



TRAIL WALKER

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

The Appalachian Trail: Built by Volunteers, Then and Now

On Oct. 7, 1923, Trail Conference volunteers officially opened the first section of the Appalachian Trail, which they built and blazed through Bear Mountain and Harriman state parks in New York. This fall, the Trail Conference will finish construction on the historic Bear Mountain Trails Project—the most ambitious rehabilitation of the A.T. ever conducted—which has been primarily built by volunteers, just as it originally was 95 years ago.

That's nearly a century of Trail Conference volunteers selflessly giving their time and energy to ensure that the Appalachian Trail—not just at Bear Mountain, but along its entire route through New Jersey and New York—remains open, safe, and enjoyable for all who travel it. As more people head outdoors, the need to protect trails like the A.T. and the wild places they traverse has become more crucial than ever before.

Over 2 million people visit Bear Mountain each year, making this original section of the A.T. the most heavily used along the entire Trail. When issues of heavy use and degradation came to a head in 2004, a plan was needed to accommodate the high volume of hikers and protect the mountain from being “loved to death.” Over the last 14 years, the Trail Conference has rallied volunteers and supporters to help transform the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain from an eroded, 10-foot-wide scar into a safe, sustainable footpath. That's nearly 3,000 volunteers donat-



HEATHER DARLEY

Before the start of the Bear Mountain Trails Project, the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain was as wide as 40 feet in some places (right). To accommodate the high volume of visitors, the sustainable solution was to build stone steps up the majority of the mountain (above).



ing over 85,000 hours to care for and improve 2 miles of the Trail.

Now add in the 172 other miles of the Appalachian Trail spanning N.Y. and N.J. that our volunteers care for. Consider the maintainer who clears the Trail of litter, crew member who repairs boardwalk, surveyor who scouts for invasive species, rare and en-

dangered plant monitor who scouts for native species, corridor monitor who patrols for encroachment on the Trail's protected lands, sawyer who responds to blowdown after a storm, and Steward who teaches Leave No Trace principles to first-time hikers. It takes an army to maintain and protect the Appalachian Trail.

The Trail Conference has

served as regional guardians of the A.T. since its inception, and we will continue to do so. As long as people seek a connection with nature we will continue to promote stewardship, working to inspire a deeper appreciation for the care that the Appalachian Trail—for everything that its iconic white blaze stands for—requires.

Gala to Celebrate Trail Conference Achievements on the A.T.

As we prepare to complete the historic Bear Mountain Trails Project this fall, we invite you to celebrate this Appalachian Trail milestone at our Annual Gala.

Join us Thursday, Oct. 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. at our headquarters in Mahwah, N.J., for an inspiring evening celebrating the Trail Conference's rich history and vision, as well as the exceptional work of our most outstanding partners, in creating great trail experiences for all to enjoy. The night will include live entertainment, farm-fresh hors d'oeuvres, local craft beverages, an auction, and more.

Find more information and RSVP at bit.ly/tc-gala18.

A grand opening celebration for the completed Appalachian Trail rehabilitation on Bear Mountain will be held in the spring. Sign up for our digital newsletter and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates.

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New 7-Mile, Multi-Use Trail Loop Opens in Sterling Forest

ERIK MICKELSON AND SONA MASON

Seventeen years after the first Trails Plan for Sterling Forest State Park was drafted, the park is about to celebrate the opening of one of the finest multi-use trails in the region, built by the Trail Conference. The completion of a 7-mile loop open to hikers, mountain bikers, and, in part, equestrians brings to fruition the dreams of so many who worked to make this beautiful forest accessible to a wide variety of users.

Trail maintenance and construction for hikers began shortly after the interim Sterling Forest Trails Plan was written in 2001. In 2009, a final Trails Plan was released with the vision and goal to develop, maintain, and operate a high-quality trail system that links to regional trail systems and is maintained through public/private partnerships to provide a year-round trail system for a diversity of users. With funding from New York State Parks, the Trail Conference began work on the new multi-use trail loop in October 2015.

Since then, a small army of Trail Conference volunteers and Conservation Corps members has given more than 13,000 hours building the Munsee-Eagle/Hutchinson/



Volunteers and Conservation Corps members have given more than 13,000 hours building the multi-use loop.

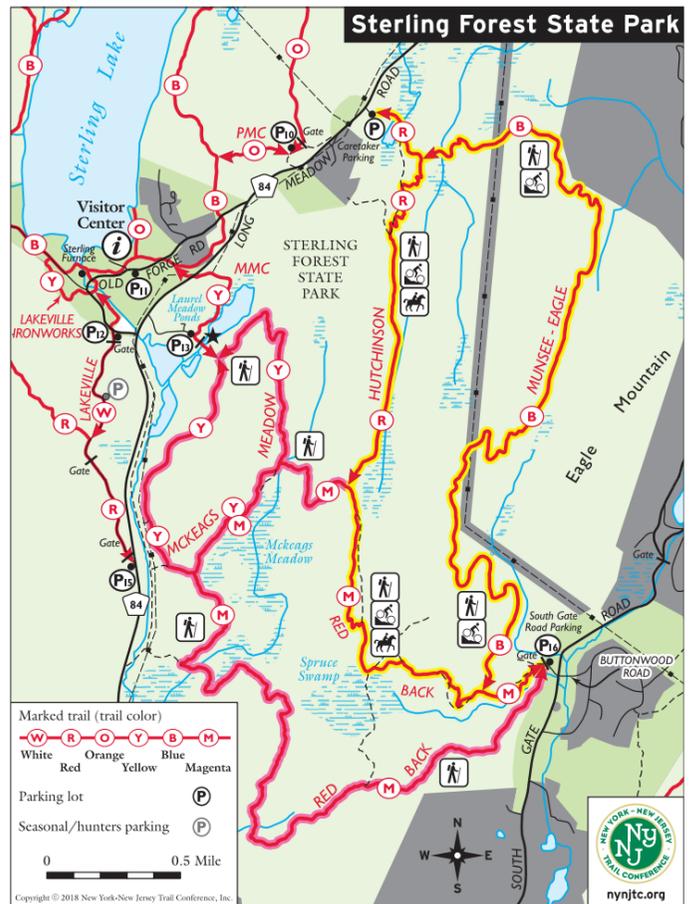
Sharing the Trail

Because the new trails in Sterling Forest are mostly single-track, shared-use trail, please practice proper trail etiquette. Pause and acknowledge each other's presence. All users yield to horses, and bikes yield to horses and hikers. If possible, move down low off the trail below horses rather than climbing above them.

have been building the 3.5-mile Munsee-Eagle Trail. Named after a vanishing Lenape language and Eagle Mountain, which the trail skirts, traveling the Munsee-Eagle can elicit a sense of soaring as it flows along cliffs and through valleys. "I hope the trail feels native underfoot as it unfolds before you and your mind soars away from troubles to focus on the moment and the language of the trail, however it speaks to you," says Trail Conference Field Manager Erik Mickelson, who designed and built the trail.

On Sunday, Sept. 30, both the completion of the Munsee-Eagle and the 7-mile loop it creates will be celebrated with a grand opening (see sidebar). The trails wind playfully through a multitude of habitats, creating a fun, engaging experience that showcases the splendor of Sterling Forest.

Red Back loop. The project achieved its first big milestone in 2016, when sections of the Red Back Trail were rerouted and the newly constructed, 2-mile Hutchinson Trail was opened. Over the last two seasons, Trail Conference crews



You're Invited to the Grand Opening!

The Trail Conference and New York State Parks will hold a grand opening of the new 7-mile, single-track, multi-use trail loop at Sterling Forest State Park on Sunday, Sept. 30, at

11:30 a.m. at the Caretaker Parking Lot on Long Meadow Road in Tuxedo Park, N.Y. The ribbon-cutting will be followed by a guided ride, run, and hike beginning on the Munsee Eagle and returning on the Hutchinson Trail. All are welcome to help celebrate this achievement. Sign up at bit.ly/tc-sfmut.



