

Bill Menke's Journal entries for the
Precariously-Perched Rock Fieldtrips, 2022

June 3, 2022. Today The Summer Intern's arrived at Lamont. I walked with Charles McBride, from The Lamont Campus to State Line Lookout via Old Route 9W. The day was overcast

and rain threatened, but we encountered a few flashes of sun when we approached the lookout. MultiFlora rose bloomed at the cliff edge. Turkey vultures soared overhead. I had lunch and Charles had a lemonade, sitting at a bench outside the cafe. We then headed back. 1:30

June 7, 2022. Summer Intern Charles McBride and I walked to The ravine along Ski Trail D, where we tested a laser measure. We detoured down into the ~~main~~ ravine, spotting remnants of an old road, and several erratic boulders of Highland Gneiss, one more than a meter across. 1:00

June 10, 2022. Fieldtrip Precarious
Perched Rock PPR 22-A. Charles
McBride and I hiked from The
Toxedo Mount Avg (TME, blazed in
red) ~ Route 106 crossing, north
along TME, to just short of
Bald Rock Shelter. This is our
first trip, for reconnaissance,
to identify a few precariously
perched rocks for later study.
We hope to photograph them and
use the photographs to develop
3D models of them that can be
subjected to stability analysis and
constrain the maximum shaking
they've experienced since being
deposited by the glaciers, twenty
thousand years ago. We found

several, three of which I found
especially interesting: one at the ^{top} edge
of a Glacially Plucked Scarp, near
the site of my "Vertical Scarps in The
Highlands" essay. The second was
atop a little knoll, just off of ~~THH~~

TME, and north of The Nunion Trail^(white) intersection. The Third was atop a broad ledge, just south of Bald Rock Shelter. We had lunch by a big glacial boulder - Though one fairly solidly perched - along The trail, admiring The views and The vegetation, which seems especially lush This year. Flowers, including Mountain Laurel, Multiflora Rose, Prairie Rose and Whorled Loosestrike were blooming. We made a detour along The east side of The ridge on our way back, but could not find a connection to TME and had to backtrack. We spotted a Toad and a Frog on The way back. 5:00?

June 14, 2022. Fieldtrip PPR22-B. Summer Intern Charles McBride and I were joined by Kevin Krajick, The Columbia Earth Institute's senior editor for science news. Our goal was to photograph one precariously perched rock for photogrammetric purposes. We parked along Route 106 and took The Tuxedo Mount Fwy (TME, blazed

in red) north, going straight to the big rock ledge, just short of Bald Rock Shelter, with a boulder we had identified on our previous trip. The day was hot.

and sunny. The way was gorgeous, with Mountain Laurel at the peak of its bloom. We had lunch sitting on a boulder at the edge of the big rock pavement, discussing both our objective to use Precarious Perched Rocks as an ~~earth-~~quake seismic shaking proxy, and more generally, the geology of the Highlands. Then Charles and I spent several hours photographing the boulder, leveling the tripod, shooting frames, and repositioning the tripod many times. It was a learning experience, for we had no prior experience with this kind of photography. The day was getting late when we finally wrapped

time to

getting late when we got up. Kevin had adequate time to snap photos of us working and of the wonderful scenery. We returned the way we came, spotting a few toads along the trail. The

Mt Laurel at spring pond, which we passed as we drove out, was brightly lit by the afternoon sun and splendid. 5:30.

June 21, 2022. Fieldtrip PPR22-d. Charles McBride and I spent an overcast day photographing a precariously perched boulder, a little off the Fawn Trail in Hammon State Park. The hike to the site took about an hour. We set up a tripod and photographed the rock from many angles. We were lucky to escape the rain, which began just as we returned to the car. 5:00.

June 28, 2022 ~~(out of sequence)~~ Fieldtrip
PPR22-D. Summer Intern Charles McBride,
Prof Folc Kolawole and I spend The day
on Black Rock Mountain, in Harri men
State Park. We park off of Route 106 and
Take The Ramapo - Dunderberg Trail (blazed
in red) up onto The mountain. The
canopy and fern meadows are very
dense now. Mountain Laurel is no longer
blooming, but Elderberry is blooming,
and brightens up The marshy areas.
We spend several hours studying a
precariously perched stone That's a little
off The trail, and Then have lunch
sitting on a rock ledge nearby. We
have a little time for exploring, so
I lead our group to The Boston Mine,
taking The Nurian Trail west, down
off The mountain, and Then doing
a longish bushwhack to The White

Bar and Dunning Trails. We spend a
few minutes looking around The
mine and its waste dump, identify
magnetite (iron ore) by The way it
deflects our compass needles, and

Then head over to Island Pond Road. We take this woods road back to Route 106, and walk that back to our car. We stop to examine the Beaver Dam that is impounding a little pond on the north side of the road. Elderberry blooms along the pond's edge. 4:30.

July 13, 2022. Fieldtrip PPR22-E. Sommer Inters Charles McBride and I work again on Black Rock Mountain in Harman State Park. We park along Route 106 and take the Ramapo Donderberg Trail up onto the mountain. We spend several hours measuring slopes by boulders on the Bald Rocks area. We then hike to Bald Rock

Shelter, and head back, making an inventory of boulders in the area - 48 in all. We also had lunch, sitting on a rock ledge. The afternoon has become very sunny and hot. I am pretty sweated-up,

and glad we took ample water
with us. 5:00.

July 16, 2022. Summer Intern Field trip
to Harrieman State Park. Mike Kepl
has taken a group of ~~four~~ ^{five} Summer
Interns, Chase Bebo, Charles McBride,
Holland Taylor, Malyndra Turner and
Jaihua Wu to Bear Mountain Summit
to look at glacial features. After
ward, Dallas and I meet them at
Silvermine Lake picnic area, and
have lunch sitting under a canopy.
A few of us walk down to The
Lake, The near end of which is
very overgrown by white and yellow
Water Lilies. We spot a few frogs.

Many wild flowers bloom along The
Lake shore and along Queensboro
Brook, The inlet stream: Steeplebush
with pink blossoms, Allegheny Monkey-
flower, Queen Anne's Lace, Milkweed,
Knapweed, Yarrow, and a tall purple
flower, Verrain. We take The Men-
omine Trail west towards Stockbridge
^{passing a deer grazing near Queensboro Brook}
Mountain, but the detour along Lake
Nawahonta Fire Road to The Dunn
Mine. I show The interns This
small iron mine, and use my
compass to identify iron ore in
The mine waste pile, which
deflects its needle. We Then
Return to Menomine Trail and
take it uphill towards Stockbridge
Mountain Shelter. I show Mike
(who is an expert on glacial features)
and The interns a "beheaded"
valley, full of jagged blocks,
and bordered by a rock scarp,
That I attribute To a subglacial

stream. The stretch along The Long Path, just north of Menominee appears to be the top of a waterfall. Light rain has begun to fall, so we head up to the shelter, but detouring to inspect the big glacially plucked scarp that's just below it. The rain has stopped by the time we reach the shelter. We spend a few minutes chatting with another hiker we meet there. We then head back. Chase spots a Timber Rattlesnake - a big one - in Blueberry bushes just off the trail. The rain seems to have brought out many animals, for we encounter several Red-Eft salamanders, several toads and a juvenile Red-Eared Slider turtle. We also pause to inspect glacial striae, on a ledge along the trail opposite the rock scarp. Their direction indicates ice motion parallel to the

beheaded stream direction. We have some nice views of Lake Nawaahuntu as we approach Seven Lakes Drive. 2:15.

Later, Dallas treats us all to dinner
at Thai Garden restaurant, in
Orangeburg, New York.