Sparking a Lifelong Appreciation for Nature

Trail Conference Stewards Are Ambassadors for Safe, Enjoyable, and Responsible Recreation Outdoors

Think back to your first memory on a trail. Think about where you were, who you were with. What do you most strongly recall? Hopefully it’s a fond memory! Hopefully it helped to spark a lifelong love of connecting with nature and the determination to protect that kind of experience outdoors.

Perhaps you had some sort of “trail ambassador”—a parent or scout leader or friend—who led the way. Your trail ambassador would have had a map and supplies and the know-how to explore safely and mindfully—and hopefully, they passed that knowledge and preparedness along to you.

These days, not everyone is so lucky to have a trail ambassador guiding them through the “hiking 101” lessons you likely gained firsthand from a trusted source. Where you once needed a map and/or guidebook—or a savvy trail ambassador—just to find a hike, the internet now provides endless recommendations at the tap of a button. But that URL doesn’t necessarily give accurate information. And it very likely doesn’t paint the full picture about our responsibility, as people who seek nature, to enjoy the outdoors with “best practices” in mind.

To provide that missing service to the public—a public that is using trails and parks at an unprecedented rate—the Trail Conference has taken a leading role in providing outreach and assistance to visitors through our Trail Steward program. Our Stewards bring face-to-face user education and sustainable, on-the-ground solutions to some of the region’s most popular outdoor destinations. They are key in protecting the ecological integrity of these special places that are threatened by issues such as misuse and high usage. By encouraging public participation, Stewards are a solution multiplier.

In 2019, Stewards serving through the Trail Conference Conservation Corps were stationed at four locations and interacted with more than 89,100 people. In New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection Stewards trained by the Trail Conference counted over 24,500 people at three sites. And in the Catskills, volunteer Stewards overseen by the Trail Conference helped almost 20,000 visitors to the new Ashokan Rail Trail. That’s more than 133,600 people given the opportunity to ask for a route recommendation and get a map to safely navigate it; to discover there are no trash receptacles along the trail and that they should carry out everything they carry in; and to learn that staying on the trail isn’t just safer for them—it actually helps protect the ecosystem.

In 2020, we plan to play a role in assisting even more visitors to popular trails. We’re in the process of securing the resources and support to field Stewards in additional high-profile locations, such as Minnewaska State Park Preserve and along the Old Croton Aqueduct in Westchester County.

Our Steward program is having a positive impact on the way people experience nature and the way park agencies are managing and protecting their lands. Find recaps of our success in 2019 and our plans for 2020 on page 8.

And if you believe in the power of everyone having a “trail ambassador” to guide them towards a lifetime of safe, enjoyable, responsible recreation outdoors, please consider supporting the Trail Steward program at nynjtc.org/donate. Your gift will have a direct hand in deepening people’s relationships to the natural world and empowering them—and in turn, all of us—to protect the environment.

see STEWARDS, page 8

WHAT’S INSIDE:

New Executive Director Seeks Your Trail Stories page 3
Discover NJ History and Outdoor Wonders with the Lenape Trail Guide page 5
Meet Some of the Great Volunteers Making Great Trail Experiences Possible page 7
Sniffing Out a New Threat: Spotted Lanternfly page 6
Making Great Trail Experiences Possible

We asked our supporters to be part of the global giving movement surrounding #GivingTuesday—and the response was incredible! We challenged our friends, partners, and the greater community to show their support during our #TrailsGiving Week, Nov. 26 through Dec. 3. With your help, $28,645 was raised and doubled. That means a total of $57,290 raised during #TrailsGiving Week will go to our newest volunteers who care for your favorite trails and protect the land you love. It’s amazing what we can accomplish as a Trail Family!

In the spirit of the season, a generous donor extended this matching period through the end of 2019 to create our December Challenge. Through Dec. 31, 2019, your gift is doubled, meaning $50 automatically turns into $100.


With increasing stress on our parks and trails due to unprecedented usage, invasive species, development, and weather-related damage, now more than ever, the work of the Trail Conference is needed. And that means your support is needed.

Your gift to the Trail Conference buys safety gear for our volunteers. It also allows us to provide training to our newest volunteers. It helps our crews build bridges on trails and remove invasive plants from trail corridors, protecting the ecology. Your gift enables us to create maps for visitors to get to the trails and hike them safely. All that, in turn, empowers you to reap the restorative benefits of nature. That’s worth a few dollars, isn’t it? In our minds, it’s priceless. And that’s why we do this work.

So how much are your trail experiences worth? Let your generosity be your guide. Please donate to the Trail Conference now. Do your part to ensure your favorite trails and parks are cared for and protected—today, for the next 100 years, and beyond.
This October, the Trail Conference held a celebration going through our archives in preparation for our Centennial, I came across our collection of newspaper columns by Raymond H. Torrey. One of the Trail Conference’s founders, Torrey was editor of the Outdoor Page for the New York Evening Post. His columns were the cornerstone of our “Long Brown Path,” which promoted hiking and other outdoor activities. On April 4, 1930, in a column titled “Appreciates Appalachian Trail,” he shared a letter he received from Miss Angelique Revillion, Director of the Inwood-Oakwood Club, about a hike she took along the Appalachian Trail from Sloatsburg, N.Y. to Greenwood Lake, N.Y. “There were six in the party and we voted it the most wonderful hike we ever had. (The day was ideal) and the most beautiful hike we ever had (the trail has some of the most beautiful parts of the Appalachian Trail. Anyway, I don’t believe it can be improved on very much. The trip last Sunday made us realize how blessed we are, who live in this big metropolitan area, to have such beautiful trails and mountains so close to our home.”

Mary Torrey passed away on November 8, 2020, leaving the “trails and the memories” she shared through her columns for sharing our stories with others who would be interested in the stories and experiences of those who have hiked the Appalachian Trail in the past. We will sincerely miss her. Mary was an interdenominational woman with a heart for Christ, and a dedicated friend to all who knew her. She will be greatly missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing her and her husband, Will.”

Joshua Howard

**Nominated Name Trail Conference Executive Director**

Joshua Howard has been named Executive Director of the Trail Conference. An 18-year member of the staff, he assumed the lead-ership role as Chief Operating Officer in March, serving alongside Chief Financial Offi-cer Mary Perro. Since then, Joshua has been responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Trail Conference, with Mary responsible for all financial matters. As we look forward to entering our Centennial year, the Trail Conference Board of Directors has determined that Angelique was able to explore the most beautiful trail on the “most wonderful hike.” Enabling the public to experience this region’s parks was the cornerstone on which the Trail Conference was founded— and that’s why we continue to do this work today.

**Trail Lead?**

**Where Does Your Trail Lead?**

As the new executive director of the Trail Conference, those words resonated with me. It was thanks to the efforts of Josh and our entire staff that Angelique was able to explore the most beautiful trail on the “most wonderful hike.” Enabling the public to experience this region’s parks was the cornerstone on which the Trail Conference was founded—and that’s why we continue to do this work today.