The Munsee-Eagle is open to hikers and bikers. The Hutchinson and Red Back are also open to equestrians.

Look Back: Breaking Ground

On Oct. 24, 2015, Trail Conference Field Manager Erik Mickelson was joined by several key figures in the local mountain-biking community to work on the

first realignments of the Red Back Trail. Breaking ground that day were Arthur and Ellen White, who have been pivotal in building and maintaining trails in Ringwood State Park, and Tom Hennigan, the current president of JORBA, who has been a fixture at Jungle Habitat. Michael Vitti, from

CLIMB and the New York State Trails Council, has also been an integral part of the project, helping Art and others forge the Trails Plan itself, walking some of the layout with Erik, and attending many work days. Thanks to all partners and volunteers who made this trail loop possible!

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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 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our Most Important Renewable Resource

The Trail Conference was founded in 1920 on the fundamental philosophy of connecting people with nature. Nearly 100 years later, we continue to achieve this by partnering with land managers and mobilizing volunteers and advocates to build and maintain trails and care for the public parks that belong to us all. In essence, our ethos remains the same: Protect the land you love.

How does an environmental nonprofit maintain that kind of dependability? The Trail Conference is resilient—able to resist disturbance and enable recovery—because we have one of the most valuable and renewable natural resources of all: members and volunteers



with passion and purpose. The passion that drives our 2,100-plus volunteers and nearly 8,500 members is personal: a maintainer “adopts” a trail to keep clear and in good repair because she grew up hiking it with her father; a college student becomes a member because he is concerned about the threat invasive species pose to the ecosystem. But we are united in purpose: We love being outdoors and have a responsibility to make sure others can have a great experience outside, too.

That purpose has an impact on much more than the enjoyment of your Saturday hike.

Not only are healthy, accessible trails and parks great for getting fresh air and exercise, they’re critical for the strength of the greater New York metropolitan region as a whole. Undeveloped green spaces from the Delaware Water Gap to Manhattan through the Hudson Valley and beyond help to provide clean water and air, natural habitats for wildlife, and moderate weather. Without them, this area would be overcrowded and polluted beyond repair. Our contributions to the sustained health of public lands are a contribution to the durability of our region overall.

Trails and parks face many threats, from development to climate change, funding cuts, misuse, and overuse. Many of our park partners are unable



The Trail Conference is resilient ... because we have one of the most valuable and renewable natural resources of all: members and volunteers with passion and purpose.

Goodell



to dedicate sufficient resources toward creating and maintaining their trails or educating users. Trail Conference volunteers help fill in the gaps by caring for more than 2,100 miles of trails every year. In aggregate, our volunteer efforts can be monetized, based on New York and New Jersey valuations of donated time, to

the equivalent of \$2.8 million per year. That’s a valuable resiliency factor in the 26 counties where we work.

Our partners count on us to stay focused on issues that affect parks in the region, bringing together key constituencies, marshaling resources, and seizing opportunities to keep growing and improving our public trail systems while maintaining the ecological integrity of trail lands. Local trails and parks need the Trail Conference. And we need our Trail Family—committed volunteers, champions, and donors like you.

How will you protect the land you love?

Edward Goodell

Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

This Dog Will Change the Way We Fight Invasives



LINDA ROHLEDER
DIRECTOR OF LAND STEWARDSHIP

The Trail Conference is the leader in regional efforts to combat invasive species. As such, we are always looking for the most effective ways to diminish the impact invasives are having on the environment. That’s why the Trail Conference is launching a Conservation Detection Dog program—the first of its kind in the Northeast. With the help of Paul and Joan Zofnass, an anonymous major donor, and other supporters, we have just raised the minimum funding needed to move forward with a pilot program.

Dia, our year-old Labrador retriever, will start her invasives-specific training by learning to detect the presence of scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). This species is targeted for eradication by the Lower Hudson Partnership for Invasive Species Management (PRISM), which the Trail Conference manages. Scotch broom typically grows among other plants in fields and along roadsides in our parks; with-



Josh and Dia

out the help of a detection dog, it can be difficult to spot, making Dia’s nose an important tool in our efforts to control the species.

Our canine handler Joshua Beese will be training and working with Dia. Josh is an emergency search and rescue dog handler for New Jersey Task Force 1 and FEMA and owner of Painted Dogz training in New York City. During their searches together, Dia will wear a GPS collar to record the locations of her surveys. Once Dia detects the presence of a target species, our Invasives Strike

Force team will be called in to manage it. Over time, we hope to train Dia to detect multiple species, such as southern pine beetle, an invasive insect that is devastating pine forests, or spotted lanternfly, a threat to grape, apple, and hops crops.

We thank the Zofnass family and all donors to our Detection Dog fundraising challenge for their generous support to make our pilot program possible. Show your support of the Conservation Detection Dog Program and help protect native ecosystems today at bit.ly/tc-cddf18.

Why Use Dogs for Invasives Detection?

Utilizing their exceptional sense of smell, dogs have been commonly used for search and rescue, as well as weapons and narcotics detection. These tracking and

detection skills are now being used to protect our wild spaces. In 2010, the journal Invasive Plant Science and Management published a study that concluded trained dogs could smell and detect twice the number of invasive plants that humans could observe with their eyes.

In a metropolitan region

highly prone to invasive infestations, early detection is a key component of successful invasive species management. The addition of a conservation detection dog to the Trail Conference’s Invasives Strike Force helps us to increase both the quality and quantity of our invasive surveys.

Finding the Right Dog



When we originally began planning the Conservation Detection Dog program, Dia wasn’t the first dog we considered. We first started working with Penn Vet Working Dog Center and had identified Willow, a black lab being trained there, for adoption. But as the process moved forward, we received some disappointing news: tests came back with an indication of mild dysplasia, which could result in pain and arthritis in Willow’s elbows over time. Based on these results, the director of the Center recommended that Willow not be assigned to field work—the type of work we would be asking her to do. Penn Vet will find an assignment for her that

is more stationary and places less stress on her joints.

We then began a nationwide search for a new dog, which eventually led us to Dia. A yellow lab born last September, Dia was bred in Wisconsin by Red Hot Labradors as a hunting competition dog. Our handler Josh made the trip out to see Dia and evaluate her for the program. We think Dia has the right stuff; see for yourself! Follow Dia’s journey on Instagram (@DiaTheDetectionDog) as she learns her first species and begins her career with the Trail Conference combating invasives.

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People Needed to Protect a Green Corridor for Long Path, Highlands Trail

Intense development in Orange County, N.Y., threatens detrimental effects on the Long Path and Highlands Trail. In a rapidly growing area where the amount of undeveloped land is dwindling, we cannot let these trails be the victims of urbanization.

