



TRAIL WALKER

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

TRAILBLAZERS



We Are the Trail Conference:
Leaders in Caring for Parks
and Trails for 99 Years



Toast to the A.T.

JENNIFER ZACK

The completion of the Bear Mountain Trails Project was momentous for the Trail Conference and all our project partners. The Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain was rebuilt with more than 1,300 granite steps from the bottom of the mountain to its summit—work completed over 14 years by more than 3,000 volunteers and Conservation Corps members. This remarkable accomplishment was recognized nationally as a 2019 Project of the Year by The Corps Network.

In honor of this achievement, we gathered the trail community on June 21 for a summer solstice hike and champagne toast to celebrate the most ambitious rehabilitation ever to take place on the Appalachian Trail. Along the hike, Corps members, volunteers, and staff who worked on the project shared stories about what it took to transform the A.T. at Bear from an eroded, washed-out, 10-foot-wide scar into a safe, sustainable footpath. This part of the Trail features the first mountaintop section of the Appalachian Trail that is ADA-compliant, as well as Trails for People, the first outdoor interpretive exhibit aimed at teaching park visitors how trails are made.

After the hike, participants enjoyed light refreshments and mingled with fellow trail lovers from an overlook above the Hudson River. The evening concluded with a champagne toast in honor of everyone who had a hand in this tremendous achievement.



HEATHER DARLEY

Staff Update

Welcome, Tori

Victoria ("Tori") Finn joined the Trail Conference in August as our new Conservation Corps Manager. After graduating from Rutgers University with a degree in sociology and women's and gender studies, Tori joined AmeriCorps Vista with NJ LEEP, a Newark-based nonprofit that helps high school students attain higher education and careers. She then joined NJ LEEP full time as a manager of their volunteer program. Tori's experience in nonprofits, her passion for service, and her love for the outdoors make her right at home in the position of Corps Manager.



Trail Conference in 2016 after 21 years of military service. During his career he served combat tours in Iraq and peace-keeping missions in Bosnia and received numerous awards and recognitions. A firm believer in service to nation and community, Geoff was honored to work with our AmeriCorps members. We thank Geoff for his service on and off the trail and wish him the best.



Jennifer Ghahari has left her position as Program Assistant. She began volunteering with the Trail Conference in 2017 and officially joined the staff in 2018. Jennifer came to the Trail Conference wanting to utilize her research and analytic skills for the greater good, and in particular the environmental field. Good luck on your next adventure!



Happy Trails to Geoff, Jennifer

Geoff Hamilton has left his position as Trail Conference Conservation Corps Manager. Geoff joined the

Bergen County, Trail Conference Host Korea Forest Service

On Aug. 27, delegates from the Korea Forest Service visited Trail Conference Headquarters to learn about public forest management practices in the United States. Hosted by our partners at the Bergen County Park System, the visiting officials learned about the county's tree management program, as well as the Trail Conference's invasive species management efforts and our trail maintenance and



VICTORIA FINN

volunteer programs. Trail Conference staff led an interpretive walk next door to Ramapo Valley County Reservation, where a stone staircase built by our Conservation Corps and volunteers was showcased.

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AMBER RAY EDITOR
STEPHANIE HINDERER DESIGNER

MISSION STATEMENT

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer-powered organization that builds, maintains, and protects public trails. Together with our partners, we strive to ensure that the trails and natural areas we share are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy for generations to come.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization.

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We Are the Trail Conference

FROM THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

On Oct. 19, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference will turn 99 years old. That's nearly a century of service in the greater New York metropolitan area ensuring open space is protected and people have access to the outdoors via safe, well-maintained trails.

Though the landscape where we serve looks very different than it did in 1920, it's quite extraordinary that the heart of this organization beats with the same passion and energy as when it was founded. That passion and energy belongs to the volunteers who not only built the Trail Conference into one of the most resilient nonprofits in the region, but also literally built a network of more than 2,100 miles of trails that connect the public with nature.

For 99 years, Trail Conference volunteers have been providing millions of trail users with a means to explore the outdoors. The culture of volunteerism at the Trail Conference has become the fabric of our organization. It is our legacy—a legacy that will continue into our second century. We are committed to supporting and enhancing our volunteer program now more than ever. Our volunteers make us the vibrant and impactful nonprofit that ensures the public has



access to the most diverse network of trails in any metropolitan area.

The investment these selfless individuals have made into the organization and its mission is the foundation on which outdoor recreation in this region was shaped. On the day the Trail Conference was established, our founders and park officials met to plan the first system of trails in Harriman State Park. Fast-forward to this August, when we convened land manager partners and leaders in the hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian communities to address the challenges and opportunities in creating new multi-use trails and trail networks for multiple user groups. (Read more on [page 6](#).)

Our volunteers play a vital role in these movements because they are the boots on the ground building and caring for these trails, day in and day out. They fill the gaps when our park partners are unable to dedicate sufficient resources to the demands on their land and trails. Some of these demands we never could have imagined

even a few years ago—challenges such as the unprecedented swell in popularity on some trails thanks to social media. We are operating in a changing environment, both literally and figuratively. Our partners count on us to stay focused on issues that affect parks in the region, bringing together key constituencies, marshaling resources, and seizing opportunities to keep improving our public trail systems while maintaining the ecological integrity of trail lands. And so, with more than 2,000 volunteers serving as the engine that powers the organization's ability to create great trail experiences, we have been able to adapt, evolve, and grow in new and exciting ways.

Because the "trail experience" is about so much more than the trail itself, the Trail Conference has made a commitment to the ecological stewardship of our forests and parks. Since 2011 when the Invasives Strike Force was introduced as a Trail Conference program, we have strived to be regional leaders in protecting native habitats by combatting invasive species. Most recently that has included the addition of a conservation dog to our Invasives team, which is increasing both the quality and quantity of our invasive surveys. (Read more on [page 5](#).)

Our ingenuity in finding solutions and adapting them



With more than 2,000 volunteers serving as the engine that powers the organization... we have been able to adapt, evolve, and grow in new and exciting ways.

Howard



for the needs of our partners and the public led us to launch a Trail and Summit Stewards program in 2013 and a Conservation Corps program the same year. Our Trail and Summit Stewards educate and assist the public in the responsible and enjoyable use of trails; they have made significant impact in improving user safety and preparedness and protecting the land at some of the most popular outdoor destinations in the region. (Read more on [page 7](#).)

This season, the Stewards became part of our Conservation Corps program. The Corps program was born in 2013 from the need to have a full-time presence on the massive Appalachian Trail rehabilitation on Bear Mountain. This 14-year project had two specific outcomes: build a better, safer, more sustainable trail for park visitors; and develop a pool of trained volunteers to

support the vast network of trails in the Hudson Valley. Training and deploying a Conservation Corps was essential in accomplishing both these goals. The Trail Conference now fields several Corps crews every season and has become a training ground for future conservation leaders. (Read more on [page 6](#).)

Our history is steeped in service and resourcefulness. Our volunteers have enabled us to evolve into an organization that has developed cutting-edge techniques to protect our open spaces and train and develop the next generation of trail stewards, all while holding true to the legacy of those first volunteers who left New York City to tame the wilds of Harriman. We are proud to be trailblazers in both vision and action. Our nimbleness in responding to needs, willingness to address our weaknesses and adapt to meet new challenges, and steadfastness in deploying dedicated volunteers has helped the Trail Conference remain at the forefront of creating positive recreational opportunities outdoors for 99 years. What the next century looks like, no one knows. But you can count on the Trail Conference to be there, working hard to protect the land you love.

