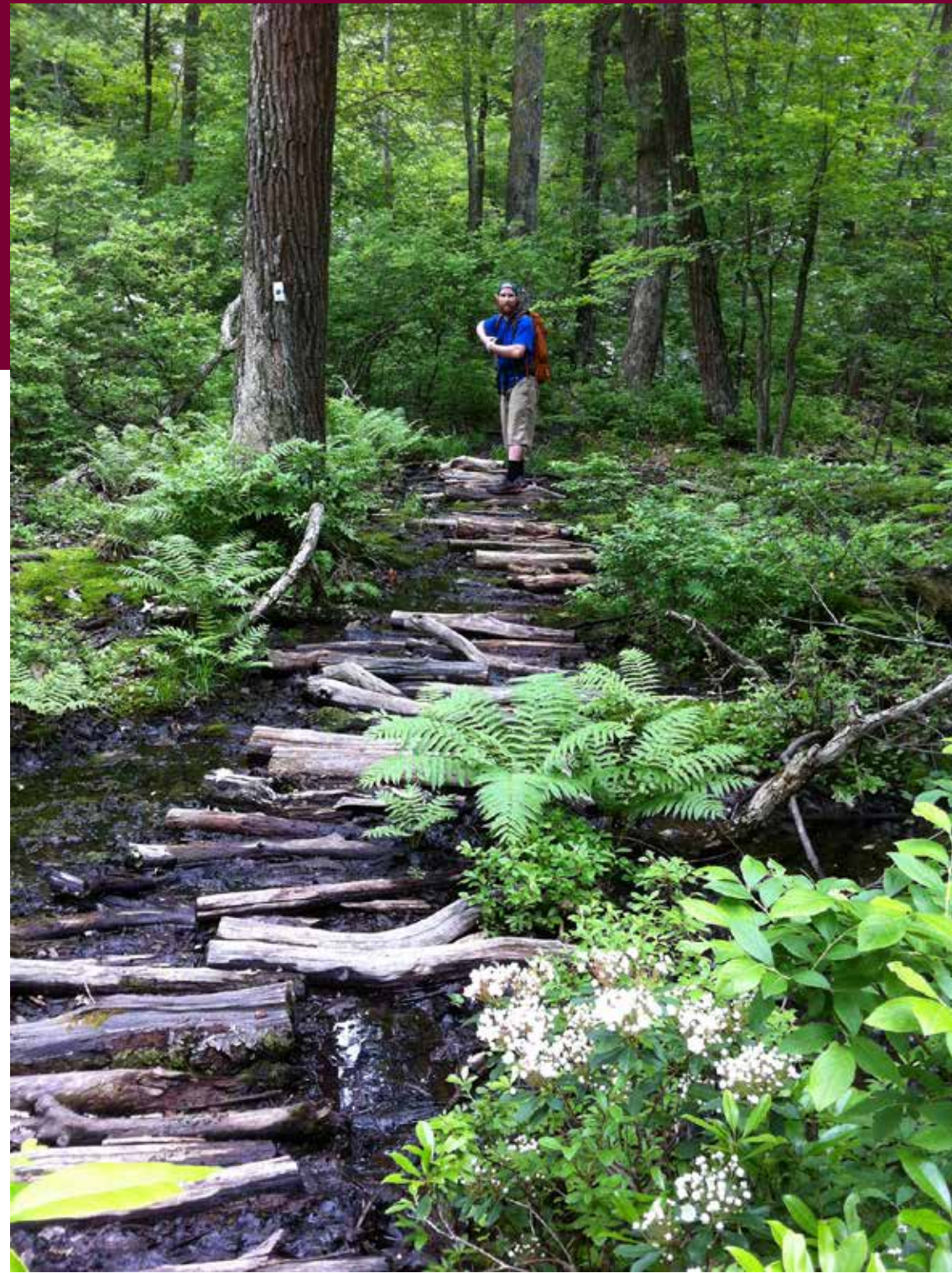


# Corduroy



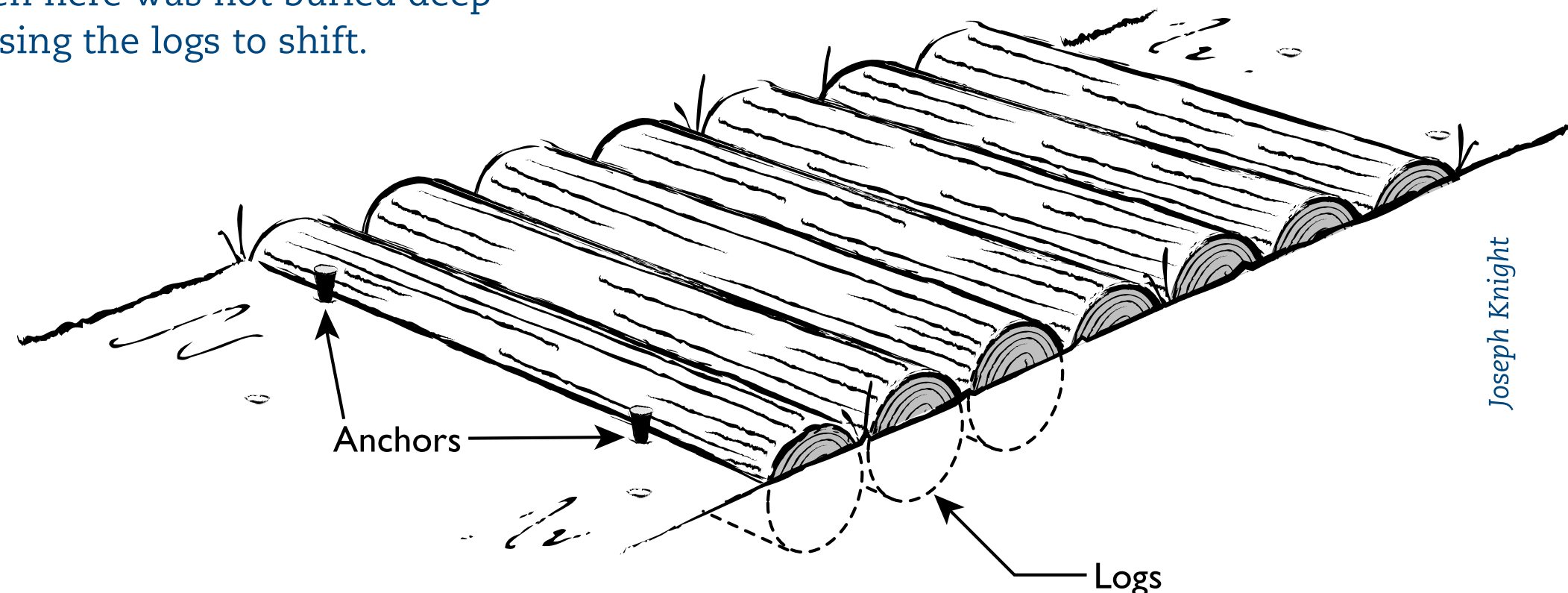
Erik Mickelson

**BELOW** Corduroy logs last longer if they are effectively buried.



Emily Philips

**ABOVE** Corduroy helps harden the tread surface of a trail, but it can become a hazard if not installed correctly. The corduroy seen here was not buried deep enough, causing the logs to shift.



Joseph Knight

Corduroy is a technique that has been in use since 4000 BC. Logs are laid perpendicular to the direction of travel in low, swampy areas to keep the trail tread passable. The bumpy surface of corduroy roads can prove treacherous for some users, especially horses, but it can be covered with dirt or gravel to create a smoother, safer path. If the logs are completely buried in a wet area, it takes a very long time for them to decay and rot. Corduroy roads dating back to the early 20th century can still be found in parts of the United States.