



TRAIL WALKER

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

MOVED BY NATURE, UNITED BY TRAILS

The Trail Conference at 100

On Oct. 19, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference turns 100 years old—a special occasion for any organization.

Yet there will be no cake, no gala—not this year, circumstances considering. It is certainly not how we envisioned our Centennial celebration in the years leading up to this moment, but nobody quite envisioned a 2020 like this one, either.

And so we embrace the moment. We celebrate differently. Recognizing this incredible milestone doesn't require 100 candles. This fall, we celebrate 100 years of service by celebrating the extraordinary community that enjoys and protects trails—the community that is the Trail Conference.

We celebrate through the new mom who commits to her physical and mental health by walking trails, baby (and map) in tow.

We celebrate through the kids who meet our Trail Stewards and decide it's not cool to litter.

We celebrate through the college student gaining new skills as he builds a new trail for hikers and mountain bikers.

We celebrate through the couple learning about invasive species—and each other—on their weekly trips surveying trails.



We celebrate through the lawyer who donates his time to preserve a piece of woodland otherwise destined for development.

We celebrate through the

maintainer who has been walking her adopted trail for decades to ensure the path is clear and safe for others.

To mark our Centennial, we celebrate through the passion,

time, and energy you invest in connecting with nature and protecting the land you love.

We invite you to join the celebration. We'd love to know how trails have played an important role in your life. Share your trail tales by tagging us on Instagram or Facebook @nynjtc with the hashtag #UnitedByTrails, or by emailing us at tw@nynjtc.org. We'll be ringing in our second century by sharing your stories through next October. Stories selected for publication will also receive a special Centennial gift.

Thanks to the Trail Conference community, millions of people throughout the region have been able to experience the outdoors for the last 100 years. Generations more will know the joys of nature through our—your—continued efforts. We are moved by nature; we are united by trails. Thank you for being part of such an important legacy. It's time to celebrate!

Stay Connected!

Upcoming Events

Find details at nynjtc.org/events

▶ **Trail-A-Thon Virtual Challenge**
Walk, hike, run, or ride 100 miles in celebration of our 100 Years. Through Oct. 31
See **page 2** for details

▶ **Making the Most of Your Legacy Series**
Webinar: Learn about smart beneficiary selection for your IRAs, 401(k) plans, life insurance, and annuities. **Oct. 7**

▶ **Trail Project Panel: The Floating Walkway in Wawayanda**
Webinar: The people who made the incredible floating walkway at Terrace Pond possible discuss the innovative project. **Oct. 13**

▶ **Trail Trivia: Centennial Edition**
Virtual Challenge: Test your knowledge of the Trail Conference and local parks and trails. **Oct. 15**

▶ **Centennial Town Hall**
Webinar: Executive Director Joshua Howard will speak about the vision for the Trail Conference's second century of service. **Oct. 19**

▶ **Making the Most of Your Legacy Series**
Webinar: Learn about using charitable remainder trusts to manage taxes and create lifetime income for your heirs. **Nov. 4**

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Unique Floating Walkway Solves Mud Issue
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Celebrate 100 Years With 100 Miles in Our Trail-A-Thon

To mark the Trail Conference's 100th birthday this October, we're holding our first-ever Trail-A-Thon. We're inviting everyone to take on the challenge of walking, hiking, running, or riding 100 miles to help mark our Centennial. Registration is free to participate in this fun effort!

The Trail-A-Thon runs through Oct. 31, so there's still time to get in on the celebration. The official challenge is 100 miles, but that doesn't mean you can't do more—or less! The Trail-A-Thon is about getting outdoors, connecting with nature, and celebrating the Trail Conference's 100 years of service.

While ticking off your miles, you'll also have the opportunity to raise money for the Trail Conference and protect the land you love in the process. When signing up online, you can set up a personal fundraising page, join a virtual team, and share your reason for accepting this challenge. And you don't need to participate in the mile challenge to donate to the cause or start a fundraising page; we're giving everyone an opportunity to join in and make an impact at bit.ly/tc-trailathon1.

On Oct. 4, 2008, 41 hikers raised over \$15,000 in the first-ever Trail Conference Hike-A-Thon. The event, co-sponsored by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, aimed to raise funds for trail projects at Bear Mountain State Park—in particular, for the Trails for People interpretive exhibit at the foot of Bear Mountain. Trails for People—the country's first outdoor exhibit dedicated to the construction and care of trails—was completed 8 years later, opening on Earth Day 2016.