Joshua Howard
Chief Operating Officer
jhoward@nynjtc.org



Volunteer Membership No Longer Required

The Trail Conference is a volunteer-powered organization, and volunteers contribute a lot of hard work needed to fulfill our mission. Our goal has always been to support these volunteers, which is why the Trail Conference is repealing its long-time policy that volunteers must purchase membership in order to hold positions as Trail Maintainers, Supervisors, Chairs, or Crew Leaders. This change went into effect Sept. 16.

We've been told by both active and prospective volunteers that this policy creates a barrier and frustration, and we have

heard you. We recognize that, as a volunteer, you are already sharing your most precious resource—your time—and that is invaluable. In fact, last year Trail Conference volunteers donated an incredible 103,771 hours!

While you are no longer required to be a member to volunteer, we hope you continue your membership and/or donate what you can. However you do choose to support us—time, money, or both—THANK YOU.

If you have any questions about the change in this policy, please email volunteer@nynjtc.org.

More Funding for NJ State Parks and Forests



PETER DOLAN
NEW JERSEY
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

New Jersey's state parks and forests are about to get a boost to their funding, and it's thanks to the work of the Keep It Green Coalition.

The Keep It Green Coalition (KIG) is a group composed of representatives from over 150 organizations with a common interest in New Jersey's open spaces. The Coalition's members engage in work on environmental protection, historic preservation, agriculture, and other forms of outdoor access and recreation. In 2014 the Trail Conference was involved with KIG's campaign to ensure permanent open space funding across the state using existing corporate business tax funds. While New Jersey voters overwhelmingly supported the measure, it wasn't until 2016 that then-Gov. Chris Christie signed it into law.

While this tremendous victory allowed for the continued protection of land, it did not come with a significant increase in funding for New Jersey Department of Envi-



DIANA RICHARDS

New Jersey parks like Norvin Green State Forest are about to see more funding.

ronmental Protection's Parks and Forestry Division. In a world of increasing park visitation, growing demand for trail miles, spreading invasive species, and increased erosion from extreme weather events, limited funding has left our state park partners unable to keep on top of even basic park maintenance and infrastructure challenges.

That changed this year on June 26, however, when Gov. Phil Murphy signed a bill which provides new guidance for how these existing funds are to be spent. Under the

new allocations recommended by KIG, Parks and Forestry stewardship will rise from just over \$3.6 million to more than \$6.4 million. In addition, funds available for nonprofit stewardship will increase from \$462,318 to \$975,450. While these projections won't be set in stone until taxes for 2020 are collected, one thing is clear—our valued state park partners, and the nonprofits who work with them on stewardship projects, will have significantly more resources to tackle repairs and improvements in the parks we all love.

In Memoriam



Cyrus Whitney

Cyrus Belknap Whitney, a Trail Conference Life Member and former member of our Board, died peacefully at home on June 7 at the age of 92. Cy served in the Navy during World War II; after graduating from Middlebury College, he spent his career working on Wall Street. For more than 40 years he was an adult leader of the Boy Scouts. A long-time hiker, he was also very active with the Catskill 3500 Club, serving as the organization's second membership chairman and as president from 1986-87. He was also a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club and Adirondack 46ers. His legacy and love of the mountains is sure to inspire others to seek the outdoors.

Gabriel Muth

Gabriel Muth, 43, passed away June 14 on a business trip. Gabriel was born in Ales (Gard), France. He grew up in Ridgewood, N.J., and received his Bachelor of

Science degree in computer science from William Paterson College of New Jersey. After graduating, Gabe began working as a programmer/analyst for GAL Manufacturing Corporation in New York City, where he remained for the entirety of his career. When he wasn't working, he was out pushing his physical limits with his favorite activities: mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, and snowboarding. The outdoors gave joy and balance to his life.



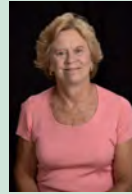
James Clawson

James Orton Clawson III, (aka Nature Jim and Ort), passed away peacefully on Aug. 25 at the age of 63 after an eight-year battle with brain cancer. Jim graduated from Ohio Northern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering in 1978. In 1985, he moved to Hewitt, N.J., and continued his career with Rockland Electric until his retirement in 2016. Jim touched the lives of thousands through

his mountain bike riding, hiking, karaoke singing, and trail building. The woodlands and its beauty were his greatest passion along with the gift of song. No matter where Jim went, he always came away with new friends and relationships that would last a lifetime and beyond.

Jane Gregoire

Jane Kathryn Ringer Gregoire, 72, passed away on June 14 after a pedestrian traffic accident in Meredith, N.H., where she lived with her husband, Jim Gregoire. Jane attended Boston Children's Hospital School of Nursing; she worked for 30 years at The Hartford Insurance Company in Hartford. Jane married Jim, her high school sweetheart, later in life in 2005. After living several years in New Jersey, they ultimately settled in Meredith in 2011. Jane was an avid traveler, always up for seeing the world. She was a dedicated companion on Jim's long-distance hikes, providing dutiful transportation services while maintaining a detailed hiking blog of Jim's adventures. She will be missed by a wide circle of friends who were family to her, and with whom she remained close.



Minor Bishop

Minor Bishop, age 92, died June 20 after suffering a stroke in his home in New York City. A veteran of WWII, he graduated from the Yale School of Architecture. A longtime member of the Architectural League of New York, the Fine Arts Federation, the American Institute of Architects, and the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association of New York, Minor spent his life elevating the standards of his profession, developing well-designed, affordable housing for all Americans and saving New York's historic buildings. He served as a hike leader for the Appalachian Mountain Club and was an important supporter of the Trail Conference. He was unable to hike in recent years due to Parkinson's disease, but enjoyed staying in touch with the hiking community.



Our condolences to the friends and family of Trail Conference volunteers **Holger Nissen** and **Arnold Dunham**, who recently passed away. Their commitment to the outdoors and service to the Trail Conference mission is greatly appreciated, and they will be missed.

Save the Date for our Voting Members Meeting

Our Fall Voting Members meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov. 17, at Trail Conference Headquarters from 10 to 11:30 a.m. A light breakfast will be available at 9:30 a.m. At press time, the agenda had not yet been set. If you have agenda items to suggest, please email them to nkrause@nynjtc.org. Meeting information and materials will be provided in advance.

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In loving memory of my mother Clair S. Cohen, a hiking enthusiast, & advocate of conservation & preservation of the environment: the landscape, nature & all the animals & wildlife inhabiting the beautiful Hudson Valley, her life-long home.

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The Dog That Can Save the Forest

Is it possible that the nose of a dog can mean the difference between a healthy forest and a failing ecosystem? The Trail Conference believes so.

Our Conservation Dogs Program—the first of its kind in the Northeast—is already exceeding expectations in its first season. Dia, our Labrador retriever, started her invasive-specific training in November 2018 by learning to detect the presence of Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), a species our Invasives Strike Force has been working on removing for years. But young plants can be difficult for humans to find—and finding invasive populations when they are small is critical in eliminating them. Early detection of invasives like Scotch broom is the key to success in protecting our natural areas, making Dia's nose an important tool.