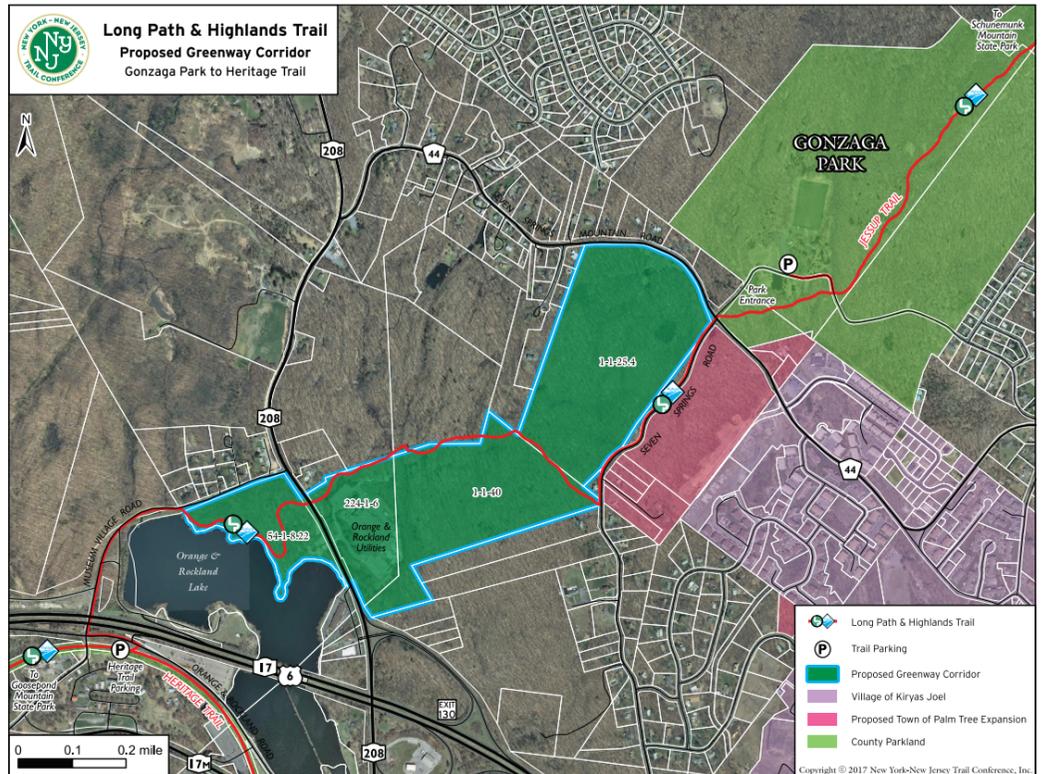
The 358-mile Long Path connects New York City at the 175th Street subway station with John Boyd Thacher State Park in Albany County. The 182-mile Highlands Trail connects the Delaware River in New Jersey to the Hudson River at Storm King Mountain. Where these trails co-align on Seven Springs Road in the Town of Monroe, the Trail Conference is deeply concerned about various proposals to expand development.

The proposed comprehensive plan for the Town of Palm Tree, which includes the Village of Kiryas Joel, will lead to intense development along the route of the Long Path and Highlands Trail. Currently, vacant parcels along Seven Springs Road provide a woodland character for these

trails, which will be irrevocably altered as development commences. Additionally, a new proposal to create the Village of Beer Sheva takes in all remaining Town of Monroe areas west and south of Palm Tree/Kiryas Joel that are outside the villages of Monroe and Harriman—completely transforming the trail experience in this area.

When the potential for Palm Tree build-up along the Long Path and Highlands Trail first arose in 2017, Trail Conference members rallied by sending emails, making phone calls, and appearing at meetings to ensure Orange County legislators were aware of the significant threat that major residential development poses to local trails and parks. In the last year, Trail Conference staff and volunteers met with state, county, and municipal officials to come up with viable options for protecting these long-distance trails.

To protect the Long Path and Highlands Trail, the Trail Conference calls for the creation of a green corridor between Gon-



zaga Park and the Heritage Trail. The undeveloped parcels of land between Gonzaga Park and the Heritage Trail in Monroe are the last refuge in the area for these multi-state trails. This critical pinch point forms a vital greenway connecting two state parks: Schunnemunk Mountain and Goosepond Mountain. If the land around Seven Springs Road is developed, the experience on these trails will be severely impacted and the parks will be isolated.

We are not alone in this call for action. The Long Path and Highlands Trail are listed on the New York State Open Space Plan as part of the unique physiographic Highlands region, a “nationally significant landscape” that “provides and protects water for millions of New York and New Jersey residents.” It is named “an Important Bird Area” and a “high priority for conservation efforts.”

While the Open Space Plan acknowledges the necessity of land conservation in this area, it is not enough to ensure the protection of the Long Path and Highlands Trail. A consistent presence and stronger voice need to be seen and heard by decision-makers. Help the Trail Conference ensure this long-distance trail corridor remains part of the

conversation as the comprehensive plan for the new Town of Palm Tree moves forward and the proposal to create the Village of Beer Sheva has the potential to proceed.

We are looking for concerned outdoor-lovers who would like to be part of the solution—people who will write to and speak with elected officials, attend and occasionally speak at public hearings and town meetings, and meet with key decision-makers. Email volunteer@nynjtc.org to get involved. Sign up for our digital newsletter at nynjtc.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay up-to-date on this issue.

The most powerful tool in the Trail Conference arsenal is our united voice. Together, we can make a difference.



Will Fortin, left, and Dustin Smith completed the Long Path in just eight days this June.

New Thru-Run Record Set on New York's Long Path

Will Fortin and Dustin Smith completed a thru-hike of the 358-mile Long Path in just eight days this June, setting a new record for the trail's fastest known time (FKT).

Will and Dustin set out on their unsupported trek of the Long Path at the official northern terminus of the trail in John Boyd Thacher State Park on June 1. On June 9, Will and Dustin crossed the George Washington Bridge

into Manhattan, becoming the new record-holders. There, they were met by Trail Conference Board member and volunteer Ken Posner, who had set the previous FKT in 2013 after completing the Long Path in nine days.

“Completing the Long Path end-to-end was the challenge of a lifetime,” Dustin says. “It was the hardest thing I’ve ever done, but it was a chance to encounter truly wild and

spectacular parts of New York.”

The pair said they are grateful for the Friends of the Long Path community for their warm and welcoming support on their adventure. They thank the volunteers who have worked so hard to make the Long Path “New York’s greatest trail.”

Check out bit.ly/tc-lpfkt for a full recap of their record-breaking journey.

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The Everyday Efforts to Protect and Improve the Long Path



KEVIN MCGUINNESS
LONG PATH SOUTH
CHAIR

The Long Path is New York's premier long-distance hiking trail, spanning 358 miles from 175th Street in Manhattan to John Boyd Thacher State Park, north of Albany. A hiking trail running from one of the largest cities in the world through dense urban and suburban areas faces numerous challenges. Unlike trails in parks that are protected, the Long Path runs through state, county, and town parks—and through a lot of private lands. While more and more parts of the trail get protection through land acquisition and agreements, more and more construction and suburban sprawl threaten the existence of the trail. The Trail Conference, with local municipality partners, is constantly fighting to preserve and protect the trail.

One example of this battle recently occurred in Nyack,

where the trail runs between two apartment complexes through a narrow strip of land protected by Rockland County. The Trail Conference was notified of the planned construction of a clubhouse at one of the complexes that might impact the trail. We asked the county for further information, but they had no record of a construction permit. I went to take a look for myself. While there, I discovered another inconvenience: dirt and debris had been illegally dumped over a portion of a county trail and onto the Long Path.

I notified the county, and Park Operations Manager Michael DiMola inspected and confirmed that a contractor had improperly filled the area. We met with the manager of the complex, who said the work had been done without their knowledge and that the debris would be removed.

Mike DiMola made sure the trails and surrounding area were restored. Meanwhile,

Illegal Fill Over Trail



Long Path Relocation



the county received the permit request for the clubhouse construction; it was planned to sit adjacent to the complex's pool, about 200 feet from the area that had been improperly filled. The clubhouse was planned to be a 2-story structure immediately adjacent to the trail. While the construction on private property could not be stopped, the Trail Con-

ference was given the opportunity to comment on the plans. We asked that native, deer-resistant landscaping be planted to provide a visual buffer.

To accommodate construction, the Long Path needed to be moved, and Rockland County offered to relocate the trail. Mike, with assistance from the Rockland County Conservation and Service Corps, cleared the route using weed whackers, chainsaws, rakes, and shovels. They even covered the new trail with wood chips. The new route was not only necessary for the preservation of this Long Path section; it's also an improvement over the former trail, thanks to our valued Rockland County Parks partners.