**Trail Offers a break from our hectic lives and the chance to push ourselves to new limits. They provide solitude and so-cial opportunities. Trails heal. They set us free. I follow a lot of outdoor folks on Insta-gram, and I love seeing all the incredible ways they connect with nature—whether that’s setting out on the personal challenge of completing a trail marathon, or simply walking hand-in-hand with a loved one through the woods on a Sun-day afternoon. Social media may have replaced newspaper columns for sharing our sto-ries with the world, but what hasn’t changed is the impor-tance of those stories to our mission. Since 1920, the Trail Conference has worked to em-power everyone to explore the restorative benefits of nature. It was during my own ex-périence thru-hiking the Ap-palachian Trail in 2001 that I rediscovered my passion for the outdoors. My experiences along the A.T. motivated me to become more involved in pro-ecting and maintaining the trails and trail lands I had just hiked through, which led to my first role at the Trail Confer-ence, back in 2002.

As Angelique acknowled-edged in 1930, and what still rings true today, is that it’s the trails and the memories they hold the most meaning to us. I hope you’ll share your stories with us on Insta-gram, Facebook, and Twitter @nynjtc, or by emailing trail@nynjtc.org. As we celebrate 100 years of service, we’d love to share with the greater trail community the impact we’ve been able to have in your life.

Joshua Howard
Executive Director executive@director@nynjtc.org

**In Memoriam**

**Norm Blumenstein**

Norm Blumenstein, 75, of Sayreville, N.J., passed away on May 14. Norm was a longstanding member, volun-teer, and donor of the Trail Conference and a valued member of our Finance Committee. He was depend-able, kept our Finance Com-mittee minutes, and offered well-thought-out advice. We will sincerely miss him.

**Rudy Templin**

Rudolph Templin, 77, of Oakland, N.J., passed away on October 1. Rudy worked as a certified public accountant for Bar-lour MacLaine Corp. in New York City until his retirement. Hiking and volleyball were Rudy’s passions. He volunteered for the Trail Conference as a trail main-tainer in Wawayanda State Park. He was also a volunteer and member of the Appa-lachian Trail Conservancy. Over 20 years ago, he started an interdenominational social group called Christian Singles of North Jersey. He loved helping people in need. Rudy was a true gentle-man, a spiritual inspiration, and a dedicated friend to all who knew him. He will be sorely missed.

**Roslyn Willet**

Roslyn Willet, 94, died peacefully in her Manhattan home on June 19. She enjoyed hiking, swimming, and dance, and was an ex-hustional patron of the arts. Roslyn began her distin-guished career as a dieti-cian at the YWCA in 1944. She served as an executive at Stein Hall & Co. from 1944 to 1948, then became managing editor of Food & Nutrition at McGraw-Hill in 1949—the company’s first female editor. In 1954 she became the Director of the Institutional and Business Press Department at Farley Manning & Associates. In 1959, she became founder and president of Roslyn Willet and Associates, a public relations, marketing, and institutional food consult-ing company she operated through the 1980s. Roslyn was a pioneering feminist, authoring influential articles and books. She was adjunct professor at Hunter College, the Polytechnic University of New York, and Columbia University School of Public Health. She was inducted into the Hunter College and City University of New York halls of fame in 2015. She will be dearly missed.

**Liam Gillespie**

William “Liam” Gillespie died peacefully on Nov. 18 at his home in Cold Spring, N.Y. N.Y. He loved running, socializing, eating, and the Hudson Valley. In the 1980s, he completed two New York City Marathons and joined the Hash House Harriers running group, running with them for two decades. He loved his community and his many friends in Cold Spring. In 2016, he was proud to re-ceive his membership in the Catskill 3500 Club, having climbed all 35 catskill peaks over 3,500 feet in summer and winter. He will be greatly missed.

**New and Returning Board, Voting Members Named for 2020**

The Nominating Committee of the Trail Conference presented the following candidates for the Board of Directors for three-year terms and At-Large Voting Members for two-year terms. These nominations were voted on at the Annual Meeting held on Nov. 19 at Trail Conference Headquarters.

**At-Large Voting Members**

- Suse Bell
- Deborah Padula-Genna
- Matt Green
- Jack Driller
- Harvey Fishman
- William Gannett
- Robert Ladue
- James Piumbino
- Anne Poseley
- Kristin Reeves
- Ruth Rosenthal
- Susan Scher
- Doug Sohn
- Robert Ward
- Kevin Bukiowsi
- Jane Daniels (Jan. 2020)
- Daniel Chazin
- Ron Rosen

Joshua Howard

Executive Director executive@director@nynjtc.org

**Josh thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2001. What’s your favorite trail story?**

Joshua Howard
Welcome, Olivia, Kathleen, Arden, Ryan, and Lenny

Staff Update

Staff Update

In memory of Nature Jim Clawson worked tirelessly for the benefit of his fellow Americans.

In honor of Three Arrows Cooperative.

In honor of Evan Siegel.

In honor of Duke DesJardin.

Kathleen Bezir joined the Trail Conference trail full-time in October as the Executive Assistant. Prior to this position, Kathleen served as an Americorps term with the Trail Conference Conservation Corps as a member of the Aquatic Invasive Strike Force Crew. She graduated from Temple University with a bachelor’s degree in biology and has five years of research experience studying a variety of subjects, from neuroscience to marine ecology. Kathleen is fascinated with nature and values an adventurous and curious approach to outdoor conservation. From swimming with sharks as a dive volunteer at a local aquarium, to hiking trails in the area, she is passionate about sharing the outdoors with others.

Arden Blumenthal, our Conservation Dogs Program Assistant, first joined the Trail Conference as a volunteer for the Conservation Dog Program in the spring of 2019. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from Virginia Tech, where she worked with various species of wildlife, including the elusive Eastern hellbender salamander.

Ryan Goolie’s love for nature was fostered at a young age through years of outdoor activities with the Boy Scouts. He received his bachelor’s degree in biology with a minor in environmental studies from The College of New Jersey. He got involved with invasive species by spending time in a research lab that focused on how invasives and deer interact with the native forest plant communities. After graduation, he spent two years serving with AmeriCorps. His service included managing invasive plants with the Trail Conference’s Invasive Strike Force, building trails in Sterling Forest, and restoring and protecting aquatic resources in Montana. Ryan spent 2019 as the Invasive Strike Force Crew Leader before transitioning to the position of Forester Gamble.

Lenny Bussanich, our Fulfillment Coordinator, comes to the Trail Conference with more than 20 years of experience in the outdoor industry. His most recent role was as Social Media Content Strategist and Partnerships Manager, where he helped manage consumer employer’s branding within the outdoor community. At the same time, he renewed older and established new relationships with nonprofit organizations dedicated to outdoor education and stewardship. Lenny is passionate about the outdoors and trails and hikes or bikes regularly on the weekends.

Happy Trails to Mike

Michael Young, our former Terrestrial Invasive Species Project Manager, has left the Trail Conference to pursue exciting career opportunities. In 2015, he received his bachelor degree in landscape architecture with a concentration in ecological design from Rutgers University.

Throughout his career, Mike has interned with the Central Park Conservancy, spent two seasons with Maplewood Township in New Jersey as a horticultural specialist, and worked as a material planner in corporate aviation for Dassault Falcon Jet.

