



TRAIL WALKER

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

WHY WE BUILD TRAILS



AMBER RAY
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Overcrowded trails and a lack of trail etiquette have become hot-button issues for the outdoor community. Witnessing lines of hikers waiting to ascend Breakneck Ridge—some wearing flip-flops, completely unprepared for the challenge—or the increase of graffiti and piles of garbage strewn along Pine Meadow Lake in Harriman State Park, begs the question: How does an organization like the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference balance our goal of encouraging people to explore open spaces with the need to protect these wild places?

Journalist Robert Moor—author of the excellent new book *On Trails: An Exploration*, which examines the science, history, and philosophy of trails—argues that well-built trails are one of the best methods for protecting nature. “Trails efficiently allow us to visit the wilderness without trampling it all to dust,” he writes. Building trails deliberately, with the aim of making them as sustainable as possible, is one of the most efficient ways to prevent our most popular park destinations from being “loved to death.”

Since 1920, Trail Conference



MARTY COSTELLO

The 9.5-mile stretch of Long Path in the Slide Mountain Wilderness Area opened in June 2014. For more info on all of these trails, including hike descriptions, visit nynjtc.org.

volunteers have been blazing trails throughout the greater New York metropolitan region. But our work as pathfinders connecting people with nature has been about so much more than cutting tread.

Trail Conference volunteers have been responsible for the protection of some of our most spectacular open spaces—from saving Storm King from becoming the site of a hydroelectric plant, to leading

the fight to preserve Sterling Forest from development. The Trail Conference acts as stewards of these precious resources, guarding trail lands from invasive species and educating users on backcountry—and front-country—ethics. When it comes to protecting parks and trails, advocacy, stewardship, and education are tools that can be even more powerful than rock bars and loppers.

Put it all together, and we build trails so everyone has the chance to experience the natural beauty that surrounds us. The issue of overuse and misuse presents the opportunity to be better trail builders—from the way we plan and execute a project, to the way we interact with the public and encourage the respectful enjoyment of trails.

We’re working hard to create incredible trail experiences today that future generations will continue to seek out and appreciate. Take a look at some of the most recent additions to the 2,144 miles of trails our volunteers care for—then get out there and (responsibly!) explore them.

CATSKILLS

Catskill Interpretive Center Nature Trail

Trail Conference volunteers, Conservation Corps members,

Read More

► Read our executive director's column on **page 3** for more on the Trail Conference's stewardship efforts.



SONIA MASON

Doris Duke Trail in Sterling Forest State Park

and staff completed the 0.5-mile nature trail at the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center in Mount Tremper, N.Y., this June. The trail gives visitors a taste of the larger trail network throughout the Catskills. Phase 2 of this project will take the trail up to the summit of Mount Tobias.

Long Path Relocation

The new 9.5-mile stretch of the Long Path in the Slide Mountain Wilderness Area opened in June 2014. This trail section replaces 8 miles of road walk with a beautiful, rugged route over Cross Mountain, Mount Pleasant, and Romer Mountain. Long Path Trail Co-chairs Jakob Franke and Andy Garrison not only organized this ambitious project, but spent weeks in the mountains building trail and leading teams of volunteers.

EAST HUDSON

Hubbard Loop Trail

Built by volunteers of the Fahnstock Park Trail Crew, headed by John Magerlein, the Hubbard Loop Trail in Fahnstock State Park opened this June. This 0.8-mile, multi-use trail welcomes walkers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. It bypasses two bridges that were heavily damaged by Hurricane Irene, mostly following old woods roads as it passes the site of the former Hubbard Mansion.

South Taconic Trail Extension

Volunteers of the South Taconic Crew, led by Andrew Seirup, built 5 miles of new trail that connects the south end of the South Taconic Trail to the existing Rudd Pond trail system. This extends the South Taconic Trail a total of 6.3 miles. The trail was completed in August 2015.

Appalachian Way Trail

Built by volunteers and Conservation Corps members of the Taconic Crew in 2014 and 2015 in Fahnstock State Park, this 2-mile trail creates a loop linking the Appalachian Trail to the amenities of Canopus Beach and Fahnstock Winter Park.

NEW JERSEY

Ramapo Reservation Loops

Five new loops in Ramapo Valley County Reservation, completed this August, have given fresh options to this heavily used network of trails.

see **TRAILS**, page 7

WHAT'S INSIDE:

People for Trails: Sharing a Love of Trails, Stewards in Action, and More
pages 4-5

Celebrate 100 Years of the National Park Service on Local Trails
pages 6-7



New Trails Offer the Best of Ramapo Reservation
pages 7, 12



STEVE AARON

Discovering the Long Path Now on View

The Trail Conference is presenting the interpretive photo exhibit *Discovering the Long Path, New York's Greatest Trail*, this fall. The exhibition features images of some of the most scenic points along the 355-mile Long Path taken by award-winning photographer Steve Aaron, as well as maps and notes about the trail. The exhibit will run through Jan. 13, 2017, at Trail Conference Headquarters. To fund the hard costs of the project and support the Trail Conference's work on the trail, Aaron and his exhibit co-creator Ken Posner—a Trail Conference Board member and co-founder of the Long Path Race Series—launched a Kickstarter campaign that raised \$4,026. Find more details at bit.ly/tc-dlp.

Join Us for Hikes, Workshops, and More at Our Open House

A celebration of the outdoors will take place at Trail Conference Headquarters on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This Open House showcases our mission and celebrates the Darlington Schoolhouse's 125th anniversary.

As part of the festivities, *Discovering the Long Path, New York's Greatest Trail*, an exhibition by photographer Steve Aaron that showcases scenes along the 355-mile trail, will be on display (see above). Local author Jim Wright will present *Phantoms of the Ramapos*, a ghost story set in 1938 about Darlington Schoolhouse and other local places. Guided tours of our historic headquarters are scheduled at 11 a.m. and noon.

Suggested donation for each

event is \$5. Space is limited, and preregistration is recommended. See times and details at nynjtc.org/event/openhouse.

The Open House is being made possible by the generosity of lead sponsor Suez

(formerly United Water) and sponsorships from Cereus Financial Advisors, Inserra Supermarkets, L.L. Bean, Fairfield Inn & Suites, R&S Landscaping, and Frost Valley YMCA. ♡ Alice Luddington

Open House Activities

GUIDED HIKES

- Yoga and fitness hike
- Family-friendly hike
- History hike
- Vista Loop Trail

WORKSHOPS

- Hiking Photography
- Trail Maps and Apps
- Intro to ISF
- Beekeeping
- Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care

TABLE EXHIBITORS

- L.L. Bean
- Lorrimer Sanctuary
- MEVO
- Mahwah Museum
- Mahwah Historic Preservation Commission
- Gravity Vault
- Ramsey Body and Brain
- Frost YMCA
- Inserra Supermarket
- CAPP
- Photour Adventures

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AMBER RAY EDITOR
 STEPHANIE HINDERER DESIGNER

MISSION STATEMENT

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a federation of member clubs and individuals dedicated to providing recreational hiking opportunities in the region and representing the interests and concerns of the hiking community. The Conference is a volunteer-directed public service organization committed to:

- Developing, building, and maintaining hiking trails.
- Protecting hiking trail lands through support and advocacy.
- Educating the public in the responsible use of trails and the natural environment.

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For a full list of staff visit nynjtc.org/content/staff

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. It is a federation of more than 100 outdoor groups and 10,000 individuals.