Your Trail Conference membership helps to maintain, protect, and yes, improve the trail. If you are interested in helping to preserve the Long Path, contact volunteer@nynjtc.org to find out how to get involved.

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May 1 - July 31, 2018

Due to space constraints, effective Nov. 1, 2018, only contributions of \$50 or more will be acknowledged in Trail Walker.

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AmazonSmile Foundation, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, BD, Benevity, Best of Times Ski Club, Carroll & Wieck Charitable Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, Dutchess Tourism Inc., Earthshare Chapters, EarthShare New Jersey, Entergy, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, FJC, Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc., Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Hunter Foundation, Inc., IBM Corporation Matching Grants Program, JPMorgan Chase Foundation Matching Gift & Volunteer Grant Programs, KPMG, Land Trust Alliance, Mary W. Harriman Foundation, Mutual of America Foundation, National Financial Services LLC, Network For Good, New York Alpine Club, Open Space Institute, Inc. (OSI), REI, Schwab Charitable Fund, The American Gift Fund, The New York Community Trust, TIAA, Truist/FrontStream Workplace Philanthropy, Verizon Foundation, YourCause (YourCause.com), and the Catskill Mountain Club

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

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

PROTECT THE LAND YOU LOVE

The Trail Conference mobilizes more than 2,100 volunteers who are dedicated to maintaining and preserving the integrity of trails and

the lands they traverse. One way we work to create great trail experiences is through the service of our crews. Our volunteers and Conservation

Corps members have been building and maintaining trails and protecting ecosystems in your favorite parks all season long. Check out their great

work! If it inspires you to take action, learn how to get involved in building adventures and protecting the land you love at nynjtc.org/events.

NEW JERSEY



MEVO Trail Crew

In partnership with the Trail Conference, the MEVO (Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization) Trail Crew has become a group of hardworking stewards for trails and the environment at large.

Two days a week, our 2018 crew of eight college students hit the trail in late May and worked on bench-cutting trails, setting stepping stones, remediating abandoned trail, and more through August. Every Thursday we joined the Ramapo Crew in Ramapo Valley County Reservation working on the technical stone-step reroute beside the Vista Loop's waterfall. The personal mission of this crew? Do great trail work... and pet a lot of dogs. On our crew trip report each day we made sure to mark both linear feet of trail built and the number of dogs we pet! [Violet Reed, Crew Leader](#)



Ramapo Trail Crew

Volunteers and four Conservation Corps members serve in the "backyard" of Trail Conference Headquarters at Ramapo Valley County Res-

ervation. They are creating safer, more sustainable trails at this highly visited park.

All season, the Ramapo Crew has been working on constructing a reroute of the Vista Loop near a popular waterfall. This project began last year and has progressed tremendously; the beautiful stairs are quarried locally and create a durable surface to withstand the large amount of visitors this park receives.

[Geoff Hamilton, Corps Manager](#)



West Jersey Trail Crew

The volunteers on the West Jersey Trail Crew work in several North Jersey parks. They meet at various locations and trailheads depending on their projects.

During our spring 2018 season, the West Jersey Crew spent 11 days improving trails in northwestern New Jersey. Over five work days, the crew removed and replaced more than 500 feet of boardwalk deck on the Appalachian Trail's Pochuck Boardwalk. With three days' work, the crew reopened the Dunnfield Creek Trail after a severe windstorm in May, removing approximately 40 blowdowns from the trail and repairing trail damage from uprooted trees. The crew spent two days installing retaining walls in areas of the A.T. along Dunnfield

Creek where the trail edge was washing away into the creek, and adding drainage to limit further damage. In Tillmans Ravine, the crew spent a day repairing trail damage from trees uprooted during winter storms, removed blowdowns from the stream where they were causing trail flooding, and restored the flooded trail sections, thus enabling the park to open the trails for the season. [David and Monica Day, Crew Leaders](#)



Lenape Trail Crew

The Lenape Trail connects dozens of landmarks in Essex County and is many people's first experience with hiking. This crew's work focuses primarily on making the trail more visible and accessible for new users.

The crew and several volunteer teams rerouted the Lenape Trail through Hilltop Reservation in Verona and Cedar Grove this spring. In Hilltop and several other sections, bollards were installed to provide information on the trail. These installations were possible only with the work of Essex County and township staff. Other achievements include the revitalization of the Lenape Trail through the popular Mills Reservation and bridge rebuilding in the Newark Reservoir, which survived recent floods intact. [David DeShazer, Crew Leader](#)

[David DeShazer, Crew Leader](#)

ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP



Habitat Helpers Crew

Habitat Helpers Crew volunteers have been keeping up the native habitat garden at Trail Conference Headquarters. Join them every other Sunday through October.

The gardens have thrived this year. Even in the midst of drought conditions earlier in the season, the flowers were blooming and buzzing with pollinators. Many visitors have commented on how beautiful the landscaping is, thanks to the 64 volunteers who have spent almost 400 hours this year weeding, mulching, and planting native plants.

[Linda Rohleder, Director of Land Stewardship](#)

Invasives Strike Force Crew

The 2018 Invasives Strike Force (ISF) Crew, comprised of volunteers and four Conservation Corps members, has been focusing on eliminating emerging invasive plant species under the direction of the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM).

This season, the ISF Crew improved nearly 84 acres of natural areas by removing an estimated 1.5 million invasive plants and searched an additional 200 acres. Through more than 24 projects, they dealt with serious invaders such as giant hogweed and kudzu, worked on interesting restoration projects protecting crucial New England cottontail breeding ground and rare turtle habitat, and continued efforts to push back the northernmost edge of Japanese angelica tree infestation. [Linda Rohleder, Director of Land Stewardship](#)



EAST HUDSON



Trail Tramps

This dedicated group of volunteers works tirelessly in Westchester and Putnam counties and beyond, inviting newcomers to learn the tricks of the trade during their regular outings.

The Tramps are capable of doing it all—from blazing to bridge construction to clearing invasive species. Where a trail needs help east of the Hudson River, the Tramps are ready to lend a hand. One highlight of this season has been fixing the muddy section of the Cliffdale-Teatown Trail in Teatown Lake Reservation.

🌿 **Mary Dodds,**
Crew Leader

Taconic Trail Crew

Volunteers and four Conservation Corps members are working on improving the trail experience on Breakneck Ridge.

Working on the Undercliff Trail in the shadow of Breakneck Ridge is no simple thing. Just to get up there is a climb—it is on Breakneck, after all—but



every day, this crew hikes up the mountain to work on a slope quarrying stone for steps and making this trail safe for those who desire a quicker exit off the Breakneck Ridge Trail.

🌿 **Geoff Hamilton,**
Corps Manager



East Westchester Trail Crew

The volunteers of the East Westchester Trail Crew maintain trails at six parks in Westchester County, the biggest being Ward Pound Ridge, which encompasses over 4,300 acres and 36 miles of trails. The crew meets regularly on Fridays to design, build, repair, and maintain trails.

As Ward Pound Ridge has many hilly trails, a large

portion of our work is in erosion control, bog bridging, water bars, and trail diversions. With three certified sawyers in the crew, we also reduce the park staff workload in clearing blowdowns—especially on the more remote trails. We also work each year with interns from local schools and with corporate groups doing community service.

🌿 **Geoff Connor,** Crew Leader



Yorktown Trail Crew

Yorktown Trail Crew volunteers tackle projects on the trails in the Town of Yorktown in Westchester County.

This year, the crew is working with Yorktown Trail Town to build the Mohansic Trailway, a 0.4-mile trail that connects the business district to FDR State Park. The trailway is a former rail bed that requires a 600-foot long boardwalk and three bridges. Since June, Trail Conference members and town residents have been building the 8-foot-wide boardwalk. Ranging in age from 11 to 80, these volunteers have cleared the path, hauled lumber, and built over half of the boardwalk. The project is expected to be completed in 2019.

