Big City, Big Outdoor Opportunities

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

With the formation of our new Metro region—featuring 7,300 acres of natural forests under the jurisdiction of NYC Parks—the Trail Conference is offering improved opportunities for city residents and visitors alike to connect with nature in the five boroughs. Spearheaded by our volunteer Trail Chair Mk Moore, the creation of the Metro region (formerly a segment of our East Hudson region) addresses the management requirements unique to the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation while providing a wide range of volunteer events just a subway ride from the heart of Manhattan.

“The Trail Conference has renewed its efforts to bring together our park partners and other nonprofits to achieve good things for trails in New York City,” says Moore. “We’re getting volunteers excited, trained, and working in city parks.”

One of Moore’s first initiatives as Metro Trail Chair was working with NYC Parks and the Natural Areas Conservancy (NACC), the nonprofit that manages trails in the city, to create an urban trail maintainer program. Part of NYC Parks’ Super Steward program, Trail Maintainers go through advanced training to become a permitted volunteer. They must first attend a public stewardship event, then complete an introductory workshop, followed by a hands-on workshop in the field. Finally, budding Super Steward Trail Maintainers identify and complete their own trail project. It’s a process that not only ensures volunteers have the appropriate know-how and commitment before adopting a trail, but also instills an incredible sense of ownership in their park. Launched this May, the first class of Super Steward Trail Maintainers includes eight people now working on their independent projects.

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

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

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

Born in NYC

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

Over the decades, volunteers such as Bob Ward have played a key role in connecting urban dwellers with the outdoors. During Bob's 68 years with the Trail Conference, he has helped expand our reach throughout New York City, including establishing our presence in Queens. At 91 years old, he still serves as our Queens Rockaways Trail Supervisor. A huge thanks to Bob and all of our trail superheroes who have been working to connect people with nature in the five boroughs!
On June 1, nature lovers and outdoor adventurers through- out the region joined the Trail Conference and our partners to celebrate and give back to trails in honor of Nation- al Trails Day. Created by the American Hiking Society, Na- tional Trails Day is observed every June across the country. The day recognizes the power the trails have in connecting peo- ple with nature.

At Trail Conference Head- quarters, 300 people took part in our National Trails Day Open House festivities, featuring guided hikes and steward-ship opportunities next door at Ramapo Valley County Reservation. The day kicked off with a warm welcome from American Hiking Society Ex-ecutive Director Kathryn Van Waes and Trail Conference Chief Operating Officer Josh- ua Howard.

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

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

Co-hosted by Popular Me- chanics, the event included tours of our historic Darling- ton Schoolhouse building, raffle prizes, a food truck, and outdoor organizations encour-aging year-round engagement with nature. Fifteen volunteers helped the Invasives Strike Force remove nearly 180.5 pounds of the invasive garlic mustard and restore the na- tive landscape at Headquar- ters. Four volunteers joined Trail Conference Conserva- tion Corps trail crew members making improvements to the Vista Loop Trail. The celebration doesn’t stop here! Your trails need your help 365 days a year. Become a Trail Conference volunteer or member and protect the land you love. Learn more at ny-njtc.org/membership. Thanks to Nature Valley, Tasty Bites, and ExtremeTer- rain for providing the day’s trail snacks.

At Ringwood State Park, nearly 40 trail lovers came together on National Trails Day to build their next adventure and make im- provements to the multi-use Crossover Trail. Held in partnership with JORBA (Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association), the Trail Con-ference, and REI, a high-spirited group of hikers and bikers worked together clearing close to 400 feet of new trail and hardening areas with stone. Brandyee Chapman, New Jersey State Trails Coordinator, and Eric Pain, Ringwood State Park Superintendent, visited the group to express their grat-iitude and excitement about the day’s accomplishments and partnerships. Kristen Phillips from REI’s Tri-State Outdoor Programs and Experiences team helped coordinate the day, pro- vided volunteers with REI stewardship T-shirts, and joined in the fun of getting dirty while doing good work.

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

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

More than 300 people came together for a day of hikes, trail building, and habitat restoration at our Open House.
One of New York State Park’s Commissioners once said, “don’t hide your uglies, let people know you have problems. Then tell how you will fix them, and go do it.” She led one of the biggest efforts to improve NYS parks—and it’s how the Trail Conference followed her lead.

As the Trail Conference prepares to turn 99 years old, we too have some uglies. For the past few years, we have made strategic investments to enhance the organization’s capacity to execute our mission. These investments were to be offset with new income and revenues. While we are seeing improvements in our volunteer management, trail building, and visibility capacities, we have had to rely on our reserve funds to bridge the gaps in our income. As our organization continues through its transition of leadership, we will discover more uglies. It will take some time to find the correct solutions and we will need to make some difficult decisions. Is there a light at the end of the tunnel? Yes! In 2018, our volunteers donated more than 103,000 hours of service—one of our best years ever. We are working hard to provide these selfless individuals with even more support in 2019. I encourage you to get to know some of our crew leaders and find out more about their work—and how you can get involved—on pages 6-7.