2017 Board, Voting Member Nominations

The Nominating Committee of the Trail Conference presents the following candidates for the Board of Directors for three-year terms and at-large voting members for one-year terms. These nominations will be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, Nov. 5, at 9 a.m. at Ramapo College of New Jersey (505 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, N.J.).

DANIEL HOBBERMAN

Dan, of Montclair, N.J., currently serves as counsel to the Trail Conference Board. Dan also serves on the Management Committee.

RICHARD KATZIVE

Dick, of Irvington, N.Y., is a Trail Conference Life Member and currently serves as a member of the Board. Dick is an active member of the Conservation Committee and serves as chair of the Governance Committee.

EDWARD B. WHITNEY

Ned, of New York, N.Y., Garrison, N.Y., and Barton, Vt., is a Trail Conference member and current member of the Board. Ned is an active member of the Finance Committee, Membership & Development Committee, and Governance Committee.

PATSY WOOTERS

Patsy, of Suffern, N.Y., is a Trail Conference Life Member and currently serves as the vice chair of the Board. Patsy is chair of the Advocacy Committee, and serves as a member on the Strategic Planning Committee, the Membership & Development Committee, and the Management Committee.

NEW NOMINEE: MARY DOOMAN

Mary, of Woodcliff Lake, N.J., is a Trail Conference Life Member and has extensive experience in team building and project management from her time working at Verizon, Intel, and volunteering in her community. Through her community work with the Ridgewood YMCA swim team and chairing the board of the Bergen Barracudas swim team, Mary developed a comprehensive understanding of non-profit management. Mary holds a B.E. in Electrical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology. Mary chairs the Trail Conference Technology Committee which is undertaking the upgrade and redesign of our website/databases. She also chairs the Building & Grounds Committee, and serves as a member of the Organizational Structure Committee and Policy Council.

For full board bios, visit www.nynjtc.org/board-directors.

At-Large Voting Members

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| ▶ Therese Allen | ▶ James Piombino |
| ▶ Susan Barbuto | ▶ Anne Powley |
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| ▶ Cliff Berchtold | ▶ Peter Reiner |
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| ▶ Sara Cavanaugh | ▶ Ruth Rosenthal |
| ▶ Matt Decker | ▶ Robert Ross |
| ▶ Jack Driller | ▶ Susan Scher |
| ▶ Harvey Fishman | ▶ Karl Soehlein |
| ▶ William Gannett | ▶ Doug Sohn |
| ▶ Robert Lehmann | ▶ Judith Joan Sullivan |
| ▶ Paul Makus | ▶ Robert Ward |



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 (PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED AT TIME OF PURCHASE)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Using Stewardship and Education to Improve and Protect Trails

Today, more people are visiting parks and enjoying trails than ever before. For an organization that aims to connect people with nature, that's a good thing! But what has really caught my attention over the last couple of years is the high concentrations of visitors at popular destinations like Breakneck Ridge.

In 2000, the Breakneck Ridge Trail was a scenic and deservedly popular hike overlooking the Hudson River in Putnam County. However, once Trails.com began ranking the "top 100 trails" based on page views and ratings on its website and Breakneck Ridge rose to the top, the trail's popularity and visitation began to grow rapidly. This growth was aided by Metro-North's weekend train stop at the trailhead, which became popular among New Yorkers eager to find spectacular escapes from the



city. It's a positive trend that more people are enjoying the outdoors, but the extra

traffic often requires additional park maintenance, stewardship, and education—especially at locations that entice trail users who are unaware of, or ignore, basic park rules and trail etiquette.

We have seen similar explosive growth at other trailheads and destinations throughout our region, including locations in the Catskills, the Lower Hudson River Valley, and New Jersey parks. A large percentage of the hotspots include swimming holes, but the common enabling factor is the internet and social media, which provide information, directions, and wanderlust-

inspiring photos that are easily accessible to all.

What can the Trail Conference do to spread visitation and improve backcountry etiquette so that all visitors have a better experience? The answer is a lot—and we've already begun working on the issue.

For example, we are using our website to warn people of crowded destinations and encourage the exploration of nearby alternatives that are equally rewarding to visit. Another major weapon is trail users, especially our members and volunteers, who serve as the "eyes and ears" of the parks and have reported emerging problems. Park managers may not have the staff to follow up immediately, but they keep records of these concerns and address problem areas as soon as possible.

Organizing volunteer litter pick-ups and graffiti removal are important parts of the solution. The "broken window theory" applies to parks, where the existence of litter and graffiti can enable more litter and graffiti. This is espe-



We need to do more to protect our favorite places and educate a whole new cadre of trail lovers.

Goodell



cially true where newcomers familiar with front-country areas (swimming areas, campgrounds, etc.) that typically have trash cans and dumpsters may not be aware of the importance of "pack it in, pack it out."

Probably the most important—and most difficult—thing we can do is educate trail users who aren't familiar with park stewardship, trail etiquette, and Leave No Trace ethics. Our Trail and Summit Steward Program, started at Breakneck Ridge in 2013, has been very successful in reducing trail rescues and preventing litter or graffiti outbreaks. But we can't place Trail Stewards at every popular trailhead,

so we need to strategically offer information on wilderness ethics and work with parks to place signage where it can have an impact.

I'd like to choose a couple of problem areas to experiment with all of these tools in 2017. An effective approach like this will be proactive, long term, and not inexpensive. So far, a campaign of private donations has allowed us to post Trail Stewards at Breakneck Ridge for three years, and in the Catskills for two. A \$30,000 donation from REI this year allowed us to add more Stewards in those locations, and with additional support from TD Bank, expand the Steward Program to Bear Mountain. But we need to do much more to protect our favorite places and educate a whole new cadre of trail lovers. We will need your help to succeed.

Edward Goodell

Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

Volunteer Awards and Inaugural Trail Symposium Slated for Nov. 5

Nobody loves trails quite like our volunteers. That's why the Trail Conference is hosting our first Trail Symposium, an all-day celebration of the outdoors and those who give their time to help connect people with nature, on Saturday, Nov. 5.

The day kicks off at 10:30 a.m. at Ramapo College of New Jersey, adjacent to our headquarters in Mahwah, N.J., with a salute to our incredible volunteers. Join us in honoring the people who have gone above and beyond in their work for trails during the Trail Conference's Annual Awards. The presentation will include keynote speaker Melissa Abramson, REI Outdoor Programs and Outreach Manager—Tri State, and lunch, allowing everyone the chance to mingle.

Following the ceremony, we'll be hosting a panel discussion with some of our volunteer leaders and other respected members of the trail community to talk about challenges that face our trails, such



ERIK MICKELSON

Help honor the Trail Conference's exceptional volunteers at our Annual Awards.

as overuse and illegal activity. Or sign up for a workshop with Trail Conference Cartographer Jeremy Apgar to find out how to get the most of the Avenza Maps app. This powerful tool offers so much more than simply finding your way; learn all the tricks and "hidden" features that can be used when hiking or working on a trail.

Also on the agenda is a field visit to the Long Pond Iron Works Bridge in nearby West Milford, N.J. New Jersey Program Coordinator Peter Dolan will lead a tour of the worksite, where Trail Conference staff and volunteers are replacing the bridge and access to the Sterling Ridge Trail. Peter will explain the opportunities and challenges this complex project has presented.

In addition, a dry stone walling workshop will be taking place at our headquarters Nov. 4-6 (see below for details).

