



TRAIL WALKER

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE • CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE SINCE 1920

Big City, Big Outdoor Opportunities

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is looking for volunteers who want to get really wild in New York City.

With the formation of our new Metro region—featuring 7,300 acres of natural forests under the jurisdiction of NYC Parks—the Trail Conference is offering improved opportunities for city residents and visitors alike to connect with nature in the five boroughs. Spearheaded by our volunteer

Trail Chair Mk Moore, the creation of the Metro region (formerly a segment of our East Hudson region) addresses the management requirements unique to the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation while providing a wide range of volunteer events just a subway ride from the heart of Manhattan.

“The Trail Conference has renewed its efforts to bring together our park partners and

other nonprofits to achieve good things for trails in New York City,” says Moore. “We’re getting volunteers excited, trained, and working in city parks.”

One of Moore’s first initiatives as Metro Trail Chair was working with NYC Parks and the Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC), the nonprofit that manages trails in the city, to create an urban trail maintainer program. Part of NYC Parks’ Super Steward program, Trail Maintainers go through advanced training to become a permitted volunteer. They must first attend a public stewardship event, then



Read more about how volunteer trail work is improving New York City parks at bit.ly/tc-ihp.

complete an introductory workshop, followed by a hands-on workshop in the field. Finally, budding Super Steward Trail Maintainers identify and complete their own trail project. It’s a process that not only ensures volunteers have the appropriate know-how and commitment before adopting a trail, but also instills an incredible sense of ownership in their park. Launched this May, the first class of Super Steward Trail Maintainers includes eight people now working on their independent projects.

“This is the formal pipeline for trail maintainers in New York City,” Moore explains, “because here you’re not allowed to just go out on the trail with a pair of loppers and do your own thing. Thanks to Jason Stein at NYC Parks and Gabe Cummings at NAC for making it possible.”

But, Moore insists, that’s not the only path to volunteering on Metro trails. “We still do workshops and other events for people who just want to pick up trash or learn about invasive species,” he says. “There’s room here for every kind of volunteer.”

Want to leave your mark in Metro? Email metro@nynjtc.org for upcoming events and to learn more about all the ways you can get involved in building, maintaining, and protecting NYC trails.

Born in NYC

The Trail Conference has been engaging outdoor enthusiasts and volunteers in New York City for nearly 100 years. In fact, our organization was founded in 1920 during a meeting of hiking clubs and park partners at the log cabin atop Abercrombie & Fitch (New York’s best-known outfitter at the time) on Madison Avenue.

Over the decades, volunteers such as Bob Ward have played a key role in connecting urban dwellers with the outdoors. During Bob’s 68 years with the Trail Conference, he has helped expand our reach throughout New York City, including establishing our presence in Queens. At 91 years old, he still serves as our Queens Rockaways Trail Supervisor. A huge thanks to Bob and all of our trail superheroes who have been working to connect people with nature in the five boroughs!



Bob Ward



Metro Trail Chair Mk Moore, left, encourages people to explore nature in the five boroughs and become involved in caring for urban parks.

By the Numbers

▶ **5**
boroughs, all with hiking trails

▶ **120+**
miles of trails

▶ **300**
Super Stewards (total program)

▶ **5,000**
Trail Conference volunteer hours per year in NYC alone

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Working to Keep Trails Walkable, Even When the Weather Is Unpredictable page 8

How Two Apps Are Enhancing Our Connection With Nature page 5



Get to Know Our Volunteer Crew Leaders pages 6-7

PHOTOS: POPULAR MECHANICS



More than 300 people came together for a day of hikes, trail building, and habitat restoration at our Open House.

National Trails Day: Celebrating Trails, Connecting With Nature



HEATHER DARLEY
COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

On June 1, nature lovers and outdoor adventurers throughout the region joined the Trail Conference and our partners to celebrate and give back to trails in honor of National Trails Day. Created by the American Hiking Society, National Trails Day is observed every June across the country. The day recognizes the power trails have in connecting people with nature.

At Trail Conference Headquarters, 300 people took part in our National Trails Day Open House festivities, featuring guided hikes and stewardship opportunities next door at Ramapo Valley County

Reservation. The day kicked off with a warm welcome from American Hiking Society Executive Director Kathryn Van Waes and Trail Conference Chief Operating Officer Joshua Howard.

“Seeing communities come together to celebrate, steward, and advocate for trails is what American Hiking Society’s National Trails Day is all about,” said Van Waes. “The Trail Conference’s Open House brought together incredible partners to highlight the essential conservation work volunteers do day in and day out throughout New York and New Jersey. The Trail Conference set the bar by coordinating such a fantastic event.”

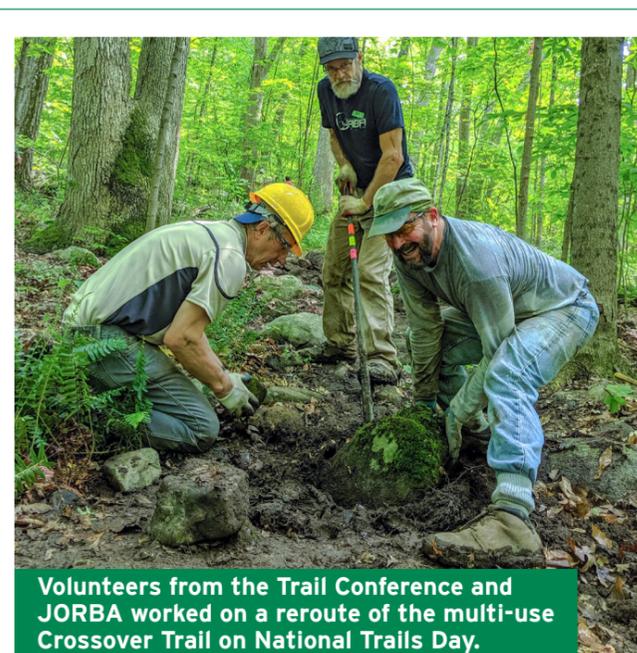
“On National Trails Day, we celebrate and thank every-

one who makes trails a part of their lives,” said Howard. “For almost 100 years, Trail Conference volunteers have been giving their time and energy to create great trail experiences for everyone who looks to refresh their minds and bodies in the woods. Because trails are for everyone—and they’re only possible when we all come together as a community, not just today, but every day.”

Co-hosted by Popular Mechanics, the event included tours of our historic Darlington Schoolhouse building, raffle prizes, a food truck, and outdoor organizations encouraging year-round engagement with nature. Fifteen volunteers helped the Invasives Strike Force remove nearly 180.5 pounds of the invasive garlic mustard and restore the native landscape at Headquarters. Four volunteers joined Trail Conference Conservation Corps trail crew members making improvements to the Vista Loop Trail.

The celebration doesn’t stop here! Your trails need your help 365 days a year. Become a Trail Conference volunteer or member and protect the land you love. Learn more at nynjtc.org.

Thanks to Nature Valley, Tasty Bites, and Extreme Terrain for providing the day’s trail snacks.



Volunteers from the Trail Conference and JORBA worked on a reroute of the multi-use Crossover Trail on National Trails Day.

