



TRAIL WALKER

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

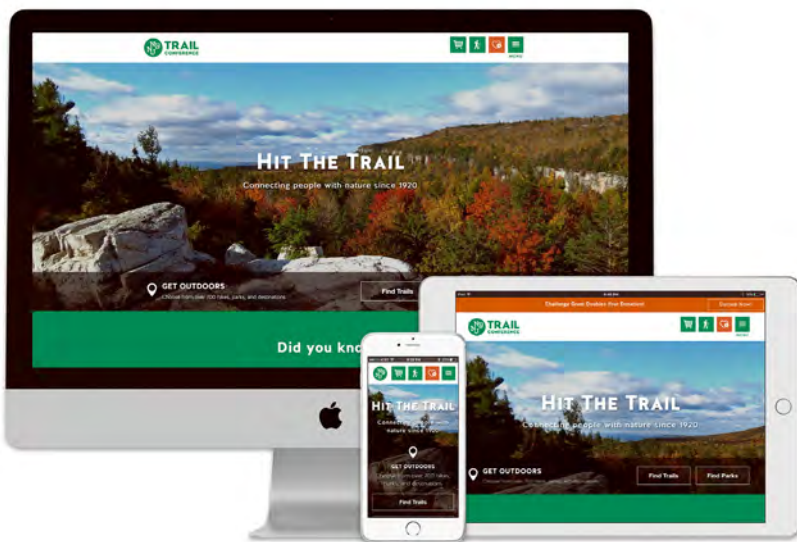
Connecting with Nature Is Easier Than Ever Before with the New NYNJTC.org

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is proud to announce the launch of the newly redesigned nynjtc.org and the migration of our legacy databases to a customer relationship management (CRM) system fully integrated with our website. The updated website is the digital version of walking through the door at our Darlington Schoolhouse headquarters—all the information you need to prepare for your next adventure on the trails is right at your fingertips. The website is fully integrated with our new CRM system to provide our members and volunteers a better experience interacting with the Trail Conference while creating a simplified and modern platform for efficient operation of the organization.

The website's fresh, clean look has been designed to work beautifully on any device. New tools make everything from researching your next hike to finding volunteer opportunities easier than ever before.

New Ways to Plan Your Trip

When you visit the new nynjtc.org, you'll be invited to get outdoors through the Trail and Park Finder. Choose from more than 700 trails and parks throughout the greater New York metropolitan area with this interactive map. Use filters to find parks, hikes, and destinations according to your interests, or search by features such as location, difficulty, and



accessibility using this powerful tool as your guide.

The Trail Conference has further developed its Hiking Resources on the new nynjtc.org as a one-stop-shop to find the information needed to prepare for a safe, enjoyable experience outside. Additionally, Destination Guides—guides

to the most popular places to hike, picnic, and swim throughout the region—were created to provide education on what makes these spots so special and how visitors' sustainable decision-making helps protect these important areas. Of course, we want your on-the-ground feedback, too—

Made by Volunteers

As with everything the Trail Conference does, the launch of the new nynjtc.org and integrated database would not have been possible without the hard work of our incredibly dedicated volunteers. Since 2015, the Technology Committee has been focused on the redesign, upgrade, and migration of these systems, the digital lifeblood of the Trail Conference that allows us to accomplish all of our

good deeds in the field. Led by Committee Chair Mary Dooman, volunteers Doug Cleek, Walter Daniels, Russell Dooman, David Klatt, John Magerlein, and William Roehrig, and staff members Jeremy Apgar and Amber Ray were integral to the entire process, from selecting Wanna Pixel as our web consultants and working side-by-side with their team, to coordinating with staff and volunteers, to seeing the project through to completion—and beyond.

everyone is encouraged to share their thoughts on their favorite spots with fellow hikers at the bottom of each park, hike, and destination page.

Easy Tools to Give Back

Because trails are built, maintained, and protected by the same outdoor-loving people who enjoy them, we've made finding opportunities to give back as simple as finding a hike on the new nynjtc.org. Through the Take Action panel in the menu, discover ways to volunteer, attend an event, learn about our programs, donate, or become a Trail Conference member. Explore the many ways you can contribute to the work our thousands of volunteers do to connect people with nature, all in one place.

Similarly, all essentials for Trail Conference registered users, members, and volunteers are now organized in the My Backpack panel of the menu. Through My Dashboard, registered users can see and review comments, resources such as forms and reports applicable to specific roles, reference documents, donation information, and event registrations. The much-anticipated online reporting feature, which will allow volunteers to record their hours and file their trail reports via the website, will roll out in the coming months.

We aim to make nynjtc.org your go-to resource for everything trail-related in region. Check it out, and let us know what you think!

VOLUNTEER AWARDS



STEVE AARON

Celebrating Extraordinary Service to Local Trails

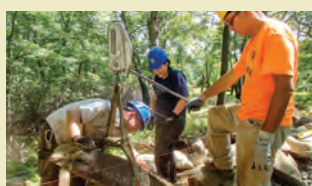
The hard work and dedication of Trail Conference volunteers is unparalleled. Yet their work goes unnoticed by the majority of people who benefit from their service—which, when you think about it, isn't necessarily a bad thing.

When done right, with skill and passion, trail construction and maintenance—as well as facilities management and website development, two other areas of expertise volunteers provide the Trail Conference—become nearly invisible, fading into the landscape to allow people the opportunity to connect with nature.

On Nov. 5, the Trail Conference pulled back the curtain, so to speak, on the remarkable efforts of our volunteers and partners who have gone above and beyond in the service of trails at the annual Volunteer Awards at Ramapo College of New Jersey in Mahwah, N.J.

The inspiring bios of the 19 honorees who have dedicated themselves to building, maintaining, and protecting trails and trail lands—including a tribute to Jakob Franke (above), our dear friend who received the Trail Conference's highest honor just days before he unexpectedly passed away—can be found on [pages 4-5](#).

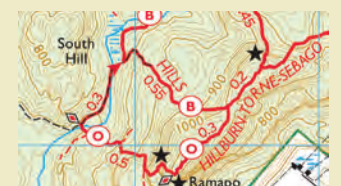
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New Exhibit: Art by Crew Leader Erik Garnjost



"Tallman Mountain"

Artist Erik Garnjost, crew leader for the Long Distance Trails Crew, has been chosen by the Art Selection Committee for a solo exhibition opening in January at Trail Conference Headquarters.

More than 20 years ago, Erik was painting in the mountains of Colorado and the canyons of Utah and Arizona, forming his personal style in the backcountry. This is where, he says, "the amazing calm ... slapped you in the face." He has ample experience with plein air painting, including hiking into the Grand Canyon with his equipment and coming out days later with several completed works.

A move to the East Coast offered new scenery for his painting, sometimes only after a long search for the vista that "demands to be painted." His involvement with the Trail Conference inspires him to paint what he sees on trails throughout the Lower Hudson Valley and the Catskills. Erik now lives in Nyack, N.Y., with his family.

✪ **Brendan Cunningham**

If You Go

- ▶ **What:** Erik Garnjost solo exhibition
- ▶ **When:** Open Jan. 18 through April 27 during regular Trail Conference hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- ▶ **Where:** Trail Conference Headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, N.J.
- ▶ **Details:** An opening reception is scheduled for the evening of Jan. 20 from 6-8 p.m. at Trail Conference Headquarters.

Exhibition Openings and Closings

Don't miss these exhibitions at Trail Conference Headquarters:

Discovering the Long Path: New York's Greatest Trail
▶ Closes Jan. 13

Erik Garnjost
▶ Opens Jan. 18
▶ Closes April 27

Joyce Kilmer Elementary Show
▶ Opens beginning of May
▶ Closes Memorial Day

Mixed Media of Flowers Show
▶ Opens June
▶ Closes September



"South Bear Mountain Relocation #1"



AMBER RAY

Trail Conference Set to Improve Popular NY Trails

The Trail Conference has received two planning grants from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Regional Economic Development Council awards. Nearly \$48,000 has been granted to the Trail Conference for the completion of the Trails for People project on Bear Mountain in Rockland County, which includes plans for rehabilitating a historic structure (above), upgrading the remaining sections of the Bear Mountain trail network, and building a connector trail between the Suffern-Bear Mountain and Appalachian trails. The Trail Conference was awarded another EPF grant, about \$17,000, to create a plan that would rehabilitate overused trail sections in John Boyd Thacher State Park in Albany County. Read more about these exciting projects at bit.ly/tc-epf16.

Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors

Without the generous support of our corporate sponsors, the Trail Conference would be unable to make such a huge impact in creating safe, enjoyable trail experiences for everyone. In addition to our retail partners (find the full list at bit.ly/tc-rp), we'd like to thank our friends in the business community who have made significant contributions to support the Trail Conference's work:

- ▶ Google
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TRAIL WALKER

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AMBER RAY EDITOR
STEPHANIE HINDERER DESIGNER

MISSION STATEMENT

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a federation of member clubs and individuals dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region, and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community. The Trail Conference is a volunteer-directed public service organization committed to:

- Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails.
- Protecting hiking trail lands through support and advocacy.
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. It is a federation of more than 100 outdoor groups and 10,000 individuals.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

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**FROM THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**
**More Trail Crews =
Better Trails**

I've always felt that every park with a trail network should have its own trail crew capable of tackling the heavy-duty and technical work that is beyond the bounds of regular trail maintenance. This is even more true in an era when increasing numbers of trail users and erosive rain events are taking a toll on our trails. So, I'm particularly pleased that the William Froelich Foundation has donated \$150,000 to the Trail Conference to establish a Ramapo Mountains Trail Fund for just this purpose.

The Ramapo Mountains in northeastern New Jersey and southeastern New York



are well-known for their wealth of trails, including those at Ramapo Valley County Reservation. Area residents and visitors alike come to the Reservation by the thousands to experience the distinctive features and vistas that these trail systems make accessible. More and more, people are looking for quick loop hikes that they can fit into their busy schedules. As a result, the trails in the Reservation closest to the parking area are used more heavily than other trails fur-

ther into the park. After years of use from an increasing volume of such visitors, many of these trails need repair, and in some cases, redesign and construction.

The Ramapo Mountains Trail Fund will support trail improvements in the Ramapo Reservation and adjoining properties that surround our new headquarters in Mahwah, N.J. The donation stipulates that the fund is to be matched by public and/or private funds to triple the total amount available. We hope to get a portion of the match from Bergen County and the remainder from users and supporters of the area trails. The funds will support a seasonal trail crew as part of our successful Conservation Corps model, which trains future conservation leaders by teaching



This exciting, multi-year initiative will engage thousands of volunteers and hundreds of trained trail builders to develop sustainable and appealing trails.

Goodell



trail building and stewardship techniques while engaging and teaching community volunteers.

This exciting, multi-year initiative will involve thousands of volunteers and hundreds of trained trail builders to develop sustainable and appealing trails built to withstand the stresses of climate

change and heavy visitor traffic throughout the 21st century. Improving the most impacted portions of the trail networks in the Reservation will significantly enhance the overall outdoor experience they provide to the public.

The Trail Conference is always seeking ways to provide much-needed resources to keep trails and our public lands open, safe, and enjoyable. The grant from the Froelich Foundation is a good model for engaging trail users and park supporters to create safer and more sustainable trail systems for all to enjoy.

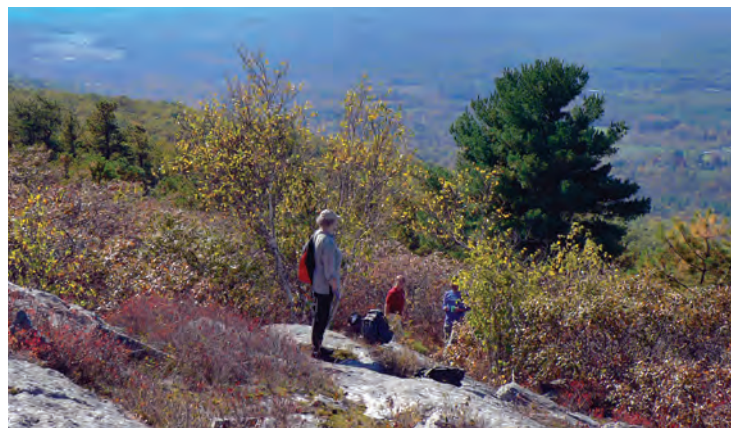
Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

Critical Link for Trails Preserved on Shawangunk Ridge

The Trail Conference's Long Path and Conservation committees work hard to secure a green corridor for our long distance trails before inappropriate development alters the experience along the Long Path, Shawangunk Ridge, and Highlands trails forever.

The latest victory is a key 7.8-acre abandoned rail bed on the western slope of the Shawangunk Ridge near Wurtsboro, N.Y. Combined with other parcels the Trail Conference purchased in 2002 that connect the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area with Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest, the preserved area now totals 21 acres and creates a protected corridor that will move the co-aligned Long Path and SRT off of a 2-mile road walk.

Preserving long distance trails is no easy task—it took 14 years for all the pieces to come together to create this critical link. Conserving open space often requires months of negotiation with land owners, due diligence costs, and the transfer of these parcels to state land managers such as the



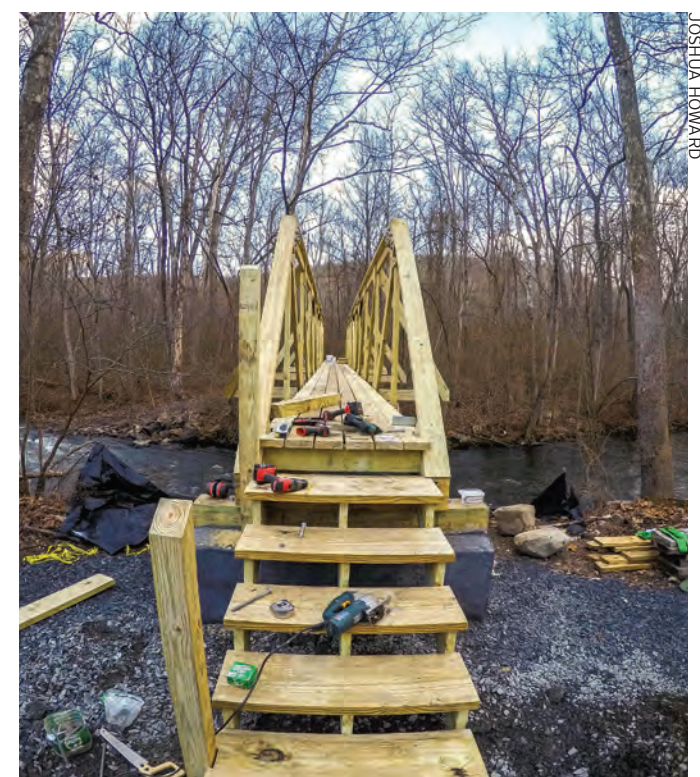
Another key piece of the Shawangunks is now preserved.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Credit goes to our dedicated volunteer Andy Garrison, Long Path Chair, who devotes a virtually unquantifiable amount of time tracking down potential land parcels, contacting land owners, and reviewing the trajectory of the Long Path.

"It's been over 20 years since the Trail Conference has been actively preserving land along the Long Path," Andy says. "Nearly everyone involved at the beginning has moved on, but this very important work needs to continue to be done."

One of the most instrumental people in this process, Andy's fellow Long Path Chair and Conservation Committee Chair Jakob Franke, passed away in November. "Jakob and I worked together for the past 12 years, and he inspired many—including me," Andy says. "He will be missed very much." Read the full tribute to Jakob on page 5.

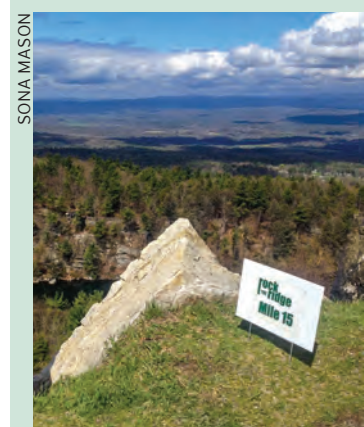
Andy has since stepped into the role of Conservation Committee Chair and will continue the good work of pursuing more undeveloped land on behalf of our trails.