More workshops and Trail Symposium surprises will be announced as we get closer to the date. Space is limited, and



The Trail Symposium is for everyone who loves to work and play on trails.

RSVPs are required for all of the day's events. Check bit.ly/tc-vats16 for registration details; you can also sign up by emailing volunteers@nynjtc.org or calling 201.512.9348 x822.

We look forward to seeing you there!

LINDSAY POST



Learn Dry Stone Walling at Trail Conference HQ

Learn the art and craft of dry stone walling from some of the top instructors in North America this fall. The Trail Conference is holding a special dry stone walling workshop in partnership with The Stone Trust that will take place at our historic headquarters Nov. 4-6. This workshop aims to complete a permanent, freestanding wall in front of our offices at the restored Darlington Schoolhouse. The wall will be built using standard structural practices; the style of work will match the historic dry stone walls and fences of the area. Visit bit.ly/tc-dsww2 for more info.



PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

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

Trail and Summit Stewards: By the Numbers

Our expanded Trail and Summit Steward Program is providing education and support at some of the most popular hiking spots in the region to help ensure everyone has a safe, enjoyable experience on the trails. Our Stewards will be stationed at Breakneck Ridge, at Giant Ledge, Slide Mountain, and Platte Clove in the Catskills, and at the base of Bear Mountain on weekends and holidays into November (dates subject to change). Here's a look at some of the ways they've been making a difference so far this season.

22

Days more than 1,000 hikers were counted on Breakneck Ridge

1,522

Most hikers counted in one day on Breakneck Ridge

27

Illegal fire rings broken up on Giant Ledge and Slide Mountain

4,120

People counted on Giant Ledge and Slide Mountain through the end of July

42

Lost (and found) hikers counted on Breakneck Ridge through Sept. 15, down from 102 in 2015

5,346

Hikers counted ascending the Appalachian Trail at the base of Bear Mountain through the end of September*

*Counts were done only for people ascending the A.T. in this trail season at Bear Mountain

One Hot Summer for Trail Improvements



ANDREW SEIRUP



ERIK MICKELSON



SONA MASON



INSET: MATT SIMONELLI



DOUG SENTERMAN



ERIK MICKELSON



1The East Hudson Trail Crew replaced the stepping stones across Broccy Creek on the Camp Smith Trail in June. The crew also placed smaller stepping stones through the muddy area about 20 feet beyond the creek.

2The Ramapo Earth Crew's final project of the season was rerouting the Rocky Ridge Trail in Campgaw Reservation, which volunteer John Moran flagged out. This included closing off the old trail, blazing, lopping, sidehilling, and altogether creating 581 feet of new and improved trail.

3The Bergen County Master Gardeners volunteered at Trail Conference Headquarters in June, planting about 1,000 native wildflowers, ferns, and grasses under the direction of Rich Pillar, our landscape architect. Also on hand to assist was the Invasives Strike Force Conservation Crew.

4Minnewaska Trails Supervisor Dave Webber was awarded the Long Path Race Series 100-mile Commemorative Coin in recognition of his volunteer work on trails over the past 10 years. The coin is presented to

runners who reach 100 miles in cumulative racing in Long Path Race Series events, and to people whose contributions make those races possible. Long Path Race Series co-founder and Trail Conference Board member Ken Posner presented the coin to Dave on behalf of Shawangunk Adventures LLC.

5The Trail Conference, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, built two lean-tos in the Catskills this summer. The structures will be disassembled and packaged into bundles

for delivery to their final sites, hopefully this fall.

6Members of the Ramapo Earth Crew partnered with some of our longtime volunteers to install stepping stones across a stream in Rockleigh Woods Sanctuary in August.

7The Trail Conference and partners spearheading the creation of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail in Putnam County, N.Y., unveiled the first sign in the wayfinding system for this off-road route between Beacon and Cold Spring on July 26.

A.T. Improvements



MARTY COSTELLO

Over three weekends (nine days total) this summer, the Long Distance Trails Crew refurbished old and installed new bog bridging along a section of the Appalachian Trail in Kloiber Field in Monroe, N.Y. The crew installed 82 sections of bog bridging, 10 feet of crib-walled tread, and a 6-foot bridge over a drainage ditch. Preparing the support holes amounted to removing over 461 cubic feet of soil and moving over 4 tons of gravel. That's in addition to moving all of the black locust logs and planks! For full details on this project and more great photos, visit the crew's website: longdistancetrailscrew.org.

Creating an Informative Welcome to the Trails Around Tuxedo, NY



DON WEISE
MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Trail Conference has been working with A Better Tuxedo and the Tuxedo Chamber of Commerce on the creation of a kiosk welcoming visitors at the town's train station for nearly a year. West Hudson Program Coordinator Sona Mason and Membership and Development Director Don Weise have been involved in planning, securing approval, writing content, and assisting with fundraising efforts.

The kiosk will include three components: 1. A Trail Conference display, which will help visitors learn about nearby trails; 2. A Chamber of Commerce panel containing a map of the hamlet and

a key to local businesses and amenities; and 3. A history and attractions panel.

"The kiosk at Tuxedo Train Station will guide our visitors to local businesses, historical sites, and great trails in Harriman and Sterling Forest state parks. We are happy to promote our town and parks through this partnership with the Trail Conference, the Chamber of Commerce, and A Better Tuxedo," said Town of Tuxedo Councilwoman Michele Lindsay.

The Trail Conference has been active in the Tuxedo trail town movement, giving presentations on hiking and bear safety, working with town government, and assisting with educational programs. The kiosk is expected to be installed this year.

Promoting Trails and Our Mission

The Trail Conference side of the kiosk will include a map of western Harriman State Park and parts of Sterling Forest State Park; information about the Trail Conference, including our work and how to volunteer and support trails; suggested loop hikes from our guidebook, *Circuit Hikes in Harriman*; tips on planning a safe, enjoyable hike; black bear and wildlife safety info; and donor acknowledgements.

Share Your Love of the Outdoors at Festivals Around the Region

At the Ellenville Blueberry Festival in Ulster County, N.Y., on Aug. 13, volunteers Andy Garrison, Bob Ronsini, and Tom Farrell spread the word about all the ways the Trail Conference helps people get outside. Volunteers Chris Reyling and Andrea Minoff stopped by and assisted with the effort.

The quintet was kept busy sharing information about where to hike and selling maps to locals and visitors to the popular vacation area in the Southern Catskills. They explained why stewardship of trails is important and promoted the Trail Conference mission.

If you're not a "boots on the ground" kind of person



ANDREA MINOFF

Volunteer Chris Reyling, left, maps out a route.

(i.e. someone who likes to go out on the trails and get dirty), chatting about the Trail Conference at events like the Ellenville Blueberry Festival is a fun and casual

way to donate your time for the benefit of the organization. The Trail Conference has booths at festivals, street fairs, and health fairs across the region to increase awareness of what we do for the public.

Want to share your passion for and knowledge about trails and encourage others to get outside? Share your love of the outdoors at a Trail Conference event near you. Training is provided, and newcomers are paired with an experienced outreach volunteer. If you have a suggestion for a possible outreach appearance or would like to volunteer, email volunteers@nynjtc.org. **Andrea Minoff**

News in Brief

West Jersey Crew Fall Schedule Set

The West Jersey Trail Crew will be working on several trail improvement projects this fall, including trail rehabilitation and relocation in Stokes State Forest on the Blue Mountain Loop and Stony Brook trails, the Appalachian Trail's Stairway to Heaven, and an extensive relocation of the Rock Cores Trail in Worthington State Forest. The crew will be in the field Oct. 8, 15, and 29, and Nov. 5. Bring lunch, water, gloves, and sturdy shoes, and be prepared to get dirty. All tools, materials, and training will be provided. Beginners are welcome on all work trips. Call Crew Leaders Monica and David Day at 732.937.9098 (home) or 908.307.5049 (cell) for more details.

water supply, and preserving green trailways. To learn more, contact Lesley Walter at lwalter@aqueduct.org.