Earlier in his career, he was the Trail Maintainer for Greenbrook Nature Sanctuary along the Palisades, where a new invasive plant environment was fostered.

More recently, he was a crew member of the 2016 Invasive Species Strike Force Crew. We wish him good luck on his next adventure!

TRAIL CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

AUGUST 16 – OCTOBER 31, 2019

TRIBUTES

In honor of Louis Baldanza Anna Marchini

In honor of Duke Desfardin William Desfardin

In honor of Barbara Erdnikov Joe Fucks

In honor of Kevin Graney Shapard Grinker

In honor of Joan Segel Shapard Grinker

In honor of Three Arrows Cooperative Lawrence Sapadin

In memory of Elijah Cammings, a true statesman who worked tirelessly for the benefit of his fellow Americans. Bob Jonas

In memory of Nature Jim Clawson

Ronald Bull

Maureen Donlon

Jim Franchi

Paul Kovach, Jr.

Michael Lyons

Glenn Meyers

Laurie Stuckton

DONORS TO THE ANNUAL FUND

Diane Alden, Anonymous Donor, Edward & Karen Appleby


CORPORATE, FOUNDATION & OTHER DONORS

Lenape Trail Guide Is Your Key to Exploring Essex County

New Jersey’s 36-mile Lenape Trail brings visitors to Essex County’s great outdoor destinations by connecting 18 parks and 11 communities. Since 2017, generous support from the Partners for Health Foundation has enabled the Lenape Trail to be maintained and improved by the Essex County Park System, in partnership with the Essex County Park System. As a result, the trail now has a more consistent surface, clearly marked trail signs, and improved safety for hikers.

The Official Guide to the Lenape Trail is your key to exploring the Lenape Trail and the parks through which it traverses. It includes detailed maps and descriptions of points of interest along the trail, making it valuable for hikers and others alike. Created as a PDF, you can download the Lenape Trail Guide and Maps button at LenapeTrail.org. For those who want to own a hard copy, the 42-page free PDF can be printed and bound at home or your local copy and print center. In addition, you can download a digital Lenape Trail map through the Avenza Maps app on your mobile device. You can also view an interactive map online, which is perfect for trip planning. Information on the app and the interactive map can also be found through LenapeTrail.org.

Lenape Trail Field Manager Debra Kagan orchestrated the creation of this digital guide with expert input from local museums, historical societies, and nature centers in the hope it will enrich the 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 Lenape Trail.

We thank the Partners for Health Foundation for their support and for allowing the Trail Conference to continue growing and improving this important trail. Interested in volunteering? Email volunteer@nynjtc.org.

Share Your Trail Conference History

As the Trail Conference approaches its 100th birthday, some of our long-time volunteers are spearheading efforts to create a display of the organization’s history in the main hall at our headquarters. The proposed theme is “We Work, We Play”—and we need your help!

We’re looking for memorabilia and photos that demonstrate our mission and growth, from our earliest days, right up to the present. We’re seeking old trail signs and blazing materials, as well as tools of our trade. Photos that show group trips, work trips, youth endeavors, and projects both underway and completed are encouraged. Although we have photos of our founding members along the historic staircases, we’d also like to see some photos of our “old timers.”

Central North Jersey Trail Co-Chair Bob Jonas has already assembled some of this material, but he is looking for more that represents our entire region—from the Catskills in the north to the Sourlands in the south.

While we have two cabinets to fill, space is not unlimited. Please email Bob at yoko760@gmail.com with items that you might be willing to contribute.

Looking forward to a broad assortment of interesting artifacts! —Bob Jonas

Save the Date: Voting Members Meeting

Our Spring Voting Members Meeting and Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 26, at Trail Conference Headquarters. At press time, the agenda had not yet been set. If you have agenda items to suggest, please email them to ShareYourConference@nynjtc.org. Meeting information and materials will be provided in advance. More details will be posted at nynjtc.org as they become available.

Liberty’s ‘Share the Love’ Event Benefits Trails and Parks

Do you plan to buy or lease a new car between now and Jan. 2, 2020? If so, your purchase can result in a $250 donation to the Trail Conference. As part of Subaru of America’s annual Share the Love event, Liberty Subaru of Emerson, N.J., has named the Trail Conference as one of their hometown charities! This means that for every new vehicle purchased or leased, Subaru will donate $250 to the charity you designate.

In fact, if you buy or lease a car at Liberty Hyundai and Genesis in Mahwah or Liberty Kia in Ramsey, your purchase will also result in a $250 donation. Find more details at bit.ly/tc-snl19

Two things to remember:

• If you choose Liberty to support the Trail Conference as the charity you want to support, your purchase will also result in a $250 donation.

• This offer is valid only at Liberty dealerships.

Our thanks to Liberty and everyone who chooses to support the Trail Conference mission!
If you think you’ve seen a spotted lanternfly or an egg mass, please send a picture to spottedlanternfly@dec.nj.gov in New York or SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov in New Jersey.

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is hopping closer and closer to the Hudson Valley and northern New Jersey—and you need to be aware of the threat it poses to our region. First discovered in Berks County, Pa., in 2014, these plant hoppers are native to China, India, and Vietnam. They are thought to have arrived in the States as egg masses on a shipment of stone. These ravenous bugs feed on over 70 species of plants, including maple, walnut, fruit trees, and even grape vines and hops. SLF physically stress plants by draining vital nutrients and leaving a sticky excrement that promotes the growth of harmful fungal infections. Should a lanternfly proceed unchecked through New York and New Jersey, both the environmental and economic impacts of a lanternfly feeding frenzy could be significant.

For perspective, New York alone has a $52.3 million annual grape yield contributing to a $4.8 billion wine and grape industry. As of September, there were a total of eight quarantined counties in New Jersey. Certain goods or materials cannot be transported out of these counties without following strict regulations. Even still, 11 counties in New York State have confirmed sightings of spotted lanternfly believed to be hitchhikers from travelers’ cars or equipment. The pest has been found in a total of eight states. Until an effective solution to enable the early intervention of the lanternfly is found, land managers and state and federal agencies are focusing on keeping populations under control. Preventing the spread of SLF to other counties and states presents another challenge. The Trail Conference has an innovative solution to this growing problem. Since August, our Conservation Dogs program has partnered with NYS Parks, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and USDA to conduct cargo searches and field surveys for spotted lanternfly. Because human eyesight is not always a reliable way to find these harmful bugs, conservation dogs’ incredible sense of smell is an ideal method to search for them. This summer, program assistant Arden Blumenthal and volunteer support, the Trail Conference can expand this program and keep spotted lanternfly and other invasive plant and pest species under control, limiting their impact. Find out how you can be part of the solution at nynjtc.org/dogs.

If you think you’ve seen a spotted lanternfly or an egg mass, please send a picture to spottedlanternfly@dec.nj.gov in New York or SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov in New Jersey.

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is hopping closer and closer to the Hudson Valley and northern New Jersey—and you need to be aware of the threat it poses to our region. First discovered in Berks County, Pa., in 2014, these plant hoppers are native to China, India, and Vietnam. They are thought to have arrived in the States as egg masses on a shipment of stone. These ravenous bugs feed on over 70 species of plants, including maple, walnut, fruit trees, and even grape vines and hops. SLF physically stress plants by draining vital nutrients and leaving a sticky excrement that promotes the growth of harmful fungal infections. Should a lanternfly proceed unchecked through New York and New Jersey, both the environmental and economic impacts of a lanternfly feeding frenzy could be significant.