🌿 **Jane Daniels,** Crew Leader



A Note of Gratitude



When one mentions service to our nation and our communities, it is easy to immediately call to mind our military and first responders—as well it should. However, there are people whose service goes unnoticed. AmeriCorps members around this country are serving, and this service, while different, is no less important or admirable than those mentioned above.

In their diversity and dedication, your Trail Conference Conservation Corps (TCCC) members are a true representation of all that is beautiful about our nation and our region. They come from different places, are of different ages, genders, and ethnicities, and yet they serve a common cause to enrich the experience of our parks and open spaces through service in AmeriCorps and the TCCC.

This year, we have hosted 18 trail builders, four Terrestrial Invasive Strike Force members, one Mile-a-Minute Biocontrol project member, and one Aquatic Invasive Strike Force member. They are out there five days a week, in the heat and in the rain, providing a real service to our communities by ensuring there are safe, sustainable trails and thriving native ecosystems. Their passion shines brightly in all they do. With resolute spirit they commit to their projects and overcome tremendous adversity from weather, terrain, and the sheer scope of their work—yet they keep pushing through to achieve remarkable results.

Our Conservation Corps members are always eager to meet and teach new volunteers. They'll be in the field through Oct. 15; find an event near you at bit.ly/tc-adventure18 and get to know these incredible conservation leaders!

WEST HUDSON



Bear Mountain Crew

Volunteers and five Conservation Corps members are working to complete the rehabilitation of the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain.

The historic Appalachian Trail relocation on Bear Mountain is nearing completion; all steps have been positioned and the final preparations are being made to complete their installation. Surfacing, trail closure, and restoration will finish the work. This crew is filled with experience and a pas-

sion for the A.T. that plays a vital part in this year's final push.

🌿 **Geoff Hamilton,**
Corps Manager



Hudson Nor'westers Trail Crew

Hudson Nor'westers Trail Crew volunteers build and restore trails primarily in Minnewaska State Park Preserve.

This spring, the Hudson Nor'westers Trail Crew re-

paired 236 feet of puncheon on the Jenny Lane Trail in Minnewaska. The old puncheon was rotting, slanted, and even underwater at times. The crew replaced the rotted planks and reset and raised the sills to make a level, even walking surface. A total of 34 people helped with the project. This fall, the crew will continue its work in Minnewaska improving the drainage on trails and building steps.

🌿 **Dave Webber,** Crew Leader



Long Distance Trails Crew

The volunteers on the Long Distance Trails Crew focus

on building and restoring long-distance trails throughout the region.

In June, the Long Distance Trails Crew began rehabilitating the Appalachian Trail on the West side of Black Mountain in Harriman State Park. First, a big thank you to the NYS Parks Department for helping us transport our heavy (2,000-pound) collection of tools to our worksite. Our project started with new steps at the woods road, but most of our work will be building a series of steps to the top of Black Mountain. Some of the accomplishments we have completed this summer are: Seven new steps coming off the woods road, 54 armored steps, two sustainable cribwalls, and several large water-bars. We're not done yet; there are more sections farther up the mountain that need to be rehabilitated, so we'll be here for a while.

🌿 **Marty Costello,** Crew Member



Palisades Trail Crew

Volunteers and five Conservation Corps members are working to complete the new multi-use trail loop in Sterling Forest State Park.

Building the Munsee-Eagle/Red Back/Hutchinson loop has been a hard and gratifying roller coaster between hot, humid, bug-filled days and days so nice you'd prefer to be nowhere else. Countless rocks, branches, and roots later, the rugged terrain has been mostly tamed for hikers, bikers, and equestrians. See for yourself when the 7-mile loop officially opens on Sept. 30. (See page 2 for details.)

🌿 **Erik Mickelson,**
Field Manager

News in Brief

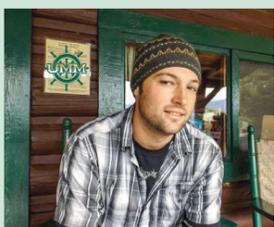


Donna Chapman Named to NYS Trails Council

Donna Chapman, a Trail Conference volunteer since 2012, has been appointed the Trail Conference's representative to the New York State Trails Council. The Trails Council is a collaborative sounding board for all trail activities and features representatives from a variety of user groups including, foot, wheel, water, snow, and motorized trail uses. The Council serves as a citizen advisory committee to act on behalf of trail user groups, as well as interface with a variety of state agencies such as Parks and DEC. Donna began her service with the Trail Conference as a maintainer of the Wiley Shelter on the Appalachian Trail. In 2014, she added maintaining a section of the A.T. to her duties. She also serves as the Appalachian Trail Community Ambassador for the Harlem Valley Appalachian Trail Community.

Allstate Foundation Grant Given to ISF

Special thanks to Invasives Strike Force volunteer Christina Di Sunno, who donated 18 hours of her time to support ecological stewardship and enabled us to receive a \$500 Allstate Foundation Helping Hands Grant. The Allstate Foundation supports the causes that Allstate agency owners, financial specialists, and employees care about most by providing Helping Hands Grants to nonprofits where they volunteer their time to bring out the good in their communities.



Happy Trails to Alex
Catskill Program Coordinator Alex Bradley has decided to pursue other opportunities outside of the region. Our best wishes go to Alex and his family in all future endeavors.

Protecting Trails and Land as Leaders in Stewardship



HANK OSBORN
SENIOR PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

The ongoing development of our Trail Steward program has put the Trail Conference in a position to assist and educate more trail users than ever before. In May, we trained almost 40 seasonal employees of not only the Trail Conference, but also the state park departments of New York and New Jersey, as Trail Stewards. Stationed at popular trails across the region, Stewards provide helpful outreach and information about park regulations, hiker safety, preparedness, Leave No Trace principles, and other best practices.

Our Steward training this year was expanded to include a more robust Leave No Trace certification, as well as natural resource protection education provided by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. Serving New York trails at Bear Mountain, Breakneck Ridge, and in the Catskills, and at Terrace Pond in New Jersey,



Trail Conference Stewards educate and assist visitors at Bear Mountain State Park.

up to 15 stewards are on duty each weekend day.

In addition, two members of the New York State Excelsior Corps joined our Stewards at Breakneck Ridge for eight days in June. As Leave No Trace Master Educators, they performed hiker counts and advised visitors of safety preparedness for seven days straight. They administered a survey to visitors, allowing

us to collect our first weekday data at Breakneck Ridge. The results of the survey are interesting; we learned that Breakneck attracts both new visitors (34 percent of respondents) as well as repeat hikers (21 percent have visited more than 20 times), meaning there is the potential for this park to have continually increased visitation numbers. These Stewards also collected data to calibrate

electronic hiker counters at Breakneck Ridge.

Another first for the program was the addition of a volunteer Trail Steward at Breakneck Ridge in August. As we work to provide much-needed additional coverage at these high-usage trailheads, a volunteer program is a necessity. Find out how you can get involved by emailing volunteer@nynjtc.org.



Several Trail Conference staffers, volunteers, and partners went through a week of training to become Leave No Trace Master Educators in July.

Master Educators Increase Our Ability to Spread Outdoor Ethics



HEATHER DARLEY
COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

The Trail Conference takes land stewardship seriously. We work on the belief that the most effective way to advance change for the environment is through public participation, sustainable, on-the-ground solutions, and user education. To support that value, we are proud to announce we have five new Leave No Trace Master Educators in our ranks. The Master Educator course is the top tier of Leave No Trace training, and our learning journey took place during the rainy week of July 23-27.