Share Your Opinion on Breakneck Ridge, Hudson Highlands

Have you gone hiking on Breakneck Ridge or in Hudson Highlands State Park? If so, New York State Parks and Historic Sites wants to hear from you. Complete their survey and share your experience; your answers will help guide future planning of the trails and resources in the park. Visit <http://surveys.parks.ny.gov/s/breakneck/> to take the survey.

John Jay Seniors Hit the Trails

The Trail Conference, Lewisboro Trail Volunteers, and Lewisboro Land Trust have partnered with Katonah Lewisboro School District in Westchester, N.Y., in a program aimed at providing high school seniors an opportunity to explore, improve, and learn about the trail systems in their community. In its second year, four seniors from John Jay High School spent six weeks learning and working in parks and preserves including Ward Pound Ridge, Teatown Lake Reservation, Cranberry Lake Preserve, Leon Levy, Brownell, and Hunt Parker Preserves. Projects included blazing trails, building bridges, boardwalks, and water bars, and clearing new trails. Along the way, they also learned about identification and removal of invasive (non-native) plants and about native plants (including poison ivy). Read more on the program at bit.ly/tc-wchs.



Volunteer at Old Croton Aqueduct Visitor Center

The Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct (aqueduct.org) are seeking volunteers to help greet visitors at the recently opened Keeper's House Visitor Center at 15 Walnut St., Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. The restored 1857 Italianate brick house, built for one of the Croton Aqueduct caretakers, abuts the popular Aqueduct Trail. The Visitor Center is open on weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; volunteer shifts are three hours, one morning or afternoon a month. Volunteers and visitors are a diverse community with many interests including hiking and biking, the history of New York's renowned

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PETER DOLAN
NEW JERSEY
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

PRESERVING NATURE AND HISTORY

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service (NPS) came into existence as an agency of the federal government on Aug. 15, 1916, making this year its 100th birthday. In celebration of the centennial, the NPS—which manages all 59 national parks and many national monuments, as well as other conservation and historical properties throughout the United States—and its partners have made a special effort to get people out and using these incredible places. The Trail Conference is lucky enough to work alongside NPS staff in helping to maintain three of these places in New York and New Jersey.

“National parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.”

– Wallace Stegner, writer and historian, 1983



CLOCKWISE: DANIEL CHAZIN, BOB JONAS



CLOCKWISE: CATT BECK, DANIEL CHAZIN (3)

DELAWARE WATER GAP

The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is 70,000 acres of protected land located along both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania sides of the Delaware River. This beautiful area has a fascinating history; at one point, plans to build a hydroelectric dam and reservoir along the Delaware would have flooded the valley and created a lake 37 miles long. These plans were met with substantial resistance from environmental activists, embittered residents displaced after their

property was confiscated by eminent domain, and later by political figures. After the costly Vietnam War government appropriations for the project dwindled in the face of opposition. In 1978, the land along the Delaware River owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was turned over to the NPS for inclusion in the Recreation Area. Remnants of the villages once inhabited amongst the protected natural beauty still remain. The Water Gap offers ex-

cellent opportunities for all outdoor enthusiasts. The Appalachian Trail here provides access to Mount Tammany, Sunfish Pond, and a connector to the spectacular Buttermilk Falls (also easily accessed by car). Other waterfalls, kayak and canoe launches, and the bike-friendly Joseph M. McDade Recreational Trail on the Pennsylvania side are all popular attractions. Of the Water Gap's 186 miles of trail, many on the N.J. side are maintained by Trail Conference volunteers.

Get Connected

▶ If you want to get involved and show your appreciation for these fantastic areas, get in touch! We'll let you know about upcoming events, workshops, and other opportunities to show how much you love your parks. Email volunteers@nynjtc.org to get connected with the event or opportunity that's right for you.



CLOCKWISE: AMBER RAY, ANDREA MINOFF, DANIEL CHAZIN, PETER DOLAN

APPALACHIAN TRAIL



Morristown National Historical Park, located in New Jersey's Morris County, is comprised of four American Revolutionary War sites—Jockey Hollow, New Jersey Brigade and Cross Estate, the Ford Mansion, and Fort Non-sense. Together they make up the area where the Continental Army had its winter encampments in 1776-77 and 1779-80, surviving bitterly cold winters during the fight for American independence.

In January 1933, a bill was drafted by representatives of the NPS, the Secretary of the Interior, and local civic and business leaders to support the concept of a historical park encompassing the area. Secretary Ray Lyman Wilbur supported the bill, calling it "the most important park project before this department at the present time." When it passed, Morristown was established as the country's first national historical park.

In the past year, the Trail Conference has become more involved at Morristown. Volunteers Estelle Anderson and Bob Jonas have spearheaded efforts to maintain and refurbish the park's 27 miles of trails. Some trails are old roads dating back to the 1700s; some are narrow paths through the center of the park. Trails here traverse rolling hills with some steep sections.

Estelle and Bob's next big project within the park is to rehab the N.J. Brigade Trail and provide distinct trail markers to honor its historical importance.

People for Trails

Smarter Design Makes Trails More User-Friendly

Volunteer Chris Connolly has been a Trail Chair for just a year, but he's already made a big impact on the trail experience at Ramapo Valley County Reservation. In his own words, the former Trail Conference Board chair explains how he's helped make this immensely popular park friendlier for everyone looking to explore the outdoors.



Connolly

After becoming Trail Chair last year for the Bergen County, N.J., area, I started making regular trips to Ramapo Reservation, the county's largest park, conveniently located next to Trail Conference Headquarters. What I saw were over 2,000 weekend visitors of every background seeking a short, social, recreational outdoors experience around viewpoints and water vistas within a 2-mile radius of the parking lot. Talking with many of these users, it dawned on me that the trail system in this "core area" of the park had not been laid out with intensive front-country use in mind. Many visitors were confused by frequent blaze changes and got "lost"

proposal involved reblazing 6 miles of existing trails and building 1 ¼-mile of new tread. Our excellent Bergen County Parks partner, Todd Cochran, approved the proposal in June, noting that it would provide "more interesting hikes with less confusion." Along with Peter and five volunteers, I completed all trail reconfiguration work a week before Labor Day, and Jeremy produced an easy-to-navigate kiosk map.

The Reservation's new loop system has been met with rave reviews from park "customers", and the Vista Loop is already one of the most-used trails we maintain. Nothing I have done in my 14 years with the Trail Conference has given me more job satisfaction, in particular the rewards of working as a team with superb staff and supportive park leadership and finishing such a large-scale project so swiftly. I'm also left wondering whether other "hotspot" recreational areas we maintain could use a similar makeover in order to serve better the current generation of trail users.

