

**Conservation Committee  
NY-NoJ Chapter – Skip Doyle chair  
2008 Activities**

The purpose of the Conservation Committee is to foster the preservation of land and waterways for their natural use and to promote a healthy environment. This is done through raising awareness of preservation, natural use, and the environment; through involvement in conservation issues; and by sponsoring events.

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### **Service Projects**

**May 17**            ***MillionTreesNYC – Plant a Tree in NYC***  
Leader: John Kolp  
Tree planting with the NYC Parks Department and the NY Restoration Project to expand the urban forest to directly offset our carbon footprint.

**(Many services projects are carried out by individual committees and are not reported through the Conservation Committee.)**

### **Conservation Planning**

**January 26/27**    **AMC 132nd Annual Dinner – NY/NoJ Chapter**  
Leader: Mary Lindberg  
Represented the Conservation Committee at this convocation in Danvers, MA. Key topics: Maine Woods initiative; partnering with the AMC mid-Atlantic office to include a conservation talk component to chapter activities in the Highlands region; reducing AMC's carbon footprint; "No Child Left Inside" developed by CT DEP; AMC's Youth Opportunity Program.

**March**            Walkkill River National Wildlife Refuge – Master Plan  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
Researched, wrote up, and represented the position for the NY-NoJ Chapter.

**June**             Fire Island Wilderness – Master Plan / Wilderness Plan.  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
Researched, wrote up, and represented the position for the NY-NoJ Chapter.

**December 16**    **Highlands Coalition Meeting**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
Represented the AMC NY-NoJ Chapter, Conservation Committee at this convocation.

## **Lectures and Publications**

- January 25**      **Trails & Waves – Spring Issue**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
*Conservation Corner*: Catskill Watershed Lands, AMC 132nd Annual Meeting, Hudson River School, Conservation and ReCreation Nature Weekends.
- April 2**            **Conservation lecture at the Princeton Club  
– Hudson River School Painters**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
90 minute, 2 part lecture, attended by 120 AMC members.  
Featured: Kevin Avery (Metropolitan Museum of Art) and Thomas Locker (author and landscape artist).
- April 25**          **Trails & Waves – Summer Issue**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
*Conservation Corner*: Esopus Nature Corridor; Conservation and ReCreation Nature Weekend – Esopus; *Catskill Peak Experiences: Mountaineering Tales of Endurance, Survival, Exploration and Adventure* by Carol White.
- July 25**            **Trails & Waves – Fall Issue**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
*Conservation Corner*: Esopus Nature Corridor; Conservation and ReCreation Nature Weekend.
- October 25**      **Trails & Waves – Winter Issue**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
*Conservation Corner*: Master Planning, conservation activities, conservation fundraising – Canoe & Kayak Committee.

## **Conservation Tours and Nature Programs**

- February 22-24** **Nature Conservation-Education-Recreation Retreat Weekend  
– Graymoor.**  
Leaders: Dick Wolfe, Skip Doyle  
Weekend of cross-country skiing for both beginner and experienced skiers, ice skating, and nature presentations.
- May 10**            **Brooklyn Botanic Garden**  
Leader: Ingrid Strauch  
See efforts to preserve plant biodiversity close to home: native flora garden, home composting exhibit, rock garden, Steinhardt Conservatory.
- May 17**            **John Burroughs' Nature Sanctuary – Spring Slabsides Day**  
Leader: Bonnie Mairs, Skip Doyle  
Naturalist and literary talks at the Slabsides home of John Burroughs' with guided tour of the cabin, and afterwards a guided hike along nearby nature trails.