Hike-a-thon Raises \$15,000 for Trails
Forty-one hikers, both members and non-members of the Trail Conference, raised over \$15,000 in the first-ever Trail Conference Hike-a-thon on October 4 at Bear Mountain State Park. The event, co-sponsored by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, aimed to raise funds for trail projects at the park, in particular, for the Trails for People interpretive exhibit that is a component of the Bear Mountain Trails Project. Special thanks go to Eric Fuchs-Stempel, Robert Falcus, and the Beggs family for leading the way with pledges and support totaling over \$5,500. Pictured are those who leadership award to the Trail Conference from the Global Sports Alliance (GSA). (Learn more about the award on page 2.) The Trail Conference plans on holding its second Hike-a-thon next year on October 3, 2009 to raise money for trail projects in public parks throughout one region. A big thank you also goes out to the hiker who raised the most money, David Lantieri.



Earth Day Celebration Opens Trails for People Interpretive Exhibit
The trail on the building to the right on Earth Day April 22, when a new trail was opened to the public. The exhibit is located at the foot of Bear Mountain. Trails for People—the country's first outdoor exhibit dedicated to the construction and care of trails—was completed 8 years later, opening on Earth Day 2016.

bit.ly/tc-trailathon1. The event is raising awareness and support to continue our mission for another 100 years.

All registrants and fundraisers will receive a certificate of participation and a Protect the Land You Love sticker at the end of the challenge. To sweeten the pot, we've added fundraising prizes at various levels: \$100 raised, for example, gets you the new Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails neck gaiter.

Throughout the Trail-A-Thon, we will be highlighting inspiring stories of individuals and teams participating in the event. We'll be sharing photos and videos posted on Instagram and Facebook that tag us [@nynjtc](https://twitter.com/nynjtc) and use the hashtag [#trailathon2020](https://twitter.com/trailathon2020), so let us know the "why" behind your journey and show us how you're racking up miles and support.

Find full details at bit.ly/tc-trailathon1. We'll see you on the trails!

Save the Date: Voting Members Meeting

Our Fall Voting Members meeting will be held on Nov. 15, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom video conference. If you have agenda items to suggest, please email them to kbezik@nynjtc.org.

Voting members should register at bit.ly/tc-fvm20. Zoom details will follow upon registration.

The Governance Committee will propose changes to the bylaws to be voted upon at the meeting. Find details at: nynjtc.org/document/revise-by-laws-2020.

Additionally, the Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for the Board of Directors for three-year terms:

Andy Garrison

Andy is a current Board Member and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee, Nominating Committee, and as chair of the Conservation Committee and the Long Path Regional Trails Council. Andy has been a long-time Trail Conference volunteer with broad experience in building, maintaining, and preserving trails and open space. He previously served as supervisor and maintainer of the Shawangunk Ridge Trail. Upon discovering the Long Path, he section-hiked the entire trail, completing it in 2006. In 2008, he thru-hiked the Vermont Long Trail. With the goal of protecting and preserving the Long Path, one of his volunteer projects included directing construction of the 9-mile Long Path route over Romer Mountain in the Catskills. Andy's successes in trail leadership have been recognized with the Trail Conference's Paul Leikin Extra Mile Award in 2008 and the William Hoefler Award in 2014.



John Magerlein

John is a current Board Member, chair of the Policy Council, and serves on the Governance Committee. John retired as a physicist from the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center after 37 years in a variety of technical and managerial positions. He has been a Trail Conference supervisor since 1992 in Fahnestock State Park, where he led the construction of new trails and bridges, and is a certified chain sawyer. John set up the first online registration system for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Biennial Conference as registrar in 2007. He is also a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Adirondack Mountain Club. He holds a BA from Kalamazoo College and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He is a Trail Conference Life Member.



Beth Ravit


Beth is a current Board Member serving as Treasurer. She is also on the Finance, Management, Audit, and Strategic Planning committees. She co-led the 2019 Financial Sustainability initiative. After three decades as a corporate executive, Beth earned her Master's (2001) and Ph.D. (2004) degrees in Environmental Science from Rutgers University. She joined the Rutgers Department of Environmental Sciences faculty in 2005, retiring in 2019. She led scientific and design teams working on wetland restorations in the Hackensack River watershed with an emphasis on the region's wetlands and urban coastal resiliency. Beth cofounded and codirected the Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability, an interdisciplinary collaboration with the Department of Landscape Architecture. She is a Board member of the Closter Nature Center and Hackensack Riverkeeper and is a past chair of the Environmental Commission in Closter, N.J.



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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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Shop the AmazonSmile App, Support Local Trails

Did you know that you can support the work of the Trail Conference simply by shopping online? When you shop AmazonSmile at smile.amazon.com, the retailer donates a portion of eligible purchases to the nonprofit of your choice. (We hope you'll choose the Trail Conference!) Thanks to you, we received \$278.04 from the AmazonSmile Foundation for purchases made April 1 through June 30 of this year. Making it even easier to support great trails and healthy ecosystems, AmazonSmile customers can now support the Trail Conference in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones. Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations for the natural areas you love.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device.
2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into Settings.
3. Tap AmazonSmile and follow the onscreen instructions to complete the process.