Working with the Trail Conference's New Jersey Program Coordinator Peter Dolan and Cartographer Jeremy Apgar, in May we designed and presented to Bergen County a proposal to address the Ramapo Reservation trail users' needs. The plan connected the park's most popular viewpoints in a 3.8-mile loop—the aptly named Vista Loop—and created or extended four other loops within the core area that would begin and end at well-known waypoints. The



The Appalachian National Scenic Trail, generally known as the Appalachian Trail or simply the A.T., needs no introduction to most hikers—it is arguably the most famous hiking trail in the world. (It is also the longest hiking-only trail.) What many people don't know, however, is that the Appalachian Trail also constitutes the longest, skinniest unit in the entire National Park system.

The nature of the Appalachian Trail has changed substantially since its initial conception. In 1921, a forester named Benton MacKaye wrote the article, *An Appalachian Trail, A Project in Regional Planning*. The Trail, he said, would be "a sort of backbone, linking wilderness areas to dwellers in urban areas along the Atlantic Seaboard."

From this document, the idea moved with incredible speed. In 1922, the proposal was published in the New York Evening Post and the idea was adopted by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (then known as the Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference). In 1923, the first section of the Trail was built and opened by Trail Conference volunteers on Bear Mountain in New



York. In 1925, a two-day Appalachian Trail conference inspired what has since become the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

The Appalachian Trail was officially completed in 1937 and currently spans almost 2,200 miles between Springer Mountain in Georgia and Mount Katahdin in Maine. The exact length changes constantly as parts are modified or relocated, such as the Long Distance Trail Crew's recent reroute in Harriman State Park on West Mountain, or the ongoing Bear Mountain Trails Project. Managing a hiking trail that passes through 14 states and an even greater number of communities and parks is a complex responsibility shared by numerous national, regional, and local agencies. The Trail Conference is one of 31 clubs responsible for maintaining the Trail; we care for the length of the A.T. through New York and New Jersey—191 miles in all.

TRAILS, from page 1

NEW JERSEY

The Reservoir Loop formalizes and focuses the meandering social traffic around MacMillan Reservoir, and the yellow Vista Loop connects the Reservation's major attractions while introducing new views. See story above and page 12 for more details.

Blue Mountain Loop

The Blue Mountain Loop Trail, completed in 2015, incorporates both preexisting and newly built trails for a 17-mile loop through the northern section of Stokes State Forest. It also provides at least five new loop hike options that range from 6 to 12 miles. Key volunteers who helped coordinate the effort include Howie Liebmann, David and Monica Day, and the West Jersey Trail Crew.

WEST HUDSON

Peter H. Stern Trail and McKeon Family Loop

A collaborative project among the Trail Conference, Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, and Black Rock Forest produced the Peter H. Stern Trail (0.8 miles) and the McKeon Family Loop (1.05 miles). The trails connect the two properties in Cornwall, N.Y., and offer new views of the Catskills and the Hudson



Volunteers, Corps members, and staff built a trail at the Catskill Interpretive Center this year.

River. Built by museum volunteers with guidance from the Trail Conference, the trails opened in April.

Doris Duke Loop

The 3.9-mile Doris Duke Trail in Sterling Forest State Park was built by Conservation Corps members and volunteers of the Palisades Trail Crew. One portion of the loop co-aligns with the Allis Trail and affords spectacular views. The trail opened in September 2015.

Highlands Trail Relocation

A roughly 1-mile section of the Highlands Trail in Chester, N.Y., was built by Trail Conference volunteers in 2015, moving this section of the path off of public roads. The trail now travels through Goosepond South, newly preserved property recently transferred to New York State Parks. The next leg of reroute

is being scouted to connect to the Highlands Trail on Lazy Hill Road in Goose Pond Mountain State Park.

Shawangunk Ridge Trail and Long Path Side Trails

Volunteers and Conservation Corps members built several new side trails to connect the Shawangunk Ridge Trail and the Long Path with new parking areas. Totalling around 4 miles in the Shawangunk Ridge State Forest, and another 2.5 miles in the Huckleberry Ridge State Forest farther south, these trails have increased side trail mileage enough to necessitate the establishment of a new Trail Conference Trail Committee—the Southern Shawangunks Region—along with a new chair: Todd Jennings. The side trails also provide new loop hike options to explore recently preserved land.

JEREMY APGAR

ASK A TRAIL BUILDER

Why does it look like you've set up a zipline over the trail?



AMA KOENIGSHOF
Trail Builder and Educator

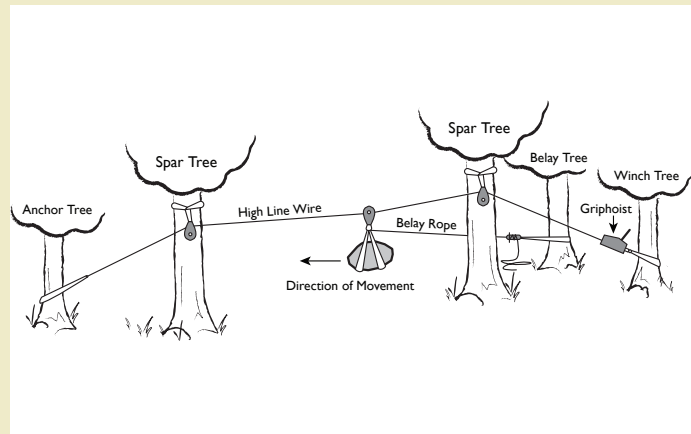
That's actually called a highline, and it's an invaluable tool. Rather than rolling or dragging heavy materials by hand, highlines utilize mechanical advantage to allow trail builders to pick up an object and move it along a wire rope suspended in the air, minimizing the impact to the environment and our bodies. Highlines give trail builders the ability to take friction virtually out of the equation, move a lot of materials from point A to point B, and move materials safely over tricky terrain. You could equate it to a zipline, but for heavy, inanimate objects only. Sorry, no human riders allowed.

To set up a highline, trail builders search for a set of trees onto which the wire rope will be anchored. A basic highline requires four trees in line with each other and in line with the areas where materials need to be moved to and from. The end of the wire rope is connected to the base

of an anchor tree with a sling and shackle. It is then placed up high in what is called a spar tree, through another spar tree, and then passed through a griphoist (a type of winch) which is connected to the base of a second anchor tree. When the griphoist is "slacked" the wire rope can touch the ground where the desired object is located. The object is put in a sling and connected to the wire rope with a block or pulley. Then the griphoist is "tensioned," which brings the wire rope and heavy object up into the air. The object can then roll along the section of highline between the spar trees.

The wire rope that is pulled through the machine can be set up in infinite ways to achieve the mechanical advantage needed to get the job done. The higher the highline is set in the trees, the more lifting capacity it has. The closer all angles of the wire rope are to 20 degrees, the more lifting capacity it has. To lift a 400-pound rock, the system needs to be set up perfectly with one ton (2,000 pounds) of tension on the wire rope.

Want to seriously nerd out about rigging and highlines? Check out our Rigging Handbook for Trail Work at bit.ly/tc-rg.



JOSEPH KNIGHT

Member Perk: Guided Hikes Showcase Trail Improvements



JENNIFFER EASTERBROOK

Member Appreciation Hikes take place monthly on recently built or improved trails.

