rock and Lake Lure



ROCKITECTURE

Thank you to all the club members who submitted delightful and inspiring photos of both natural and human-constructed rock “architecture.” Enjoy the selection on these pages; additional photos may be included in future newsletters. In the meantime, the fall 2023 issue will feature “in-tree-ging” trees. Club members are invited to email photos of interesting trees with at least four trunks each for consideration. Submissions must be attached to — not within — an email in JPG format, captioned with a title and your name (maximum two per person). Send to the editor at lise.greene@montclair.edu.



Bev Kaltnecker and Lynn Orlowitz dressed in green at Shamrock Green Rock (aka the Blarney Stone) — Carl Wilder 2023



Indian community site in Sedona, Arizona — Anthony Caruso



Inuit landmark cairn for long-distance hikes in Alaska and Canada — Anthony Caruso



Cairn neighborhood in rising tide at Riverside Park, New York City — Meiling Chin, Timothy Hoffmann 2022



*Ready to serve hikers in Weldon Brook WMA —
Paul Sanderson 2022*



*Remnants of north coast church in Iceland —
Anthony Caruso 2018*



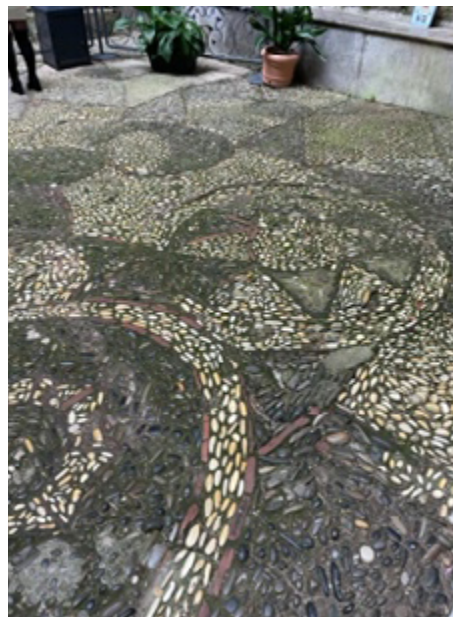
*Rock formation in Sedona, Arizona —
Jodi Ordovery 2023*



Volcanic rock beach in Iceland — Anthony Caruso 2018



Stonetown Circular — Debby Bronner 2023



Hand-laid rock sidewalk leading to shrine of Santa Rosalia, San Pellegrino, Sicily — Angela Williamson



Cranberry Mine entrance with iron plate door at Harriman State Park — Thea Landesberg 2023



One of two almost vertical cliff faces in Watchung Reservation that are relatively easy to scale because of numerous handholds and “steps” in the rock - Philip Ross 2022