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app, update your app. We are grateful for your support!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What Happens When Nature Is Deemed Essential

As we enter our second century of service, we are in many ways entering a new era. This has been a year of unprecedented challenges, but when thinking about our Centennial, I see the strength of this organization. I see hope. I see the remarkable ways we have adapted to provide great trail experiences to the millions of people who live in our region. Above all, I see the resilience of our trail community.

COVID-19 forced us into our homes, closed our doors, and made us retreat to a state of self-imposed quarantine. As the economy worsened and the forecast looked dismal, the Trail Conference was facing a big financial challenge.

At the same time, we had no idea how critical a role we would play in the coming weeks. We were not in the healthcare industry; we were



not first responders. We weren't in any profession deemed "essential." Like so many other organizations, we closed our doors and sent our staff and volunteers home to work remotely, hoping we would find a way to endure.

To keep our virtual doors open for the next few months, we needed \$700,000. The Recovery and Response Fund was created, and our Board of Directors were the first to step up. Their leadership and commitment to the organization raised more than \$115,000.

What happened next is incredible. Trail use skyrocketed in the following weeks and months. We saw unprecedented demand for information

from our website about where to hike and what to bring. The Trail Conference had become an essential service for the public to survive the pandemic.

Through your support of the Recovery and Response Fund, we launched our digital engagement platform. With more than 5,000 sign-ups for online webinars and lectures ranging from the History of the Morris Canal to Corridor Monitoring, we continued to recruit and train volunteers and provided our community with respite from the crazy world around us.

In early August, we achieved our goal! Through the generosity of our members, volunteers, and those who turned to nature during these trying times, we were able to continue to care for our trail community. The Trail Conference's supporters showed their resolve, and through these tough times, made a commitment to keeping trails and the lands they cross safe and healthy for the public to enjoy.

The resilience of the Trail



The amount of passion ... invested in maintaining the nation's most utilized network of trails, caring for our ecosystems, and providing outreach and education to the public EVERY DAY is incredible.

Howard



Conference and its members amazes me daily! The amount of passion that is invested in maintaining the nation's most utilized network of trails, caring for our ecosystems, and providing outreach and education to the public EVERY DAY is incredible. The Trail Conference once again proved its resourcefulness in empowering people to connect with nature. We have remained steadfast in our mission not only this year, but for the last 100 years.

With gratitude to every

member of the trail community that supported the Recovery and Response Fund and helped the Trail Conference weather the storm, we now look to the future with the launch of the Resilience Fund. This annual fund will be the financial engine ensuring continued support for sustainable trails and healthy parks today and for years to come.

The Resilience Fund supports the vigilance required for the protection of nature and safe access to the outdoors, no matter what tomorrow brings. It is a reminder that the Trail Conference exists to provide for the physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing that is found outdoors—but we can only serve this role with the community's support.

Please consider a gift to the Resilience Fund to mark your commitment to the future of great trail experiences!

*Joshua Howard
Executive Director
executivedirector@nynjtc.org*



New Display Highlights Trail Conference History

Trail Conference Headquarters remains closed to the public, but a new permanent exhibit is on display and will be available for viewing once our doors reopen.

Spearheaded by volunteer

leaders Bob Jonas and Estelle Anderson, the exhibit highlights the "work" required to care for and protect natural areas so we can all "play" outdoors safely and have great trail experiences. Two display

cabinets in our main hall now showcase tools, blazes, photos, and other elements of Trail Conference history from past to present. We asked Bob and Estelle to share a little about the making of the exhibit:

Between Estelle and me, we have been at this "trail stuff" now for over 50 years. While spending most of that time in New Jersey, we've also worked with other Trail Conference volunteers from lower New York all the way up to the Catskills.

We have seen many changes both in the organization and on the trail. Along the way we met and made many friends. Now, unfortunately, many have passed, but they are not forgotten. Much of the enjoyment for us has been in working with these equally enthusiastic volunteers.

Even when cleaning up an area such as Doodletown, where we removed loads of unidentifiable trash, it was an enjoyable endeavor all because of the camaraderie.

Everything from building water bars, to snuffing out the remnants of a forest fire in Harriman to building bridges, they have all been very rewarding experiences since we—the volunteers and staff—did it together.

Estelle and I muse over the many people we have known and liked but are no longer with us, which prompted us to consider filling the empty display cabi-

nets in the Trail Conference's headquarters at Darlington Schoolhouse with items that reflected and memorialized our collective past adventures and the wonderful folks we were involved with.