Conservation dogs can learn to detect up to three new species each year, and we've put rookie Dia to the test. In July, Dia learned to detect an invasive grass, slender false brome (*Brachypodium syl-*

vaticum), which people have a hard time identifying. This species can outcompete existing vegetation, including threatened and endangered species. Dia quickly learned how to detect slender false brome, and was ready for her next challenge: an insect called spotted lanternfly. A threat to agriculture as well as forests, feeding on more than 70 different plant species, spotted lanternfly is a devastating invasive that is established in eastern Pennsylvania and is quickly spreading to surrounding states. It's an excellent hitchhiker on vehicles, so Dia has learned to conduct inspections on cars and trucks, as well as field surveys.

Just 2 years old, Dia is making a huge impact on our ability to seek out invasive species and work towards eradication, meaning we can protect our forests more effectively and efficiently. "In three or four years," Dia's handler Joshua Beese says, "we'll be pushing forward the science on what can be done with invasive species detection using dogs."

Aiding in the Fight Against Invasives

We thank the **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Invasive Species Grant Program** and the **Orentreich Foundation**, which have made significant contributions to the Conservation Dogs Pro-

gram with respective gifts of \$100,000 and \$50,000. A recent gift of \$5,000 from the **Laura J. Niles Foundation** additionally helps to fund our detection dog team in the Trail Conference's early-detection efforts. With this support, as well as the gifts of everyone who has contributed to the program, our overall goal of eradicating priority invasive species is possible.



PHOTOS BY ARDEN BLUMENTHAL



Dia's Process

Part 1

Scents spread out from the source in a cone shape, so Dia starts her search for the target by sniffing the air for one of these scent cones. Scent cone size, shape, and orientation are affected by factors like wind speed and direction, temperature, and

humidity, which we take into account when surveying.

Part 2

Once Dia works her way into a scent cone, she puts her nose closer to the ground and searches for the exact source of the scent. This step is important when searching for young Scotch broom plants, which can be quite

small and low to the ground.

Part 3

Once Dia has found the source of the scent, she alerts her handler Josh to her find by sitting.

Part 4

Dia celebrates an impressive find with a well-earned game of tug.

Trail Improvements Ahead—Thanks to Our Supporters!

As a nonprofit, the work we do is only made possible through the support of donors who believe in the power of connecting people with nature. Our gratitude goes to the following sponsors who are allowing our programs to thrive—and with their funds, are making a positive impact on the trails and parks that need our care.

Catskill Stewards

The **Catskill 3500 Club** has made a \$5,000 gift to support our Steward Program in the Catskills. Since 2013, the Trail Conference has been committed to educating and assisting the public in the safe, enjoyable, and responsible use of trails through this program, making a positive impact on the user experience and in the protection of the land.

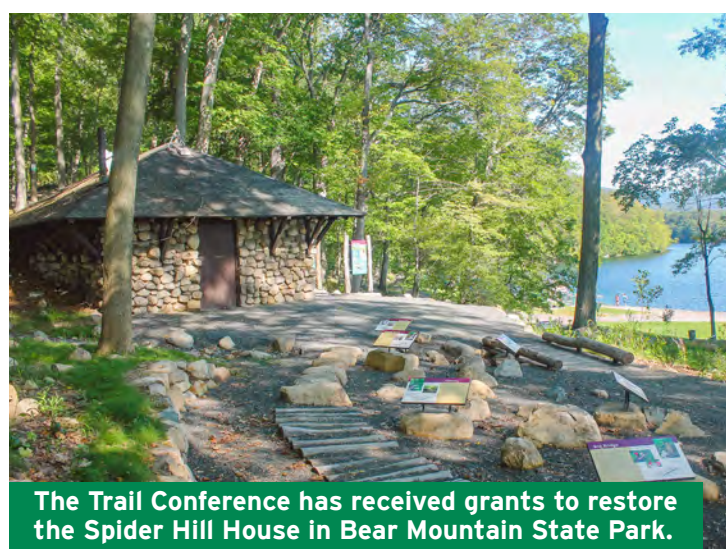
Harriman Trails

The **Edward B. Whitney Fund of the New York Community Trust** and the **Peter Dilullo Family** support our efforts to

build and rehabilitate eroded and worn-out sections of the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail and Kakiat, Triangle, and Tuxedo-Mt. Ivy trails in Harriman State Park. These trails connect with long-distance trail systems including the Appalachian Trail, the Long Path, the Highlands Trail, and the new Empire State Trail.

Highlands Trail

The **New Jersey Highlands Council** awarded a contract to the Trail Conference to provide digital mapping and to create a trail and roadside signage system for the New Jersey portion of the Highlands Trail. The project is expected to be finished by early 2021. This project will create one consistent Highlands Trail map from end-to-end that will be published as a digital, interactive map available on the free Avenza Maps mobile app. Users will be able to download the map for use in areas with poor or no cell service. Additional trail blazes will help clarify



the route, and road crossing signs will assist hikers along the way. Roadside signage will also direct users to trailheads along the route. Promotional maps and materials will be created and available for viewing at established kiosks. The Highlands Council specifies that the project is expected to be completed for an amount not to exceed \$29,755.

In order to promote and build on the work of the Highlands Trail mapping and

signage project, **Peter Kellogg** has donated \$30,000 to help elevate the status of the Highlands Trail as a long-distance destination. Kellogg's donation is intended to help us promote and facilitate thru-hiking the Highlands Trail by creating an enhanced end-to-end guide with maps and amenity descriptions. It will also support efforts to secure permission for campsites along the trail in New Jersey state parks and

raise general awareness of this incredible resource.

Spider Hill House on the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain

A grant of \$10,000 from the **Mary W. Harriman Foundation** will be used to help plan the rehabilitation of the historic Spider Hill House on the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain State Park. Our goal is to repurpose this abandoned building as a new focal point and education center for the large and diverse crowds of visitors to Bear Mountain.

In phase two of the ongoing Spider Hill House Adaptive Reuse Project, the Trail Conference will stabilize and rehabilitate the deteriorating Spider Hill House and develop interpretative signage for proposed exhibition space inside. We were awarded a \$23,000 grant from the **Outdoor Foundation** to continue this work in improving the user experience along the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain.

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

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

Strengthening the Ways We Serve

When New York State began developing parks such as Harriman and Bear Mountain in the 1920s, passionate hikers seized the opportunity to lend their expertise to develop marked trail systems opening the outdoors to the general public. They felt a responsibility to care for the land, create trails, and connect people with nature. They came together and formed the Trail Conference, ensuring there would always be a stream of trained volunteers available to accomplish this important work.

In this tradition, the Trail Conference has responded to the needs of our land manager partners and the trail-using public by expanding our ability to serve. The formation of the Trail Conference Conservation Corps (TCCC) in 2013 has enabled the organization to

place a force of well-trained trail builders and ecological stewards in the field full time, May through October. They receive a living stipend for their service and are eligible for AmeriCorps education awards through our partnership with The Corps Network. The Conservation Corps program bolsters our volunteer base by amplifying the number of leaders available to host new volunteers and cultivate more leaders. Since the program began, 130 AmeriCorps members have served through the TCCC, leveraging more than 3,000 volunteers in improving trails and parks. This year, our Steward Program was folded into the TCCC, adding another level of outreach and education to the program's achievements.