Building Trails, Building Community

At Ringwood State Park, nearly 40 trail lovers came together on National Trails Day to build their next adventure and make improvements to the multi-use Crossover Trail. Held in partnership with JORBA (Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association), the Trail Conference, and REI, a high-spirited group of hikers and bikers worked together clearing close to 400 feet of new trail and hardening areas with stone. Brandee Chapman, New Jersey State Trails Coordinator, and Eric Pain, Ringwood State Park Superintendent, visited the group to express their gratitude and excitement about the day’s accomplishments and partnerships. Kristen

Phillips from REI’s Tri-State Outdoor Programs and Experiences team helped coordinate the day, provided volunteers with REI stewardship T-shirts, and joined in the fun of getting dirty while doing good work.

“REI was happy to be part of this National Trails Day project with JORBA and the Trail Conference because it’s really special when groups join forces on new trail design,” Phillips said. “This multi-use trail at Ringwood will be a benefit to mountain bikers and hikers alike when it’s complete.”

Want to help finish the project? Visit jorba.org/calendar for info on future build days.



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AMBER RAY EDITOR
STEPHANIE HINDERER DESIGNER

MISSION STATEMENT

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer-powered organization that builds, maintains, and protects public trails. Together with our partners, we strive to ensure that the trails and natural areas we share are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy for generations to come.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization.

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FROM THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

The Good, the Bad, and the Trail Conference

One of New York State Park's Commissioners once said, "don't hide your uglies; let people know you have problems. Then tell how you will fix them, and go and do it." She led one of the biggest efforts to improve NYS parks—and it's time the Trail Conference followed her lead.

As the Trail Conference prepares to turn 99 years old, we too have some uglies. For the past few years, we have made strategic investments to enhance the organization's capacity to execute our mission. These investments were to be offset with new income and revenues. While we are seeing improvements in our volunteer management, trail building, and visibility capacities, we have had to rely on our reserve funds to bridge the



gaps in our income.

As our organization continues through its transition of leadership,

we will discover more uglies. It will take some time to find the correct solutions and we will need to make some difficult decisions.

Is there a light at the end of the tunnel? YES!

In 2018, our volunteers donated more than 103,000 hours of service—one of our best years ever. We are working hard to provide these selfless individuals with even more support in 2019. I encourage you to get to know some of our crew leaders and find out more about their work—and

how you can get involved—on pages 6-7.

Through the energy and passion of our Board and staff, we are developing the necessary tools to evaluate our organization so that data and analysis are used to interpret our performance.

We are creating annual and three-year plans to better connect our activities to our mission and engage our volunteers.

Our members and donors are showing their support by placing the Trail Conference in their estate plans and joining the Trail Angel Society. Read how you can become a founding member on page 9.

We are reengaging our partners to collaborate and find new ways to share the responsibility of environmental conservation. You'll find an update about our program in the Catskills on page 5.

There also is a Centennial celebration to plan.

Over the next few months,



In 2018, our volunteers donated more than 103,000 hours of service—one of the Trail Conference's best years ever.

Howard



our volunteer leaders, Board, and staff will share the Trail Conference's plans to fix some of these uglies.

We will develop a technology plan to address the database and website issues (read more below).

The staff will work with our volunteer leaders to identify the on-the-ground activities required to accomplish the strategies that will ultimately lead to us fulfilling our mission. The goal is to have a unified and clearly communicated plan that prioritizes our work for 2020 and beyond.

We will create a sustainable fundraising strategy to raise the funds necessary to support our volunteers and accomplish all the good work that makes trails and parks safe and enjoyable.

Along the way, we will uphold the legacy that our founders established in 1920. Our volunteers will provide the public with trails to connect them to nature. We will protect native species of plants and the ecosystems our trails traverse. Our stewards will help protect the land we love. And as we solve our problems, the Trail Conference will celebrate its successes with our members, volunteers, and agency partners. Because admitting our uglies—and rolling up our sleeves to address them—is how the Trail Conference will continue to be a force for good in its second century.

Joshua Howard
Chief Operating Officer
jhoward@nynjtc.org

New Volunteer Reporting Forms Launch in August



KENDRA BAUMER
VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

"Digital reporting is coming soon!" ... It's a promise that's been made for years. I've been asked about the status of it time and again.

I was handed the task of working with our tech staff to bring online reporting to fruition soon after I was brought on board as the Volunteer Engagement Manager in late 2017. In the fall of 2018 we launched a Volunteer Action Team to help with this important project.

The Action Team consisted of four volunteers (Phil Heidelberger, John Magerlein, Michael Pashley, Fred Stern) and me. The team was incredible to work with and we made huge strides. We were working towards launching a new system in mid-2019.

Unfortunately, we discovered an issue with our backend system capabilities that prevents us from implementing online reporting the way we need to for it to be successful. Online reporting is still a priority for the organization and we will continue working

towards making it a reality.

Throughout the Volunteer Program Assessment conducted in the first half of 2018, I heard from numerous volunteers that the current reporting forms aren't cutting it. Instead of waiting for online reporting to address these frustrations, we decided to take action on what we can change right now: the current forms.

Over the course of the past two months we've worked with 30 volunteers to update the forms that were created 8-plus years ago. Combining the unique perspectives and opinions of so many people helped us to create more intuitive and easier-to-use forms that will be launching the first week of August.

The new forms will be available at nynjtc.org/volunteer-forms, as well as the online My Dashboard.

While we cannot promise a timeline for when online reporting will actually happen, what we can promise is that we'll continue to do all we can to make the volunteer experience the best it can be. Feedback is always welcome at volunteer@nynjtc.org.



Edward Goodell served as Trail Conference Executive Director for 18 years. His accomplishments include securing our headquarters building in Mahwah, N.J.

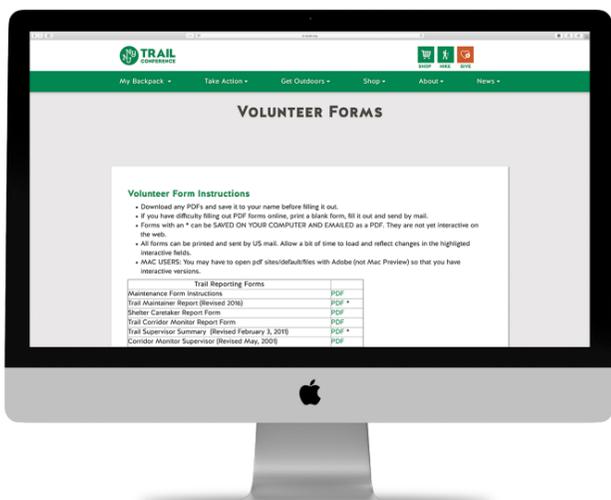
Leadership Update: Recognizing 18 Years of Service to the Trail Conference

Our long-time Executive Director, Edward Goodell, has left his position with the Trail Conference. We wish him continued success as he pursues new career opportunities. We thank him for his dedicated service and growth of the Trail Conference during his 18 years as Executive Director, including securing our award-winning home in the historic Darlington

Schoolhouse and placing the organization on solid footing for continued future growth.

In March, Joshua Howard was named our Chief Operating Officer responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Trail Conference and Mary Perro was named our Chief Financial Officer responsible for all financial matters. Mary is a certified CPA and Josh has 18 years

of experience at the Trail Conference. Our new leadership team is excited to dig into a new season of good work and accomplish even more great things as we head into our second century of service. Stay tuned for details about an upcoming hike with Mary and Josh; they'd love to get to know you better and answer any questions you may have.



Making a Difference, Together

When trails are threatened, the Trail Conference responds. Many of the biggest environmental wins in the region have been successful thanks in part to the efforts

of our volunteers, members, and staff. That is the key to advocacy at the Trail Conference—everyone coming together in the name of protecting trails and parks. There is no one advocacy professional or lawyer fighting the good fight!