JOSHUA HOWARD

Long-Awaited Long Pond Ironworks Bridge Restores Highlands Trail Crossing

After years of effort, a 70-foot bridge at Long Pond Ironworks State Park was built to restore access to the Highlands Trail, Hasenclever Iron Trail, and Sterling Ridge Trail. Over the second and third weeks of November, Trail Conference volunteers and staffers, along with Marlboro Mountain Construction LLC and Tahawus Trails LLC, braved wet and rainy conditions to help with the construction of the long-awaited bridge. The bridge replaces the crossing that was washed away during Hurricane Irene in 2011 and rendered the Highlands Trail impassable. Thanks in large part to their efforts, the massive replacement bridge is in place, and hikers can once again explore the historic district safely. Expect an official ribbon-cutting this spring.



SONA MASON

Trail Conference to Participate in Rock the Ridge, Raise Funds for Land Conservation

The Trail Conference will participate as a fundraising partner in Rock the Ridge, the 50-mile endurance challenge that will take place for the fifth year on May 6. Rock the Ridge is a 50-mile race held on the Mohonk Preserve and

adjacent lands in New York's Shawangunk Mountains, an area that the Nature Conservancy has identified as "one of the Earth's last great places." The 24-hour time limit and carefully maintained carriage roads make it an

endurance event that is accessible to a wide range of participants, including not only ultra-runners, but also hikers and walkers. Participants commit to raising a minimum of \$250 in charitable donations in support of the

Mohonk Preserve or other causes such as the Trail Conference's conservation efforts. Learn more at rocktheridge50.org. To join the Trail Conference team, enter the code "NYNJTC" during registration.

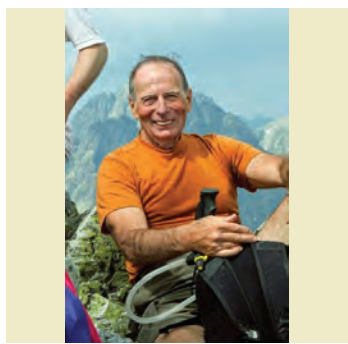
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Recognizing significant service or a special achievement by Trail Conference volunteers.



Pasquale "Pat" Marcotullio, nominated by Mary Perro

A long-time member and supporter of the Trail Conference, Pat joined the Buildings and Grounds Committee in 2015. Pat has put his facilities management experience to good use by working to make our headquarters at the Darlington Schoolhouse energy efficient and by helping to develop the building's Facilities Management & Operations Plan. *Thank you for using your extensive facilities management experience at Trail Conference Headquarters at the Darlington Schoolhouse.*



Steve Reiss, nominated by David & Monica Day

As an avid member of the West Jersey Trail Crew, Steve is known for "going all out." Often before being asked, Steve is on hand with the right tool to carry out even the most strenuous tasks. Whether the job is small or large, his can-do attitude makes his contributions to the crew invaluable. *Thank you for your infallible can-do attitude performing trail work with the West Jersey Trail Crew.*



Bill and Linda Taggart, nominated by Howard Liebmann

Champions of the outdoors, Bill and Linda have been sharing their love of trails as volunteers of the Trail Conference since 2007. They are members of the West Jersey Trail Crew, serve as maintainers in Swartswood State Park, and assist with fact-checking Hike of the Week. *Thank you for sharing your love of the outdoors as members of the West Jersey Trail Crew and maintainers in Swartswood State Park.*

2016 TRAIL CONFERENCE AWARDS**HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS**

The Trail Conference Annual Awards are given by the Board of Directors upon recommendation by staff and volunteers. The following people, who have made outstanding contributions to trails and the Trail Conference, were honored on Nov. 5 at the Volunteer Recognition and Trail Symposium at Ramapo College of New Jersey in Mahwah, N.J.

**PAUL LEIKIN EXTRA MILE AWARD**

Recognizing those volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to projects such as a book, map, or advocacy.

Technology Committee, nominated by Edward Goodell

Since 2015, the Technology Committee has worked on the redesign and upgrade of the Trail Conference website and database. The Tech Committee has coordinated the entire process, from selecting the web consultants, to working closely with staff and volunteers, to seeing the project through to comple-

tion—and beyond. Committee members are:

- ▶ **Mary Dooman**, committee chair and an extraordinary project manager, has kept the project moving and on target.
- ▶ **Doug Cleek** is an overall design expert who works to ensure our Google rankings are retained and that all the Google ads continue to work through the transition.
- ▶ **Russell Dooman** is the database expert who ensures all information is correctly moved to the new platform.
- ▶ **William Roehrig** understands the code and theming issues and works to make sure that the Trail Conference can maintain the new

system when it launches.

- ▶ **Jeremy Appgar and Amber Ray** make major contributions to all aspects of the design and content, far beyond what their official duties as staff members calls for.
 - ▶ **Walter Daniels** provides full-time technical knowledge, which has been critical to the success of the project.
 - ▶ **John Magerlein** provides critical, high-level guidance and leadership.
 - ▶ **David Klatt** contributes new content pages and provides advice on user experience design.
- Thank you for shepherding the upgrade and redesign of the Trail Conference's website and database.*

MAJOR WILLIAM A. WELCH TRAIL PARTNER AWARD

Recognizing those outside the Trail Conference—for example, state, federal, or local agency partner officials—who have given long and/or significant assistance to the local hiking community.



Evan Thompson, nominated by John Magerlein

As the Trail Conference has worked to improve and expand the trail network in Hudson Highlands and Fahnstock state parks, Evan has been an outstanding collaborator for all trail-related activities. Evan designed, built, and installed trailhead signage throughout these parks, which has made it much easier for people to find the trailheads. He communicates frequently about trail plans and is always willing to help out when needed. *Thank you for your enthusiastic collaboration with trail projects in Hudson Highlands and Fahnstock state parks.*



Joshua Osowski, nominated by Howard Liebmann

An eagerness for collaboration makes Josh a pleasure to work with. He quickly responds to questions and requests to provide letters of support for grants, organizes committees to help guide Trail Conference projects, and makes sure materials are available to complete a project, making him a strong partner in North Jersey. *Thank you for providing support with vision and a collaborative spirit to trail volunteers in New Jersey.*

**Symposium Addresses Successes, Challenges**

At our first-ever Trail Symposium on Nov. 5, Trail Conference volunteers and partners participated in workshops, attended site visits, and joined panel discussions on the changing needs of trail users. From left, Melissa Abramson, Manager of REI Outdoor Programs and Outreach, Richard Zayas, Breakneck Ridge Trail Steward, Brandee Chapman, New Jersey State Trails Coordinator, and Chris Connolly, North Jersey Trails Chair, discussed the ways in which easier access to info, changing demographics, and a diverse interest in trail use has challenged them to develop sustainable, long-lasting trails and trail programs.

WILLIAM HOEFERLEIN AWARD

Recognizing Trail Conference volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to trail maintenance, management, and/or trail land protection.



Fred Stern, nominated by Mary Dodds
With a smile on his face, Fred can typically be found working on trails throughout the Hudson Highlands or in the many parks of Westchester County. Whether he's working with trail crews or teaching Trail University courses, Fred is well-known for his leadership in the region, including supervising corridor monitors on the Appalachian Trail and maintainers in Hudson Highlands State Park.
Thank you for leading and pitching in on numerous trail projects throughout the Hudson Highlands and Westchester.



Robert Fuller, nominated by the Long Distance Trails Crew members
A member of the Trail Conference since 1980, Bob has held many volunteer positions with the organization. He began working as a maintainer, and became a member of the Long Distance Trails Crew (LDTC) in 2013. The following year, Bob was named a LDTC crew leader. By 2015, he was serving as chair of the West Hudson Regional Trails Council. Bob can always be found speaking with hikers, educating them on the work of the Trail Conference, and encouraging them to join in the fun.
Thank you for sharing your love of trails, trail building, and the outdoors with trail volunteers and the public.