It seemed that as the Trail Conference was about to turn 100, it was the perfect time to show our appreciation and celebrate the many advances our trail community has made over this time period.

The Trail Conference is a very unique organization, and we are proud to be part of this celebration.

Bob & Estelle

TRAIL CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

The Trail Conference's mission is made possible through generous support from hundreds of individuals, companies, and foundations—outdoor-lovers like you who care for the environment.

In an effort to reduce our paper impacts, our full supporter list will begin appearing in the annual edition of the Winter Trail Walker. Donations of \$50-plus made in honor or in memory of friends and family will continue to appear in each quarterly Trail Walker.

Thank you for your generosity and passion for trails and natural areas—thanks for your support of the Trail Conference!

TRIBUTES May 1 - August 15, 2020

- In honor of Charles Gadol*
Laney Baris
- In honor of David Lerer*
Alana Lerer
- In honor of Deborah Boeni*
Alyssa Katz
- In honor of Ilene Wachs*
David Lerer
- In honor of John Lewis who steadfastly supported the human race, opportunities for all and a safe and healthy environment.*
Robert Jonas
- In honor of Marilyn Moore*
Andrew Moore
- In honor of Rory Nugent*
Bowery Farming
- In memory of Allen John Togut*
David Togut
- In memory of Ben Frankel*
Nancy Frank
- In memory of Bradley Jordan*
R. Daniel Rouse
- In memory of Irene Ragan*
William Ragan
- In memory of John & Marianne Gunzler*
Mani Sadeghi

- In memory of John & Marianne Gunzler, a wonderful woman, may she rest in peace*
Ronald Curwin
- In memory of Kathleen M Caren*
Robert Jonas
- In memory of Laura Leone*
John Stalzer
- In memory of Marianne Gunzler*
Sylvia Andros
Joel Berelson
Ginny Brach
Melissa Curwin
Diane DeVincentis
Fred Ellis
Elaine Forsch
Shirley Giovannoli
Paul Gunzler
Gay Hartigan
Michael Karpas
Wendi Kaskovich
Maura Lobatto
Susan Mendelowitz
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Beth Ravit & Edward Gandler Donor Fund
Frederick Reeves
Susan Rothman
Richard Siegel
Joy Slatoff
Andrea Tannenbaum
Candi Vene
Weitzenhoffer/Seminole Foundation
- In memory of Norman Reicher*
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Kevin Moran
Terri Morse
Dave, Kris, Sam, Angelique, Sophia, Ben, Rachel and Ella Reicher
Paul Schmitz
Rick Suter
Ken Tardell
Catherine Wrocklage
- In memory of Tom, Margareta & John LeMaire*
Jim LeMaire

New Long Path RTC Supports Trail's Management

ERIC ADAMS



In July, the Board approved the creation of the Trail Conference's sixth Regional Trails Council, the Long Path RTC. Andy Garrison and Kevin McGuinness—both Long Path Local Trails Committee Chairs—proposed the idea, which was supported by the staff. Andy Garrison is now the RTC Chair.

The Long Path has a life unto itself. Managing the Long Path as a whole, instead of in pieces, will ensure that the trail not only survives, but thrives. For numerous reasons—and particularly because the Long

Path is not fully on protected land—the trail requires unique management that differentiates it from most other trails in the West Hudson and Catskills RTCs. It also has a larger focus on conservation (land acquisition and negotiating with landowners), advocacy, and the creation of a thru-hiker experience.

Having a dedicated Long Path RTC will allow the committee to bring in the relevant N.J. Palisades, Catskill, and land conservation partners to discuss strategies and updates specific to the Long Path.

Additionally, the recent staff restructure ensures we have adequate capacity to support this new RTC. The new Trail Program Manager position (served by Peter Dolan) was developed so that we can better address the complexities of interstate and interregional trail management. Additionally, Peter has already been the main Long Path staff liaison in his new role.

For more news and updates on the great work happening on the Long Path, check out the Friends of the Long Path group on Facebook.

Join the Trail Conference, Get Great Deals

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



Hudson North Cider Co
Hudson North Cider Co is a mission-driven company that works to protect and preserve the trails in the Hudson Valley and beyond. Ten cents of every gallon sold is donated to the Trail Conference. hudsonnorthcider.com



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In Memoriam

KATHLEEN CAREN
Kathleen Caren, who worked tirelessly with the people of Passaic County to preserve and improve community open space, died July 19. She was 64.



In her 16 years working for Passaic County, Kathleen made an indelible mark by improving and, in many cases, permanently preserving local natural landscapes.

Kathleen played a major role in the hard-won preservation of the Norvin Green Connector, preserving hundreds of acres of environmentally sensitive land and a corridor for the Highlands Trail.