We are always looking for concerned outdoor-lovers

who would like to be part of the solution—people who will perform seemingly small jobs that together can have a huge impact on issues affecting trails. Check out the list of tasks we need our trail heroes to tackle at bit.ly/tc-aatc. Our united voice is the Trail Conference's most powerful tool!

Match Made for Trail Lovers

Great trail experiences are made possible through the passion and generosity of outdoor enthusiasts who know the value of connecting with nature—people like you! Thanks to the support of our trail community, we raised more than \$39,000 in two match campaigns this spring.

When an anonymous donor offered to double—then triple—donations to the Trail Conference during our first-ever Earth Week Challenge, the response was incredible. Inspired by that success, longtime supporter, volunteer, and owner of Ce-reus Financial Advisors David Haas chose to match gifts donated during our National Trails Day Challenge. As a further incentive, our friends at



Popular Mechanics donated limited-edition National Trails Day T-shirts as a gift to supporters at the \$50-plus level.

We thank each and every

one of you who heard our call and made a donation to help protect the land you love. Together, we can move mountains!

Save the Date: Annual Benefit

We invite you to celebrate the Trail Conference's rich history, vision, and legacy of stewardship at our Annual Benefit and Auction on Thursday, Oct. 17. The event will be held this year at Rio Vista Mahwah (20 Emma Court, Mahwah, N.J.). The night will include live entertainment, farm-fresh hors d'oeuvres, local craft beverages, an auction, and more. Stay tuned for more details. For sponsorship information, contact Jennifer Zack at jzack@nynjtc.org.

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In memory of Neil Thompson, my father, a lover of the wild and open spaces

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Renewed Commitment to Catskill Forest Preserve

Late last year the Trail Conference signed a new 5-year Catskill Forest Preserve Trail and Lean-to Maintenance Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA) with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

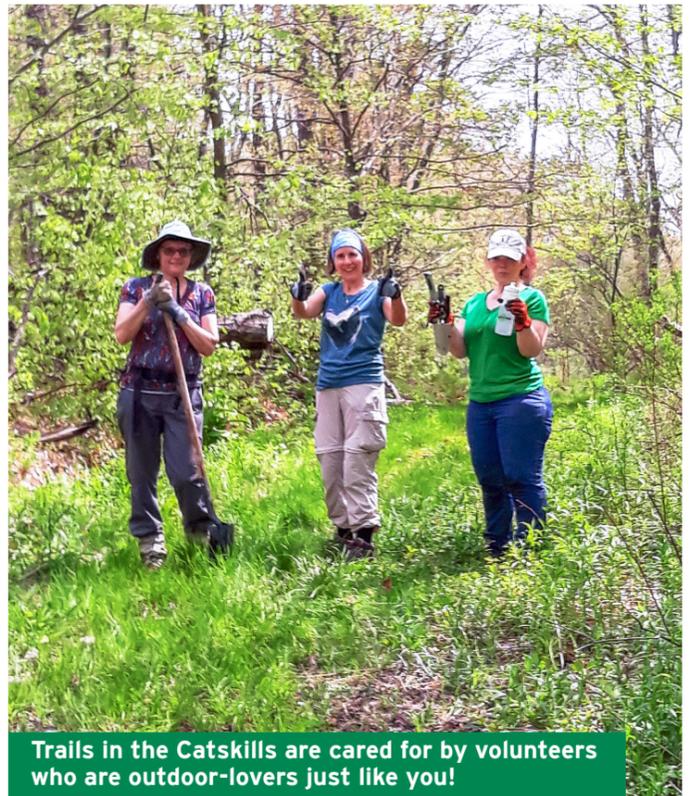
This renewed commitment comes at a time when visitation and tourism to the area is on an upward trajectory. It's encouraging to see people connecting with the great outdoors; however, this influx means the trails need to be stewarded and cared for more than ever. That TLC comes from volunteers working under our agreement with DEC.

Are you ready to be part of the team that cares for the trails and lean-tos in the Catskills? If so, email us at volunteer@nynjtc.org. We have lots of ways to get involved, including:

▶ **Joining the Willowemoc Trail Crew led by volunteer Lisa Lyons.** The crew had a lot of fun last month restoring part of the Frick Pond Trail and can use more helping hands for their upcoming trips! Come out June 30 to help improve the drainage on this scenic, family-friendly trail. Sign up by emailing us or going to bit.ly/tc-w-crew.

▶ **Joining our Trail Stewards and volunteer leader Andy Garrison on a Trail Maintenance Trip.** Our Stewards and Andy are running maintenance trips on several Mondays throughout July and August. (Read more about our Steward program on page 10.) Come out to care for the Long Path by clipping, removing any trail blockages, and cleaning up litter. Go to bit.ly/tc-path or email us to sign up.

There is a lot of work to be done and we need more people in order to properly care for the trails. Help us protect the land you love!



Trails in the Catskills are cared for by volunteers who are outdoor-lovers just like you!

Long Path Gets TLC From Boy Scouts

This past spring in the Catskill Mountains just north of the Forest Preserve, one of our partner organizations, the Long Path North Hiking Club (LPNHC), identified the need to replace rotted raised bog treads on the Long Path in

Schoharie County. Marcus Capobianco of Boy Scout Troop 56 in Lawyerville, N.Y., answered the call for help with his proposal to design and build 110 feet of new raised treads.

In just a couple short weeks, Marcus was able to



secure the required approvals and pull the project together. Determined, Marcus enlisted the help of his other troop members and led the project to completion over the course of only one long weekend (Memorial Day).

The project turned out even better than the LPNHC had envisioned thanks to Marcus and Boy Scout Troop 56. Funding for the materials was provided by the Trail Conference and LPNHC.

The Thrill of Discovery: There's an App for That



BRENT BOSCARINO
INVASIVE SPECIES CITIZEN
SCIENCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Have you ever been on the trail and noticed an interesting plant you've never seen before? Or maybe you've spotted an insect sauntering along a sapling and were curious what type of bug it was. iNaturalist and its sister app, Seek, are two free, easy-to-use mobile apps that are transforming the way the hiking community engages with the diversity of life they are seeing along the trail. Once the Seek app is downloaded and opened, users simply point their camera phone at the animal or plant they want to identify. The app then instantaneously scans millions of photos from the full iNaturalist database and, in real time, displays the identification of the species you are viewing. It is remarkably accurate and a great way to build your knowledge of the flora and fauna in the forest or park you are visiting.

The iNaturalist app takes biodiversity learning one step further by having users contribute photos of what they are seeing to an international citizen science database. Once a plant or wildlife photo is tak-



Invasives Strike Force surveyor Bridget Connolly uses mobile app Seek to help identify Japanese knotweed, an invasive plant found in many parks and trails in our region.

en with the camera function in the app, iNaturalist additionally uses its GPS capabilities to pin the observation to a precise location. (Users can choose to keep geolocation "private" if photographing a rare or endangered species or if they simply choose to keep their location anonymous.) Becoming part of the iNaturalist community instantly connects users to a diverse group of people including scientific experts, hikers, plant lovers,

and ecologists who can help with specific identifications, talk and share common interests, and even get together for hikes!

The Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), managed by the Trail Conference, is utilizing Seek and iNaturalist to help track the distribution and spread of invasive species in New York and New Jersey. In addition to offering workshops to identify 14 common invasive species and 11 emerging invasives in our region, staff are encouraging volunteer surveyors to use both Seek and iNaturalist. The apps not only help build the confidence of surveyors in properly identifying the invasives they are seeking, but also contribute vital data that scientists can utilize in land management and stewardship programming.

Both apps are free to download and are incredibly fun and useful tools to try out on your next hike. Find them at inaturalist.org and inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app. To sign up for citizen science programs and help contribute to our efforts, please visit nynjtc.org/events or lhprism.org/invasives-strike-force.

Meet the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

Our 2019 Trail Conference Conservation Corps crews are hard at work protecting your parks!

The Trail Conference Conservation Corps (TCCC) trains, enables, and empowers future conservation leaders by teaching sustainable trail building and stewardship techniques. This year's Conservation Corps crews include:

- ▶ Two trail-building crews working in Sterling Forest State Park and Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve
- ▶ One terrestrial Invasives Strike Force survey and removal crew working throughout the Hudson Valley
- ▶ One aquatic Invasives Strike Force survey, removal, and watercraft inspection steward crew working throughout the Hudson Valley
- ▶ One trail outreach and education steward crew stationed on trails at Breakneck Ridge, Bear Mountain, and throughout

the Catskills

Our Corps crews engage and teach community volunteers on the responsible use and care of open space by addressing the needs of land managers. You'll find them on the trail through the end of October. Connect with the Conservation Corps on Facebook and Instagram [@tcccconservation](https://www.instagram.com/tcccconservation) and explore the calendar to sign up for an event and meet them on the trail.

The TCCC is made possible through a partnership with The Corps Network and its AmeriCorps Education Award Program, and through the support of our sponsors and partners:

- ▶ Adirondack Mountain Club
- ▶ Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- ▶ Catskill 3500 Club
- ▶ Catskill Mountain Club
- ▶ Hudson Highlands Land Trust
- ▶ L.L. Bean
- ▶ Lower Hudson PRISM
- ▶ Mountain Tops Outfitters
- ▶ Orange County Tourism
- ▶ Orange and Rockland Utilities
- ▶ REI
- ▶ Ulster County Tourism

Heather Darley



Trail Conference Conservation Corps crews are battling invasives throughout the Hudson Valley.

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

A quarterly look at some of what we have been doing to improve public access to nature.

GET TO KNOW OUR CREW LEADERS

There are as many different ways to run a trail crew as there are people to lead them. While you may recognize our crews from their deeds in past issues of Trail Walker—and perhaps you’ve even taken the leap to join them in the field—we thought it was high time that you get a glimpse at what motivates these incredible people. From volunteers who specialize in heavy-duty bridge construction to those who undertake the equally important task of clearing and blazing neglected trails, we salute our crew leaders. And, who knows—you may even find you have a lot in common with some of them!

DAVID & MONICA DAY

West Jersey Crew

How often does your crew meet in the work season, and what sort of work do you do?

We work most Saturdays between mid-April and the end of June (spring), and between Labor Day and mid-November (fall). We do any type of trail construction: clearing new trail; installing stone steps and retaining walls; adding trail drainage (water bars); building or repairing bridges; installing or upgrading puncheon (bog bridges); repairing boardwalks.



What inspired you to become a crew leader?

We started on a trail construction crew in New York State because we wanted to give back. In 2000, we were asked to lead a special one-time trail construction project in western New Jersey (in Worthington State Forest). When it was completed we decided that leading a trail crew was something that we were good at and enjoyed, so we volunteered to continue trail crew leadership be-



Crew Leader Monica Day, top, and members of the crew provide incredible care to the trails of northwestern New Jersey.

yond the one-time project, thus becoming the West Jersey Crew.

What is your favorite part about being a crew leader?

leader?

David: The technical challenge of planning and then efficiently carrying out each work trip.

Monica: The shared sense of accomplishment at the end of a work day from seeing the results of our collective work.

What is your best crew leader memory?

David: Planning and executing a one-day project that hoisted three 36-foot bridge sections (that had washed away in a flood) back onto their abutments and into a complete bridge.

Monica: The magic of creating a new trail.



David Day, left, and the crew often work on maintenance of the A.T.'s Pochuck Boardwalk.



The Lenape Trail Crew cares for this unique urban-suburban trail in New Jersey.

DAVID DeSHAZER

Lenape Trail Crew

How often does your crew meet in the work season, and what sort of work do you do?

We meet monthly with additional occasional ad hoc meetings for planning work. Typically we do basic trail maintenance, cleaning up storm damage, and occasional heavier projects like construction of bridges.

What inspired you to become a crew leader?

My family is relatively new to New Jersey, but I have loved the outdoors most of my life. I was looking for ways to contribute and there was a need for a trail supervisor and crew chief right in my backyard on the trails I was already exploring with my daughters.

What is your favorite part about being a crew leader?

Easily the time outdoors with the crew, learning from members, spending time with my daughters and hiking back through areas in the days and weeks after a trail crew day seeing the difference we made.

What is your best crew leader memory?

It wasn't a particularly significant day or a big project, but just a fun day on a section not as well traveled or marked as others. It was only my second time through that area. It was a nice relaxed group that had fun being a little silly building stone cairns, catching up, and joking.

If you want a hands-on look at what it takes to be a crew leader, get a glimpse at our new Eyes of a Trail Builder workshops on [page 8](#).

GEOF CONNOR

Westchester East Trail Crew

How often does your crew meet in the work season, and what sort of work do you do?

We meet all year, every Friday morning, usually at Ward Pound Ridge but also at Mountain Lakes Park—and occasionally at other parks in western Westchester. We perform general maintenance on all trails (36 miles in Ward Pound Ridge), including waterbars/diverters, bog bridging construction, trail detours, and blazing.

What inspired you to become a crew leader?

I became crew leader when the last leader resigned. I signed up because I love the two parks—I walk my dog there every day, and therefore am able to identify work to be done. Also it keeps me fit and lets me meet



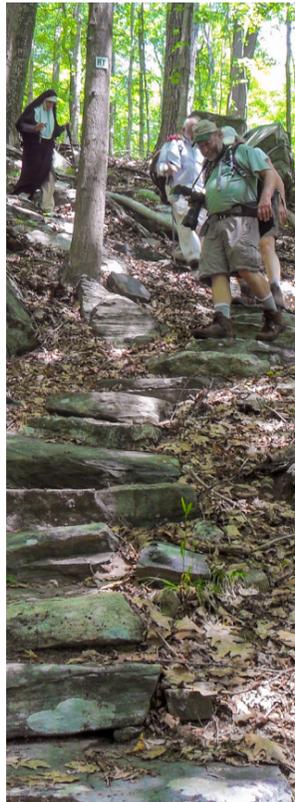
likeminded people who have become friends.

What is your favorite part about being a crew leader?

I enjoy being part of the team as much as being leader. As leader I do get to interact with park staff in the upkeep of trails.

What is your best crew leader memory?

Too many funny moments to single one out. It is always special when passing hikers thank us for the work we do. The completion of the Rocks Trail was perhaps the most satisfying project we did. Working with school and company groups, while sometimes challenging, is also satisfying.



The Westchester East Trail Crew is active year-round building and maintaining trails.

CHRIS REYLING

Long Distance Trails Crew

How often does your crew meet in the work season, and what sort of work do you do?