Through this service, the TCCC provides vital re-

sources to underfunded agencies responsible for the protection and accessibility of open space in the most densely populated region of the country. Simultaneously, it has become a training ground for the next generation of environmental leaders, many of whom have gone on to work for park agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. In so many ways, this program embodies the Trail Conference's mission, vision, and values. That's why we applied for a grant through New York State to expand our Corps' capacity and increase the organization's impact. In July, we were awarded just over \$1.06 million to support and strengthen the Trail Conference Conservation Corps. The contract extends over three seasons, which will allow us to not only support more boots on the



TORI LINN

ground, but also sufficiently build up the program's infrastructure. This grant allows us to create better trail experiences for the public and a better service experience for our AmeriCorps members. It allows us to build on our success and celebrate our legacy of service in new and very exciting ways.

To learn how to serve

through the TCCC as an AmeriCorps member or volunteer, visit nynjtc.org/corps. Our thanks to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and the New York State Commission on National and Community Service for believing in our program and granting us the funds to allow the TCCC to succeed.

An Unusual Alliance Grows Into Strong Partnerships

It's safe to say hikers and mountain bikers don't always see eye-to-eye over trail use. But in the Town of Yorktown in New York, these two user groups have worked together since 2010 to establish a successful shared trail system—and did so in record time.

With Yorktown's acquisition of the Granite Knolls property imminent in 2010, my husband Walt and I, residents of the town, asked permission to build trails in the soon-to-be parkland that surrounds the Taconic State Parkway. Shortly after permission was granted, Tim O'Connell, a member of the Westchester Mountain Biking Association (WMBA), asked if his group could help. As supervisor for trails in Yorktown, my initial reaction was, "no, it's my project." I quickly realized that was not a good attitude and just as quickly agreed to include them.

And so, hikers and mountain bikers worked together to build trails at Granite Knolls Park, Woodlands Legacy Fields Park, and



Building great trails together in Yorktown: Hiker Matt Dittman and biker Laura Kelly

additional trails at Sylvan Glen Park Preserve. Tom Schmitt of WMBA took the lead in Granite Knolls, realizing that designing a trail network was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Tim directed efforts in Woodlands while Walt and I concentrated on expanding the trails in Sylvan Glen. This partnership raised funds, recruited volunteers, and involved youth. On average, it takes three years to build 3 to 4 miles of trail; here, 10.7 miles of trails—including boardwalks, bridges, signs,

stone steps, and kiosks—were completed in less than two years. In 2015 and 2017, Tim spearheaded the design and construction of an additional 1.5 miles of trails in Sylvan Glen, opening up two other areas of the park.

Fast forward to 2019, and the two groups are still working together: we're running work trips, removing blowdowns, and at the leadership level, talking. It was time for me to hand over the keys, so to speak. The town wanted a local resident to be in charge of the volunteers; thanks to these partnerships, Laura Kelly of WMBA agreed to assist me and will eventually take on the role of trail supervisor. She persuaded WMBA to join the Trail Conference, creating new opportunities for their members to take workshops and maintain trails. Laura has taken the responsibility of running work trips while I continue to interact with maintainers. I know that the trails in Yorktown will be in good hands with Laura at the helm. [Jane Daniels, East Hudson Regional Trail Chair](#)

Trail Chat Focuses on Multi-Use Collaboration

With support from REI, the Trail Conference invited agency partners and leaders in the hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding communities to discuss the opportunities and challenges of building and stewarding multi-use trails. This Trail Chat was held Aug. 9 at the Sterling Forest State Park Visitor Center.

Our day began with a discussion on multi-use trails and trail systems designed for multiple users. It was engaging conversation as participants shared—and perhaps most importantly, listened to—the different experiences and challenges we're facing as user groups, land managers, and partners with unique wants and needs.

Talk continued during a visit to Sterling Forest's new



multi-use loop built by Trail Conference Conservation Corps members and volunteers, including members of all three user groups. Field Manager Erik Mickelson, who played a significant role in the design and construction of the new trails, led the hike while explaining the concepts and techniques behind building this successfully shared loop.

Participants overwhelmingly left with the optimism that we can work and recreate together for the shared benefit of everyone who wishes to enjoy trails and connect with nature, whatever their preferred method of travel. Stay tuned for more positive collaboration!

More to Explore Online

Check out nynjtc.org for more news from the trails, like a recap of 16-year-old Bryce Hopper's Long Path thru-hike fundraiser for the Trail Conference, as well as a young trail builder's recount of leading this season's MEVO Crew.

2019 Stewards Empower Trail Users and Volunteers



MELISSA CASCINI
TRAIL STEWARD

This year, the Trail Conference's Trail Steward Program became part of the Conservation Corps. Serving five days a week for six months, Stewards are able to perform more duties than in previous seasons, when they were on trails only on weekends.

In addition to assisting and educating trail users on Saturdays and Sundays, Trail Stewards are available to help volunteer leaders who need a hand with challenging maintenance projects. For example, Board member and Long Path Trail Chair Andy Garrison tackles the trail maintenance

of multiple sections of the Long Path, which spans 358 miles from New York City to John Boyd Thacher State Park near Albany.

Most Thursdays and Mondays the Stewards have been going out with Andy to assist in clipping the trail corridor, clearing blowdowns, and building and blazing new sections of trail. Some of the most challenging areas of this trail weave through the Catskill Forest Preserve, where the hike in can gain hundreds of feet of elevation over rocky terrain. It's projects in areas such as this where Andy has a tougher time recruiting volunteers; therefore the role the Stewards play is crucial in completing projects. "The

Stewards are great!" Andy says. "They've helped me accomplish so much this season."

In the process of helping volunteers such as Andy, the Stewards learn techniques that they then use to lead workshops and volunteer maintenance work trips. This fall, the Stewards are hosting a number of Trail Maintenance 101 workshops that can help get "newbies" to the organization out on the trail to learn what the Trail Conference and trail maintenance are all about. These educational opportunities can play a pivotal role in recruiting new maintainers for an organization that relies on the hard work of volunteers. While the Stew-



Conservation Corps Trail Stewards provide outreach to trail users and support for volunteers.

ards diligently recruit new volunteers, they also work just as hard to ensure current volunteers feel supported in their projects. Without the

extended work week, Conservation Corps Trail Stewards would be unable to perform these important functions that keep trails accessible.

A Day at the Steward 'Office'



EDUARDO GIL
TRAIL STEWARD

I like to think I have the best job in the world: stewardship! Stewardship is the responsible use and active protection of our natural resources. The fundamental issue we face is that we have a shrinking resource compared to the number of users. Protecting hiking areas, habitats, and ecosystems requires advocacy, conservation, and stewardship. Conservation through acquisition of lands can remove immediate, acute pressures, but only through careful, prolonged stewardship can we hope to protect areas from subtle but pervasive pressures such as misuse, invasive species, and climate change.

I spend every weekend of a six-month span having the best "office" available to serve the community and the environment. As a second-year Trail Conference Summit Steward—with another two seasons of service as a Conservation Corps trail builder under my belt—I have a profound appreciation for preserving and conserving the environment that I enjoy for leisure. I have spent more than 200 days up on a Catskill peak educating hikers about Leave No Trace principles, doing maintenance, and conducting my own research on needed improvements. I've personally interacted with about 10,000



hikers. I've also encountered all kinds of weather, from heat waves to torrential rainfall, with beautiful days in between.