Backpacking for four days and three nights on the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail in Harriman State Park, our

Master Educators learned and practiced Leave No Trace skills and wilderness ethics through discussion, scenarios, hands-on activities, and teaching our first lessons in the field. Each day we hiked and stopped to learn the seven principles of Leave No Trace, as well as how to craft and teach our own lessons, no matter the setting.

Our new Master Educators are Appalachian Trail Rockland and Orange Trail Chair Moe Lemire, trail maintainer and Invasives Strike Force volunteer Richard Furst, NYS Department of Conservation Forester Bryan Ellis, Conservation Corps Manager Geoff Hamilton, and me. Thank you to our course provider, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and our fearless leaders, Marian Orlously and Ryan Seltzer.

Taking this course on the very first trail the Trail Conference ever built almost 100 years ago was a truly special experience. Walking that path, you can almost feel the sense of adventure that blazed the passion and dedication for the outdoors we still advocate for today. Promoting these principles is exactly what's going to protect this trail and many others for another 100 years.

We are excited to offer both the Leave No Trace Trainer course as well as Awareness Workshops. Join us in learning and practicing Leave No Trace principles and ensuring that the trails and natural areas we share are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy for generations to come. Stay tuned for future workshops.

Hot Spot Activities Coming to Breakneck Ridge

Consistently ranked the most popular day-hike destination in North America, Breakneck Ridge has been identified as a 2018 Hot Spot by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. Since 2013, when our Steward program got its start at Breakneck Ridge, the Trail Conference has played an integral role in educating the public about this destination in danger of being "loved to death." As part of this year's Hot Spot Week at Breakneck Ridge, taking place Oct. 29 through Nov. 4, the Trail Conference and our partners at Leave No Trace, New York State Parks, REI, and the Hudson Highlands Land Trust will be hosting workshops, stewardship events, and more aimed at ensuring that outdoor-lovers do their part to respect and protect the rugged beauty of Breakneck Ridge. Everyone is welcome! Details will be posted as they become available at nynjtc.org/events.

Team-Building on the Trail



The Trail Conference is in the business of connecting people with nature. And we love when businesses from around the region join us for a day of team-building while improving trails. Here are some of the great corporate groups that came out with us this summer.

1 At Ramapo Valley County Reservation, 25 **Konica Minolta** employees split rocks, made crush, and raised a section of flooded trail with the Ramapo Trail Crew. "It was a great day of volunteering, enjoying the outdoors, and getting to know our coworkers. It will be great to see the finished trail at the end of the season and know

that we were all part of the process," said Konica Minolta employee Cecilia De Oliveria.

2 At Bear Mountain State Park, **JetBlue** employees took a break from their national corporate conference at West Point and lent a hand removing invasive species, picking up litter, setting stone steps, and closing old sections of trail along the Appalachian Trail. The rainy day didn't dampen spirits as nearly 100 volunteers spent the morning working up and down Bear Mountain to make the A.T. experience safer and more enjoyable.

3 **Benjamin Moore's** Giving Moore program

allowed 15 employees to learn best practices when planning and executing trail adventures from our Development Director Don Weise. The group then hiked to tour the waterfall project at Ramapo Reservation and learn more about sustainable trail building and the Trail Conference's mission.

Want to get your team out of the office? Connect with your colleagues through nature and volunteerism. For information on getting your company involved in corporate responsibility outings, contact Membership and Development Manager Jennifer Zack at jzack@nynjtc.org or 201.512.9348 x824.

New Lenape Trail Guide in the Works

The Trail Conference is making the 34-mile Lenape Trail in Essex County, N.J., a destination for residents to explore the wide range of healthy outdoor activities found right in their own backyards. Thanks to generous support from the Partners for Health Foundation, over the last several years we have been able to make major trail reroutes that resulted in improved visibility, enhanced volunteer recruitment, and new partner connections all along the Trail. But that was just the beginning.

The multi-use Lenape Trail offers ample landmarks, destinations, and points of interest throughout Essex County. A simple trail sign cannot wholly describe these attractions; we found it necessary to create an in-depth guide to the Trail to motivate and inform users. In August, the Partners for

Health Foundation renewed their support of our project with a \$10,000 grant to create the Lenape Trail guide. With expert input from local museums, historical societies, and nature centers, the fully digital guide will enrich the Trail experience of county residents and attract new hikers, walkers, and volunteers. It is an essential tool for both promotion and consistent, stable management of the volunteer-maintained Trail.

We are looking forward to continuing our efforts to create a more sustainable, navigable, and well-maintained Lenape Trail. We thank the Partners for Health Foundation for allowing us to actively promote the wealth of usage opportunities along the Lenape Trail and make strategic infrastructure improvements to this unique semi-urban trail.

Coming in 2020: A.T. Vista

The Trail Conference is hosting A.T. Vista 2020, a multi-day event celebrating the Appalachian Trail. It will be held July 31 through Aug. 3, 2020, at Ramapo College of New Jersey in Mahwah. As organizers, the Trail Conference's A.T. Vista Steering Committee is looking for volunteers who can help ensure the event runs smoothly and, most importantly, is engaging and fun for all ages.

Volunteer opportunities for A.T. Vista 2020 range from helping at the registration desk during the event to running the committee in charge of planning and overseeing the conference's full slate of activities including workshops, hikes, and excursions. We have

positions available for all interests and time commitments. Meet people who not only share your passion for hiking but will be traveling from all over the country to take part in this event. Plus: Volunteering to help run a four-day event is a great resume-builder.

Visit atvista2020.org/volunteer to view the available roles and read job responsibilities. Fill out the volunteer interest form at bit.ly/tc-vistavol and someone will get back to you within five business days.

While you're on the website, please take a few minutes to fill out a survey to help us plan activities for the event. Access the survey directly at bit.ly/tc-vistasurvey.

Ron Rosen and Steve Weissman, A.T. Vista 2020 Committee Chairs

2019 Board, Voting Member Nominations

The Nominating Committee of the Trail Conference presents the following candidates for the Board of Directors for three-year terms and At-Large Voting Members for one-year terms. These nominations will be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held Saturday, Nov. 3, at Trail Conference Headquarters (600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ). Meeting details are still being developed, but save the date.

DYLAN ARMAJANI, of New York, N.Y., is the Engagement Manager at Akamai Technologies. He is also the Vice President and Director of the Louis & Anne Abrons Foundation. He has served on the Annual Gala Committee for the Mohonk Preserve and on the Junior Board of United Neighborhood Houses of NYC.

Dylan is founder of the Trail WhippAss Running Club.

JUSTIN BAILEY, of Corona, N.Y., is the Volunteer Relations Manager for the Appalachian Mountain Club. He is a graduate of and instructor for the AMC Outdoor Leadership Training. Justin is also a Wilderness First Responder and a

NYS licensed guide for hiking and camping.

SUSAN BARBUTO, of Franklin Lakes, N.J., is a Trail Conference Life Member. She is currently on the Membership and Development Committee and the Special Events Committee. Sue has a deep commitment to volunteer-

ing in the community, serving on a variety of committees and Boards for organizations such as the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission, the Board of Deacons for Westside Presbyterian Church, and the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources Board of Advisors.

KATINA GRAYS, of New York, N.Y., has an MBA and is an attorney with diverse experience in both the public and private sector. She is currently the Managing Director of Data and Operations at KIPP NYC, a leading charter school network. Katina is the NYC Volunteer Leader of Outdoor Afro, a national non-profit dedicated to African American connections and leadership in nature. She seeks to

build an inclusive community for people to connect together outdoors.

KEN POSNER, of New York, N.Y., is a current Board member and chair of the Membership and Development Committee. He also serves on the Audit, Governance, Management, Nominating, and the Strategic Planning committees. Ken's term on the Board is renewed through 2021.

