

## **Glacial Geology of the Black Rock Forest – Shawangunk Mountains – Catskill Mountains area, SE New York**

Charles S. Denny, Leader, 1938 Northeast Friends of the Pleistocene trip

The following short “guidebook” outlines the topics and itinerary for the 1938 Friends of the Pleistocene excursion. Note that participants could stay at a Bed & Breakfast for \$2.50, and dinner could be had for \$1.00. Nevertheless, Charlie Denny added that “The accommodations are well worth the price if you wish to pay it”!

It is clear from his concluding statement that Denny was hoping his new bulletin on the glacial geology of Black Rock Forest (Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York) would be published in time for the trip. We don’t know if the target date was met, but after much searching I located a copy of this publication and scanned it for inclusion here on our Friends website. Note that the large accompanying map has been posted here separately.

Denny’s report is part of a bulletin series that was formerly published by the staff of Black Rock Forest. The uses of this property are summarized in the Black Rock Forest Consortium website:

“Black Rock Forest is a natural living laboratory for field-based research and education. Located in the Hudson Highlands, 50 miles north of New York City, the 3830-acre Forest encompasses native terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems now increasingly rare in the region. It features dramatic topography with more than 1000 feet of relief and numerous lakes and streams, and retains high habitat and species diversity. The Forest has a legacy of nearly 80 years of management, from its founding in 1928 by Ernest Stillman, through its 40 years as part of the Harvard University Forest system, and to its acquisition by William T. Golden and the creation of the Consortium in 1989.”

The complete reference for Denny’s bulletin is:

Denny, C. S., 1938, Glacial Geology of the Black Rock Forest: The Black Rock Forest, Bulletin No. 8, Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, New York, 73 p. and map.

Woodrow Thompson  
FOTP Secretary  
2014

1938

From Charlie Denny

ANNUAL SPRING REUNION  
of the  
FRIENDS OF PLEISTOCENE GLACIAL GEOLOGY<sup>1</sup>

Date: Saturday and Sunday, May 7-8. (1938)

Place: The Black Rock Forest, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y., which is located on west side of Hudson, north of Highlands (6 miles north of West Point).

Meet at Junction of U.S. Hwy. 9-w and the "Mountain Road" (to Storm King School) in Cornwall-on-Hudson, at 9:15 A.M. on Saturday.

Outline of Excursion:

Saturday: Spend day in Black Rock Forest. Study the thick till on the lower north slopes, and the thin glacial deposits of the Highlands, which are thought to have been considerably modified by periglacial processes. If time permits there are kame terraces and similar glacio-fluvial deposits in the valley of Moodna Creek to the north of the Highlands which can be visited. A box lunch should be taken for noon meal.

Sunday: Drive to Ellenville, via Newburg and the Shawangunk Mountains. Study deposits in the valley of Sandburg Creek from Ellenville to Phillipsport which are mapped by J. L. Rich as part of his "Late Wisconsin terminal(?) moraine stage". Continue up valley of Rondout Creek, to northwest, via Grahamsville to Curry where are deposits which mark another position of Rich's "Late Wisconsin" stage. Continue, northward, if time permits, to and up the valley of Neversink river to Winnisook Lodge; and thence down valley of Esopus Creek to Big Indian, Shandaken, Phoenicia and the Ashokan Reservoir. The upper valley of Esopus Creek is included by Rich in the area of his "probable snowfields of local wind-drift glaciers". The lower creek valley is in his "Late Wisconsin" sub-stage. Party will disband at the Reservoir. A box lunch should be taken for noon meal.

Lodgings at Cornwall-on-Hudson:

Mrs. Lawrence Abbott, Cornwall-on-Hudson.

Terms: \$2.50 per day, room and bath, including breakfast. Dinner \$1.00. This is a private house. The accommodations are well worth the price if you wish to pay it.

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<sup>1</sup> Name copyrighted by R. F. F.

This copy thanks to CSD.

The Half Moon Inn, on U.S. Hwy. 9-w, C-on-H, also run by  
Mrs. Abbott,  
Terms: \$1.50 per day, room and bath, breakfast extra.

Mrs. Theodore Hahn, C-on-H, boarding house,  
Terms: \$2.50 per day, including meals.

There are also several tourist homes in C-on-H where accommo-  
dations could be had at reasonable prices.

There are several hotels in Newburg, about 6 miles north of  
C-on-H.

1 ps, etc.:

The Forest and vicinity are almost entirely within the  
Schunmunk Quadrangle (new edition), the eastern edge  
is in the West Point Quadrangle.

The topography of the Highlands is beautifully shown on The  
Topographic Map of the Palisades Interstate Park,  
U.S.G.S.

On Catskill trip we will pass through the following quadrangles:  
Newburg, Ellenville, Monticello, Neversink, Slide  
Mountain, Rosendale, Margaretville, and Phoenicia.

Plates I and II of Pich's "Glacial Geology of the Catskills"  
(N.Y. State Mus. Bull. No. 299, 1935) will show the  
entire route through the Catskills, and should be  
brought if possible.

It is hoped that report of glacial geology of the Forest and  
included map will be available by date of excursion.

April 16, 1938.

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