For perspective, New York alone has a $52.3 million annual grape yield contributing to a $4.8 billion wine and grape industry. As of September, there were a total of eight quarantined counties in New Jersey. Certain goods or materials cannot be transported out of these counties without following strict regulations. Even still, 11 counties in New York State have confirmed sightings of spotted lanternfly believed to be hitchhikers from travelers’ cars or equipment. The pest has been found in a total of eight states. Until an effective solution to enable the early intervention of the lanternfly is found, land managers and state and federal agencies are focusing on keeping populations under control. Preventing the spread of SLF to other counties and states presents another challenge. The Trail Conference has an innovative solution to this growing problem. Since August, our Conservation Dogs program has partnered with NYS Parks, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and USDA to conduct cargo searches and field surveys for spotted lanternfly. Because human eyesight is not always a reliable way to find these harmful bugs, conservation dogs’ incredible sense of smell is an ideal method to search for them. This summer, program assistant Arden Blumenthal and volunteer support, the Trail Conference can expand this program and keep spotted lanternfly and SLF egg masses and have been participating in our searches and surveys.

With financial and volunteer support, the Trail Conference can expand this program and keep spotted lanternfly and other invasive plant and pest species under control, limiting their impact. Find out how you can be part of the solution at nynjtc.org/dogs.

What’s it like to serve as an AmeriCorps member in the Trail Conference Conservation Corps (TCCC)? It’s giving your time—full-time, for six months—to protect the environment and the public’s ability to safely enjoy it. That’s not an easy gig. But for some of our members, it’s not only an incredibly rewarding experience—it’s life-changing.

Here are a few of their stories from the 2019 season:

Stephen Sullivan, Trail Steward
To be honest, I originally saw my season with the TCCC as an opportunity to burn time until the next semester of college started. I was entirely wrong.

The first few days alone showed me just how special the program and the people in it are. When working Breakneck Ridge and Bear Mountain, I saw first-hand just how necessary the early intervention of Trail Stewards is to keep the parks safe and fun for those visiting. When in the Catskills, I learned how diverse the hikers in those mountains could be. And when trail building and maintaining with Andy Garrison, Long Path Trail Chair, I learned how much effort truly goes into trail construction and rehabilitation, and saw the indefatigable devotion the Trail Conference volunteers have towards their mission. And of course, my fellow Corps members showed a level of camaraderie, support, and love for one another that I had only seen before in the military.

I had started out as an outsider to the world of conservation, and by the end of the program, I found myself ready to redirect my life towards it. Opportunities and paths I never would have imagined before have become my goals for the future. I found more than I was looking for, and I’m forever grateful to this program for that.

Brittany O’Dowd, Restoration Technician
I started the program as a member of the TCCC because I was interested in the outdoors, and I am thankful for the opportunity I was given to serve in a position that I had only seen before in the military. I will now continue my education, and am grateful for the opportunities given to me through this program. I took this program as an opportunity to give back to the outdoors and to be a part of a community that shares my interests and passions. I will now continue to focus on outdoor education and recreation. Congrats!&

Heather Just, Conservation Corps Program Assistant
I graduated in December 2018 with a bachelor’s degree in biology and art but didn’t know which field to pursue for a job. So, I searched for a temporary position to help me figure out what my next big career step would be, and I thought trail work would be perfect.

This experience has allowed me to see the hard work and dedication it takes to maintain and build sustainable trails. Learning various techniques from field managers Erik Mickelson and Ben Sugar built my confidence on the trail, allowing me to make decisions without awaiting their approval. Working with volunteers helped me realize that teaching is one of my passions. I will now continue a career path in education. Overall, I am grateful for all the experiences and friendships I have made throughout the term, and I can’t wait to come back and volunteer in my spare time!

More Than Service to Trails and Parks

Watch Dia and Fagen (above) in action on Instagram @disavestheforest.
New Signage Improving Navigation from Tuxedo Station to Harriman

The first trail ever built in Harriman, the Ramapo-Dunderberg (R-D), will get a major facelift starting in 2020, just in time for its 100th birthday. Regarded as one of Harriman Bear Mountain’s most scenic trails, the 23-mile R-D was built in 1920 to connect the village of Tuxedo Park to the Hudson River. In preparation for the upcoming Harriman Connections project, which will repair and rebuild the R-D and other trails in 2020-2021, volunteers and staff have been working to install new, improved signage. The attractive new signs are significantly improving navigation of the first section of trail, which passes through a residential neighborhood on its way to the forest. Created by volunteer Glenn Gross, the new signs will complement a Trail Conference outreach effort to help prevent hikers from getting lost, inadvertently wandering onto private property, or parking in areas where it is not permitted. Stay tuned for more information about both projects and how they are transforming the user experience on some of the region’s most iconic trails.

Hudson Nor’Westers Complete Black Rock Forest Route

The Hudson Nor’Westers, under the leadership of Crew Chief Dave Webber, just completed a wonderful project in Black Rock Forest: a reroute of the Scenic/Highlands Trail up and over the Mineral Springs Waterfall. In June, Dave and four of the Trail Conference’s Trail Stewards did a reroute of the trail to swing over to the picturesque falls and then follow along the edge of the cliff before rejoining the old trail. At that time, the crew realized that a steep section of the old trail where it joined the rerotation needed work to keep it from eroding. Stone steps to the rescue.

In the course of nine work trips, the crew built a beautiful, 18-step stone staircase to create a safe experience for visitors on a sustainable trail built to last for decades. Additional thanks to IBM, which awarded the Trail Conference a $2,000 grant in recognition of Dave’s volunteer service. Thanks for all you do, Dave!

Cheers to Ramsey Outdoor!

Michael Levine of Ramsey Outdoor presented the Trail Conference Development Director Don Weese with a check for $680 raised during the outdoor retailer’s Pint Night on Nov. 14. Seventy-five outdoor lovers came out to the Seventy-five outdoor retailer’s Pint Night on Nov. 14. Seventy-five outdoor retailer’s Pint Night on Nov. 14. The event was a huge success and the money raised is an important addition to the Conference’s summer trail maintenance fund.

Happy Trails to Bob Ward

After 69 years of service, Bob Ward retired from his volunteer role as our Queens Rockaways Trail Supervisor on Nov. 1. Bob also resigned from his chairmanship of the Queens Trails Council on Oct. 23. The Queens Borough Commissioner of Parks presented Bob with the new sign that will be placed on the Bayswater Trail in the Far Rockaways, Queens, indicating the new name of the trail. The Trail Conference presented Bob, who is 91 years young, with a framed version of the Summer 2019 Trail Walker article on his dedication and passionate volunteerism, as well as a print of a hand-drawn map of Queens trails from 1936. The map was updated in 1950—the same year Bob began volunteering for the Trail Conference. He received a plaque that reads: “Presented to Bob Ward, a champion of trails in the borough of Queens, New York City, and beyond. In recognition of seven decades of outstanding service to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.” Thank you, Bob!