DAVE STUHR, of Ho-Ho-Kus, N.J., is a Trail Conference Life Member and currently serves as a member of the Board. Dave is currently the chair of the Audit Committee. Dave also serves on the Management Committee and the Finance Committee. Dave's term on the Board is renewed through 2021.

At-Large Voting Members

- ▶ Deborah Genna
- ▶ Suse Bell
- ▶ Cliff Berchtold
- ▶ Norman Blumenstein
- ▶ Sara Cavanaugh
- ▶ Matt Decker
- ▶ Jack Driller
- ▶ Harvey Fishman
- ▶ William Gannett
- ▶ Robert Lehmann
- ▶ Paul Makus
- ▶ James Piombino
- ▶ Anne Powley
- ▶ Kristin Reeves
- ▶ Peter Reiner
- ▶ Ruth Rosenthal
- ▶ Robert Ross
- ▶ Susan Scher
- ▶ Karl Soehnlein
- ▶ Doug Sohn
- ▶ Robert Ward

News in Brief



Busy Weekend at Clearwater Music Festival

It was a busy weekend for volunteers staffing the Trail

Conference booth in the Activist Area at the Clearwater Festival at Croton Point Park on June 16 and 17 in Croton, N.Y. The 13 volunteers spoke to almost 400 music-lovers who stopped by the booth to chat and buy maps, books, and memberships.

Thanks to Hank Osborn and Jane Daniels for organizing and to Martha Rabson, Marilyn Blaho, Rose Bonanno, Minu Chaudhuri, Mary Ayers, Andrea Minoff, Donna Chapman, Carolyn Hoffman, MK Moore, Philip

Condon, and Walt Daniels for their 50-plus hours of booth duty, travel, and prep time.

If you want to help spread the word about the Trail Conference at festivals and other events, contact volunteer@nynjtc.org.

Celebrate the Catskills During Lark in the Park

The 2018 Catskills Lark in

the Park will be held Sept. 29 through Oct. 8. Since its inception in 2004, the Lark has brought together people and organizations participating in hundreds of events aimed at celebrating and heightening awareness of the Catskill Mountains region of New York State and the Catskill Park. Activities annually include organized hikes, bicycle trips, paddles, service, and cultural and educational events. The coordination of this event is managed through

a partnership between the Trail Conference, the Catskill Mountain Club, The Catskill Center, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Trail Conference is hosting several events during this year's Lark, including a Leave No Trace Hike at Giant Ledge on Saturday, Sept. 29, and a Lean-to and Campsite Restoration at Echo Lake on Saturday, Oct. 6. To register and find the full schedule of this year's events, visit catskillslark.org.

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.

Welcome, New Member Clubs!

Two new member clubs were approved by the Trail Conference Board in July.

Proactive - AHW (Adventure, Health, and Wellness) has activities to encourage a proactive lifestyle through enjoyment of the outdoors, healthier living, and mental stimulation by creating exciting, original content that will motivate our followers to take action and to facilitate such action. Visit proactiveahw.com for more info.

The **Yorktown Trail Town Committee** is a volunteer committee that formed in September 2014 to promote the Town of Yorktown. Comprised of residents and business owners from the town, the committee seeks to promote the greater recreational, health, and social benefits to its residents and visitors through parks, trails, and open spaces located in the Town of Yorktown. Visit yorktowntrailtown.org for more info.

ADK Long Island
www.adkli.org

ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter
www.midhudsonadk.org

ADK Mohican Chapter
www.adkmohican.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/

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

Byram Township Environmental Commission
www.byramtp.org

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

East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
www.ehtps.org

Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
www.flatrockbrook.org

Friends Of Garret Mountain
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
gah.nynjtc.org/

Greener New Jersey Productions, Inc
www.greenernewjersey.org

Hilltop Conservancy, Inc.
www.hilltopconservancy.org

Hudson Highlands Gateway Task Force
www.TownofCortlandt.com

Hudson River Valley Greenway
www.hudsonrivervalley.com

Hunterdon Hiking Club
www.hunterdonhikingclub.org

Interstate Hiking Club
www.interstatehikingclub.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

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

Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy
mmc.nynjtc.org

Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club
www.nassauhiking.org

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 Jersey Search and Rescue Inc.
www.njsar.org

New York Alpine Club

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

New York Ramblers
www.nyramblers.org

Outdoor Promise
outdoorpromise.org

Palisades MTB
facebook.com/groups/palisadesmtb

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

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

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

Shelton's Shooters Sussex 4-H Club

Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group
sierraclub.org/atlantic/lower-hudson

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

Somers Land Trust
somerslandtrust.org

South Mountain Conservancy Inc.
www.somocon.org

Southampton Trails Preservation Society
southamptontrails.org

Storm King Adventure Tours
www.stormkingadventuretours.com

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

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

Teatown Lake Reservation
www.teatown.org

Tenafly Nature Center Association
www.tenaflynaturecenter.org

The Catskill Center for Conservation & Development
www.catskillcenter.org

The Nature Place Day Camp
thenatureplace.com

The Outdoor Club, Inc.
www.outdoorsclub.info

Thendara Mountain Club
www.thendaramountainclub.org

Town of Lewisboro
www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec

Trail WhippAss
www.trailwhippass.com

TriState Ramblers
TSR.nynjtc.org/Schedules.html

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

Yeshiva University High School Outdoors Club

Yorktown Trail Town Committee
www.yorktowntrailtown.org

Catskill Map Set Updated with Improved Contours



JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

Covering over 400 miles of trails and more than 325,000 acres of protected land in and around Catskill Park, the revised, 12th edition of our Catskill Trails map set will be your best resource yet for exploring the vast wilderness of the Catskills. Arriving in October or November, the new edition features several trail updates and additions; new, high-detail elevation information; improvements to the North/South Lake area inset map; up-to-date New York City watershed recreation lands; and many other adjustments.

Using new, detailed elevation datasets from USGS and New York State, the 50-foot elevation contour lines throughout the maps have

been upgraded to provide a better representation of the rough terrain of the Catskills. In addition, more accurate and consistent summit elevations have been calculated based on these datasets, improving upon the values. The previous data were derived from various techniques and may not have always represented the actual high point of a summit; in some cases, these new summit elevations are a significant change from previous values.

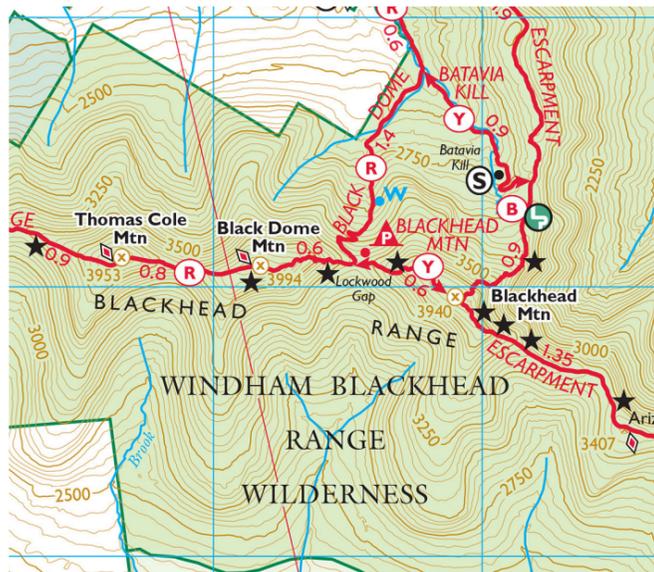
The North/South Lake inset map has also been upgraded from 50-foot contour lines to 20-foot contour lines, helping to show the sometimes steep terrain in this area even better. Recent changes to the Kaaterskill Falls area are shown both in this inset map and as a new, small inset map that shows an enlargement of the trails

near the falls. New trails have been added elsewhere on the maps, including at Overlook Mountain Wild Forest, Platte Clove Preserve, and the Catskill Interpretive Center, and several new and relocated lean-to shelters are shown. Many newly protected New York City watershed public access area lands are included, and several bike trail networks outside of Catskill Preserve lands are shown. Additional improvements and adjustments throughout the maps make this 12th edition of Catskill Trails the most accurate Catskills map set we have ever produced.