She loved West Milford and the trails, and was a strong supporter of the Trail Conference. She was a kind person who was always ready to do the right thing for people and for the environment. She will be sorely missed.

NORMAN REICHER
Norman J. Reicher, an avid supporter of the outdoors and the Trail Conference, passed away on July 19. He was 64.



Norman had recently retired after 26 years as a math teacher at Passaic High School. He had created the Passaic High School Hiking Club more than 20 years ago, and had helped revitalize the Ski Club as well.

He enjoyed running long distances, completing six marathons and two ultras. He rode motorcycles and loved hiking and downhill skiing. He was quite charitable with his time and efforts and will be missed.

DAVE HOGENAUER
David E. Hogenauer, trail-keeper, hike leader, and park historian with the South Mountain Conservancy in New Jersey, passed away on April 3. He was 86.

Dave moved to Maplewood, N.J., in 1964 to teach at Columbia High School. He retired in 1996.



Hiking was one of his passions; he belonged to several hiking clubs and authored a trail guide and book about the Reservation history. He was a member of Prospect Presbyterian Church since 1964 and served in many volunteer positions there. He was a trustee and served as president for the Tree of Life Counseling service, and was on the Board of Victory House. For over 20 years, he led the church's partnership with the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Essex County to house and feed the homeless. He was the recipient of the Maple Leaf Award in 2007 for his contributions to Maplewood.

An avid supporter of his community and the outdoors, Dave will be missed.

Welcome, Kylie

Kylie Yang joined the Trail Conference in June. She has stepped into the New Jersey Program Coordinator role as Melissa



Cascini transitions into the New York Program Coordinator position. Former program coordinator Sona Mason has left the Trail Conference, and we wish her luck.

Kylie grew up in Virginia, where she frequented Shenandoah National Park and fell in love with the Appalachian Trail. In 2015, Kylie completed her A.T. thru-hike. She worked as a New Jersey Appalachian Trail Ridgerunner for two seasons before joining the Trail Conference full-time. If you don't find Kylie hiking with her Vizsla, you'll likely find her at a local vegan restaurant.

Liberty Shares the Love

Plans to buy or lease a new car? During Subaru of America's annual Share the Love event, Liberty Subaru in Emerson, N.J., has once again named the Trail Conference a Home-town Charity. At Liberty Subaru from Nov. 19 through Jan. 4, 2021, 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 & Genesis in Mahwah and Liberty Kia in Ramsey as well. Just show your membership card when buying or leasing from Nov. 19 through Jan. 4, 2021 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. This offer applies to the purchase of any new vehicle at any of the four Liberty franchises, except for special edition or low availability vehicles. The Liberty discount entitles Trail Conference members in good standing to purchase the vehicle they choose (subject to the previously mentioned restrictions) at an amount equal to the dealer's invoice price. Our thanks to Liberty and everyone who chooses to support the Trail Conference mission!



Through last year's Subaru Share the Love Program, Liberty Subaru was able to direct over \$41,000 to the Trail Conference! Your participation in the program this year can help raise even more funds for great trails and healthy parks.

YOU DRIVE. WE DONATE.

When Trail Conference members take delivery of any new Subaru, Hyundai, KIA, or Genesis between November 19th and January 4th, the NY-NJ Trail Conference will receive \$250*!

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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.

REFLECTIONS: LOOKING BACK AT 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

As the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference prepares to mark our centennial this October, we're turning the spotlight on some of our longest-serving volunteers for reflections on their time with the organization.

JANE AND WALT DANIELS



Jane and Walt at the start of their A.T. section hike in 1992.

KAREN DANIELS

It Started with Litter

When Jane suggested that she and her husband Walt volunteer to help at the Trail Conference's Litter Day in 1979, it was a way to pay back their enjoyment of hiking. Little did they know that their involvement would start a volunteer career spanning over 40 years and would give both of them numerous opportunities to learn new skills and make friends. Individually, their list of accomplishments is notable. What they have done together is even more impressive. But perhaps the greatest legacy they have created is the hundreds, if not thousands of volunteers they have worked with, trained, mentored, and inspired through the years. It's an enduring testament to their tireless passion and dedication for caring for trails and public lands.

Litter Day led to learning about the management of the Appalachian Trail, then becoming registrars at the New Paltz A.T. conference in 1983. Next it was onto learning how to build a trail for an A.T. reroute in Putnam County. Here their different skill sets came into play: Walt manages rocks while Jane manages people. Even in separate roles, they remain a team.