A typical day on the trail involves wearing plenty of hats. My first responsibility is making sure visitors are prepared for their hike, asking what their itinerary is in order to provide them with the information and education that will aid in their safe, enjoyable use of the trails. I'll make recommendations if needed, particularly for those who are poorly prepared. My help isn't always required, but I am happy to click the shutter of their cameras so they can freeze the moment in time when they hiked that trail. Sometimes I share knowledge about the environment they're entering to

help in their appreciation of the experience. Often times I walk the trails picking up litter that visitors have left behind, intentionally or not, and clear corridor from downed trees or overgrown vegetation, performing any TLC needed for the trail to be open and accessible. Other times I search for illegal camping sites and fire pits that violate the regulations of the region, make note of their location, and attempt to restore the area as if no one had been there. Included in my responsibilities are helping in any emergency situations, which can range from aiding an injured hiker to search and rescue operations, which are led by the region's forest rangers.

My name is Eduardo. I am an advocate for conservation.

Ashokan Rail Trail Looking for Volunteer Stewards

After years of planning and construction, New York's Ulster County is preparing to open the first eastern segment of the Ashokan Rail Trail in mid-October. In preparation for the partial opening, Ulster County officials have been working with the Trail Conference and Woodstock Land Conservancy to develop and roll out a volunteer Trail Steward program. Trail Stewards

will help to ensure that the trail is enjoyed and used responsibly by all. These volunteers will also help to keep the county informed about trail maintenance issues that may arise. We're looking for friendly people to greet trail users and help with any questions they might have about the new trail.

Volunteer hours are Saturdays and Sundays in four shifts from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Training for volunteers is required on Oct. 5. Stewards can choose to volunteer at trailhead parking areas or be on bicycle patrol. To sign up, email Kimberly Daley at kimdaley1@mac.com.



Improving Breakneck

Graffiti and litter are often cited as some of the biggest issues resulting from the popularity of Breakneck Ridge. In an attempt to mitigate the problem, Volunteer Trail Steward Andre Nizarri not only teaches visitors about Leave No Trace principles; he also works to remedy the damage by picking up trash and removing graffiti (above) when on duty. Find out how you, too, can help to create a better trail experience by emailing volunteer@nynjtc.org.

2018 Annual Report Summary

BETTER OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH STEWARDSHIP (BOOTS)

Since 1920, the Trail Conference has been caring for public trails and parklands. It's through the dedication of our volunteers and advocates that all of us are able to enjoy such a wealth of safe, enjoyable opportunities outside in the greater New York metropolitan region. We believe everyone who seeks the outdoors should have the opportunity to connect with nature.

Our passion is creating great trail experiences. Thanks to the efforts of **2,342 volunteers** giving **103,771 hours** in 2018, here's a glimpse at what we were able to accomplish last year.

1.5 million
invasive plants removed

The Trail Conference is the leader in regional efforts to combat invasive species, which are a huge threat to the integrity of native habitats. Our Invasives Strike Force Conservation Corps seasonal crew and ISF crew volunteers reached new milestones by removing over 1.5 million invasive plants across the region.

70,890
trail users engaged

The ongoing development of our Trail Steward program has put the Trail Conference in a position to assist and educate more trail users than ever before. In May, we trained almost 40 seasonal employees of not only the Trail Conference, but also the state park departments of New York and New Jersey, as Trail Stewards. Stationed at popular trails across the region, Stewards provide helpful outreach and information about park regulations, hiker safety, preparedness, Leave No Trace principles, and other best practices. The Trail Conference also played a lead role in Leave No Trace's Hot Spot Week at Breakneck Ridge, hosting and taking part in stewardship events aimed at ensuring outdoor-lovers do their part to respect and protect the rugged beauty of Breakneck Ridge.



AMBER RAY

2,165
miles of trails maintained

On any given day on the trail, there's a good chance you'll encounter a Trail Conference volunteer working hard to improve your outdoor experience. Volunteers who "adopt" a trail do the on-the-ground work to ensure it remains open and safe for fellow users. A number of our crews also go out on maintenance trips to help keep trails accessible.

358
miles of Long Path protected

Since 1960, the Trail Conference has spearheaded the effort to maintain, protect, and complete the Long Path. Today, the aqua-blazed Long Path extends 358 miles from 175th Street Subway Station in Manhattan to John Boyd Thacher State Park near Albany. The goal is to extend the trail across the Mohawk River and Saratoga County to link with the Adirondack State Park trail system. Our conservation and advocacy work—not to mention on-the-ground maintenance and construction—is making strides in our efforts to permanently protect the eventual 430-mile corridor of "New York's Greatest Trail."



95

years of service to the Appalachian Trail

On Oct. 7, 1923, Trail Conference volunteers officially opened the first section of the Appalachian Trail, which they built and blazed through Bear Mountain and Harriman state parks in New York. Nearly a century later, Trail Conference volunteers still selflessly give their time and energy to ensure the 174 miles of A.T. spanning New Jersey and New York remain open, safe, and enjoyable for everyone who follows that iconic white blaze. We celebrated the 95-year milestone with events and workshops, capping off the season by completing the historic Bear Mountain Trails Project—the most ambitious rehabilitation of the A.T. ever conducted.

20

crews building trails and restoring natural areas

When trails are threatened, the Trail Conference responds. When incredibly powerful spring storms damaged trails across the region, volunteers made heroic efforts in a short amount of time to clear and restore them. Trail emergencies aside, all year long our crews dedicate hours to rerouting and rehabilitating eroded trails, building bridges, replacing puncheon, restoring native habitats, and overall ensuring our trails are sustainable and ecosystems are protected.



JANE DANIELS

7

miles of new multi-use trail opened

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

3

revised map sets

1

updated guidebook

Since the original publication of *The New York Walk Book* in 1923, the Trail Conference has provided trail users with the most accurate, up-to-date information on local trails. In 2018, we published a revised edition of the *Harriman Trails* guidebook and the Hudson Palisades, Harriman-Bear Mountain, and Catskill map sets.

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TRAIL STEWARDS



NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

2019 BENEFIT + AUCTION

THURSDAY, OCT. 17
7 TO 10 P.M.

