



News



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INSIDE:

- Hertz Easement In Accord
- Millstones
- Outreach Efforts
- Planned Giving
- Grist Mill Fundraiser

Hertz Easement In Accord

RELC's newest easement, off Stony Road in Accord, came as the result of the owner, Eric Hertz placing easements on a 120 acre and a 125 acre parcel before they were sold. Eric, an adventure guide and Accord resident bought the property with two relatives ten years ago in order to protect it from becoming a housing development. While on a trip to Patagonia, Chile, he sold one of the properties to a client by its description alone. The two parcels, side by side, protect a diversified landscape that increases in elevation thru mountain laurel up to heath (lowbush blueberries) and chestnut oak and finally to a pitch-pine oak heath with exposed slabrock. The northern Shawangunk range, in which this easement lies, is a sandstone/quartzite/conglomerate district. There is evidence of millstone quarrying, an industry that took place in the Shawangunks, that utilized this special type of stone. "A lot of places have views of the Catskills; but not through the variety of pitch pines you have here," says Hertz. The unusual rock formations tell the story of glaciers that once passed over the site. "The rock is so hard the erosion hasn't even disturbed the marks," he notes. Dan Davis, a local geologist, has been researching the glacial geology of the Northern Shawangunk Mountains for the past three years. Part of his study examines the evidence of the passage of ice across the extensive "slablands" found on the Shawangunk Ridge. The easement includes prime examples of the glacially polished and striated bedrock slabs that Dan investigates to determine ice flow directions as well as examining the interaction of ice sheets with the landscape. The last ice sheet that scoured the ridge flowed generally to the southwest and melted back approximately 15,000 years ago leaving the scratches in the bedrock that ice-encased rock fragments made as they were dragged across the surface.

Continues on page 2