Thank You, Dan

Daniel Hoberman, Board Counsel since 2014, has reached his term limit and stepped down from the role. An avid hiker, he initially became involved with the Trail Conference as the Chairman of Workshops at the Appalachian Trail Conference Biennial Conference in 2007, hosted by the Trail Conference. While a member of the Trail Conference’s Publications Committee, he was instrumental in bringing the PDF Map app to our community. Dan received the Trail Conference’s Paul Leikin Extra Mile Award in 2007. A graduate of University of Vermont and Rutgers-Camden Law School, Dan is a bankruptcy tri- nal attorney and mediator engaged in the private practice of law. We’ll see you on the trail, Dan!
In the Field

2019 Corps Season

In New Jersey, Trail Stewards are hired and managed by State Park staff with training, data management, and other support from Trail Conference staff and volunteers. This partnership allows State Parks to collect and manage more useful information than would otherwise be possible, while allowing the Trail Conference to be present and involved in the program without the challenges and expense of hiring more seasonal staff. After the State’s first year of Trail Stewards in 2018 at Terrace Pond in Wawayanda State Park was deemed a great success, minimizing illegal activity and injury at the popular site, the State expanded the Steward program to cover Ramapo Mountain State Forest and Worthington State Forest in 2019. The latter in particular is a high-value area for Stewards, who encountered 17,611 visitors in their time onsite from mid-June to mid-November. At Terrace Pond, where the Stewards now have two years of data, both the narratives from returning Stewards and the numbers tell an astounding success story. In 2018, the site averaged 2.9 illegal swimmers per day. In 2019, that number dropped to only 0.6—about an 80% reduction in that dangerous behavior. Other activities, such as drinking and unauthorized camping, were similarly reduced or eliminated.

The staff of New Jersey State Parks have expressed their happiness with the outcomes of this Steward year, and are looking toward growing the program even further in 2020.

In the Catskills

A second planning and years of construction, Ulster County opened the 11.5-mile Ashokan Rail Trail (ART) in October. The ART follows the northern shore of the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster County, N.Y., in the southern Catskills. It is the first trail in these lands to have been open to the public without a permit in over a century.

Within the first month of opening, over 10,000 visitors enjoyed the trail. These visitation numbers continue to increase. Volunteer Trail Conference Stewards trained and managed the Trail Conference are playing a critical role in both the trail experience and visitor management. The program was created in partnership with the Woodstock Land Conservancy, Ulster County, and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

“Simply put, without the ART Steward program, we could not have successfully managed the massive numbers of visitors who have come out since opening day,” said Kevin Smirth, Chair of the Woodstock Land Conservancy. “The Steward Program has been an unqualified success.”

In November, the Trail Conference program provides a clear blue-print for spreading the benefits of nature and outdoor recreation. We expect to see again field Stewards at Breakneck Ridge, Bear Mountain, and in the Catskills. Additionally, we are working with our agency partners to be stationed at2020 Review

In considering the future of the Trail Conference, the Steward program provides a clear blueprint for spreading the benefits of nature and outdoor recreation. We expect to see again field Stewards at Breakneck Ridge, Bear Mountain, and in the Catskills. Additionally, we are working with our agency partners to be stationed at

In New Jersey, Trail Stewards are hired and managed by State Park staff with training, data management, and other support from Trail Conference staff and volunteers. This partnership allows State Parks to collect and manage more useful information than would otherwise be possible, while allowing the Trail Conference to be present and involved in the program without the challenges and expense of hiring more seasonal staff. After the State’s first year of Trail Stewards in 2018 at Terrace Pond in Wawayanda State Park was deemed a great success, minimizing illegal activity and injury at the popular site, the State expanded the Steward program to cover Ramapo Mountain State Forest and Worthington State Forest in 2019. The latter in particular is a high-value area for Stewards, who encountered 17,611 visitors in their time onsite from mid-June to mid-November. At Terrace Pond, where the Stewards now have two years of data, both the narratives from returning Stewards and the numbers tell an astounding success story. In 2018, the site averaged 2.9 illegal swimmers per day. In 2019, that number dropped to only 0.6—about an 80% reduction in that dangerous behavior. Other activities, such as drinking and unauthorized camping, were similarly reduced or eliminated.

The staff of New Jersey State Parks have expressed their happiness with the outcomes of this Steward year, and are looking toward growing the program even further in 2020.

In the Catskills

A second planning and years of construction, Ulster County opened the 11.5-mile Ashokan Rail Trail (ART) in October. The ART follows the northern shore of the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster County, N.Y., in the southern Catskills. It is the first trail in these lands to have been open to the public without a permit in over a century.

Within the first month of opening, over 10,000 visitors enjoyed the trail. These visitation numbers continue to increase. Volunteer Trail Conference Stewards trained and managed the Trail Conference are playing a critical role in both the trail experience and visitor management. The program was created in partnership with the Woodstock Land Conservancy, Ulster County, and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

“Simply put, without the ART Steward program, we could not have successfully managed the massive numbers of visitors who have come out since opening day,” said Kevin Smirth, Chair of the Woodstock Land Conservancy. “The Steward Program has been an unqualified success.”

In November, the Trail Conference program provides a clear blue-print for spreading the benefits of nature and outdoor recreation. We expect to see again field Stewards at Breakneck Ridge, Bear Mountain, and in the Catskills. Additionally, we are working with our agency partners to be stationed at

In New Jersey, Trail Stewards are hired and managed by State Park staff with training, data management, and other support from Trail Conference staff and volunteers. This partnership allows State Parks to collect and manage more useful information than would otherwise be possible, while allowing the Trail Conference to be present and involved in the program without the challenges and expense of hiring more seasonal staff. After the State’s first year of Trail Stewards in 2018 at Terrace Pond in Wawayanda State Park was deemed a great success, minimizing illegal activity and injury at the popular site, the State expanded the Steward program to cover Ramapo Mountain State Forest and Worthington State Forest in 2019. The latter in particular is a high-value area for Stewards, who encountered 17,611 visitors in their time onsite from mid-June to mid-November. At Terrace Pond, where the Stewards now have two years of data, both the narratives from returning Stewards and the numbers tell an astounding success story. In 2018, the site averaged 2.9 illegal swimmers per day. In 2019, that number dropped to only 0.6—about an 80% reduction in that dangerous behavior. Other activities, such as drinking and unauthorized camping, were similarly reduced or eliminated.

The staff of New Jersey State Parks have expressed their happiness with the outcomes of this Steward year, and are looking toward growing the program even further in 2020.

In the Catskills

A second planning and years of construction, Ulster County opened the 11.5-mile Ashokan Rail Trail (ART) in October. The ART follows the northern shore of the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster County, N.Y., in the southern Catskills. It is the first trail in these lands to have been open to the public without a permit in over a century.

Within the first month of opening, over 10,000 visitors enjoyed the trail. These visitation numbers continue to increase. Volunteer Trail Conference Stewards trained and managed the Trail Conference are playing a critical role in both the trail experience and visitor management. The program was created in partnership with the Woodstock Land Conservancy, Ulster County, and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

“Simply put, without the ART Steward program, we could not have successfully managed the massive numbers of visitors who have come out since opening day,” said Kevin Smirth, Chair of the Woodstock Land Conservancy. “The Steward Program has been an unqualified success.”