Andrew Seirup, nominated by Kay Cynamon
Since 2000, Andrew has been active on our trails and as a leader within the organization. He is currently serving as the East Hudson Local Trail Committee Chair, overseeing 150 miles of trails. As a crew chief at Wonder Lake, he planned and led a trail-building team. For four years, he was involved with planning and building a 6-mile extension of the South Taconic Trail, which opened in 2015. His effective leadership is illustrated by his crew's insistence that he lead more projects; he is now running work trips throughout the region.
Thank you for demonstrating a love of trail work and sharing that enthusiasm.

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS

TIM PALUMBO

Manasquan, N.J.

Last spring I joined a program I admittedly knew little about. From hospitality worker to trail builder, living solo in an apartment on the West Coast to a group camp in the woods in New York, I knew some major changes were in store. Can I successfully get the job done? Would feelings of vulnerability and doubt seep in? Will I be tired and sore every day? Will I be able to build friendships with my fellow crew members? Will I be the oldest person there? The answer to all of these questions was indeed "yes," however these six months will leave an imprint on me for the rest of my life.

The Trail Conference Conservation Corps generously teaches and houses a lucky group of individuals who desire to learn trail-building skills. Combining brains and brawn, determination and dedication, many of these seeming impossible trails become reality. I was assigned to the Megalithic Trail Crew, working on one of the longest, oldest hiking trails ever constructed. We would be rerouting a section of the Appalachian Trail on the upper east face of Bear Mountain in New York; let the fun commence!

Any idea what a McLeod is? How about a rock bar or grip hoist? I had no clue before joining the Corps. However, with some phenomenal training and instruction, crew members utilized the tools of the trade in ways we never thought possible. Who would have guessed how easy it is to move a 1,000-pound piece of stone with a hoist and a line? Before long, the flow and routine of trail and camp life takes over and your hard work becomes more evident, you're setting multiple stairs in a day,



building 16 square feet of crib stairs, or walking 15 miles transporting materials. It was a blast.

Over the course of the season, you learn a lot. This is not the "sit at a desk and listen to a lecture" learning environment—it is very hands-on. As crucial as learning trail construction skills is, learning about yourself is just as, if not more, important. It had been a long time since I had been proud of myself and felt a sense of accomplishment. To be able to feel like you fit in, are making a mark, and leaving a legacy is something everyone should get to experience.

As dramatic as this sounds, building a structure that will last hundreds of years is something special. Thanks to the Trail Conference Conservation Corps and its dedicated managers, leaders, fellow crew members, and instructors, I find myself with less questions and more answers about my future. I now know there is a place for me in the trail-building community. I look forward to taking what I have learned around the country, improving, and returning next season an even better builder and person. Cumberland Gap Trail, here I come!

Remembering Tireless Volunteer and Trails Advocate Jakob Franke

Jakob Franke, a remarkable volunteer and leader who dedicated himself to the Trail Conference's mission for nearly a quarter century, died on Nov. 10. He was 75.

Jakob's influence extended beyond his passion for trails and trail lands to the volunteers he recruited with his friendly, welcoming attitude and infectious enthusiasm. He was awarded the Trail Conference's highest honor, the Raymond H. Torrey Award, just five days before his passing. His legacy will impact outdoor recreationists for generations to come.

Beginning in 1992, when he helped construct the Shawangunk Ridge Trail, Jakob had been a tireless advocate, worker, and leader both on and off the trail. As chair of the Long Path South, he was active along that trail's entire length, interacting effectively with supervisors, maintainers, park managers, and other officials to further the goals of the Trail Conference. He organized events and work trips from the Shawangunks to the Palisades, taking on major projects.

The Long Path was Jakob's "baby," and his wife Gely was always right there with him, helping behind the scenes. The pair even celebrated their wedding anniversary out on the trail. With smiles and goodwill, Jakob planned, organized, and managed a 9-mile reroute of the Long Path to get the trail off the road. Gely did trail work for the Phoenicia, N.Y.,



RAYMOND H. TORREY AWARD

The Trail Conference's most prestigious award, given for significant and lasting contributions that protect hiking trails and the land upon which they rest.



Jakob Franke, nominated by the Long Distance Trails Crew members

Thank you for being a trail ambassador and charismatic leader whose friendly, welcoming attitude helps preserve land, build trails, and establish relationships with land managers and officials.

reroute and volunteered to be the camp cook, greeting the crew with meals upon their return to camp. Jakob and Gely were given the Trail Conference's Paul Leikin Extra Mile Award in 2014.

As chair of the Conservation Committee, Jakob worked to preserve and protect land for the future. He "walked the walk" when it came to protecting the Palisades from the proposed outsized construction of LG headquarters. He was a plaintiff in the lawsuit, a speaker at meetings, and went door-to-door to educate the public.

The loss of Jakob's unwavering advocacy and leadership is irreplaceable. He was a tremendous member of the Trail Conference family, and to merely say he will be missed does not do justice to the impact of his work with us.

Arrangements will be private but a memorial will be planned in the spring. There are no further details at this time, and the family has asked for privacy.

MARTY COSTELLO

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TRAIL CONFERENCE 2016 LOOK BACK, 2017 LOOK AHEAD

In 2016, the Trail Conference served as the stewards of more than 2,100 miles of trails throughout the greater New York metropolitan area. The demand for the Trail Conference's services continues to grow as we provide the public with trail information, build and maintain trails, and act as advocates for trails and the lands they cross. Check out the achievements of our organization this last year and see what's to come.

IMPROVING TRAILS, REGION BY REGION

CATSKILLS 2016

- ▶ Built and opened the first section of the new Nature Trail at the Catskill Interpretive Center, which leads visitors to a scenic view.
 - ▶ Carried materials up to the 3,810-foot summit of Sugarloaf Mountain and constructed 80 feet of new bog bridging along the Devil's Path.
 - ▶ Carried materials 5 miles over Slide Mountain (4,180 feet) to replace and install over 160 feet of bog bridging on Cornell Mountain.
 - ▶ Worked with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to construct two brand new lean-tos: German Hollow and Batavia Kill.
 - ▶ Seven additional lean-tos were stained, protecting them for years to come.
- ### 2017
- ▶ Replace Fox Hollow lean-to in partnership with the DEC.
 - ▶ Assist with opening the soon-to-be-purchased "missing link" of the Kaaterskill Rail Trail rail bed, providing access to the public.

EAST OF THE HUDSON RIVER 2016

- ▶ More than 15 miles of new trail were adopted in Westchester County.
 - ▶ The Taconic Trail Crew focused on maintenance of the Undercliff Trail and a reroute of the Wilkinson Trail near Breakneck Ridge. Over 100 volunteers contributing more than 1,000 hours joined the crew this season.
 - ▶ The Fahnestock Trail Crew built the mile-long Hubbard Loop Trail in Fahnestock State Park.
 - ▶ Two new trail crews were established: the East Hudson Trail Crew and the Hudson Highlands Trail Crew.
 - ▶ A youth initiative, introducing 71 high school seniors to trails and trail maintenance, was launched.
- ### 2017
- ▶ Expand outreach in New York City to improve trails in the five boroughs and recruit volunteers for needs throughout the region.
 - ▶ Continue to identify trail maintenance and trail building priorities in Westchester, Dutchess, and Putnam counties.

NEW JERSEY 2016

- ▶ Expanded work on 25 new miles of trail in Morristown National Historical Park, partnering with the National Park Service to improve and maintain this popular trail network.
- ▶ The Ramapo Earth Crew, comprised of college students, continued to grow, contributing over 1,300 hours to projects from the Delaware Water Gap to the Palisades.
- ▶ The Highlands Trail Crew

tackled trail assessment and improvement projects across the entire 125-plus miles of trail in New Jersey. Their GPS inventory data will be used to prioritize future conservation and improvement efforts.