Chances are, you know that Trail Conference members get a 25 percent discount on our books and maps when purchased from our store. The extra 10 percent off members get on trailside hotels, restaurants, organic food, outdoor gear, and more from our 36 retail partners is a pretty sweet bonus, too. But did you know that at the Benefactor Level*,

Trail Conference members are invited to attend 12 monthly Member Appreciation Hikes? Hikes take place in scenic destinations throughout the metro area where the Trail Conference has recently built or improved trails. It's a great way to explore new places and see the results of your support. Often, the people who completed the projects are on hand

to answer questions and explain how the work was done. Become a Benefactor today at nynjtc.org/membership. We'll see you on the trail!
* The Benefactor Level is \$150 for a single membership or \$200 for a joint membership. In addition to 12 monthly hikes, you'll receive a free Trail Conference book or T-shirt. See website for details. [Don Weise](#)

Volunteers Share Their Trail Love at Breakneck, Sterling Forest

This summer, the Trail Conference's Conservation Corps crews hosted several Trail Love Days at Breakneck Ridge and Sterling Forest, inviting adventure-seekers who want to give back the opportunity to be a trail builder for the day.

At Breakneck, these trail improvement days focused on restoration of the Wilkinson and Undercliff trails, where more than 30 volunteers learned how to build stone stairs, install gargoyles, quarry and highline stones, and install the final stepping stone that leads to the stairs. In Sterling Forest, volunteers learned about sidehilling and proper drainage techniques while aiding in the construction of the Red Back/Eagle multi-use trail.

We'll be hosting a new round of Trail Love Days next year; sign up for our e-newsletter at nynjtc.org/subscribe and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @nynjtc for updates.



AMBER RAY

Farm Fresh Produce, Just Off the Trail

Just steps from the Long Path/Heritage Trail in downtown Chester, N.Y., the new Green Onion Farmers Market was a welcome addition to the area this summer. Walkers, runners, and bicyclists who take the trail through the beautiful Black Dirt Region of Orange County now have the convenience of picking up the extraordinary food grown on those farms right there, before heading home. For more info, visit hudsonvalleygreenonion.com. We're working on compiling a list of farmers markets close to trails as a resource for hungry hikers looking for a snack pre- or post-hike. Tell us your favorite spots; email us at tw@nynjtc.org.

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Invasives Strike Force 2016 Season: Keeping Our Parks the Right Kind of Wild



HEATHER DARLEY
ASSISTANT INVASIVES
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The 2016 season has been a huge success for the Invasives Strike Force! We've stamped out nasty, emerging invasions, monitored for southern pine beetles, and worked hard to protect our parks and trails from invaders. Take a look:

ISF CONSERVATION CORPS CREW

The 2016 crew members started their removal season in May and made themselves sworn enemies of invasive plants in Northern New Jersey and the Hudson Valley through mid-September. Crew Leader Cody Mendoza and members Siena Hasbrouck, Matt Simonelli, and Mike Young removed emerging invasive species, which are those that are just starting to invade areas of our region (see sidebar for list). They also cleared invasives along hiking trails to protect native habitats.

The ISF Crew worked at 30 parks and preserves across the region on more than 40 projects. They led 14 volunteer workdays where 93 wonderful volunteers came out to help remove more than 64,800 invasive plants over the course of the season.

ISF SURVEYORS

Meanwhile, our Invasives



The Invasives Strike Force Crew and volunteers worked on invasives removal at Stokes State Forest in August.

Strike Force surveyors have been hard at work surveying local trails for invasive plant species. So far this season, ISF volunteers have surveyed 80 miles of trails for a total of 643 volunteer hours. Since 2011, we have surveyed 1,122 miles; we're 78 miles away from reaching our 1,200-mile goal! And our volunteer surveyors have made some interesting discoveries along the way—they've found multiple populations of Kudzu along

the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail in Westchester and the Bronx. Kudzu is infamous for being "the vine that ate the South," and this find will help with early eradication efforts.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE MONITORS

Earlier this season, 15 volunteers worked with the Lower Hudson PRISM for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as southern pine beetle trap

monitors in Orange and Ulster counties in New York. Their efforts helped to alert the NYSDEC of the presence of these invasive beetles at Bear Mountain State Park, Minnewaska State Park, Schunemunk Mountain State Park, and Roosa Gap State Forest. While southern pine beetles have been found in our traps, after extensive ground surveys, no infested trees have been found at Bear Mountain or Schunemunk. Ground

Invasive Species Removed

- ▶ Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
- ▶ Sticky sage (*Salvia glutinosa*)
- ▶ Small carpetgrass (*Arthraxon hispidus*)
- ▶ Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)
- ▶ Silver vine (*Actinidia polygama*)
- ▶ Incised fumewort (*Corydalis incisa*)
- ▶ Japanese angelica tree (*Aralia elata*)
- ▶ Dwarf bamboo (*Pleoblastus sp.*)
- ▶ Chinese silver grass (*Miscanthus sp.*)
- ▶ Bishop's weed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)
- ▶ Fuzzy pride-of-Rochester (*Deutzia scabra*)
- ▶ Japanese hops (*Humulus japonicus*)
- ▶ Black jetbead (*Rhodotypos scandens*)

surveys for potentially infested pines are still being done along the Shawangunk Ridge for Minnewaska State Park and Roosa Gap State Forest.

Huge shout-out to our invasives warriors who help us keep our parks the right kind of wild! We "treely" appreciate all you do.

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Thanks to the Stewards at Breakneck Ridge!
Howard Rim

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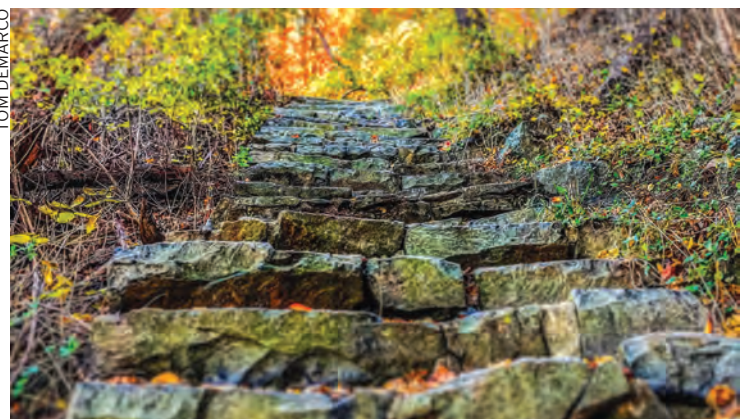
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holders and/or businesses that have designated themselves as Community Alliance Program supporters of the Trail Conference, our organization will receive a quarterly donation based on each person's balances on several eligible types of accounts and loans. No monies are withdrawn from supporters' accounts; all donation dollars come directly from Boiling Springs. Contact your local branch representative to designate your account as a Trail Conference supporter, or call 201.512.9300 or visit bssbank.com for more information on joining Boiling Springs Savings Bank.

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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.