Walt has been supervisor on a section of the Appalachian Trail since 1983, a role he has relished. (He has ensured its continued care by recruiting and mentoring his successor.) As someone involved with IT professionally, when personal computers were becoming available, he made sure the Trail Conference was an early adopter. He served as the organization's first webmaster and developed its website three times. At the same time, he worked in the field designing and building trails. At the end of 2020, Walt will step down from our Board of Direc-

tors. Outside of the Trail Conference, he has served on the Town of Yorktown's Conservation Advisory Committee, the Open Space Advisory Committee, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Board of Managers.

Jane's accomplishments are people-related; they include recruitment, chairing committees, and developing and presenting workshops. She served on the Trail Conference Board of Directors, including as chair. Committees benefiting from her expertise include Publications, East Hudson Trails, Trails Council, and East Hudson Regional Trails Council. At the local level, Jane has developed a relationship with the Town of Yorktown and mountain bikers. Her skills developed at the Trail Conference are utilized elsewhere, both regionally and nationally. She has served on the boards for Hudson Valley Greenway, New York State Trails Council, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, American Hiking Society, and Friends of FDR State Park. At many of those meetings, you will find her knitting.

This couple's teamwork comes to the fore both in the field and "behind the scenes." Together, Jane and Walt have designed and built the Camp Smith Trail, trails in Fahnestock State Park, FDR State Park, and the parks in Yorktown. They have worked with youth on trail-related projects since 1989 and enjoy bridging the generation gap through volunteerism outdoors. While Jane was head of the A.T. conference at Ramapo College in 2007, Walt was the IT guru and developed its website. They are authors of *Walkable Westchester*, with the third edition due out this fall.

In April 2020 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They cannot imagine what life would have been like if they had not started volunteering with trails.

Trail Conference Receives Outstanding Partner Award

The New York State Recreation and Park Society recognized the Trail Conference and the Town of Yorktown on August 25 for work maintaining and protecting trails in the community.

On behalf of the Trail Conference, longtime volunteers Jane and Walt Daniels accepted the Outstanding Corporate Partnership Award for the collaboration they have spearheaded on about 50 miles of trails in Yorktown. The society's award recognizes individuals or organizations that have provided leadership and support by providing equipment, volunteer time, in-kind donations, or other services with the goal of preserving or enhancing public parks.

Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater said the town's hiking trails have proven to be valu-



The Trail Conference was recognized for its partnership with the Town of Yorktown in Westchester County.

able assets, especially this year. "We saw it at the height of the pandemic," he said. "We saw an incredible volume on our trails because it gave people a safe place to go outside, exercise, and enjoy the natural

beauty of our community."

"The partnership couldn't be better with the parks department," Jane said. "I am so lucky to be partners with them, and I know there's a mutual feeling."

Jungle Habitat Trail Revitalization Project Begins

The New Jersey Park Service is revitalizing the trail network at the former Jungle Habitat in West Milford. The project will improve trail conditions and connectivity, as well as contiguous trails in Long Pond Ironworks State Park and northern Norvin Green State Forest. Project partners include the Trail Conference and the Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association (JORBA).

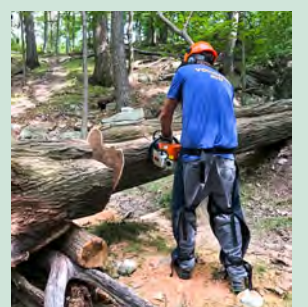
The Trail Conference will work on blazing brand-new loop hike options to expand the trail network connecting Long Pond Ironworks and Norvin Green, and will work alongside JORBA on construction of a new connector trail. This plan preserves the majority of Norvin Green and Long Pond Ironworks as foot-traffic only, with a new multi-use loop extending from the former Jungle Habitat site. This new multi-use loop mostly incorporates existing woods roads and a new section of trail to be built with bicycles in mind, so hikers should see little effect on the existing blazed trail network.

"As New Jersey State Parks worked on a plan to integrate the multi-use Jungle Habitat trail network and the adjacent single-use trail networks at Norvin Green and Long Pond Ironworks, they included all the right stakeholders," said Trail Program Manager Peter Dolan. "We're happy to have had the opportunity to strategize and discuss every aspect of the plan with Trail Conference and JORBA representatives—both staff and volunteer leaders—at the table. The final plan, co-written by both organizations, results in expanded opportunities for all trail users and opens up a wealth of new hikes in the historically underutilized area. Special thanks to Trail Conference North Jersey Chair Chris Connolly, JORBA President Tom Hennigan, and JORBA/Trail Conference volunteer leaders Art and Ellen White for bringing this plan to fruition in such a cooperative fashion."

Scouting of the new trail section has already begun, and reblazing of existing paths is underway.

Blaze Color Document Gets Update

The Policy Council approved an update to the Recommended Blaze Paint Colors document on June 10. This replaces the document last updated in 2008. Some colors from the previous edition of that document are no longer available, so make sure to review the new standard and alternative paint colors. Find the revised document and more info at nynjtc.org/tmm.