- ▶ Ramapo Valley County Reservation received an initial overhaul to its main trail network, including a new series of blazed loops. This first phase was part of a multi-year program to rebuild the trail system to more modern, sustainable standards.

- ▶ After years of effort, a 70-foot bridge at Long Pond Ironworks State Park was built to restore access to the Highlands, Hasenclever Iron, and Sterling Ridge trails.
- ### 2017
- ▶ Improve trailhead maps and signage to facilitate safe, enjoyable hiking for users of all experience levels.
 - ▶ Enhance and promote underused trail networks to more evenly distribute the increasing number of trail users.

Volunteer Spotlight: West Jersey Trail Crew

In 2016, the West Jersey Crew's spring season focused on Stokes State Forest. We built a bridge on the new Blue Mountain Loop Trail; added rock steps, retaining walls, and turnpiking on a relocated section of the Stony Brook Trail; and built a 22-step, timber-cribbed staircase in Tillmans' Ravine. The crew also spent a day on the Ap-



palachian Trail's Stairway to Heaven in Wawayanda State Park, installing 19 additional stone steps.

This fall, the crew completed the multi-year restoration/upgrade of the 900-foot-long boardwalk on the Cedar Swamp Trail in Wawayanda. Then it

was back to Stokes for more rock steps and sidehilling, as well as stepping stones through a beaver-flooded area. The crew wrapped up the fall season in Worthington State Forest, inaugurating work on an almost 1/2-mile-long relocation of the Rock Cores Trail.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked as part of the crew in 2016. And as always, a huge thank you to our New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection partners at the state parks, who consistently support our work. **Monica and David Day**

Volunteer Spotlight: Long Distance Trails Crew

Busy from March through December on the Appalachian Trail at Black Mountain and Kloiber Field, on the Long Path at Long Mountain, and at several other sites, the Long Distance Trails Crew was not too busy to break from its schedule when a spring fire swept across Sam's Point. It was a privilege to help with fire break mitigation and then, later, to rehabilitate the Verkeerder Kill Falls Trail. The crew contributed 7,300 total hours in 2016, including work, travel, administrative duties, and



Find reports from all of the Long Distance Trails Crew's trips at longdistancetrailscrew.org.

training.

Saying that major projects now grace Black Mountain, Kloiber Field, and Long Mountain does little to tell why we're proud. Take a walk though, and you'll understand. The A.T. relocation on Black Mountain features a beautiful arc descending along a natural berm to meet its original path 500 feet down trail. The bog bridge at Kloiber

Field is 700 feet of shallow S curves made of long-lasting black locust. And the new Long Path approach to the Torrey Memorial on Long Mountain switches back across fall lines at anchor points provided by the mountain itself.

If this sounds interesting to you, join a crew or become a trail maintainer. You won't regret it.

David Booth

WEST OF THE HUDSON RIVER 2016

- ▶ The Long Distance Trails Crew (LDTC) and Hudson Nor'Westers Trail Crew worked together to restore over 300 feet of trail at Sam's Point at Minnewaska State Park Preserve. Additionally, the crews assisted the park with restoration efforts after the massive wildfire that burned through the area in April.
- ▶ The LDTC rerouted and restored sections of the Long Path in Harriman and Tallman Mountain state parks, and the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) in Harriman and Sterling Forest state parks.
- ▶ The Long Path Trail Crew completed 4 miles of new trails in the Shawangunk Ridge State Forest, connecting the Long Path to new parking locations.
- ▶ The Palisades Trail Crew

completed construction of 2.7 miles of the Redback/Eagle multi-use trail loop in Sterling Forest to serve hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

- ▶ The Megalithic Trail Crew continued the construction of the upper east face A.T. reroute on Bear Mountain, leaving only 788 feet of trail to build to reach Perkins Memorial Tower.
- ▶ Secured a key 8 acres of undeveloped land in Sullivan County, enabling a mile of the Long Path to be routed off the road in the future.

2017

- ▶ Preserve more land parcels along the Highlands Trail and Long Path.
- ▶ Build the final link for the Highlands Trail reroute in Chester, N.Y.
- ▶ Continue/complete construction of A.T. reroutes in Harriman-Bear Mountain.
- ▶ Continue trail restoration efforts at Sam's Point.

TRAIL CONFERENCE CONSERVATION CORPS



Read more about the great accomplishments of our Corps crews at nynjtc.org. Find end of season reports from each crew under Trail News.

In 2016, the Trail Conference Conservation Corps deployed five crews throughout the region: Invasive Strike Force Crew, Highlands Trail Crew, Megalithic Trail Crew, Palisades Trail Crew, and Taconic Trail Crew. (See their accomplishments to the left/below.) Our Corps trains, enables, and empowers future conservation leaders by teaching sustainable trail building and stewardship techniques while engaging and teaching community volunteers on the responsible use and care of open space by addressing the needs of land managers.

We'd like to thank our Conservation Corps partners for making the 2016 season a success: Appalachian Trail Conservancy, The Corps Network's AmeriCorps Education Award Program, Corporation for National and Community Service, John and Marianne Gunzler, Friends

By the Numbers

- ▶ **70.5** acres of land improved by removal and treatment of invasive species
- ▶ **124** miles of trail assessed/inventoried
- ▶ **465** work trips
- ▶ **602** community volunteers
- ▶ **19,995** total service hours
- ▶ **22,885** linear feet of trail improved

of Old Croton Aqueduct, Harriman State Park Group Camps, Henry Morgenthau Preserve, Highlands Natural Pool, Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, Mianus River Gorge, National Park Service, New Jersey Audobon Society, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, The New Weis Center for Education, Arts & Recreation, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Palisades MTB, Palisades Parks Conservancy, Recreational Equipment Inc., Rockland Conservation and Service Corps, Teatown Lake Reservation, Westchester Land Trust, and other private donors.

Recruitment for eight Corps crews for the 2017 season will begin soon; check nynjtc.org/job-openings for details.

TRAIL AND SUMMIT STEWARDS

By the Numbers

- ▶ **8,509** People assisted from Memorial Day through Columbus Day where Stewards were stationed throughout the Catskills
- ▶ **11,870** Hikers counted over the 18 days Stewards were stationed at Bear Mountain
- ▶ **47,010** Hikers counted Memorial Day through Nov. 20 when Stewards were stationed at Breakneck Ridge

From Memorial Day through early fall, visitors to Breakneck Ridge, the Catskills, and Bear Mountain State Park on weekends and holidays encountered Trail Conference Trail and Summit Stewards providing helpful outreach and information about park regulations, hiker safety, and preparedness. In addition to readying hikers for their journeys, Stewards also helped discourage and mitigate misuse of trails and the surrounding lands through their education and public relations work. The expansion of our 2016 Steward program was made possible through a generous grant from REI.

In our third season at Breakneck Ridge, the Stewards welcomed and assisted an average of 1,000 hikers per weekend day. For many visitors, Breakneck is their very first hiking experience; Trail Conference Stewards are providing tens of thousands of people with an orientation to the outdoors that includes everything from education on using a map to Leave No Trace principles. Just as importantly, local emergency services have called the Stewards' services invaluable because of the cooperative support they provide lost or injured hikers.

In the Stewards' second year patrolling Giant Ledge/Panther Mountain, Slide, Wittenberg, and Cornell mountains, we became a resource for the public and a protector of the peaks, addressing the unique concerns of these summits, including

the protection of fragile, higher-altitude ecosystems and illegal camping. The addition of Stewards at Platte Clove Preserve was well-received and proved to be our busiest location in the Catskills.

The Bear Mountain Stewards program, positioned at the busy intersection of the Appalachian, Suffern-Bear Mountain, and Major Welch trails, introduced a diverse public of novice hikers to the Trail Conference. On the busiest day, 2,005 hikers were counted ascending the Appalachian Trail.

For a full recap of our Trail and Summit Stewards' 2016 season, visit bit.ly/tc-tss16.