In November, the Trail Conference program provides a clear blue-print for spreading the benefits of nature and outdoor recreation. We expect to see again field Stewards at Breakneck Ridge, Bear Mountain, and in the Catskills. Additionally, we are working with our agency partners to be stationed at

In New Jersey, Trail Stewards are hired and managed by State Park staff with training, data management, and other support from Trail Conference staff and volunteers. This partnership allows State Parks to collect and manage more useful information than would otherwise be possible, while allowing the Trail Conference to be present and involved in the program without the challenges and expense of hiring more seasonal staff. After the State’s first year of Trail Stewards in 2018 at Terrace Pond in Wawayanda State Park was deemed a great success, minimizing illegal activity and injury at the popular site, the State expanded the Steward program to cover Ramapo Mountain State Forest and Worthington State Forest in 2019. The latter in particular is a high-value area for Stewards, who encountered 17,611 visitors in their time onsite from mid-June to mid-November. At Terrace Pond, where the Stewards now have two years of data, both the narratives from returning Stewards and the numbers tell an astounding success story. In 2018, the site averaged 2.9 illegal swimmers per day. In 2019, that number dropped to only 0.6—about an 80% reduction in that dangerous behavior. Other activities, such as drinking and unauthorized camping, were similarly reduced or eliminated.

The staff of New Jersey State Parks have expressed their happiness with the outcomes of this Steward year, and are looking toward growing the program even further in 2020.
For the Love of Family, For the Love of Trails

Since the creation of the Trail Angel Society, I’ve been working with Trail Conference Communications Manager Amber Ray to encourage people to protect themselves and their loved ones through estate planning. Encouraging people to safeguard their most valuable assets—and yes, I’m referring to your spouses and children and other loved ones—is very important to me.

So you may have noticed this space in Trail Walker has consistently urged readers to make an estate plan. Author Jill Schlesinger puts it bluntly in “The Dumb Things Smart People Do with Their Money”.

“Of all the off the hook stupid mistakes you can make with your money, failing to have a will is indisputably the worst. Not only can it result in massive financial losses for your loved ones, depending on the size of the estate, but it can also cause them any number of other hardships. Want to leave open the possibility that the closest people to you don’t receive any money from your estate, while other, less deserving people do? Want to leave open the possibility that your minor children are improperly cared for after you’re gone? Or that your loved ones have to sell heirloom property in order to pay estate taxes or set up a trust? Oh, while you’re at it, don’t even engage in any other form of estate planning either.”

At the 2019 Trail Conference Benefit, Amber delivered the same message from her own personal experience:

“Today, I’d like to talk about love. And I want to talk about two kinds of love in particular—love of family, and the love of trails.

We all work hard to show love to our families, but have we created a will to show our love after we’re gone? Fifty-eight percent of Americans do not have an estate plan, and many existing plans are not up-to-date.

To motivate more of us to take this important step, one of our trail-loving members has a challenge for each of us. This generous donor will immediately donate $500 to the Trail Conference for every one of us who pledges to name our organization in her or her will. Her passion for encouraging people to take care of themselves and their families by getting their affairs in order was so strong that I needed to draw up a will for my family.

I may have taken a little convincing, but I finally made the appointment for my husband and I to meet with a lawyer. As a young couple, we are not alone in delaying making these provisions for our daughter. Only 38% of Americans with little ones have done so. If your kids are among that other 62%, please urge them to make a will and appoint a guardian for your grandchild.

I realized having the formal means to protect our young daughter when we are no longer able to care for her wasn’t enough. So I am putting the Trail Conference in my estate plans to ensure our mission is carried on.

Our donor has research that shows that virtually every person who pledges this reality does it. So our donor trusts us. He has done this successfully for other nonprofit organizations. He is now willing to do this for you. Please sign a trail pledge to leave any amount you wish to the Trail Conference and demonstrate both of your loves—the love of your family and your love of trails.”

You can find Amber’s video at youtube.com/nynjtc. Whatever you do, make an estate plan for your sake, for the sake of the people you love, and for the sake of the organizations that you love.

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.

Robert C. Ross
NY-NJ Trail Conference Life Member

For the Love of Trails

Your Legacy

On Sept. 8, I had the privilege of meeting the founding members of the Trail Angel Society and presented my ideas on how to maximize their legacies at their Founding Members’ Brunch, held at Trail Conference Headquarters. I was grateful for their engaged participation, as it made for an interactive discussion. Echoing Trail Conference Life Member and fellow Trail Angel Society founding Member Bob Ross, The Charles Schwab Guide to Finances After Fifty suggests, “Think about planning your estate as planning your legacy. It’s your opportunity to make your mark on the world—to help and protect the people you care about most. It is your opportunity to give back to your community, or university, or cause.”

We spent about an hour post-brunch talking about the use of donor-advised funds, qualified charitable distributions, and a few other legacy-maximizing techniques, including beneficiary designations, charitable trusts, and charitable gift annuities. You can find some introductory information about these strategies at bit.ly/tc-lfp19. If you’re interested in learning more about your options, please feel free to contact me at 201-848-6802 or michael@cererusfinancial.com.

Michael Dunne, CFP®, Financial Advisor, Cererus Financial Advisors, LLC
The Art Center Watercolor Afiliates, known as ACWA, consists of an excellent group of 24 artists who love the excitement and challenging medium of watercolor. Members work in a variety of styles, both traditional and contemporary. Education and awareness of watercolor as a medium is their goal. ACWA exhibits bi-annually at the Art Center of Northern New Jersey as well as other public spaces in the metropolitan area. The work of ACWA artists will be on display at Trail Conference Headquarters at 600 Ramapo Valley Road in Mahwah, N.J., Jan. 8 through March 3, 2020.

The exhibition, themed “The Elements,” is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A reception, also open to the public, will be held on Jan. 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Watercolor Wonderland

Upcoming Exhibitions

- J. Alexander Baker, March 4 through May 5
- Mahwah Schools Gifted and Talented Showcase, May 6 through June 2