All maps include detailed trail mileages, parking areas, lean-tos, springs, viewpoints and other points of interest, UTM gridlines, and magnetic north lines. Detailed trail descriptions on the map backs have been updated with the latest trail changes.

The map will be available in print format in vibrant color on our popular waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek by shopping online at 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 nynjtc.org/pdfmaps.

Special thanks to all the volunteers and park partners who helped produce this map revision! The map set was produced with support from Ulster County Tourism.



ANASTASIA TRAINA

If You Go

- ▶ **What:** "Walk With Us" group exhibition
- ▶ **When:** Now through Oct. 27 during regular Trail Conference hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday
- ▶ **Reception:** Tuesday, Sept. 25, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Where:** Trail Conference Headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, N.J.
- ▶ **Details:** Find more at nynjtc.org

Botanical Artists Invite Visitors to 'Walk With Us'



SUSAN SAPANARA
ART SELECTION
COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Tri-State Botanical Artists (TSBA) of the New York Botanical Garden are pleased to announce their first exhibition, "Walk With Us," on display at Trail Conference Headquarters through Oct. 27.

Twenty-two artists contributed works in an array of media. The exhibition features highly detailed, botanically accurate renderings of plants, fungi, and pollinators found on local trails and in gardens.

The TSBA is an active circle of the American Society of Botanical Artists, an international organization dedicated to the advancement of botanical art. Botanical and natural science art aids in plant identification and environmental awareness. A portion of the sales will benefit the work of the Trail Conference.

Dick Rauh—celebrated

artist, botanist, and instructor—will be speaking at the reception on Sept. 25. He will discuss his journey in botanical art, as well as give an informal presentation on moss.

Gallery visitors are invited to vote for their favorite artwork from the show for the chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to the Trail Conference Marketplace. Vote for the Hikers' Choice artwork through Sept. 25 by filling out an entry form at our headquarters. The drawing will be held during the reception.

Members of TSBA meet monthly at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) to discuss their artistic journeys, share works in progress, plan relevant field trips, and promote their art. Many of the artists have been juried into international competitions and are instructors at NYBG, as well as other venues. Visit asba-art.org or nybg.org for info.



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:

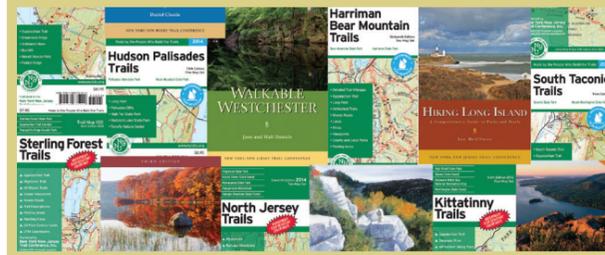
I bequeath to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, with principal offices located at 600 Ramapo Valley Rd, Mahwah, NJ 07430, the sum of \$_____ (or _____%) for its general unrestricted environmental conservation purposes.

TO LEARN MORE AND GET MATERIALS, CONTACT:

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

HIKERS' MARKETPLACE

GO PLACES WITH TRAIL MAPS AND BOOKS FROM THE TRAIL CONFERENCE



Get the complete set of trail maps at one great, low price!

Our map combo offers all of our high-quality Trail Conference maps at a discount (members get an additional discount). Save big on shipping charges!

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VISIT nynjtc.org/shop
OR CALL 201.512.9348

Find all of our publications and select trail guides from others at nynjtc.org, and get your member discount!

Explore Harriman to the Palisades with New Map Sets

Newly revised and now available in print and digital formats, two new map sets help trail lovers explore parks from the George Washington Bridge to the Bear Mountain Bridge.

The Trail Conference's revised, 18th edition of our Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails map set (\$10.95; \$8.21 for members), sponsored by Ramsey Outdoor, is a must-have for enjoying the network of trails in two of New York's most popular state parks.

Our 6th edition of the Hudson Palisades Trails map set (\$9.95; \$7.46 for members), sponsored by REI, connects you to more than 100 miles of marked trails and bike paths along the western side of the Hudson River from Fort Lee, N.J., northward to Haverstraw, N.Y.

Get yours at nynjtc.org. Jeremy Apgar

Fall Photography Tips from the Trail

There's no better time to get out and explore your favorite trails than fall, when the air is crisp and cool and you are surrounded by amazing colors. Susan Magnano of PhoTour Adventures has created a fall photography guide with tips and tricks for capturing your next autumn adventure.

PREPARE

Use nynjtc.org to scout your favorite trails. Be prepared for the elements. Bring layers, rain protection, and sturdy boots, along with a hard copy of a map, compass, water, and snacks.

FOLIAGE FORECAST

Fall Foliage Network (foliagenetwork.com) features a leaf-drop report that will help determine how long the foliage season may last.

Weather Channel (weather.com/maps/fall-foliage) provides detailed foliage maps that showcase when peak times will take place.

GEAR

The best camera is the one you

Take a Fall Photography Hike with Us

Susan will be leading a Trail Conference Community Hike through Harriman State Park on Friday, Oct. 26. Sponsored by Campmor, this guided hike and photography walk will start at Reeves Meadow in Sloatsburg, N.Y. We'll go on an out-and-back, 2-mile walk along the Pine Meadow Trail, looking for great photo opportunities along scenic Stony Brook. Find more info and register at bit.ly/tc-fallphotohike18.

Wide angle lenses (17mm-

40mm) can be used to capture a whole scene and telephoto lenses (70mm-200mm) can be used to zoom in on an interesting detail in the landscape.

UNDERSTAND LIGHT

Overcast conditions may not be your first thought of ideal weather conditions for foliage, but think again. Overcast light is Mother Nature's softbox—it eliminates harsh shadows and highlights, creating soft and even light. Wet leaves are more vibrant than dry leaves; combined with overcast skies, it can lead to perfect conditions for capturing brilliant colors. Since you will have less sunlight, you will have to increase your ISO or use a slower shutter speed with a tripod.

LOOK FOR LEADING LINES

Look for leading lines that guide your eyes through the image to the main subject of your photo. For example, use the path of the trail or a fallen tree branch that directs your eye into the frame and helps tell your story.

PAST PEAK?

So, the colors aren't as bright, and the trees are looking bare. But don't fret—there are still great images to be taken. Barren trees and muted colors are interesting. Look to the ground to find some bright remnants of fall.

To learn even more, join Susan on a full-day photo workshop in Harriman State Park on Oct. 23 or Oct. 28, or for a five-day photo adventure in Acadia National Park. Check out upcoming workshops at www.photouradventures.com.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN MAGNANO



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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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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:

25% Discount on Trail Conference books and maps when purchased directly from the Trail Conference. Get a 10% discount on Trail Conference logo goods. Visit nynjtc.org/shop.

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

Free Enrollment in our Trail University introductory courses.

Workshops and Seminars on trail maintenance and construction, leadership training, wilderness first aid, environmental monitoring, GPS operation, and more. Find details at nynjtc.org/trailu.

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

Join now at nynjtc.org/membership.

Join/Renew Trail Conference Membership

We maintain more than 2,100 miles of trails. Your membership helps us provide access to open space for everyone.

Included with membership: Trail Walker, 10% discount on purchases at many outdoor stores, and 25% discount on Trail Conference maps and books and 10% discount on logo goods purchased directly from the Trail Conference. Save time and a tree by joining or renewing online at nynjtc.org.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Select one: Join Renew Membership # if available _____

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

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

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