INVASIVES SPECIES PROGRAMS

2016

- ▶ Expanded efforts to preserve biodiversity in natural areas, removing 66,000 invasive plants in 58 parks, preserves, and partner properties.
 - ▶ Engaged over 150 new volunteers to survey for invasives region-wide.
 - ▶ Led the Lower Hudson Partnership for Invasive Species Management (PRISM) in developing public outreach and education on invasive species identification and management.
 - ▶ Helped prioritize invasive species efforts in the Hudson Valley.
- For a full recap of our invasive species programs' 2016 season, including our work as the Lower Hudson PRISM leaders, visit bit.ly/tc-isp16.

2017

- ▶ Ramp up invasive species removal efforts by increasing summer crew service periods, engaging more volunteers, and streamlining data collection and processing.
- ▶ Lead the 45 partner organizations of the Lower Hudson PRISM to aggressively target priority areas and species while expanding public education and outreach.



By the Numbers

- ▶ **45** Lower Hudson PRISM partners engaged in prioritizing invasive species work in the region
- ▶ **58** Parks, preserves, and partner properties where invasive plants were removed
- ▶ **115** Volunteers trained to participate in the BlockBuster Survey. Volunteers were assigned 3X3-mile blocks to scout for 27 target invasive species
- ▶ **150** New volunteers engaged to survey for invasive species region-wide
- ▶ **66,000** Invasive plants removed



Stewards Aria Neghaban and Olivia Pano greeted visitors at the base of Bear Mountain.

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

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

Tuxedo, NY: Creating a Trail Town



New Kiosk Installed

On Nov. 28, an enthusiastic group of Trail Conference volunteers and Tuxedo, N.Y., residents assembled and installed a kiosk at the Tuxedo train station near the Ramapo-Dunderberg trailhead. The kiosk welcomes visitors with a large Trail Conference map, hiking information, historical info, and a chamber of commerce directory of local amenities.

The Trail Conference's half of the kiosk contains suggested loop hikes, backwoods etiquette, trail safety tips, and information about the organization. The kiosk is one of several exciting trail projects underway in western Harriman and Sterling Forest state parks. Trail Conference volunteers and staff committed many hours to developing content, fundraising, and securing approvals for the project.

Special thanks to all the volunteers and these financial supporters: Tuxedo Hudson Manage-

ment Company, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Tuxedo Chamber of Commerce, Northern Tuxedo Residents Association, Virginia Apostolides, Kenneth English, Caroline and Martin B. Lavanhar, Michele K. and Jake Lindsay, Susan B. Scher, and Rodger Friedman.



Science Class Hits the Trail

In October, Trail Conference staffers led the Tuxedo Park School's fourth grade science class on an educational hike in Harriman State Park to learn about trail building, the power of water, and trail erosion control techniques. The students explored several brooks on their way to the Cascade of Slid.

The event provided a unique opportunity to bring the classroom into nature in ways that enhance student learning and retention. For some students, it was their first experience on a hiking trail. Tuxedo Park School (tuxedoparkschool.org) is a supporter of the Trail Conference, and also plans to engage its ninth graders in volunteer trail work in early 2017. Don Weise



1 From building rock steps and bog-bridging to repairing lean-tos and creating tent sites, numerous projects were completed along the Long Path in 2016 through the great work of many volunteers. To bolster the recognition of "New York's greatest trail," the Friends of the Long Path Facebook group was also created. When Jakob Franke, who chaired both the Long Path South and Conservation committees, suddenly passed away in November (see page 5), he left big shoes to fill. Andy Garrison, the Long Path North Chair,

has since been appointed chair of the Conservation Committee and will lead efforts to conserve land around this and other long distance trails. Read more about the Long Path at bit.ly/tc-lp16.

2 This summer, the Jolly Rovers Trail Crew made an impressive mark on the very heavily used Undercliff Trail off of the Breakneck Ridge Trail. With a massive crew of 26 members, the Rovers built more than 20 stone stairs on the badly eroded trail. Our friends also constructed over 20 square feet of retaining wall. In only one week-

end, the Jolly Rovers contributed almost 500 hours of volunteer labor! We continue to be grateful for their partnership.

3 The Trail Conference thanks the Partners for Health Foundation for their support of the "Get Outdoors Essex County" grant, which supports the improvement and promotion of the Lenape Trail to attract Essex County residents outdoors and engage them in physical activity. This year, volunteers worked to connect South Mountain Reservation with the rest of the trail system. Read more at bit.ly/tc-lt16.



Moe Lemire, former Trail Conference Catskills Lean-to Chair, has accepted the new role of Orange-Rockland Appalachian Trail Committee Chair after successfully finishing his thru hike of the A.T. on Sept. 21. Moe has 20 years of experience volunteering with the Trail Conference, and says, "I am looking forward to giving back to the trail I love so much."



On Black Friday, eight volunteers led by Trail Conference Program Assistant Geoff Hamilton took part in REI's #OptOutside movement by taking a stewardship hike up the Breakneck Ridge Trail, where they collected more than two garbage bags full of litter.

ASK A TRAIL BUILDER

What is sidehilling?



TORI WELCH
Field Manager

Sidehilling, also known as bench cutting, is one of the most-used techniques in trail building. To construct a sustainable trail, it is crucial to avoid laying it out down the fall line—the most direct route downhill. When trails

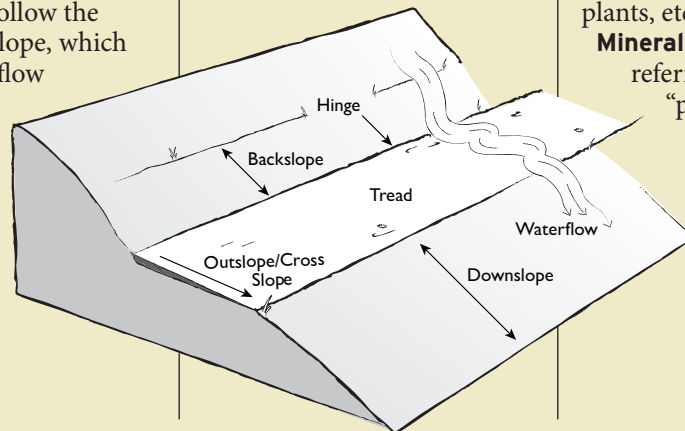
follow the fall line, they are easily eroded into gullies that invite water to continually run down them. When designing a new trail, we instead aim to follow the contour of the slope, which allows water to flow off the trail as quickly as possible. This requires a bench, or obtuse triangle, to be cut into the earth to create a relatively flat surface,

or tread, for users to traverse upon. And *this* is what we mean by sidehilling!

Before you “dig in,” it will help to familiarize yourself with some key terms:

Outslope: Downhill tilt of the tread (approximately 5 percent)

Backslope/Upslope:



Uphill side of the tread where it blends into the slope above the trail

Downslope: Downhill side of the tread where it blends into the slope below the trail

Hinge: Point where the backslope meets the tread

Duff Layer: Top soil layer comprised of decomposing organic materials (leaves, plants, etc.)

Mineral Soil: Commonly referred to as the “peanut butter” layer because of its smooth, light-brown appearance; located just below the duff layer

Once the trail has been laid out and the tread hinge is marked,

construction begins. First, all loose material is raked uphill. Next, using a pick mattock or hoe, the duff layer is removed down to the mineral soil.

Then it's time to start bench cutting. The upslope is cut at a maximum 45 degree angle to minimize tread erosion.

The tread is built with a slight outslope—one that appears to be flat. But this subtle design is critical to shedding water and avoiding a berm buildup. The final step is to compact the soil with a tamper, creating a dense surface that will allow water to quickly run off the trail.

Want to learn more? Our trail crews are eager to teach you everything you need to know about sidehilling and other trail-building skills. Get involved at nynjtc.org.

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In memory of and in honor of Jakob Franke

Malcolm Spector

In honor of Kenneth Malkin's birthday

Kenneth Mayer

In celebration of Masha Pitiranggon and Timon Stasko

Ting Zhang

I remember my 1974 summer as assistant waterfront director at Boy Scout Camp Mohican, now AMC Mohican Outdoor Center.