The Long Distance Trails Crew (LDTTC) has a schedule of three-day work trips every other weekend from the end of March through the beginning of December. Our projects focus on rehabilitating the problem areas of the long-distance trails in the West Hudson region. The work is usually technical in nature: stone steps and cribbing; wooden bridges and puncheon; water routing; and building comfortable, sustainable trail.

What inspired you to be-



ANDREA MINOFF

The LDTTC's focus is long-distance trails.

come a crew leader?

I started as the crew chief of the newly formed LDTTC when the first relocation of the A.T. on the east side of West Mountain was approved.

What is your favorite part about being a crew leader?

My favorite part is leading a group of very talented individuals in building sustainable and attractive trail.

What is your best crew leader memory?

My best memories were from our four, week-long camping trips helping to build the Long Path (Phoenicia-East Branch Trail); basically summer camp for trail crews! We are very proud of the trail structures we created, one of which has been named and is shown on the Catskill trail maps.

MARY DODDS

Trail Tramps Crew

How often does your crew meet in the work season, and what sort of work do you do?

The crew works 3 hours every Wednesday, roughly 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., throughout the year. We do routine maintenance, trail checks and assessment, trail tread, rock crib walls and steps, water bars, clearance of heavy brush and invasives using electric hedge trimmers, puncheon, bridge construction, and demolition.

What inspired you to become a crew leader?

When I retired, I started to work on the Ward Pound

Ridge crew (now known as the Westchester East Trail Crew). Channeling Mr. Spock, it seemed like the only logical way to get the job done, so I started a crew on “my” side of the county.

What is your favorite part about being a crew leader?

Learning on the job: about how to place, build, and repair trails; about the plants, animals, and rocks which share and surround them; and about the weather that affects them.

What is your best crew leader memory?

Memories of the crew shar-



The Trail Tramps care for trails and parklands in Westchester County.

ing lunch and feeling greatly satisfied with a just completed project. Too many times to count.



HEATHER DARLEY

Trail Conference staff and volunteers shared their expertise at the International Trails Symposium.

International Symposium Features Trail Conference Presenters

American Trails hosted the 24th International Trails Symposium and Training Institute in Syracuse, N.Y., April 28 through May 1—and the Trail Conference was well represented at this biennial gathering of trail leaders. Staff gave presentations alongside some of our partners on topics including the management of high-use trails, how the protection of long-distance trails creates parkland, best practices for designing trail maps, and volunteer

program assessment.

The International Trails Symposium (ITS) was a unique opportunity to learn about the leading trail efforts around the world while showcasing the work of Trail Conference volunteers, staff, and partners. From stewards to conservation, mapping and more, the Trail Conference is at the forefront of the field, working to ensure that the trails and natural areas we share are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy for generations to come.



Join us **July 11 and Sept. 12** for a fun night of trail talk! Come to Trail Conference Headquarters for exciting presentations first seen at the International Trails Symposium. Topics will include managing high-use trails, trail stewards, and re-imagining existing trail

networks. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Can't make the event? Check out Senior Program Coordinator Hank Osborn's ITS TrailX Talk on Managing High-Use Trails: Why Trail Stewards Are a Necessity in Creating Safe, Sustainable Trails, on our YouTube page.

Erik Mickelson Recognized as Outstanding Trail Leader

Trail Conference Field Manager Erik Mickelson was honored by American Trails at this year's International Trails Symposium as a 2019 Outstanding Trail Leader. The Advancing Trails Awards Program is one way American Trails recognizes the tremendous contributions and successes of exemplary people across the globe who are



Mickelson was honored at the Symposium.

working to advance trails. Erik was nominated by our partner Chris Morris, Statewide Trails Program Planner for New York State Parks, as a “consummate trail professional whose technical skill and artistic vision have contributed greatly to the trails in New York State.”



DEALING WITH EXTREMES



MARY DODDS
TRAIL TRAMPS
CREW CHIEF

Freezing or frying, drought or deluge, right or left, stay or go—everything in our lives today seems to involve extremes. Let's talk trails. For well over a year, mine have been either under water or under downed trees. And it's not just seasonal or storm-related. It has progressed past sporadic and become so chronic that we as trail builders have begun planning appropriate response protocols.

Last year was a trail nightmare—a wild and crazy March was followed by a devastating May “thunderstorm” that destroyed many trail sections, including along the Appalachian Trail, which only preceded frequent rain events that resulted in flooded trails, stream and pond overflow, and increased

erosion on slopes.

Last year, East Hudson sawyers and their swamper spent over 300 hours responding to those storms in the Castle Rock area alone. I don't know how many hours were spent clearing similar catastrophic damage on the A.T. and other trails, but I suspect it equals or exceeds my total.

But the extreme weather also resulted in increased work on previously planned projects. My crew, the Trail Tramps, spent over 380 hours at Hudson Highlands in 2018 working on a major trail overhaul. Last spring, we completed a reroute of the red-blazed Annsville Creek Trail in Hudson Highlands Gateway Park that had been in the works for several years. And it continued to be flooded. So we built stairs, raised tread, installed turnpikes, and dug ditches—and now, over a



year later, the trail is walkable even after heavy rainfall. We rushed a planned reroute because a section of the old trail was continuously under water. We rerouted a trail because of excessive storm damage. I factored 2018 conditions into the planning and construction of a reroute and two new trails for this season.

And as for that red trail, it has required significant additional “waterproofing.” These pictures show how we have built turnpikes, dug ditches, paved sections, rerouted onto berms and laid 40 feet of puncheon, with another 120 feet pending. We even built two stone staircases. Note that this trail is less than 1 mile long.

We are almost halfway through 2019. So far (knock on wood) we have been spared extreme storms, but have definitely had a lot of rain. Weather continues to be a major factor in the trail work—both emergency and routine—done by the Tramps. That likely won't change. It affects trail repair and clearance, results in upgrades to trail design to include puncheon and tread structures, and significantly influences trail planning and construction. It seems likely that it is not a question of whether, but when, the next big storm will hit, but we Trail Tramps hope to be prepared to deal with whatever a ticked off Mother Nature throws our way.

How about you? How has weather affected your trail experience—as a hiker, maintainer, or trail supervisor? Let us know at volunteer@nynjtc.org.

The Year of Erosion Control and Drainage

BOB JONAS AND ESTELLE ANDERSON JONAS
CENTRAL NORTH JERSEY TRAILS CO-CHAIRS

While the “natural bowl” topography of the Jockey Hollow section of the Morristown National Historical Park made it an ideal water catchment area for the citizens of Morristown, N.J., 100 years ago, it has resulted in very poor drainage on many of the trails there today.

Our hiking trails there are easily inundated by the sheet flow emitted from the narrow strata that lies above a glacially deposited clay base. In an effort to keep these trails relatively dry and passable, we must use a series of water and erosion control devices as well as bog bridges, also known as puncheon.

This year, the Trail Conference's Central North Jersey team of volunteer supervisors and maintainers are determined to construct or improve these devices to alleviate as many of these wet conditions as time allows. Volunteers Bill



Trail structures such as open culverts are devices that help keep trails passable.

Harrison and Skip Wilson are working on the Primrose Brook Trail building puncheon. The photo above shows an open culvert, which utilizes a narrow, low trench filled with small rocks to allow the water to flow off and cross the trail without an impediment to the hiker. This easy-to-maintain device eliminates the need for piping, which often becomes clogged with silt and debris.

The Trail Conference's Primitive Footpath Trail Construction document, available on your dashboard at nynjtc.org, is a good resource for people new to the world of trail building who are interested in learning more about these and other techniques. It may also help supervisors and chairs find solutions to the problems they're experiencing after this wet spring.