RIO VISTA ~ 20 EMMA COURT ~ MAHWAH, NJ

HONORING

Teatown Lake Reservation
PUBLIC PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Inserra Shop-Rite Supermarkets, Inc
CORPORATE PARTNER OF THE YEAR

RSVP and learn more details at bit.ly/tc-benefit19

Want to Protect the Things You Love? First, Make a Plan



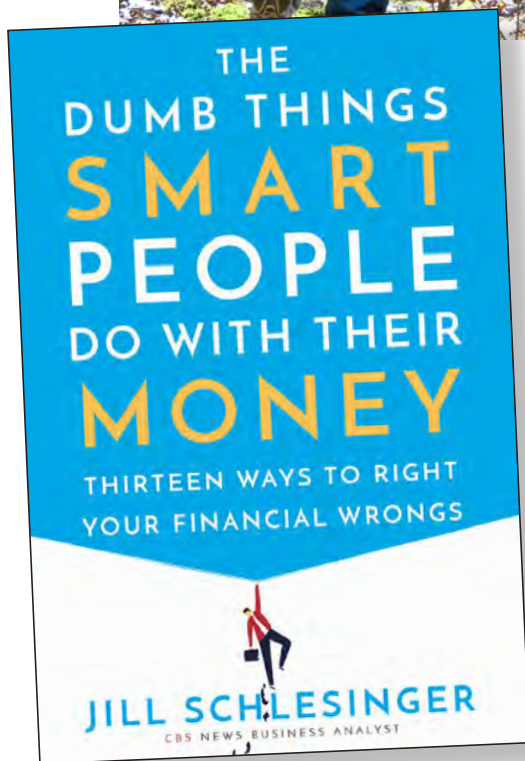
ROBERT C. ROSS
TRAIL CONFERENCE
LIFE MEMBER

Jill Schlesinger has written a wonderful book about finances, “The Dumb Things Smart People Do with Their Money.” She covers many important subjects with clarity, relies on excellent research, and suggests further study.

Most relevant in my review is Dumb Thing No. 12: You Don’t Have a Will. Schlesinger leads the reader through the horrible experiences of Eileen, a lady with a 12-year-old son, whose husband Jim died without a will. Schlesinger writes that the lack of a will “represented a tragedy for Eileen. ... In the end, Eileen spent tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees that she could have avoided had Jim gotten his act together and put a will in place. And the process took twice as long, making her grieving process that much more difficult.”

Any trust and estates lawyer, trust officer, or probate judge can tell many similar stories—as well as similar stories when wills were not kept up to date.

A 2017 survey by *Caring.com* found that fewer than half of adults in the United States—42 percent—“currently have estate planning documents such as a will or living trust.” Almost two-thirds of Gen X respondents didn’t have these documents, even though this demographic was heading into middle age and many of its members had small children for whom to provide. In fact, the survey found that just 36 percent of respondents with minor chil-



dren had plans in place in case they died.

As Schlesinger writes: “That’s crazy!” First, she advis-

es, it doesn’t cost much—as little as \$500 for a simple will—to have an attorney draw up the necessary documents. You could even do it yourself using legal forms available online. Second, she adds, “failing to draw up a will and perform proper estate planning is unmistakably selfish on your part—in fact, the height of irresponsibility.” Her Eileen anecdote illustrates how it’s your family members who wind up paying the biggest price.

Schlesinger concludes: “Of all the off-the-hook stupid mistakes you can make with your money, failing to have a will is indisputably the worst.”

Enough preaching; make an estate plan. Provide for yourself first. Provide for the people you love next. If you

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.

have room, provide for organizations you love. Finally, do it! And, then follow up from time to time to keep your plan current. Buy Schlesinger’s fine book to learn how to do so.

Trail Angel Society Founding Members

- ▶ Anonymous (12x)
- ▶ Jill H. Arbuckle
- ▶ Frank M. Bamberger
- ▶ Jane Daniels
- ▶ Walt E. Daniels
- ▶ Roger Dubin
- ▶ Frederick J. Gerty
- ▶ Judith Green
- ▶ Peter Heckler
- ▶ Joshua E. Howard
- ▶ Chester F. Kaplan
- ▶ John Kolp
- ▶ Jane A. Levenson
- ▶ Leonard J. Lyon MD
- ▶ Susan Lyon
- ▶ Daniel A. Nickolich
- ▶ Robert C. Ross
- ▶ James Sciales
- ▶ Phyllis A. Stewart
- ▶ John H. Swanson
- ▶ Ernest G. Tornincasa
- ▶ Lawrence Tsao
- ▶ Ann Marie Walker
- ▶ William C. Ward Jr.
- ▶ Edward B. Whitney
- ▶ Patsy Wooters
- ▶ H. Neil Zimmerman

Become a Founding Member of the Trail Angel Society

The Trail Conference is fortunate to have dedicated benefactors supporting its mission, including many who have chosen to secure its future through planned gifts. To express our appreciation for this committed group of donors who have remembered the Trail Conference in their estate plan, we established the Trail Angel Society. Members of this special group share the common bond of generosity and vision to ensure that the trails and natural areas we share are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy for generations to come. We invite you to join with others who share your passion by becoming a founding member of the Trail Angel Society.

By filling out the form to the left, you will ensure the Trail Conference benefits from the philanthropy of our Trail Angels both now and in the future. For every form we receive, a generous donor will give the Trail Conference \$500 to support our efforts today.

Note that your bequest intention form is non-binding. 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 our generous donor.

For further questions, please contact Membership and Development Director Don Weise at dweise@nynjtc.org or 201.512.9348 x813.

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.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ DOB _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

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.

My future gift:

- Is a percentage of my estate worth approximately \$ _____
- Is in the specific amount of \$ _____
- I 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 Angel Society:

- Please list me in the Trail Angel Society as _____
- I prefer to remain anonymous.

Kindly return this completed form to: Development Director, Planned Giving, NY-NJ Trail Conference, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07043
 Please contact us with any questions: 201.512.9348 x813, dweise@nynjtc.org

Autumn Adventure Photography Tips

Autumn is one of the best times to hit the trails and photograph the beautiful foliage that surrounds us. From composition tips to hints on how to work with the light, photographer Susan Magnano of PhoTour Adventures has created a photography guide to help you prepare for fall adventures. Check it out at nynjtc.org/news/fall-photography-tips-trail.

Want to learn more? PhoTour Adventures and Unique Photo will be leading a Trail Conference Community Hike along the Appalachian Trail on Friday, Sept. 27. Sponsored by Campmor and Merrell, this guided hike and photography workshop will explore Fitzgerald Falls in Monroe, N.Y. We'll go on an out-and-back, 1-mile



SUSAN MAGNANO

walk on the A.T., looking for great photo opportunities along scenic Trout Brook. Find

more info and register at bit.ly/tc-photohike19.

[Susan Magnano](#)

Appreciation Hikes and Community Outings

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

- ▶ **Sept. 27:** Photography Walk, Monroe, NY
- ▶ **Oct. 3:** Sip-N-Create, Mahwah, NJ
- ▶ **Oct. 4:** Manaticut Point, Ringwood, NJ
- ▶ **Oct. 12:** Saturday Trail Run, Wawayanda State Park, NJ
- ▶ **Nov. 9:** Saturday Trail Run, Sterling Forest, NY
- ▶ **Nov. 29:** #OptOutside Cleanup, Breakneck Ridge, NY
- ▶ **Dec. 7:** Saturday Trail Run, Morristown National Historical Park, NJ
- ▶ **Dec. 13:** Project Tour, Mahwah NJ

Upcoming dates:

- ▶ **Sept. 20:** Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain, Stony Point, NY

Check nynjtc.com/events for more details. Not a member yet? Join now at nynjtc.org/membership.

Hikers' Directory

Can't find your club? This list represents all Trail Conference member clubs whose dues are up-to-date. If you have questions about your club's status, please ask your officers to contact the Membership and Development team at 201-512-9348.

