

## IN THE SOURLANDS

*Happy Sourland Trails to You!*

By Caroline Katmann

The most frequently asked question the Sourland Conservancy receives about the Sourland region is, “Do you have any trail maps?” The answer is YES! Clear, comprehensive and aesthetically pleasing trail maps are available to expand and enhance your hiking experiences in the Sourlands. These maps are available on the Resources page of the Conservancy’s website, [www.sourland.org](http://www.sourland.org).

Kevin Burkman, geographic information systems (GIS) analyst and member of Sourland Conservancy’s Board of Trustees has researched and produced 23 amazing maps, including a “locator map” that displays the entire Sourland region, and the locations of each of the parks/preserves where trails are found.

Kevin, who holds a degree in environmental planning and a graduate degree in urban/regional planning from Rutgers University, used GIS mapping techniques to produce cartographic features that draw the map user into the landscape. Each map includes parking sites, trail distances, land cover types, contour lines, locator map for trailhead locations, and trail administering bodies.

Kevin worked for two months to create maps that he hopes will provide a greater awareness of the recreational opportunities in the Sourlands, as well as its ecological, historical and cultural importance.

The next phase of Kevin’s mapping work for the Conservancy entails the design and creation of a 50+ page hike atlas of the Sourlands, based on the recently released maps. The atlas will include hike and trail descriptions, directions, and photos. He is also working on a map that highlights the early African-American history of the Sourlands.

The Sourland Conservancy’s *2016 Hiking the Sourlands* schedule will be available soon on the Events page at [www.sourland.org](http://www.sourland.org). For timely announcements regarding these guided hikes and other events and programs, sign up to receive our eNewsletter on the home page of our website.

*Caroline Katmann is the Executive Director of the Sourland Conservancy - the only organization dedicated solely to the protection of the ecology, historic resources and special character of the Sourland Mountain region. The Conservancy’s website is [www.sourland.org](http://www.sourland.org).*