- June 20-21**      **Fire Island – Conservation & Hiking Nature Weekend**  
 Leader: Jack Cahill, Laurie Marini  
 Presentation about the Fire Island National Seashore by FIWC president;  
 guided tour of Sunken Forest by NPS ranger; guided tour of lighthouse by  
 FILS historian.
- July 3-7**      **Hiking-Biking-Canoeing(Kayaking) Fitness Friendly Weekend: Stowe, VT**  
 Leader: Skip Doyle  
 Summit Mount Mansfield, bike along Lake Champlain, kayak the LaMoille River.
- August 1-3**      **Nature and ReCreation Weekend – Esopus, NY**  
 Leader: Skip Doyle, Howard Israel, Malcolm Spector, Kurt Navratil  
 Hiking, biking, kayaking, and Catskill presentation by Carol and David White.
- August 3**      **Hudson River: Esopus Lighthouse Tour and Esopus Island Paddle**  
 Leader: Kurt Navratil  
 Kayak trip to Esopus Island and Tour of Esopus Meadows Lighthouse.  
 Raised \$100 for the Esopus Lighthouse restoration.
- Sept 13**      **Nawakwa**  
 Leader: Ingrid Strauch  
 Lake Sebago hike and tour of ADK Nawakwa lodge.
- Sept 21**      **Audubon Canoe Tour of Constitution Marsh**  
 Leader: Skip Doyle  
 Guided tour through the Constitution Marsh by an Audubon  
 conservationist, and nature presentation in the Audubon nature center.  
 Raised \$400 for the Audubon Society.
- Sept 19-21**      **St. Francis Nature Retreat Weekend at Graymoor Monastery**  
 Leader: Skip Doyle  
 Weekend of outdoor activities – hiking and canoeing. Evening nature  
 presentations: Hudson River School, nature spirituality of Saint Francis.
- October 4**      **John Burroughs’ Nature Sanctuary – Autumn Slabsides Day**  
 Leader: Skip Doyle  
 Naturalist and literary talks at the Slabsides home of John Burroughs’  
 with guided tour of the cabin, and afterwards a guided hike along nearby  
 nature trails.
- November 22**      **Conservation Challenge**  
**– Hike entire preserve and map all the trails**  
 Leader: Skip Doyle  
 Playing in teams, hike and map all the blazed trails of the preserve.  
 Lunch in the nature center afterwards.

## **Membership**

- March 24**      **AMC New Member – Open House**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
Enrolled 100% of participants (10 new members).  
Spoke about conservation, hiking, biking, climbing, kayaking, White Mountains huts, Fire Island, backpacking, softball.
- August 11**      **AMC New Member – Open House**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
Enrolled 100% of participants (8 new members). Spoke about conservation, hiking, biking, climbing, kayaking, White Mountains huts, Fire Island, backpacking, softball.
- November 17**      **AMC New Member – Open House**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
Enrolled 80% of participants (12 new members).  
Spoke about conservation, hiking, biking, climbing, kayaking, White Mountains huts, Fire Island, backpacking, softball.

## **Meetings**

- January 12**      **Annual Dinner – NY/NoJ Chapter**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
Represented the Conservation Committee at this convocation in Bear Mountain.
- April 15**      **Chapter Chairs Meeting – Spring**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
Represented the Conservation Committee at this convocation.
- October 21**      **Chapter Chairs Meeting – Fall**  
Leader: Skip Doyle  
Represented the Conservation Committee at this convocation.

## **2008 Conservation Partners**

AMC NY-NoJ chapter committees

AMC – headquarters and regional offices

NY-NJ Trail Conference

Audubon Society

Scenic Hudson

Clearwater

Highlands Coalition

Open Space Institute

Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society

Fire Island Wilderness Coalition

Friars of the Atonement – Spiritual Life Center (Graymoor)

Mount Saint Alphonsus Retreat Center

Broderhof – Maple Ridge Community

Esopus Meadows Lighthouse Commission

John Burroughs Association

Friends of Old Croton Aqueduct

Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association

Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association

Central Park Conservancy

Palisades Interstate Park Commission

NYS Department of Conservation

NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

National Park Service

NYC Parks and Recreation

Westchester Parks Department