ADK Long Island
www.adkli.org

ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter
www.midhudsonadk.org

ADK Mohican Chapter
www.adkmohican.org

ADK New York Chapter
www.adkny.org

ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter
www.hudsonhikers.org

Adventures for Women
www.adventuresforwomen.org

Alley Pond Environmental Center
www.alleypond.com

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter
www.amcdv.org

AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter
www.amcmohawkhudson.org

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

Black Rock Forest Consortium Inc.
www.blackrockforest.org

Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council - Rockland District

Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn

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

BSA Troop 21 - Hudson Valley Council
www.suffern21.mytroop.us

Canal Society of New Jersey
www.canalsocietynj.org

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

Catskill Mountain Club
www.catskillmountainclub.org

Chinese Mountain Club of New York
www.cmcny.org

Church Communities Foundation - Platte Clove Community
www.bruderhof.com

Closter Nature Center Association
www.closternaturecenter.org

Community Search and Rescue
www.commsar.org

Dyke Hikes
www.meetup.com/Dyke-Hikes

East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
www.ehtps.org

Finger Lakes Trail Conference
www.fingerlakestrail.org

Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
www.flatrockbrook.org

Friends of Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park & Trump State Park
www.fofdr.org

Friends of Garret Mountain Reservation
friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com

Friends of Pelham Bay Park
www.pelhambaypark.org

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

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.
aqueduct.org

Friends Of The Shawangunks
shawangunks.org

Frost Valley YMCA
www.frostvalley.org

German-American Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/GAHCNYNJ

Hike The World
www.hiketheworld.com

Hilltop Conservancy, Inc.
www.hilltopconservancy.org

Hunterdon Hiking Club
www.hunterdonhikingclub.org

Interstate Hiking Club
www.interstatehikingclub.org

Jolly Rovers Trail Crew Inc.
jollyrovers.org

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
www.littlestonypoint.org

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

Mohonk Preserve
www.mohonkpreserve.org

Morris County Park Commission
www.morrisparks.net

Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy
mmc.nynjtc.org

Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club
www.nassauhiking.org

The Nature Place Day Camp
thenatureplace.com

Nelsonville Greenway Committee
VillageofNelsonville.org

New Haven Hiking Club
www.NHHC.info

New Jersey Forty Plus Hiking Club
meetup.com/NJ-Forty-Plus-Hiking-Club

New Jersey Highlands Coalition
www.njhighlandscoalition.org/

New York Alpine Club

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

New York Ramblers
www.nyramblers.org

Outdoor Promise
<https://outdoorpromise.org/>

The Outdoors Club, Inc.
www.outdoorsclub.info

Pine Hill Community Center
www.pinehillcommunitycenter.org/

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

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

Ramapough Conservancy, Inc.

Rip Van Winkle Hikers
newyorkheritage.com/rvw

Rock Lodge Club
www.rocklodge.com

RPH Cabin Volunteers
rphcabin.org

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

Salt Shakers Trail Running Club
www.saltshakersrun.com

Sassquad Trail Running
www.sassquadtrailrunning.com

Shorewalkers Inc.
www.shorewalkers.org

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

Somers Land Trust
somerslandtrust.org

South Mountain Conservancy Inc.
www.somocon.org

St. Benedicts Prep Backpacking Project
www.sbp.org

Storm King Adventure Tours
www.stormkingadventuretours.com

The Storm King School
www.sks.org

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

Teatown Lake Reservation
www.teatown.org

Tenafly Nature Center Association
www.tenaflynaturecenter.org

Thendara Mountain Club
www.thendaramountainclub.org

Town of Lewisboro
www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec

Town of Woodstock
townwoodstock.digitaltowpath.org

TriState Ramblers
www.tristateramblers.org

Troop 1 Mount Kisco
www.troop1mountkisco.com

University Outing Club
www.universityoutingclub.org

Urban Trail Conference, Inc.
www.urbantrail.org

Valley Stream Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/vshclub

Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee

West Milford 13ers
www.weishike.com

Westchester Mountain Bike Association
www.wmba.org/

Westchester Trails Association
www.westhike.org

Yorktown Trail Town Committee

Join the Trail Conference, Get Great Deals

Check out some of the Trail Conference's valued Retail Partners and their great members-only discounts. Visit nynjtc.org/retail-partners for full details on all partner discounts.



Blue Foundry Bank
 Blue Foundry Bank makes quarterly donations to the Trail Conference based on the balances of our supporters' designated new or existing deposit accounts and new loans. Visit one of their local branches to become a member of their Community Alliance Program. Find a location near you at bluefoundrybank.com/locations.



Kenco
 Get a 10% discount on all non-sale merchandise. 1000 Hurley Mountain Rd. Kingston, N.Y. 845.340.0552 atkenco.com



PhoTour Adventures
 Receive a 15% discount off your first PhoTour Adventure. 845.629.1518 photouradventures.com

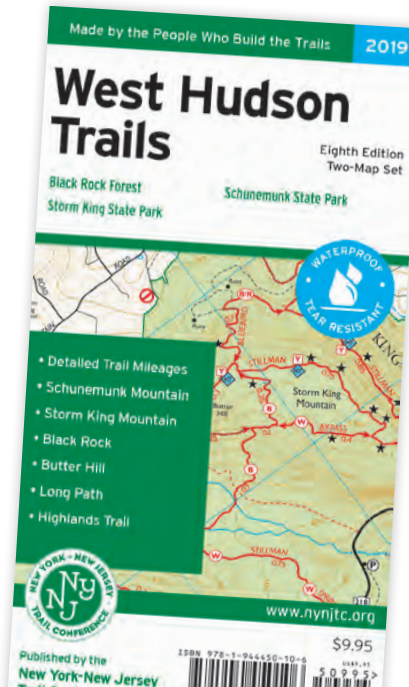
Explore Storm King and More With New West Hudson Map Set

Covering the popular destinations of Black Rock Forest, Schunemunk State Park, and Storm King State Park, the revised eighth edition of our West Hudson Trails map set is your accurate and up-to-date guide to trails west of the Hudson River in the Hudson Highlands of Orange County, N.Y. This two-map set covers more than 70 miles of marked trails; revised maps are due to arrive this fall. Significant sections of both the Long Path and the Highlands Trail are highlighted throughout the maps.

This eighth edition includes new trails within and adjacent to Black Rock Forest, a new

trail at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum's Wildlife Education Center at Round Top Park, adjustments to scenic viewpoints throughout the area, the addition of several newly preserved lands and updates to state park boundaries, and the latest trail relocations. Many other updates and adjustments make these revised maps a must-have for anyone looking to explore these Orange County parklands.

All maps include detailed junction-to-junction trail mileage numbers, parking areas, scenic viewpoints, waterfalls, and other points of interest, and the maps fea-



ture UTM gridlines. The map will be available in print format in vibrant color on our popular waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek by shopping online at nynjtc.org or visiting our headquarters. In addition, it will be available in digital format on Apple and Android devices through the Avenza Maps app; learn more about our GPS-enhanced maps at nynjtc.org/pdfmaps.

Special thanks to all the volunteers and park partners who helped produce this map revision. The map set was also produced with support from Storm King Adventure Tours.

[Jeremy Appar](#)

West Jersey Views and Volunteer Power

One of the most popular circuit hikes in northwest New Jersey, the Stony Brook/Appalachian Trail/Tower Trail loop through Stokes State Forest is considered a moderate hike with a great view from the A.T. at the Tower Trail junction. It also crosses one of the two 24-foot bridges built by the Trail Conference's West Jersey Trail Crew this spring.