NYC Outward Bound Center
www.nycoutwardbound.org

ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter
www.midhudsonadk.org

Hunterdon Hiking Club
www.hunterdonhikingclub.org

Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference
www.ligreenbelt.org

Thendara Mountain Club
www.thendaramountainclub.org

Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
www.flatrockbrook.org

ADK Long Island
www.adkli.org

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

Interstate Hiking Club
www.interstatehikingclub.org

New Jersey Search and Rescue Inc.
www.njsar.org

University Outing Club
www.universityoutingclub.org

ADK Mohican Chapter
www.adkmohican.org

German-American Hiking Club
<http://gah.nynjtc.org/>

New York Alpine Club
www.nyalpine.com

Mohonk Preserve
www.mohonkpreserve.org

Valley Stream Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/vshclub

Friends Of The Shawangunks
<http://shawangunks.org/>

WWW
<http://www.weishike.com/>

The Catskill Center for Conservation & Development
<http://www.catskillcenter.org>

Southampton Trails Preservation Society
<http://southamptontrails.org/>

ADK New York Chapter
www.adkny.org

Rip Van Winkle Hikers
<http://newyorkheritage.com/rvw>

Rock Lodge Club
www.rocklodge.com

Nelsonville Greenway Committee
VillageofNelsonville.org

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

Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group
newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson/

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter
www.amcdv.org

The Outdoor Club, Inc.
www.outdoorsclub.info

Shorewalkers Inc.
www.shorewalkers.org

TriState Ramblers
<http://TSR.nynjtc.org/Schedules.html>

Chinese Mountain Club of New York
www.cmcny.org

Adventures for Women
www.AdventuresforWomen.org

AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter
<http://www.amcmohawkhudson.org/>

Morris County Park Commission
www.morrisparks.net

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

Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn

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

New York Ramblers
www.nyramblers.org

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

Westchester Trails Association
<http://www.westhike.org>

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

Urban Trail Conference, Inc.
www.urbantrail.org

Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy
<http://mmc.nynjtc.org>

Black Rock Forest Consortium Inc.
<http://www.blackrockforest.org/>

New Haven Hiking Club
www.NHHC.info

East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
www.ehtps.org

Hudson Highlands Gateway Task Force
www.TownofCortlandt.com

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

Boy Scout Troop 50 Mahwah
MAHWAHtroop50.scoutlander.com

The Highlands Natural Pool
www.highlandsnaturalpool.org

Bellvale School
www.bruderhof.com/en/international-directory/united-states/bellvale

Catskill Mountain Club
www.catskillmountainclub.org

Tenafly Nature Center Association
www.tenaflynaturecenter.org

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

Hudson River Valley Greenway
www.hudsonrivervalley.com

Friends of Pelham Bay Park
<http://www.pelhambaypark.org/>

Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council

Hilltop Conservancy, Inc.
www.hilltopconservancy.org

Storm King Adventure Tours
www.stormkingadventures.com

Friends Of Garret Mountain
friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.
<http://aqueduct.org/>

East Coast Greenway Alliance
www.greenwaynj.org

RPH Cabin Volunteers
rphcabin.org

Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee

South Mountain Conservancy Inc.
www.somocon.org

ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter
www.hudsonhikers.org

Byram Township Environmental Commission
www.byramtp.org

Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization
www.mahwahevo.org

Women About
www.womenabout.org

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

SAJ - Society for the Advancement of Judaism
<http://www.thesaj.org/>

Closter Nature Center Association
www.closternaturecenter.org

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
www.littlestonypoint.org

Salt Shakers Trail Running Club
www.saltshakersrun.com

Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway in Teaneck
<http://www.teaneckgreenway.org/>

Town of Lewisboro
www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec

The Nature Place Day Camp
<http://thenatureplace.com/>

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park
<http://vancortlandt.org/>

Alley Pond Environmental Center
<http://www.alleypond.com/>

Jolly Rovers
<http://jollyrovers.org/>

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 21

The Storm King School
<http://www.sks.org>

Palisades MTB
facebook.com/groups/palisadesmtb

Frost Valley YMCA
www.frostvalley.org

HDR Mahwah Green Team
<http://www.hdrinc.com/>

Queens Parks Trails Club

The Highlands Nature Friends, Inc.
www.highlandsnaturefriends.org

Lake Hopatcong Foundation

Canal Society of New Jersey

Harmony Hall - Jacob Sloat House
www.friendsofharmonyhall.org

Town of Woodstock

Ramapough Conservancy, Inc

New Jersey Highlands Coalition
www.njhighlandscoalition.org

New Sterling Forest Map Features Trail Mileage



JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

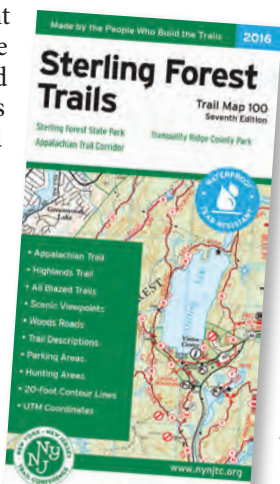
The revised seventh edition of the Trail Conference's Sterling Forest Trails map, available in October, features more than 170 miles of marked trails in Sterling Forest State Park and adjoining parklands, including more than 18 miles each of the Appalachian Trail and Highlands Trail.

This update includes trail mileage numbers on the face of the map, providing distances between trail junctions and significant trail features to make planning trips and navigating the trails easier. The revised edition also contains the new Doris Duke Trail and several other trail changes, adjustments to viewpoints, and more accurate depictions of many stream crossings. Additional correc-

tions and adjustments make this edition of Sterling Forest Trails even more accurate than before. At only \$7.95 (\$5.96 for Trail Conference members), this map is a must-have for exploring outdoor opportunities available in Sterling Forest.

The map will be available in print format in vibrant color on waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek (shop nynjtc.org or visit our store at Trail Conference Headquarters), as well as 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 volunteer project manager John Mack and all volunteers and park partners who helped produce this edition. The map was produced with support from Campmor, an outdoor store and retail partner of the Trail Conference.



Updated Kittatinny Trails Map Set Coming in October

The seventh edition of the Kittatinny Trails map set, covering marked trails throughout northwestern New Jersey and surrounding areas, has been delayed and will be available in

October, both in print and digital app map format. This edition features trail mileage numbers and a major trail system change within Stokes State Forest, among many additional corrections and changes. Visit nynjtc.org to check the availability of this great map set.



YOUR PLANNED GIFT TO THE TRAIL CONFERENCE WILL:

- Help us protect trails and trail lands for future generations.
- Preserve people's connection to the natural world.
- Create a personal sense of responsibility for our wild places.

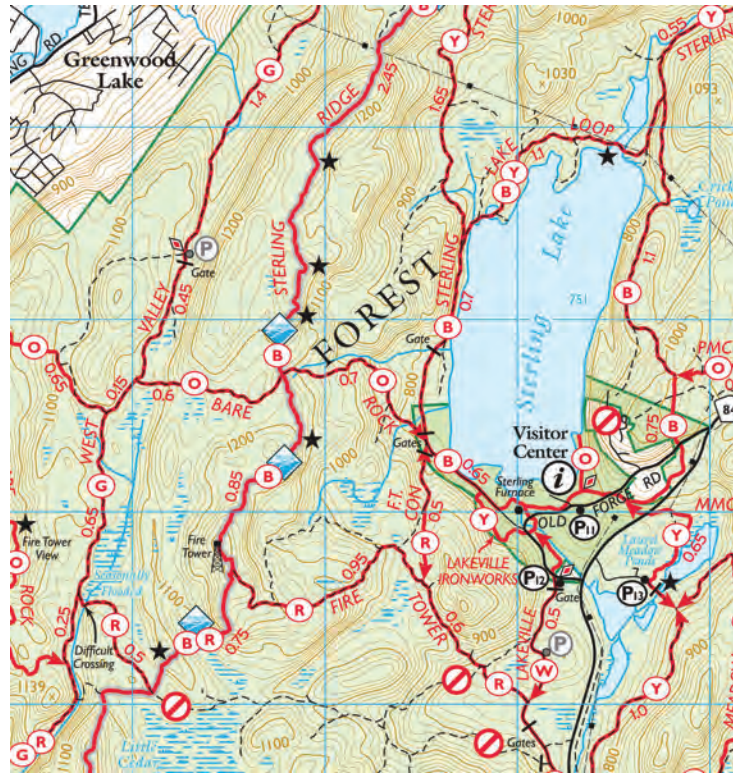
Please consider including the Trail Conference in your will or as a beneficiary in an investment account or insurance policy today.