Throughout the energy and passion of our Board and staff, we are developing the necessary tools to evaluate our organization so that data and analysis are used to interpret our performance. We are creating annual and three-year plans to better connect our activities to our mission and engage our volunteers.

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

In 2018, our volunteers reengaged our partners to collaborate and find new ways to share the responsibility of environmental conservation. You’ll find an update about our program in the Candills on page 10.

There also is a Centennial celebration to plan. Over the next few months, our volunteer leaders, Board, and staff will share the Trail Conference’s plans to fix some of these uglies.

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

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

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

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

Joshua Howard
Chief Operating Officer
jhoward@nynjtc.org

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

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

Our long-time Executive Director, Edward Goodell, has left his position with the Trail Conference. We wish him continued success as he pursues new career opportunities. We thank him for his dedication to service and growth of the Trail Conference during his 18 years as Executive Director, including securing our award-winning home and historic Schoolhouse and placing the Trail organization on solid footing for continued future growth.

In March, Joshua Howard was named our Chief Operating Officer responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Trail Conference and Mary Perro was named our Chief Financial Officer responsible for all financial matters. Mary is a certified CPA and Josh has 18 years of experience at the Trail Conference. Our new leadership team is excited to dig into a new season of good work and accomplish even more great things as we head into our second century of service.

As part of the leadership transitions, we have learned about an upcoming hike with Mary and Josh; they’d love to get to know you better and answer any questions you may have.

Making a Difference, Together

When trails are threatened, the Trail Conference responds. Many of the biggest environmental wins in the region have been successful thanks in part to the efforts of our volunteers, members, and staff. That is the key to advocacy at the Trail Conference—everyone coming together in the name of protecting trails and parks. There is no one advocacy professional or lawyer fighting the good fight! We are always looking for concerned outdoor-lovers who would like to be part of the solution—people who will perform seemingly small jobs that together can have a huge impact on the solutions affecting trails. Check out the list of tasks we need our trail heroes to tackle at fyke-a-ntt. Our united voice is the Trail Conference’s most powerful tool!
Save the Date: Annual Benefit

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

TRAIL CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

FEBRUARY 1 - MAY 15, 2019

TRIBUTES

In honor of Michael T. De Luca
Deidre and Barbara Drayshuk
Eileen Driscoll
In memory of Leo Bloch
Theodore N Bloch
In memory of Patrick Ciccone
Anthony Fitzgerald
Bob Huck
In memory of Peter Etojej
Alícia Vaccaro
In memory of John Gunzier
In memory of Claire Hamilton
Joanne Schmeier
In memory of Rita Hecker
Peter Hecker
In memory of Krithi Latuldie
Susan Erez
In memory of Stephen Litter
Mary Lou & Paul De Santis
Rona Panarietti
In memory of Robert Marshall
Gail and James Brown
Robert J Jonas
In memory of Claire Patterson
Nancy & Tom Latimer, on behalf of PONDWW
Patricia Whitacre
Deborah Zanger
In memory of Reinhard Schimek
David I Hartree
In memory of Trudy Schneider
Gail and James Brown
In memory of Norman Smith
H. Neil Zimmerman
In memory of Jacqueline Winter Thomas
John Dinapoli
In memory of Neil Thompson, my father, a lover of the wild and open spaces
Neil Thompson
In memory of Ben Tao
Stacey Kecskés

DONORS TO THE ANNUAL FUND

Renewed Commitment to Catskill Forest Preserve

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

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

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

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

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

Long Path Gets TLC From Boy Scouts

This past spring in the Catskill Mountains just north of the Forest Preserve, one of our partner organizations the Long Path North Hiking Club (LPNHC), identified the need to replace rotted raised bog treads on the Long Path in Schoharie County. Marcus Capobianco of Boy Scout Troop 56 in Law- yerville, N.Y., answered the call for help with his proposal to design and build 110 feet of new raised treads. In just a couple short weeks, Marcus was able to secure the required approvals and pull the project together. Determined, Marcus enlisted the help of his other troop members and led the project to completion over the course of only one long weekend (Memorial Day).

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

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

Have you ever been on the trail and noticed an interesting plant or critter you’ve never seen before? Or maybe you’ve spotted an insect sauntering along a sapling, but can’t identify it? There’s an app for that! The iNaturalist app takes the guesswork out of the Long Path in. Invasives Strike Force surveyor Bridget Connolly uses mobile app Seek to help identify Japanese knotweed, an invasive plant found in many parks and trails in our region.