Find the hike description and learn more about the work of our volunteers at nynjtc.org.

[Howie Liebmann](#)



JAMIE CASSABOON

Share the Love at Liberty

Plans to buy or lease a new car? During Subaru of America's annual Share the Love event, Liberty Subaru in Emerson has named the Trail Conference as their Hometown Charity. At Liberty Subaru from Nov. 14 through Jan. 2, 2020, for every new vehicle purchased or leased, Subaru will donate \$250 to the charity designated by each buyer/lessee. Make sure to choose the Trail Conference and make a positive impact on the trails and land you'll be exploring via your new ride.

Sweetening the deal, the Liberty Family of Dealerships has decided to "share the love" at Liberty Hyundai and Genesis in Mahwah, and Liberty Kia in Ramsey as well. Just show your membership card when buying or leasing from Nov. 14 through Jan. 2, 2020 and they'll donate \$250 to the Trail Conference, too.

Don't forget that Trail Conference members get dealer's invoice pricing on Subaru, Hyundai, Kia, and Genesis vehicles at the Liberty Family of Dealerships. Our thanks to Liberty and everyone who chooses to support the Trail Conference mission!

Black and White and Wild

Jamie Cassaboon, wildlife fine artist and tattoo artist, is featured in a new exhibition on view through Oct. 23 at Trail Conference Headquarters. "The Graphite Art of Jamie Cassaboon" features wildlife works expressed in highly detailed, realistic graphite renderings on paper. Cassaboon is a signature member of the Society of Animal Artists and is currently represented by the Belvoir Gallery in Millbrook, N.Y. Much of his free time is spent photographing birds in and around his home in Dutchess County, N.Y., and



JAMIE CASSABOON

along the Hudson River Valley. Many of these animals become the subjects of his art.

The exhibit is open to the public and is on view Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m.

to 5 p.m. The Trail Conference is located at 600 Ramapo Valley Road in Mahwah, N.J. Visit nynjtc.org for more information.

[Diane Stripe](#)

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*Liberty Subaru customers must choose NY-NJ Trail Conference from a list of "Share the Love" charities. Liberty Hyundai, Liberty KIA, and Genesis of Mahwah customers must present NYNJTC membership card at time of purchase or lease. This offer is valid only at Liberty dealerships.

First-Ever Westchester Map Set Covers 160-Plus Miles of Trails



JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

Coming this fall, the new Westchester Trails map set is sure to become the go-to resource for discovering and exploring trails in Westchester County. The first edition of this three-map set focuses on Rockefeller State Park Preserve (the largest state park in Westchester County), Ward Pound Ridge Reservation (the largest Westchester County Park), and Teatown (the largest privately owned preserve in the county). All maps include detailed junction-to-junction trail mileage numbers, 10-foot elevation contour lines, parking areas, and much more.

The first map, Map 130, features the vast trail network at Rockefeller State Park Preserve, including the nearby Rockwood Hall Area. Several unnamed trails have recently been named and are in the process of being marked with signposts; the map includes these updates. Points of interest throughout the Preserve, including Eagle Hill, Raven Rock, and Spook Rock, are identified on the map. In addition, surrounding parks and their trails are shown, including Peabody Preserve, Pocantico Park, Tarrytown Lakes Park, and portions of the Riverwalk near Tarrytown. Large sections of both the Old Croton Aqueduct and North County Trail are shown.

The second map, Map 131, features the trails at Ward



Pound Ridge Reservation. The latest changes in this large trail system are included, with junction numbers shown to match on-the-ground signage. Popular destinations like Leatherman's Cave, Dancing Rock, and Bear Rock Petroglyph are indicated. Just outside the Reservation's boundary, trails are also shown in Armstrong Preserve, Lewisboro Town Park, Old Field Preserve, and Richards Preserve.

The last map in the set, Map 132, covers the varied trail network at and around Teatown. The map front includes a large detailed map of Teatown itself, while a map on the reverse zooms out to cover the Greater Teatown area. Several recent

trail changes at Teatown are reflected on the map, including a new Three Lakes Loop Trail that takes hikers past Teatown Lake, Vernay Lake, and Shadow Lake. The Greater Teatown map shows Teatown at the center of a larger area of connected and nearby parks. To the northeast, the Teatown-Kitchawan Trail extends to Kitchawan Preserve and the North County Trail; to the northwest, the Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail extends to Croton Gorge Park and the Old Croton Aqueduct.

The detailed trail mileages included on the three maps are a useful way to plan routes or navigate on the trails. In addition, 10-foot elevation contour lines help to show the underlying

terrain and make it easier to determine which trail sections may include challenging climbs or descents. Parking areas, including roadside pull-offs, are noted on the maps. Several public transportation access points are shown, including multiple Metro-North Hudson Line train stations, making it possible to explore many of these trails without needing a car. Scenic viewpoints, historical points of interest, and lakes and streams are also identified throughout the maps, and UTM gridlines further aid with navigation. The backs of the maps include useful information about the parks, park regulations and contact information, tips on how to use the maps and practice Leave No Trace principles, and much more.

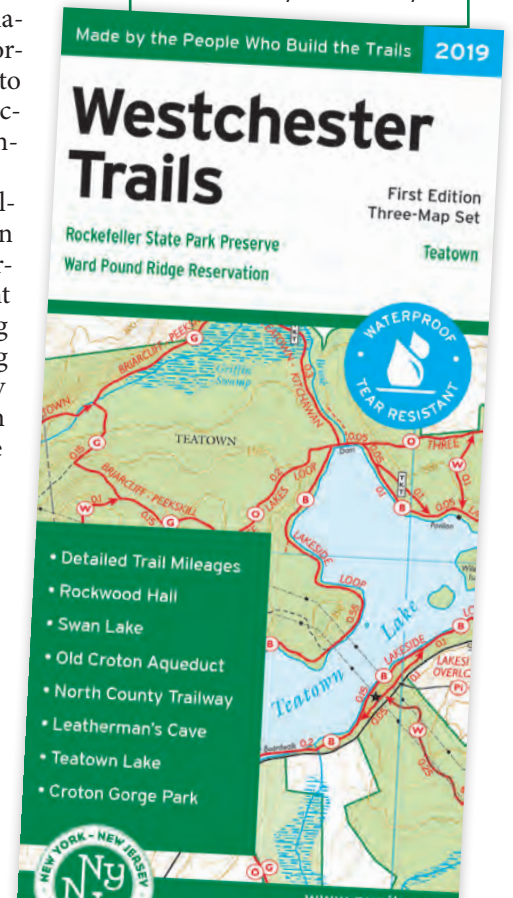
The maps will be available in print format in vibrant color on waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek by shopping nynjtc.org or visiting our headquarters. They will also be available in digital format on Apple and Android devices through the Avenza Maps app; learn more about our GPS-enhanced maps at nynjtc.org/pdfmaps.

To get more info about the new Westchester Trails map set and email notification when it becomes available, visit bit.ly/tc-wms.

Thank You

Special thanks to all who volunteered their time to help produce this new map, including volunteer project manager Jane Daniels, as well as Daniel Chazin, Geof Connor, Walt Daniels, Charlotte Fahn, Josh Howard, and Fred Stern. Thanks also to our park partners at Teatown, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, and Rockefeller State Park Preserve for all their assistance.

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



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