You can make a bequest by sharing the following sample language with your attorney:

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

TO LEARN MORE AND GET MATERIALS, CONTACT:

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



Revised Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails Now Available

The 17th edition of our Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails map set, featuring more detailed contours and several trail relocations, was released in July in both print and digital format. In addition, the entire trail system is now available on a single map, downloadable exclusively on the Avenza Maps app. Visit nynjtc.org/pdfmaps to learn more.

Rebranded Avenza Maps App Hits 100K Downloads Milestone

In early August, the Trail Conference's 100,000th digital map download took place via the Avenza Maps app (formerly called the PDF Maps app). Thanks to a surge in popularity of GPS-enhanced maps, we were able to reach this significant milestone in just a few years.

The Avenza Maps app rebranded over the summer and included more than just a name change. The app developers also launched a companion website, avenzamaps.com, which makes it easier to find information about the app and search for maps. One significant improvement is making all Trail Conference maps visible on a single landing page (avenzamaps.com/a/wgfydd). From this page, users can easily search for our digital maps and make a purchase

using PayPal or a debit/credit card.

The app itself has been revamped for Apple and Android devices; this update is expected to be made available to the public in October. Included in this update will be an option to subscribe to a "pro" version with additional features for power users of the app maps. There are now more than 70 Trail Conference maps available through the app, including newly released, large single maps of both

the Catskills and the Harriman-Bear Mountain areas.

We continue to stress that digital maps are not meant to be a replacement for printed maps, but are meant to supplement and enhance one's outdoor experience. The funds received from our app map sales, just like our print map sales, go right into the trail work we do throughout the region, so we hope users will continue to spread the word about our great app maps. The popularity of these app maps, both with the general public and Trail Conference volunteers, excites us to further develop these digital opportunities, and we look forward to reaching our next major map download milestone!

For more information about the Avenza Maps app, visit nynjtc.org/pdfmaps.

Jeremy Apgar



Help Create Our 100th Anniversary Vistas & Vision History Book

In just four years, the Trail Conference will be celebrating its 100th anniversary! To help commemorate this milestone, the Publications Committee has begun efforts to update our historical retrospective, *Vistas & Vision*. Produced in 1995, the original edition of this book was written by Glenn Scherer on the occasion of the organization's 75th anniversary. The Trail Conference has certainly been busy over the last 20-plus years, with so many

influential volunteers and staff working on substantial projects throughout the region—so we have our work cut out for us!

We invite anyone interested in Trail Conference history to join us in creating this new book. A project manager is needed, while other roles include editing, photo organization, and archival organization. Contact Trail Conference Cartographer Jeremy Apgar at apgar@nynjtc.org for more details.



New Trails Invite You to Rediscover Ramapo Reservation

Effective Aug. 28, trails within the Ramapo Valley County Reservation's core recreational area have been reconfigured into a five-loop network by volunteers and staff of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and the Bergen County Parks Department. The work involved 7.2 miles of trail, including 1.2 miles of new construction and 6 miles of re-blazing, within a 2-mile radius of the Route 202 parking lot. The five new loops are:

▶ **Vista Loop Trail:** yellow; loops 3.8 miles; trailhead at parking lot; rated "moderate to strenuous"

- This signature hike allows visitors to follow a single blaze to view three panoramas, as well as MacMillan Reservoir and MacMillan Brook.

▶ **Ridge Loop Trail:** blue; loops 3 miles; total to/from parking lot is 4.25 miles; rated "moderate"

▶ **Marsh Loop Trail:** red; loops 1.1 miles; total to/from parking lot is 3.5 miles; rated "moderate"

▶ **Reservoir Loop Trail:** pink; loops 0.65 mile; total to/from parking lot is 3 miles; rated "moderate"

▶ **Pond Loop Trail:** silver; loops 0.9 mile, total to/from

FEATURED HIKE

Details

- ▶ **Trail:** Five new loops
- ▶ **Park:** Ramapo Valley County Reservation, Bergen County, N.J.
- ▶ **Difficulty:** Easy to strenuous
- ▶ **Length:** 7.2 miles total
- ▶ **Route Type:** Circuit
- ▶ **Dogs:** Allowed on leash
- ▶ **Features:** Views, waterfall



parking lot is 1.1 miles; rated "easy"

To read more about these loops and other changes made to the trails, as well as links to hike descriptions following these trails, visit our Ramapo Reservation page at bit.ly/tc-rvcr.

We wish to recognize the outstanding efforts of several individuals who contributed to the success of this major project. Volunteer Chris Connolly spearheaded the reconfiguration, and with the approval and assistance of Bergen County Parks, scouted and flagged new trail segments, removed old blazes and put up new blazes, and installed updated maps, all on a quick timeframe during the hottest part of the summer. (Read "Smarter Design Makes Trails More User-Friendly" on page 7 for more.) Other volunteers, including James Dalgleish, Alec Malyon, Peter Meyer, John Moran, and Karl Soehnlein, assisted with new trail construction and blazing efforts, and Daniel Chazin and Phil McLewin helped to update hike and park descriptions. Trail Conference staff member Peter Dolan worked closely with Chris, especially in relationship to trail scouting and trail system refinement, and staff cartographer Jeremy Apgar produced easy-to-follow maps to help visitors navigate the new trail system.



DANIEL CHAZIN

The new Vista Loop Trail includes three spectacular viewpoints over Bergen County.

HIKERS' MARKETPLACE

GO PLACES WITH TRAIL MAPS AND BOOKS FROM THE TRAIL CONFERENCE



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

Our map combo offers all of our high-quality Trail Conference maps at a 5% discount (members get an additional 25% discount). Save big on shipping charges!



Find it on our online store under Combos.

VISIT nynjtc.org/panel/goshopping OR CALL 201-512-9348

Find all our publications and select trail guides from others on our website, and get your 25% member discount!

Support Trails, Parks, and Open Space in the New York-New Jersey region by joining the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

NY-NJ Trail Conference BENEFITS

The Trail Conference maintains more than 2,100 miles of trails, advocates for parks, protects open space, and provides volunteer service opportunities in the great outdoors.

Your membership supports the trails you love and gives you these additional benefits:

25% Discount on Trail Conference maps, books, and other products. Visit nynjtc.org/panel/goshopping.

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

Tuition-Free Enrollment in our Trail University introductory courses

Workshops and Seminars on trail maintenance and construction, leadership training, wilderness first aid, chainsaw operation, environmental monitoring and GPS operation. Learn more about Trail U at nynjtc.org/trailu.

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

Find links to all these and more at nynjtc.org.

Join/Renew Trail Conference Membership

We maintain more than 2,100 miles of trails. Your membership helps us expand our horizons.

Included with membership: *Trail Walker*, 10% discount on purchases at many outdoor stores, and 25% discount on all Trail Conference maps and books purchased directly from the Trail Conference. Save time and a tree by joining or renewing online at nynjtc.org. Just click on the Join/Renew Now button.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Select one: Join Renew Membership # if available _____

	Individual	Joint/Family
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
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Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
Senior (65+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40

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

For my membership of \$60 or more, send me a:

Trail Conference Cap OR Harriman-Bear Mountain Map Set

To purchase a gift membership, call 201.512.9348 x828.

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Make check or money order payable to the Trail Conference, and mail to: 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ, 07430.

Tax deductible. Dues are not refundable.