You can download the Seek app and have experts, hikers, plant lovers, and ecologists who can help with specific identifications, talk and share common interests, and even get together for hikes!

Lower Hudson Partnership for Invasive Species Management (PRISM), managed by the Trail Conference, is utilizing Seek and iNaturalist to help track the distribution and spread of invasive species in New York and New Jersey. In addition to offering workshops to identify 14 common invasive species and 11 emerging invasives in our region, staff are encouraging volunteer surveyors to use both Seek and iNaturalist.

The apps not only help build the confidence of surveyors in properly identifying the invaders they are seeking, but also contribute vital data that scientists can utilize in land management and stewardship programming.

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

Meet the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

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

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

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

Our Corps crews engage and teach community volunteers on the responsible use and care of open space by addressing the needs of land managers. You’ll find them on the trail through the end of October. Connect with the Conservation Corps on Facebook and Instagram @tcconservationcorps and explore the calendar to sign up for an event and meet them on the trail.

The TCCC is made possible through a partnership with The Corps Network and its AmeriCorps Education Award Program, and through the support of our sponsors and partners: Adirondack Mountain Club, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Catskill 3500 Club, Catskill Mountain Club, Catskill Highlands Land Trust, LL Bean, Lower Hudson PRISM, Mountaintop Outreach, Orange County Tourism, Orange and Rockland Utilities, REI, Ulster County Tourism.
GET TO KNOW OUR CREW LEADERS

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

DAVID & MONICA DAY
West Jersey Crew

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

What inspired you to become a crew leader?
We started on a trail construction crew in New York State because we wanted to give back. In 2000, we were asked to lead a special one-time trail construction project in western New Jersey (in Worthington State Forest). When it was completed we decided that leading a trail crew was something that we were good at and enjoyed, so we volunteered to continue trail crew leadership beyond the one-time project, thus becoming the West Jersey Crew.

What is your favorite part about being a crew leader?
David: The technical challenge of planning and then efficiently carrying out each work trip.
Monica: The shared sense of accomplishment at the end of a work day from seeing the results of our collective work.

What is your best crew leader memory?
David: Planning and executing a one-day project that hoisted three 36-foot bridge sections (that had washed away in a flood) back onto their abutments and into a complete bridge. Monica: The magic of creating a new trail.

If you want a hands-on look at what it takes to be a crew leader, get a glimpse at our new Eyes of a Trail Builder workshops on page 8.
How often does your crew meet in the work season, and what sort of work do you do?

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

What inspired you to become a crew leader?

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

What is your favorite part about being a crew leader?

I enjoy being part of the team as much as being leader. As leader I interface with park staff in the upkeep of trails. My favorite part is leading a group of very talented individuals in building sustainable and attractive trail.

What is your best crew leader memory?

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

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

The LDTC’s focus is long-distance trails.

What inspired you to become a crew leader?

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

What is your favorite part about being a crew leader?

My favorite part is leading a group of exemplary people whose technical skill and artistic vision have impacted the work of Trail Conference staff and volunteers shared their expertise at the International Trails Symposium.

American Trails hosted the 24th International Trails Symposium and Training Institute in Syracuse, N.Y., April 28 through May 1—and the Trail Conference was well represented at this biennial gathering of trail leaders. Staff gave presentations alongside some of our partners on topics including the management of high-use trails, how the protection of long-distance trails creates parkland, best practices for designing trail maps, and volunteer program assessment. The International Trails Symposium (ITS) was a unique opportunity to learn about the leading trail efforts around the world while showcasing the work of Trail Conference volunteers, staff, and partners. From stewardship to conservation, mapping and more, the Trail Conference is at the forefront of the field, working to ensure that the trails and natural areas we share are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy for generations to come.

What inspired you to become a crew leader?

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

What is your favorite part about being a crew leader? Learning on the job: about how to place, build, and repair trails; about the plants, animals, and rocks which share and surround them; and about the weather that affects them.

What is your best crew leader memory?

Memories of the crew sharing lunch and feeling greatly satisfied with a just completed project. Too many times to count.
The Year of Erosion Control and Drainage

ROB JONAS and ESTELLE ANDERSON JONAS
CENTRAL NORTH JERSEY TRAIL TRAMPS

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

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

This year, the Trail Conference’s Central North Jersey team of volunteer supervisors and maintainers are determined to construct or improve these devices to alleviate as many of these wet conditions as time allows. Volunteers Bill Harrison and Skip Wilson are working on the Primrose Brook Trail building puncheon. The photo above shows an open culvert, which utilizes a narrow, low trench filled with small rocks to allow the water to flow off and cross the trail without an impediment to the hiker. This easy-to-maintain device eliminates the need for piping, which often becomes clogged with silt and debris.