Ellen B Stern

In memory of Paul Sidow

Helga Bollens

In memory of Stewart J. Maurer

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2016 in Review: Maps and Books

2016 Look Back

- Produced new editions of five maps sets in print and digital formats: Harriman-Bear Mountain, Jersey Highlands, Kittatinny, Shawangunk, and Sterling Forest. The revisions

included significant improvements ranging from adding trail mileage numbers on some maps to providing more detailed contour lines on others.

- Surpassed 100,000 map downloads through the Avenza Maps app and continued

to expand promotion efforts through trailhead kiosk signage.

2017 Look Ahead

- Produce revised editions of North Jersey and East Hudson map sets.

- Publish new, revised editions of *Circuit Hikes in Harriman and Harriman Trails*.
- Maps covering some popular Westchester County parks and maps covering the Long Path will be top priorities for brand new maps in 2017.

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 Mid-Hudson Chapter
www.midhudsonadk.org

Hunterdon Hiking Club
www.hunterdonhikingclub.org

Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference
www.ligreenbelt.org

Thendara Mountain Club
www.thendaramountainclub.org

Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
www.flatrockbrook.org

ADK Long Island
www.adkli.org

AMC New York North Jersey Chapter
www.amc-ny.org

Interstate Hiking Club
www.interstatehikingclub.org

New Jersey Search and Rescue Inc.
www.njsar.org

University Outing Club
www.universityoutingclub.org

ADK Mohican Chapter
www.adkmohican.org

German-American Hiking Club
http://gah.nynjtc.org/

New York Alpine Club
www.nyalpine.com

Mohonk Preserve
www.mohonkpreserve.org

Valley Stream Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/vshclub

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods
www.siprotectors.org

Friends Of The Shawangunks
http://shawangunks.org/

WWW
http://www.weishike.com/

The Catskill Center for Conservation & Development
http://www.catskillcenter.org

Southampton Trails Preservation Society
http://southamptontrails.org/

Discover Outdoors Foundation
www.discoveroutdoors.com

ADK New York Chapter
www.adkny.org

Rip Van Winkle Hikers
http://newyorkheritage.com/rvw

Rock Lodge Club
www.rocklodge.com

Nelsonville Greenway Committee
VillageofNelsonville.org

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

Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group
newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson/

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter
www.amcdv.org

The Outdoor Club, Inc.
www.outdoorsclub.info

Shorewalkers Inc.
www.shorewalkers.org

TriState Ramblers
http://TSR.nynjtc.org/Schedules.html

Chinese Mountain Club of New York
www.cmcny.org

Adventures for Women
www.AdventuresforWomen.org

AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter
http://www.amcmohawkhudson.org/

Morris County Park Commission
www.morrisparks.net

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

Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn

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

New York Ramblers
www.nyramblers.org

Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society
www.meetup.com/Sundance-Outdoor-Adventure-Society/

Westchester Trails Association
http://www.westhike.org

Mosaic Outdoor Mountain Club of Greater New York, Inc.
http://www.mosaic-gny.org/joomla/

Urban Trail Conference, Inc.
www.urbantrail.org

Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy
http://mmc.nynjtc.org

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

New Haven Hiking Club
www.NHHC.info

East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
www.ehtps.org

Hudson Highlands Gateway Task Force
www.TownofCortlandt.com

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

Boy Scout Troop 50 Mahwah
MAHWAHtroop50.scoutlander.com

The Highlands Natural Pool
www.highlandsnaturalpool.org

Bellvale School
http://www.bruderhof.com/en/international-directory/united-states/bellvale

Catskill Mountain Club
www.catskillmountainclub.org

Tenafly Nature Center Association
www.tenaflynaturecenter.org

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

Hudson River Valley Greenway
www.hudsonrivervalley.com

Friends of Pelham Bay Park
http://www.pelhambaypark.org/

Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council

Hilltop Conservancy, Inc.
www.hilltopconservancy.org

Storm King Adventure Tours
www.stormkingadventures.com

Friends Of Garret Mountain
http://friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com/

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.
http://aqueduct.org/

East Coast Greenway Alliance
www.greenwaynj.org

RPH Cabin Volunteers
rphcabin.org

Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee

South Mountain Conservancy Inc.
www.somocon.org

ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter
www.hudsonhikers.org

Byram Township Environmental Commission
www.byramtwp.org

Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization
www.mahwahevo.org

Women About
www.womenabout.org

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

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

Closter Nature Center Association
www.closternaturecenter.org

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
www.littlestonypoint.org

Salt Shakers Trail Running Club
www.saltshakersrun.com

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

Town of Lewisboro
www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec

The Nature Place Day Camp
http://thenatureplace.com/

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park
http://vancortlandt.org/

Alley Pond Environmental Center
http://www.alleypond.com/

Jolly Rovers
http://jollyrovers.org/

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 21

The Storm King School
http://www.sks.org

Palisades MTB
www.facebook.com/groups/palisadesmtb

Frost Valley YMCA
www.frostvalley.org

HDR Mahwah Green Team
http://www.hdrinc.com/

Queens Parks Trails Club

The Highlands Nature Friends, Inc.
www.highlandsnaturefriends.org

Lake Hopatcong Foundation

Canal Society of New Jersey

Harmony Hall - Jacob Sloat House
www.friendsofharmonyhall.org

Town of Woodstock

Ramapough Conservancy, Inc.

New Jersey Highlands Coalition

Yeshiva University High School Outdoors Club

Shelton's Shooters Sussex 4-H Club

Community Search and Rescue
www.commsar.org

Welcome, New Member Clubs!

Yeshiva University High School Outdoors Club (Joined November 2016)

A high school club for students who love to hike, bike, and kayak. Club participants have been enjoying Trail Conference trails for years and joined as a member club so that they could help maintain a trail section of their own.

Discover Outdoors Foundation (Joined November 2016)

A youth organization working to provide life-changing, educational, and fun outdoor experiences to kids who need it most. They joined the Trail Conference to help with trail maintenance work.

MAP TALK

As the Trail Conference cartographer for nearly 10 years, I have received praises on the quality of our maps, as well as many inquiries about them. I receive certain questions on a regular basis, which is why we're introducing this column—to share the answers! If you have a question about our maps, email apgar@nynjtc.org and include "Map Talk Question" in the subject line. Your question might appear in the next issue of Trail Walker.



Why are lines for trails almost always red on your maps, instead of the color of the blaze markings?



JEREMY APGAR
Trail Conference Cartographer

Red trail lines have been the Trail Conference standard for more than 40 years, starting with the first edition of our Harriman-Bear Mountain map in 1975. While I cannot guess the original reasons for doing so, there are several reasons why we continue to show marked trails on our published maps as solid red lines, coupled with blaze color symbols that are keyed to the legend.

First, individuals with some degree of color blindness or other visual impairment aren't able to accurately

determine the color of certain trails if they are colored by blaze color; some trails may look similar to others; and some trails may blend into the background and not even be visible. A consistent blaze color symbol provides easy reference for users.

Second, it becomes much more difficult to use a print map in low-light conditions if the trails are all different colors. This can be especially important for park users who may be semi-lost as dusk approaches, and they need to figure out how to get out of the woods. Consistently colored red lines stick out more in low-light conditions.

Third, many trail systems have colors that can appear similar, and so it can be difficult to distinguish what color a specific trail is when compared to other trails if they are all colored by their blaze color. In particular,

shades of yellow, orange, and red can look similar on a map depending on the quality of the map and printing. Using all red lines removes any confusion of needing to distinguish similar shades.

Fourth, on a map with each trail colored by its blaze color, certain trails are given more prominence visually because they stick out more. On a map with many colors for trails, the eyes are often drawn to darker blues and reds against a lighter background, whereas lighter yellows, white, or light-green might be less obvious and fade into the background. Using a consistent color makes sure all trails are given the same visual weight, and our use of red helps to make the entire trail network pop out.

So now you know why all the trail lines crisscrossing a Trail Conference map are red!