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Name</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADK Long Island</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adklong.org">www.adklong.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.midhudsonadk.org">www.midhudsonadk.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADK Mohican Chapter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adkmohican.org">www.adkmohican.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADK New York Chapter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adkny.org">www.adkny.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hudsonhikers.org">www.hudsonhikers.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventures for Women</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adventuresforwomen.org">www.adventuresforwomen.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alley Pond Environmental Center</td>
<td><a href="http://www.alleypond.com">www.alleypond.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMC Delaware Valley Chapter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amcmdv.org">www.amcmdv.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amcmohawkhudson.org">www.amcmohawkhudson.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMC New York North Jersey Chapter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amc-ny.org">www.amc-ny.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Rock Forest Consortium Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.blackrockforest.com">www.blackrockforest.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.scout121.org">www.scout121.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bsa.org">www.bsa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scouts of America- Northern NJ Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.njbsa.org">www.njbsa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSA Troop 21 - Hudson Valley Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.suffern21.mytroop.us">www.suffern21.mytroop.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canal Society of New Jersey</td>
<td><a href="http://www.canalsocietynj.org">www.canalsocietynj.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catskill 3500 Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.catskill3500.org">www.catskill3500.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catskill Mountain Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.catskillmountainclub.org">www.catskillmountainclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Mountain Club of New York</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cmcny.org">www.cmcny.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Communities Foundation - Platte Clove Community</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bruderhot.com">www.bruderhot.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloister Nature Center Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cloisternaturecenter.org">www.cloisternaturecenter.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Search and Rescue</td>
<td><a href="http://www.communitysearchandrescue.org">www.communitysearchandrescue.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyke Hikes</td>
<td><a href="http://www.meetup.com/Dyke-Hikes">www.meetup.com/Dyke-Hikes</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Hampton Trails Preservation Society</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ehtps.org">www.ehtps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finger Lakes Trail Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fingerlakestrail.org">www.fingerlakestrail.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat Rock Brook Nature Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.flatrockbrook.org">www.flatrockbrook.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park &amp; Trump State Park</td>
<td><a href="http://www.friendsofroosevelt.org">www.friendsofroosevelt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Garret Mountain Reservation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.garretmountain.org">www.garretmountain.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Pelham Bay Park</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pelhambaypark.org">www.pelhambaypark.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway in Teaneck</td>
<td><a href="http://www.teaneckgreenway.org">www.teaneckgreenway.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oldcrotonaqueduct.org">www.oldcrotonaqueduct.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Of The Shawangunks</td>
<td><a href="http://www.shawangunks.org">www.shawangunks.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frost Valley YMCA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.frostvalley.org">www.frostvalley.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German-American Hiking Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.meetup.com/GAHCNYNJ">www.meetup.com/GAHCNYNJ</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hike The World</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hiketheworld.com">www.hiketheworld.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Conservancy, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hilltopconservancy.org">www.hilltopconservancy.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunterdon Hiking Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hunterdonhikingclub.org">www.hunterdonhikingclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstate Hiking Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.interstatehikingclub.org">www.interstatehikingclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jolly Rovers Trail Crew Inc.</td>
<td>jollyrovers.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Stony Point Citizens Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.littlestonypoint.org">www.littlestonypoint.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Path North Hiking Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.schoharie-conservation.org">www.schoharie-conservation.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohonk Preserve</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mohonkpreserve.org">www.mohonkpreserve.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouth County Park System</td>
<td><a href="http://www.morrisparksnj.net">www.morrisparksnj.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris County Park Commission</td>
<td><a href="http://www.morrisparksnj.org">www.morrisparksnj.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mmc.nynjtc.org">www.mmc.nynjtc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nassauhiking.org">www.nassauhiking.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature Place Day Camp</td>
<td>thenatureplace.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelsonville Greenway Committee</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nelsonvillegreenway.org">www.nelsonvillegreenway.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Haven Hiking Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.then">www.then</a> rooftop.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Forty Plus Hiking Club</td>
<td>meetup.com/NJ-Forty-Plus-Hiking-Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Highlands Coalition</td>
<td><a href="http://www.njhighlandscoalition.org">www.njhighlandscoalition.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Search and Rescue Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.njsar.org">www.njsar.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Alpine Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nycaudubon.org">www.nycaudubon.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Ramblers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nyramblers.org">www.nyramblers.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Ramblers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nyramblers.org">www.nyramblers.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Promise</td>
<td><a href="http://www.outdoorpromise.org">www.outdoorpromise.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proactive - Adventure, Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td><a href="http://www.proactivehwc.org">www.proactivehwc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect Our Wetlands, Water &amp; Woods (POWW)</td>
<td>box292.bluehost.com/POWERw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramapough Conservancy, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ramapoughconservancy.org">www.ramapoughconservancy.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rip Van Winkle Hikers</td>
<td>newyorkheritage.com/rvw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Lodge Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rocklodge.com">www.rocklodge.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHPI Cabin Volunteers</td>
<td>rhpabicabin.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAJ - Society for the Advancement of Judaism</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfaj.org">www.sfaj.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Shakers Trail Running Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.saltshakersrun.com">www.saltshakersrun.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sassaud Trail Running</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sassaudtrailrunning.com">www.sassaudtrailrunning.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorewalkers Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.shorewalkers.org">www.shorewalkers.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group</td>
<td>sierraclub.org/atlanticmid-hudson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somers Land Trust</td>
<td>somerslandtrust.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Mountain Conservancy Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.somoco.org">www.somoco.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Benedict Prep Backpacking Project</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sbp.org">www.sbp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm King Adventure Tours</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stormkingadventuretours.com">www.stormkingadventuretours.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Storm King School</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sks.org">www.sks.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sundance-outdooradventure.com">www.sundance-outdooradventure.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY Oneonta Outdoor Adventure Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.oneonta.edu/outdoors">www.oneonta.edu/outdoors</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teatown Lake Reservation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.teatown.org">www.teatown.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenafly Nature Center Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tenaflynaturecenter.org">www.tenaflynaturecenter.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thendara Mountain Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thendaramountainclub.org">www.thendaramountainclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Lewisboro</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lewisboro.com/parksrec">www.lewisboro.com/parksrec</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Woodstock</td>
<td><a href="http://www.woodstockny.org">www.woodstockny.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TriState Ramblers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tristateramblers.org">www.tristateramblers.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troop 1 Mount Kisco</td>
<td><a href="http://www.troop1mountkisco.com">www.troop1mountkisco.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Outing Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.universityoutingclub.org">www.universityoutingclub.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Trail Conference, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.urbantrail.org">www.urbantrail.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Stream Hiking Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.meetup.com/vshclub">www.meetup.com/vshclub</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wappingersgreenway.org">www.wappingersgreenway.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners</td>
<td><a href="http://www.warrenparksparks.com">www.warrenparksparks.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Millford Trailers Facebook Group</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/56799051069405">www.facebook.com/groups/56799051069405</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weston Mountain Bike Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.westonbike.org">www.westonbike.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westchester Trails Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.westhike.org">www.westhike.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorktown Trail Town Committee</td>
<td><a href="http://www.yorktowntrailtown.org">www.yorktowntrailtown.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Be a Map Advocate!

My name is Jeremy, and I am a map advocate! We need your help in spreading the word that trail users should be properly prepared with accurate, up-to-date Trail Conference maps. There is no shortage of trail information on various websites, mobile apps, and social media, but if people don’t know about our maps, a potentially great trail experience could be thwarted by unreliable and outdated information.

So what is so great about Trail Conference maps? I have been the Trail Conference cartographer for more than 12 years, and I try to produce trail maps that are simplistic in design, yet detailed, accurate, and attractive. The Trail Conference’s trail mapping history has uniquely positioned our organization as a leader in trail map best practices, and our map story goes back more than 80 years, when Bill Hoeferlin began making trail maps for the New York metropolitan area in the mid-1930s. The Trail Conference continued making quality trail maps after Bill’s death in 1970, and since then, we have largely learned what does and does not work on trail maps. So our maps today use a simplistic, trail-focused map style with a basic color scheme, including the prominent red trail lines, and typically a simple topographic background. The trail information, however, is very detailed, with high-quality trail routes, junction-to-junction trail mileages, and detailed points of interest.