Eyes of a Trail Builder Workshops

This season we've kicked off a new series of guided hikes called Eyes of a Trail Builder. Each hike features a loop trail that is planned for improvement by volunteer trail crews. Along the hike you'll learn from an experienced trail builder how to spot the trail issues that crew leaders are expected to tackle—as well as the solutions to those problems. Whether you're a casual hiker or a long-time volunteer, these hikes are designed to change the way you view trails forever.

Upcoming dates:

- ▶ June 15, Ramapo Reservation Hike
- ▶ June 22, Ramapo Reservation Project
- ▶ July 7, Manaticut Point Hike
- ▶ July 14, Manaticut Point Project
- ▶ Sept. 14, Manaticut Point “Capstone” Project Planning

We hope that this series of hikes and workshops provides a fun, easy way for anybody to learn more about the wide world of trail building. To sign up, go to nynjtc.org/events and search “eyes” in the title search bar or email pdolan@nynjtc.org. We hope to see you there!





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STEVE AARON



It's All About Love



ROBERT C. ROSS
TRAIL CONFERENCE
LIFE MEMBER

Many estate planners will tell you the most serious mistake intelligent Americans can make is not creating a will to put their affairs in order.

There are many times in a person's life when a new will is needed: a first or new job; marriage; birth of a child; death of a parent, partner or child; divorce; serious illness; and significant change in income or assets, to name some of these occasions.

It is estimated that over 60 percent of Americans who need a will or other instrument to settle their affairs do not have one. And, of the remaining 40 percent, a large portion have not reviewed their provisions despite significant changes in their lives.

But there is a more fundamental reason to make a will—and it is all about love.

If you love yourself, you need to make sure you take care of yourself first. You cannot take care of others unless you do so. Be sure you think about and provide for your medical needs; that you have signed a health care proxy and power of attorney; and that you have instructed how you want your body handled.

Second, take care of the people you love to the best of your ability.

Third, provide for the organizations you love through one of the many vehicles that a good estate planner or estate lawyer can suggest.

Take those three steps, put your affairs in order, and you will have avoided one of most significant errors you can make in your financial life.



STEVE AARON

Become a Trail Angel Society Founding Member

In May, the Trail Conference created the Trail Angel Society, named for those individuals who so generously and magically provide for hikers and trail users. The purpose of this giving society is to create reliable income over the long term, which makes it ideal to be funded by planned gifts such as a bequest or other provision in an estate plan that benefits the Trail Conference. Membership currently includes the individuals and families named in the sidebar. We would be delighted to include you as a founding member.

When you complete the bequest intention form (see below) and send it in to us today, you will not only be paying

forward your love for public lands and trails, you will also be making a big difference right now. For every form we receive, a generous donor will write a check to the Trail Conference for \$500. Our donor believes in the importance and power of creating immediate incentive to encourage people to create an estate plan and benefit the charities that mean the most to them. By becoming a founding member of the Trail Angel Society today, you will ensure the Trail Conference benefits from the generosity of our Trail Angels both now and in the future.

Note that your bequest intention form is non-binding; people can change their minds as their circumstances change.

Trail Angel Society Founding Members

- ▶ Anonymous (9x)
- ▶ Jill Arbuckle
- ▶ Walt and Jane Daniels
- ▶ Peter Heckler
- ▶ Joshua Howard
- ▶ John Kolp
- ▶ Jane Levenson
- ▶ Leonard and Sue Lyon
- ▶ Bob Ross
- ▶ James Sciales
- ▶ John Swanson
- ▶ Ernest Tornincasa
- ▶ Ann Marie Walker
- ▶ William Ward
- ▶ Edward B. Whitney
- ▶ Patsy Wooters

The form is to show that you are making plans now, but you have every right to change them later.

If you've made a provision in your estate plan that benefits the Trail Conference, use this form to let us know, even if you've told us previously, and we can benefit NOW from our generous donor. If you're working on your estate plan and you intend to benefit the Trail Conference with a provision, use this form when you have finalized your plans and take advantage of this exciting pledge challenge.

For further questions, please contact Membership and Development Director Don Weise at dweise@nynjtc.org or 201.512.9348 x813.

Yes, I want to be a Trail Angel!

Confidential Pledge Challenge Form

I am pleased to inform you that I have named the **New York-New Jersey Trail Conference** as a beneficiary of my estate plan. I understand that this is a non-binding statement. Although I intend this gift to remain in force, this document does not constitute a legally binding pledge.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ DOB _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I understand that this future gift entitles me to membership in the Trail Angel Society and that the membership list may be published in Trail Conference publications and website. However, the nature and size of my intention, as well as the names of anonymous donors, will be kept confidential.

My future gift:

- Is a percentage of my estate worth approximately \$ _____
- Is in the specific amount of \$ _____
- I would prefer to keep the amount private.

This is my best estimate at this time and the amount of my future gift may be different.

Trail Angels Society:

- Please list me in the Trail Angels Society as _____
- I prefer to remain anonymous.

Kindly return this completed form to: Development Director, Planned Giving, NY-NJ Trail Conference, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07043
Please contact us with any questions: 201.512.9348 x813, dweise@nynjtc.org

Tips

- 1** Commit to put your affairs in order.
- 2** Provide for yourself first.
- 3** Provide for the people you love next.
- 4** Then provide for the organizations you love.
- 5** Finally, implement your plan.

Expanding Trail Steward Training, Presence



HANK OSBORN
SENIOR PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

The Trail Conference is committed to educating and assisting the public in the safe, enjoyable, and responsible use of trails. One of the most successful ways we accomplish this is through our Trail Steward program.

This season, Trail Stewards serving through the Trail Conference Conservation Corps will be stationed on the summits of Slide Mountain and Giant Ledge in the Catskills, on the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain State Park, and at Breakneck Ridge. They'll be active on these trails every Saturday and Sunday and most Fridays and holidays through October sharing preparedness tips and encouraging responsible recreation. An additional

day each week will be dedicated to trail work, including helping our volunteer leaders on projects and leading volunteers on trail maintenance outings and garbage pickups. Another day will be spent indoors inputting and analyzing data collected in the field. In the fall, Stewards will begin a

program with local schools to go into classrooms and teach natural resource protection and anti-graffiti education.

Our Trail Stewards completed a rigorous, five-week training program this spring that included everything from role-playing trail user scenarios to map skills and emergen-



cy protocols. During training in the Catskills, Stewards met with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) foresters and rangers; they also attended a three-day, DEC-hosted workshop for backcountry stewards in the Adirondacks. The Hudson Highlands Land Trust provided two trainings on natural resource protection. Stewards were also educated in Leave No Trace principles and now have the Trainer designation by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. Our Stewards are now also certified in Wilderness First Aid.

Later this summer, Conservation Corps Stewards will be joined by volunteers to enhance coverage at key trailheads. Check nynjtc.org/stewards to learn how to get involved with this program.

NJDEP Receives Steward Training

In May, eight Trail Stewards hired by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) attended a training at Trail Conference Headquarters. In addition to learning about our volunteer program, Leave No Trace principles, data collection on our Avenza maps, safe

hiking practices, and role-playing challenging scenarios with trail users, they also learned how to collect important data about our local hikers. How many people are visiting a given area? When? Where are they getting lost? What loop hikes are people making out of different trails? The answers to all of these questions will inform State Park and Trail

Conference decisions on everything from where to mount directional signs to when certain trails should be rerouted. These Stewards are working through the summer heat to make sure the lands we love are used safely and respectfully. It's a hard job, so be sure to give them your thanks if you bump into them on the trail!