Revised Second Edition of *Circuit Hikes in Harriman* Available in Early 2017

The Trail Conference is excited to announce a revised second edition of *Circuit Hikes in Harriman: 37 Loop Hikes and Trail Runs in Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks*, expected to be available in January or February 2017. The first edition was a best-seller, offering a comprehensive guide to loop hikes throughout these two

highly visited parks, with eight loops suitable for trail runs and one for mountain biking. This revised edition adds two new loop hikes. In addition, several hikes have been updated to reflect recent trail changes, and more than 30 new photos have been added.

A variety of lengths and difficulties are represented in the

book, from easy jaunts under 4 miles in length to strenuous loops of up to 10 miles. As with the previous edition, each chapter features a detailed map with an elevation profile, as well as multiple photos of outstanding views and interesting features.

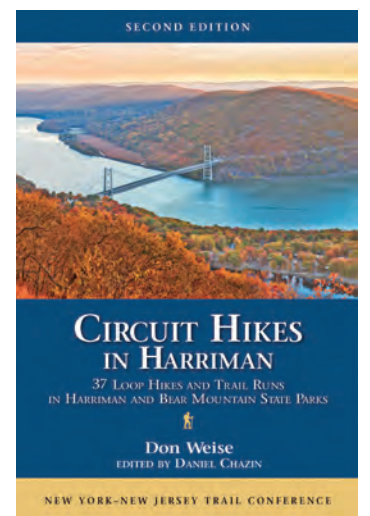
Hike routes were selected by author Don Weise, with 25-

plus years of experience leading hikes and runs through the parks. The book was edited by Daniel Chazin and field-checked by volunteers. Maps were designed by Allison Werberg, with assistance from Trail Conference Cartographer Jeremy Apgar. The second edition was designed by Nora Porter.

The new *Circuit Hikes in*

Harriman will be available for \$15.95 (\$11.96 for members) at nynjtc.org and at Trail Conference Headquarters.

Daniel Chazin



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YOUR PLANNED GIFT TO THE TRAIL CONFERENCE WILL:

- Help us protect trails and trail lands for future generations.
- Preserve people's connection to the natural world.
- Create a personal sense of responsibility for our wild places.

Please consider including the Trail Conference in your will or as a beneficiary in an investment account or insurance policy today.

You can make a bequest by sharing the following sample language with your attorney:

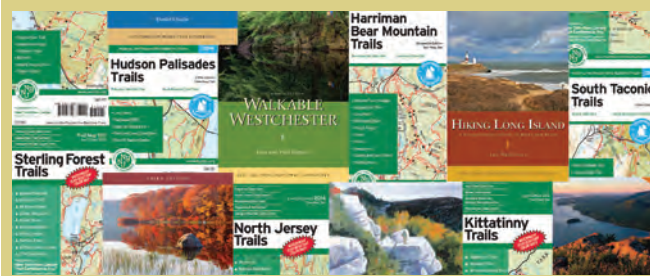
I bequeath to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, with principal offices located at 600 Ramapo Valley Rd, Mahwah, NJ 07430, the sum of \$_____ (or _____%) for its general unrestricted environmental conservation purposes.

TO LEARN MORE AND GET MATERIALS, CONTACT:

Don Weise, Development Director
dweise@nynjtc.org | 201.512.9348 x813

HIKERS' MARKETPLACE

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OR CALL 201-512-9348

Find all our publications and select trail guides from others on our website, and get your 25% member discount!

PHOTOS: AMBER RAY



Rerouting the Long Path to Protect Long Mountain – and Hikers

If you've recently hiked along the Long Path to the viewpoint at the Torrey Memorial in Harriman State Park, there's a good chance you've noticed the trail has been rerouted.

You may have also noticed that the original trail had become a danger to hikers. Rain storms and high foot traffic have eroded the path, exposing loose rocks and small stones that make the descent on the old trail difficult, particularly in unfavorable conditions. Sadly, there are no easy or inexpensive fixes to such heavy erosion. The most sensible option was to close it off and allow nature to restore itself.

The Trail Conference was asked to find a sustainable solution to reroute the Long Path to the Torrey Memorial. Trail builders from the Long Distance Trails Crew and Long Path Trail Crew received the authorization of New York State Parks to re-

locate the trail along a gentler gradient, incorporating a "side-hill" trail. (See "Ask A Trail Builder" on page 9 for an explanation of this technique.) This new route will allow water to flow off the side of the trail instead of running along it, thereby lessening erosion of the tread.

Unfortunately, shortly after the new trail was completed, vandals took it upon themselves to "reopen" the old, brushed-in trail, create their own blazes, and paint graffiti on rocks. We recognize that some people may have a special fondness for the old route, but the trail had deteriorated into an unsafe hiking experience for the public. It needed to be closed to allow the mountain to heal. The brush, rocks, and logs placed in the old trail bed promote nature "taking over" once again. Our commitment to the public and our partners is to provide an enjoyable trail

experience while protecting both the park environment and park users.

Activities such as changing or defacing the new blazes (aqua rectangles indicating the new route), or painting new signs on the trees and rocks are illegal. The Trail Conference, park staff, and all of the volunteers who put in great effort to create a better trail experience on the Long Path hope that everyone will use the new route and allow the older, eroded one to remain closed. The new route may be an easier and longer climb, but it reaches the same rewarding view.

Should you have questions about this or any trail reroutes, please call the Trail Conference: 201.512.9348. We appreciate your cooperation and trust that you will continue to enjoy this beautiful trail, memorial, and view. Find the full hike description at bit.ly/tc-lplm.

FEATURED HIKE

Details

- ▶ **Trail:** Long Path to Torrey Memorial
- ▶ **Park:** Harriman State Park, Orange County, N.Y.
- ▶ **Difficulty:** Moderate
- ▶ **Length:** 2 miles
- ▶ **Route Type:** Circuit
- ▶ **Dogs:** Allowed on leash
- ▶ **Features:** Views



Meet the Trail Builders

This trail—and nearly every trail throughout the region—has been built by volunteers. These outdoor-loving people—people just like you!—work hard all year long to keep trails open and enjoyable for everyone.

They take pride in their contribution, and invite you to see what trail building is all about. If you would like to give back to the trails you love, our crews would love to meet you. Training is free, and happens right on the trail. Visit nynjtc.org to find all the ways you can make a difference for trails.



The Long Distance Trails Crew built this beautiful staircase on the new Long Path reroute.

Support Trails, Parks and Open Space in the New York-New Jersey region by joining the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

NY-NJ Trail Conference BENEFITS

The Trail Conference maintains more than 2,100 miles of trails, advocates for parks, protects open space, and provides volunteer service opportunities in the great outdoors.

Your membership supports the trails you love and gives you these additional benefits: Go to nynjtc.org/membership.

25% Discount on Trail Conference maps, books, and other products. Visit nynjtc.org/panel/goshopping.

Great Discounts at supporting outdoor retailers and other businesses. See our partners at nynjtc.org/content/retail-partners.

Tuition-Free Enrollment in our Trail University introductory courses

Workshops and Seminars on trail maintenance and construction, leadership training, wilderness first aid, chainsaw operation, environmental monitoring and GPS operation. Learn more about Trail U at nynjtc.org/trailu.

Access to a wide range of volunteer opportunities on-trail and off-trail. Visit nynjtc.org/volunteer.

Find links to all these and more at nynjtc.org.

Join/Renew NY-NJ Trail Conference Membership

We maintain more than 2,100 miles of trails. Your membership helps us expand our horizons.

Included with membership: *Trail Walker*, 10% discount on purchases at many outdoor stores, and 25% discount on all Trail Conference maps and books purchased directly from the Trail Conference. Save time and a tree by joining or renewing online at nynjtc.org. Just click on the Join/Renew Now button.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Select one: Join Renew Membership # if available _____

	Individual	Joint/Family
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
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Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
Senior (65+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40

A joint membership is for two adults residing at the same address.

For my membership of \$60 or more, send me a:

Trail Conference Cap OR Harriman-Bear Mountain Map Set

To purchase a gift membership, call 201-512-9348, ext. 28.

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Make check or money order payable to the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ, 07430.

Tax deductible. Dues are not refundable.