Beyond the best practices of our map design, our maps are also “made by the people who build the trails” and revised regularly. Dedicated volunteers have always played a key role in the production of our maps and books, and through the years, our publications have developed a reputation for being highly trusted sources of trail information.

However, your matter how well-designed, accurate, or up-to-date a map is, it does not do any good unless trail users know about it! In the past decade, we have made strides in getting maps out to trail users in formats beyond our traditional map sets, such as our Avenza Maps app maps with more than 200,000 downloads, free handout maps in certain parks, and large kiosk maps at many trailheads. Even so, there are still many trail users who don’t know about our great maps.

Trail users often get their information from mobile apps like AllTrails and GaiaGPS, Google Maps and other websites, and social media postings. If someone searches for a trail, they might find Trail Conference maps and information, but they may instead see a trail route on a Google Map or find a map from the park’s website. While these other sources can sometimes be sufficient for a trail user’s needs, their reliability may be mixed, and they can often be inaccurate or outdated. The Google Map might show an incorrect parking area, the trail app might only show selected trails within a park, and the park-created map may not have been developed with best practices in mind.

There is no denying that these other resources can be useful or provide additional functionality beyond what the Trail Conference currently offers. However, the primary point we want to stress is that a Trail Conference map is one crucial component of having the most complete and up-to-date trail information. If you like a mobile app or other source of trail information, find a map to also include a Trail Conference map as one of your resources.

Hikers’ Marketplace

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!

Find it on our online store under Combos.

First Edition Westchester Trail Map Set Is Here

As pre-announced in the Fall 2019 Trail Walker, the brand new Westchester Trails map set has arrived and is now available for purchase. This three-map set features more than 160 miles of trails in popular parks in Westchester County like Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, and Teatown. All maps include helpful junction-to-junction trail mileage numbers, detailed 10-foot elevation contour lines, and parking and public transportation access points. As always, the maps are available in print format on waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek, as well as in digital format on Apple and Android devices through the Avenza Maps app.

So grab your copy today to explore these parks in Westchester County! Shop our online store at www.nynjtc.org or stop in at Trail Conference Headquarters.

www.nynjtc.org or stop in at Trail Conference Headquarters.

We wish to thank Teatown for their financial support toward production of this map set. Map production was also funded in part by a grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway.

Spread the Word

Now more than ever, we need people like you to be strong advocates for our maps! Being a map advocate can be many different forms:

- Carry a print or digital map out on the trails and show it off to others you encounter!
- If you are a club member, ask other members, especially newer members, if they have the latest maps.
- If you lead hikes, suggest that hikers have a Trail Conference map.
- When discussing trails on social media, mention which Trail Conference maps you used.
- If you volunteer and are approached by people out on the trail, take out a map and ask them about their trip.
- If you visit a park office, outdoor retail store, or other shop and think they should sell our maps, talk to the manager and also let us know we should reach out.
- Consider joining our publications efforts if you have time to help develop and market our publications.

To those of you who have been strong map advocates, thank you! You are a big part of the reason our maps and books have continued to be the go-to trusted source for quality trail information. As we move into our 100th year, it is as important as ever to responsibly educate trail users, so please consider being a map advocate if you aren’t already!

Hikers’ Marketplace

GO PLACES WITH TRAIL MAPS AND BOOKS FROM THE TRAIL CONFERENCE

Visit www.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!
Three Lakes Loop Shows Off Teatown’s Beauty

DANIEL CHAZIN
ELDORADO TRAIL MANAGER, COMMITTEE MEMBER

This hike traverses the south-eastern section of Teatown Lake Reservation, a 1,000-acre nature preserve in Westchester County. It follows the shores of three scenic lakes—Ver- nay Lake, Teatown Lake, and Shadow Lake—and travels through interesting terrain, with many old stone walls reminding the hiker that this area was once farmed.

From the parking lot, cross Spring Valley Road at the crosswalk, turn left beyond the gap in the stone wall, then turn right at the next left road. The trail begins on the orange-blazed route of Three Lakes Loop. Follow this trail down to the lake and turn right onto the white-blazed Vernay Lakeside Connector, which follows along the north ern shore of the lake. After passing the dam of the lake, the trail continues on a woods road, soon reaching a wooden walkway on the left that leads to a low-lying platform. Here, the white-blazed trail turns right and climbs on a grassy woods road. It continues under the power lines, descends to cross paved Spring Valley Road, and ends at a junction with the white-blazed Lakeside Overlook Trail. Turn left onto this trail, which descends to the lakeshore and ends at a junction with the blue-blazed Lakeside Loop.

Turn left onto the Lakeside Loop, which soon crosses a flat lakeside boardwalk along the southern end of the lake. At the end of the boardwalk, turn left onto the joint Three Lakes/Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail, blazed with orange and green markers. Just ahead, the trails turn left onto Spring Valley Road. Follow the road for 100 feet, then turn right and reenter the woods.

In a third of a mile, after crossing a wetland on pun cheons, you’ll come to a T-inter section. Here, the green-blazed Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail leaves to the right, but you should turn left, continuing to follow the orange-blazed Three Lakes Loop. The trail passes a waterfall, crosses two small streams on four bridges, and climbs gradually on a winding footpath. It then recrosses under the power lines, with views to the left.

The trail now begins a gradual descent to the dam at the western end of Shadow Lake. It crosses the dam, bears right, and soon begins a winding descent to Vernay Lake, where it bears right and follows the lakeshore. A white-blazed connector trail goes off to the right, but you should continue ahead on the orange-blazed trail, which follows a narrow footpath to a concrete dock.

Spreading Our Mission Through Running

On a crisp November morning, 20 enthusiastic trail lovers gathered to experience the joy of running on Teatown’s multi-use trails and try on a pair of Hokai trail running shoes. This was just one of 12 monthly Trail Conference Trail Runs, which are rapidly gaining popularity and enlightening a new group of trail users to the value of the Trail Conference’s work.

The Trail Conference offers trail runs year-round throughout the backcountry to connect the community, attract member support, and highlight trail projects. Run lengths range from 5 to 9 miles with options to lengthen or shorten, and there are two or three group leaders to accommodate a range of paces. Runs may be combined with trail etiquette, safety, and clinic, which regularly emphasize the importance of yielding to hikers and equestrians.

We will also partner with member clubs, such as Sassafras Trail Running, which will host the Squatty Oneseis Fest 5K/Marathon at Trail Conference Headquarters on Feb. 15, 2020. Sassafras will also make a donation to the Trail Conference after the party ends. To get in on the fun and learn more about our monthly runs, join our Trail Conference Trail Runs Facebook group or email dwiese@nynjtc.org.

Don Weiss, Development Director

Upcoming Trail Runs

Jan. 4, 2020, 9:30 a.m. – New Year’s Run, Tourne County Park (Morris County, N.J.)
Feb. 8, 9:30 a.m. – Lenape Trail Run (Essex County, N.J.)
March 28, 9:30 a.m. – Long Path, Palisades: Early Signs of Spring (Bergen County, N.J.)
April 18, 9 a.m. Sterling Furnace Preview Run (Orange County, N.Y.)