Peter Dolan

Hikers' Directory

Can't find your club? This list represents all Trail Conference member clubs whose dues are up-to-date. If you have questions about your club's status, please ask your officers to contact the Membership and Development team at 201-512-9348.

ADK Long Island
www.adkli.org

ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter
www.midhudsonadk.org

ADK Mohican Chapter
www.adkmohican.org

ADK New York Chapter
www.adkny.org

ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter
www.hudsonhikers.org

Adventures for Women
www.adventuresforwomen.org

Alley Pond Environmental Center
www.alleypond.com/

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter
www.amcdv.org

AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter
www.amcmohawkhudson.org/

Black Rock Forest Consortium Inc.
www.blackrockforest.org/

Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council - Rockland District

Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn

Boy Scouts of America-Northern NJ Council
www.nnjbsa.org

BSA Troop 21 - Hudson Valley Council
www.suffern21.mytroop.us/

Canal Society of New Jersey
www.canalsocietynj.org/

Catskill 3500 Club
www.catskill-3500-club.org

Catskill Mountain Club
www.catskillmountainclub.org

Chinese Mountain Club of New York
www.cmcny.org

Church Communities Foundation - Platte Cove Community
www.bruderhof.com/

Closter Nature Center Association
www.closternaturecenter.org

Community Search and Rescue
www.commsar.org

Dyke Hikes
www.meetup.com/Dyke-Hikes/

East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
www.ehtps.org

Finger Lakes Trail Conference
www.fingerlakestrail.org

Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
www.flatrockbrook.org

Friends of Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park & Trump State Park

Friends of Garret Mountain Reservation
friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com

Friends of Pelham Bay Park
www.pelhambaypark.org

Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway in Teaneck
www.teaneckgreenway.org

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.
aqueduct.org

Friends Of The Shawangunks
shawangunks.org

Frost Valley YMCA
www.frostvalley.org

German-American Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/GAHCNYNJ/

Hike The World
www.hiketheworld.com

Hilltop Conservancy, Inc.
www.hilltopconservancy.org

Hunterdon Hiking Club
www.hunterdonhikingclub.org

Interstate Hiking Club
www.interstatehikingclub.org

Jolly Rovers Trail Crew Inc.
jollyrovers.org/

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
www.littlestonypoint.org

Long Path North Hiking Club
www.schoharie-conservation.org

Mohonk Preserve
www.mohonkpreserve.org

Morris County Park Commission
www.morrisparks.net

Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy
mmc.nynjtc.org

Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club
www.nassauhiking.org

The Nature Place Day Camp
thenatureplace.com/

Nelsonville Greenway Committee
VillageofNelsonville.org

New Haven Hiking Club
www.NHHC.info

New Jersey Forty Plus Hiking Club
meetup.com/NJ-Forty-Plus-Hiking-Club

New Jersey Highlands Coalition
www.njhighlandscoalition.org/

New York Alpine Club

New York City Audubon Society, Inc.
www.nycaudubon.org

New York Ramblers
www.nyramblers.org

Outdoor Promise
outdoorpromise.org/

The Outdoors Club, Inc.
www.outdoorsclub.info

Pine Hill Community Center
www.pinehillcommunitycenter.org/

Proactive - Adventure, Health & Wellness
www.proactiveahw.com

Protect Our Wetlands, Water & Woods (POWWW)
box292.bluehost.com/~powwworg

Ramapough Conservancy, Inc.

Rip Van Winkle Hikers
newyorkheritage.com/rvw

Rock Lodge Club
www.rocklodge.com

RPH Cabin Volunteers
rphcabin.org

SAJ - Society for the Advancement of Judaism
www.thesaj.org/

Salt Shakers Trail Running Club
www.saltshakersrun.com

Sassquad Trail Running
www.sassquadtrailrunning.com

Shorewalkers Inc.
www.shorewalkers.org

Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group
sierraclub.org/atlantic/mid-hudson

South Mountain Conservancy Inc.
www.somocon.org

St. Benedicts Prep Backpacking Project
www.sbp.org

Storm King Adventure Tours
stormkingadventuretours.com

The Storm King School
www.sks.org

SUNY Oneonta Outdoor Adventure Club
www.oneonta.edu/outdoors

Teatown Lake Reservation
www.teatown.org

Tenafly Nature Center Association
www.tenaflynaturecenter.org

Thendara Mountain Club
www.thendaramountainclub.org

Town of Lewisboro
www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec

Town of Woodstock

TriState Ramblers
www.tristateramblers.org

Troop 1 Mount Kisco
www.troop1mountkisco.com

University Outing Club
www.universityoutingclub.org

Urban Trail Conference, Inc.
www.urbantrail.org

Valley Stream Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/vshclub

Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee

Westchester Trails Association
www.westhike.org

Yorktown Trail Town Committee

Thanks to Our Supporters!

Thanks to the following businesses and foundations for supporting the work of the Trail Conference in 2019.

REI Funds Trail Steward Program

REI has given the Trail Conference a \$34,290 grant to fund our Trailhead and Summit Steward Program. REI's continued support of the program allows us to engage with the public about trail preparedness and responsible recreation outdoors. During REI's Loving Our Local Outdoors campaign this spring, Co-Op members were asked to participate in the grant process by voting for a local nonprofit to support; in 2019, \$16,290 of our REI grant was provided to us through generous voters like you. Thank you!

Orentreich Family Foundation Supports Detection Dog

Our gratitude goes out to the Orentreich Family Foundation for their continued support of our Conservation Dog Invasive Species Program. Their \$25,000 gift supports the work of our detection dog Dia, who started the 2019 season searching for the invasive scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). The addition of Dia to the Invasives Strike Force will increase both the quality and quantity of our invasive surveys.

Dodge Foundation Supports Efforts in NJ

The Trail Conference is grateful for the support of the Dodge Foundation to help us connect the people of New Jersey with nature, engage volunteers in stewardship of public land, protect open space,

and improve public access to trails. The \$20,000 grant is an investment in our shared goal of improving the quality of life in communities and creating better outdoor opportunities for all New Jerseyans.

Rockland Electric Sponsors Ramapo Trails Project

Rockland Electric has donated \$20,000 to support the Trail Conference's Ramapo Trails Project over the next two years. This grant funds our work to make a significant, lasting impact on the sustainability, navigability, and safety of the trail system in Bergen County's Ramapo Valley County Reservation and the adjoining parklands.

ATC and L.L. Bean Fund Two Appalachian Trail Projects

Two Trail Conference projects on the Appalachian Trail have



Top: Our Trail Stewards assist and educate hikers at popular trailheads and summits. Inset: Dia, our conservation dog, is part of our team combating invasive species.

been made possible by grants from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) through funding from L.L. Bean. Volunteers will be replacing a bridge damaged by a falling tree in Wawayanda State Park in New Jersey, and will build and install 48 feet of locust puncheon across various wet areas in the towns of Dover and Pawling, N.Y. The grants total \$2,602.

Appreciation Hikes and Community Outings

To thank Trail Conference supporters for making our work possible, we invite you to join our monthly Appreciation Hikes and Community Outings. Meet your fellow members and see examples of our recent work or trails we are targeting for improvements.