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

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

How about you? How has weather affected your trail experience—a hiker, maintain-er, or trail supervi-sor? Let us know at volunteer@nynjtc.org.
Many estate planners will tell you the most serious mistake intelligent Americans can make is not creating a will to put their affairs in order.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Tips**

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

---

Yes, I want to be a Trail Angel!

Confidential Pledge Challenge Form

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

My future gift:

- [ ] is a percentage of my estate worth approximately $__________
- [ ] is in the specific amount of $__________
- [ ] would prefer to keep the amount private.

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

**Trail Angels Society:**

- [ ] Please list me in the Trail Angels Society as ________
- [ ] prefer to remain anonymous.

**Trail Angel Society Founding Members**

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

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

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

For further questions, please contact Membership and Development Director Don Weise at dweise@nynytc.org or 201-512-9348 x813.
**Expanding Trail Steward Training, Presence**

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

This season, Trail Stewards serving through the Trail Conference Conservation Corps will be stationed on the summits of Slide Mountain and Giant Ledge in the Catskills, on the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain State Park, and at Breakneck Ridge. They’ll be active on these trails every Saturday and Sunday and most Fridays and holidays through October sharing preparedness tips and encouraging responsible recreation. An additional day each week will be dedicated to trail work, including helping our volunteer leaders on projects and leading volunteers on trail maintenance outings and garbage pickups. Another day will be spent indoors inputting and analyzing data collected in the field. In the fall, Stewards will begin a program with local schools to go into classrooms and teach natural resource protection and anti-graffiti education.

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

**NJDEP Receives Steward Training**

In May, eight Trail Stewards hired by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) attended a training at Trail Conference Headquarters. In addition to learning about our volunteer program, Leave No Trace principles, data collection on our Avenza maps, safe hiking practices, and role-playing challenging scenarios with trail users, they also learned how to collect important data about our local hikers. How many people are visiting a given area? Where? Are they getting lost? What loop hikes are people making out of different trails? The answers to all of these questions will inform State Park and Trail Conference decisions on everything from where to mount directional signs to when certain trails should be rerouted. These Stewards are working through the summer heat to make sure the lands we love are used safely and respectfully. It’s a hard job, so be sure to give them your thanks if you bump into them on the trail! 

*Peter Dolan*
Thanks to Our Supporters!

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

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

DODGE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS EFFORTS IN N.J.
The Trail Conference is grateful for the support of the Dodge Foundation to help us connect the people of New Jersey with nature, engage volunteers in stewardship of public land, protect open space, and improve public access to trails. The $20,000 grant is an investment in our shared goal of improving the quality of life in communities and creating better outdoor opportunities for all New Jerseyans.

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

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

REI Funds Trail Steward Program
REI has given the Trail Conference a $34,290 grant to fund our Get a Head and Summit Steward Program. REI's continued support of the program allows us to engage the public about trail preparedness and responsible recreation outdoors. During REI's Spring for a Local nonprofit to participate in the grant process by members were asked to participate in the grant process by voting for a local nonprofit to receive REI's grant. In 2019, $16,290 of voting for the local nonprofit Loving Our Local Outdoors.

THE GETAWAY THAT BRINGS YOU TOGETHER

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

UPCOMING DATES:
July 13: Forest Bathing in NeverSink Gorge, Forestburgh, NY
July 20: Sip & Create, Warwick, NY
July 21: Hike + Paddle, Franklin Lakes, NJ
August 9: Dunfield Creek/ A.T. Short Loop, Columbia, NJ
August 24: Trail Running Clinic, Mahwah, NJ
Sept. 9: Forest Service Laboratory, Mahwah, NJ
Sept. 14: Saturday Trail Run, TBD
Sept. 20: Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain, Stony Point, NY
Sept. 27: Photography Walk, Warwick, NY
Oct. 3: Sept. N-Create, Mahwah, NJ
Oct. 4: Wyancote High Point, Ringwood, NJ
Oct. 12: Saturday Trail Run, Wawayanda State Park, NJ
Oct. 17: Saturday Trail Run, Palisades, NJ
Nov. 29: Hike for a Cause, Breakneck Ridge, NY
Dec. 3: Project Tour, Mahwah, NJ

Check nyntjc.org/events for more details. Not a member yet? Join now at nyntjc.org/membership.
Shawangunk Map Set Updated for 2019 With Trail Mileages

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

Support trails, parks, and open space in the region by joining the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

The Trail Conference maintains more than 2,200 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/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/trailwork.

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

Join now at nynjtc.org/membership.

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! Find it on our online store under Combos.

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