Sawyers Go to Work After Tropical Storm

"We have removed 118 blowdowns in sections 5 to 8 since the tropical storm," Long Path RTC Chair Andy Garrison posted on the Friends of the Long Path Facebook group on Aug. 22. Tropical Storm Isaias tore through the region in early August, and Trail Conference volunteers were quick to respond to damage on the trails. "We are still working to complete the entire area," Andy added. If you spot blowdowns or any other issues on the trail, please report them using the form at nynjtc.org/trail-issue.

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PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

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

2020 Corps Season: Notes from the Field

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Conservation Corps trains the next generation of environmental stewards to preserve the integrity of trails and natural areas and engage volunteers to inspire a deeper appreciation for the care that open space requires. Our AmeriCorps program is fielding three trail crews, two invasives crews, and two trail steward crews in 2020. Here's an overview of the impact they've made so far this season.

TRAIL CREWS

PALISADES

Service Location: Sterling Forest State Park
The Palisades Crew focuses on implementing Sterling Forest State Park's Trails Plan. This year, they are focusing on reroutes on the McKeags Meadow Loop and construction of the new Augusta Mine Trail, which will connect other trails in the park and increase multi-use mileage and loop options via sustainable design and building techniques. Crew members excavate new trail tread and construct rock retaining walls as well as trailside features to accommodate bikes and horses while reducing potential conflict between users.

► **Challenges:** The extremely boulder-filled terrain has made work slow and difficult in places. "It seems like for every big rock you want to dig out, you need to remove two others first," said crewmember Matt Nemeth. "It's tough because in a lot of places there's no good soil underneath to build on—just more rock."

The amount of crushed gravel fill required behind retaining walls also takes its toll. "After a day or two of heavy crush-making, I usually need to give my joints a break from it for a day or two," crewmember Frank Kazimir said.

► **Accomplishments:** Since June, the Palisades Crew has constructed nearly 1,000 feet of new or relocated trail, including almost 100 square feet of handset rock retaining wall. "Learning the principles of wall building was challenging at first," crewmember Kevin Murphy admitted, "but once I got the hang of it, it's been really satisfying to see it come together into a finished product." An avid mountain biker, he added, "it's going to be a great trail once we're done. I can't wait to ride it!"

TACONIC

Service Location: Hudson Highlands State Park
The Taconic Crew addresses needs in Hudson Highlands and Fahnestock state parks. This year's focus has been



Taconic

on finishing the ground-up renovation of a portion of the popular and scenic Washburn Trail near Breakneck Ridge, where poor trail definition has led to hikers creating social trails, resulting in vegetation loss and erosion. The crew's work has included constructing wide stone staircases and rock retaining wall across bedrock ledges to safely and sustainably shepherd users to the trail's stunning vistas.

► **Challenges:** Sourcing all the stone needed has been a tall order. "A lot of the rocks we were allowed to harvest were too big to move or use as they were, so we had to do a ton of drilling and splitting to make them work," said crewmember Michael Sullivan. Crowds of hikers on weekends also complicated matters. "Sometimes we'd have to stop every few minutes while people went by, just to be safe," crewmember Abbie Urbanak said. Finally, the shortage of suitable trees for rigging required some technical creativity to fly rocks through the air on a highline cable. "The big tripod we're using is a serious piece of hardware," noted crewmember Bob Delap. "It takes a while to set it up properly, but once the

system's running, we're able to move a lot of stone."

► **Accomplishments:** Adding onto the nearly 100 steps set last year, this year's Taconic Crew has already set dozens more, as well as constructed a long, technical section of retaining wall across an area of bedrock. They are currently working on constructing a large viewing platform at one of the trail's popular overlook areas. "It's a technically demanding trail project but rewarding at the same time," said Ed Zubrowski, who is serving on this crew for his second year. "Working on it has taught me a lot of new skills. Plus, the view is great."

HARRIMAN

Service Location: Harriman State Park
This crew's efforts are focused on the southwest portion of Harriman on sections of trail near the towns of Tuxedo and Sloatsburg. The emphasis this year has been on the westernmost section of the Ramapo-Dunderburg Trail, which was first built 100 years ago. Work here involves building and repairing stone staircases, defining the trail tread, and closure of social paths.

Our thanks to Valley Rock Inn, the Silman Family, and an anonymous donor who generously donated to the care and protection of trails in Harriman State Park and made the crew's work possible this year.