UPCOMING DATES:

- July 13:** Forest Bathing in Neversink Gorge, Forestburgh, NY
- July 18:** Full Moon A.T. Hike + Ice Cream, Warwick, NY
- July 20:** Saturday Trail Run, High Tor State Park, NY
- July 21:** Hike + Paddle, Franklin Lakes, NJ

Aug. 9: Dunnfield Creek/ A.T. Short Loop, Columbia, NJ

Aug. 24: Trail Running Clinic, Mahwah, NJ

Sept. 14: Saturday Trail Run, TBD

Sept. 20 : Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain, Stony Point, NY

Sept. 27: Photography Walk, Warwick, NY

Oct. 3: Sip-N-Create, Mahwah, NJ

Oct. 4: Wyanokie High Point, Ringwood, NJ

Oct. 12: Saturday Trail Run, Wawayanda State Park, NJ

Nov. 9: Saturday Trail Run, Palisades, NJ

Nov. 29: #OptOutside Cleanup, Breakneck Ridge, NY

Dec. 13: Project Tour, Mahwah, NJ

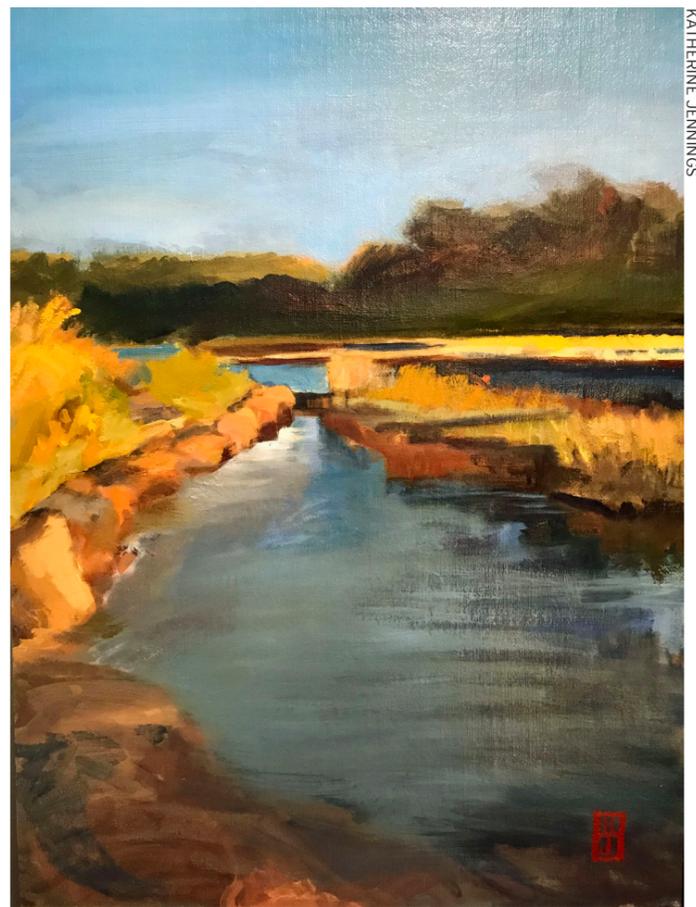
Check nynjtc.com/events for more details. Not a member yet? Join now at nynjtc.com/membership.

'Hudson Valley Plein Air' on Display

"En plein air," a French expression, means "in the open air" and is used to describe the act of painting outdoors capturing the light as it moves over nature. The Hudson Valley is rich in tradition of both hiking and plein air painting. Many contemporary artists have taken up the mantle of combining these activities with new forms of expressing the painting of light and air in the outdoors using a variety of art media.

The new exhibition "Hudson Valley Plein Air" features works by artists who have painted in the open air. Beautiful and rich in color, these works emphasize light, nature, and sky as seen in the local area. We invite you to visit Trail Conference Headquarters now through Aug. 12 to spend a few minutes taking in what has been beautifully captured by these artists. Works are for sale; 20% of the proceeds go to benefit the work of the Trail Conference. Find more details at nynjtc.org.

 **Diane Stripe,**
Art Selection Committee Volunteer



KATHERINE JENNINGS

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LIBERTY SUBARU

▶ Plans to lease or buy a new car? During the annual Share the Love event, Liberty Subaru has named the Trail Conference as their Hometown Charity. At Liberty Subaru from Nov. 14



through Jan. 2, 2020, for every new vehicle purchased or leased, Subaru will donate \$250 to the charity designated by each



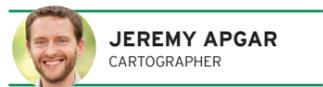
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Shawangunk Map Set Updated for 2019 With Trail Mileages



JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

Completely updated for 2019 and due to arrive in early summer, the 11th edition of our Shawangunk Trails map set now includes junction-to-junction trail mileage numbers directly on the maps. The three-map set covers more than 200 miles of maintained trails and carriage roads in the northern Shawangunk Mountains, with parklands including Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Mohonk Preserve, Shawangunk Ridge State Forest, and Roosa Gap State Forest. Significant sections of both the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail are highlight-

ed throughout the maps. In addition to the new trail mileage numbers, this 11th edition includes several new trails, including the Stony Kill Falls Trail and the River-to-Ridge Trail. Newly preserved lands have been added, changes to the roads and trails near the Minnewaska park entrance are included, and several viewpoints have been added. Many other updates and adjustments make these revised maps a must-have for anyone interested in exploring the northern Shawangunks region.

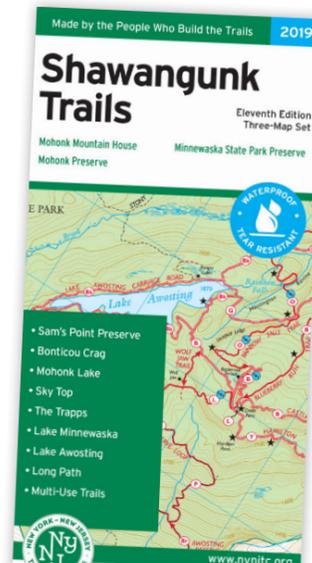
All maps include parking areas, scenic viewpoints, waterfalls, and other points of interest, and the maps feature UTM gridlines. The maps show both carriage roads,

many of which are open to bikes and horses, as well as foot trails, including the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail. The complex network of trails and carriage roads in the area of the Mohonk Mountain House is shown on a large-scale map, and the areas around Lake Minnewaska and the Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center are shown in enlarged inset maps.

The map will be available in print format in vibrant color on our popular waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek, by shopping online at www.nynjtc.org, or visiting our headquarters. In addition, it will be available in digital format on Apple and Android devices through the Avenza Maps app; learn more

about our GPS-enhanced maps at www.nynjtc.org/pdfmaps.

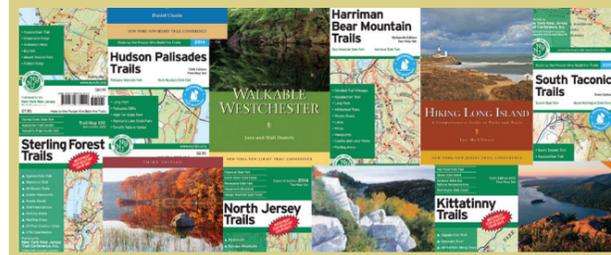
Special thanks to all the volunteers and park partners who helped produce this map revision! The map set was also produced with support from Thruway Sporting Goods.



The Shawangunk Trails map set includes the popular Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

HIKERS' MARKETPLACE

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