► **Challenges:** Proximity to property boundaries and rugged terrain have made obtaining enough stone difficult. Crewmember Amaris Reed noted that "some of what we're using had to be quarried and moved from a couple hundred feet away, which takes time." Crowds of backpackers on weekends also meant that the crew had to temporarily route users around their worksite. "People can get a bit confused about where they're supposed to walk and ask questions, but everyone thanks us for our work, which is nice," said crewmember Scott Campbell.

► **Accomplishments:** So far this year the Harriman Crew has set more than 30 new steps and made repairs to six more. Crewmember Frank Forte said of the progress, "it's nice to open up an area you just worked on and see people using it after you made the trail more durable and nicer to hike on." In addition to more steps, the crew plans to invest time before season's end more thoroughly closing an old route that was decommissioned by the park some years ago.



Palisades



Harriman

INVASIVES CREWS



ERIN CARRUS

AQUATIC INVASIVES STRIKE FORCE

Service Location: Lower Hudson Valley

The aquatic ISF Crew focuses on protecting the region's waters through the management and monitoring of aquatic invasive plants, zooplankton, and shelled invertebrates. They also educate boaters and anglers about aquatic invasive species spread prevention through voluntary boat inspections on the Hudson River. The crew is funded by the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management; it is hosted and led by Teatown Lake Reservation.

► **Challenges:** "It was tough not being able to have volunteers for water chestnut removals," said crew leader Erin Carrus. The crew spent over a month and a half pulling this plant, often accompanied by mucky, sulfurous sediment and lots of spiders, crayfish, and other "friends." On the Watercraft Inspection Steward Program, crew member Kate Cooper noted that "it's difficult to explain the importance of cleaning and inspecting a boat when some of these invaders can't be easily seen, so boaters may not recognize it as an issue." Aquatic plants can be easily transferred between waterbodies by hiding inconspicuously on boat trailers, while smaller animals can even hitchhike in standing water that isn't properly drained.

► **Accomplishments:** The crew removed over 92,000 water chestnut plants at 11 sites. "We were slow in the beginning, but by the end of the removal season we learned how to be more efficient and pulled more plants than in previous years," said crew member Conor Harrington. The crew has also completed 22 surveys for aquatic invasives, coming across new locations



LINDA POHLEDER

of emerging invaders like Brazilian elodea and European frog-bit. Crew member Elinor Stapylton is the resident expert on microscopy and has been instrumental in helping the crew identify zooplankton and phytoplankton, which is especially useful in detecting possible harmful algal blooms. "It's been really fulfilling to be on the front lines collecting water samples and alerting managers about potential health hazards on a lake and protecting the public," said Elinor.

TERRESTRIAL INVASIVES STRIKE FORCE

Service Location: Lower Hudson Valley

The terrestrial ISF Crew surveys for, manages, and monitors invasive plants throughout the Lower Hudson Valley. However, they don't typically manage the usual widespread offenders like Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, and burning bush. As part of a regional strategy, they work with emerging invasive species that have recently arrived to the area with the goal of total eradication. One of these projects is managing sticky sage, which has only been reported a few times in the entire United States. The infestation spans over 100 acres, but with continued effort, the ISF Crew hopes to eradicate it. They are also involved with edu-

cation and outreach. Their work is funded by the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management through the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

► **Challenges:** Many of the ISF Crew projects are ongoing since it takes years to deplete the seedbanks of invasive plants. "One of the most challenging things is getting to a site with certain expectations and discovering the site is larger than we thought," said project manager Ryan Goolic. "The crew has to be flexible and ready to change their plan every day." The weather has also been problematic. "After the hurricane in August, there were downed trees on trails and throughout the treatment areas, making navigation and management difficult," explained crew leader Devyani Mishra.

► **Accomplishments:** So far this season, the ISF Crew completed 15 projects, surveying and managing just over 200 acres and removing nearly 35,000 plants! Crewmember Katie Kearney takes photos before, during, and after management. She said it "feels great to see how different our management areas look at the end of the day. I know we're making a tangible impact for the health of our forests."

TRAIL STEWARDS



PATRICK HUNSEBERGER

Catskills

Trail Conference Trail Stewards have been bringing face-to-face user education and sustainable, on-the-ground solutions to some of the region's most popular outdoor destinations since 2013. They are key in protecting the ecological integrity of these special places being threatened by issues such as misuse and high usage.

Trail Stewards serving through the Trail Conference Conservation Corps have been in the field since June. They have been providing assistance and education at five locations: the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain State Park, Breakneck Ridge and Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, the Catskills, Croton Gorge Minnewaska State Park Preserve. (New this season, the Minnewaska program is supported with funding from a NYS Park and Trail Partnership Grant and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. Park and Trail Partnership Grants are administered by Parks & Trails New York in partnership with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.)

At the end of August, our Trail Stewards had already interacted with nearly 58,000 trail users. They have been recording notes on their experiences; find some of the highlights below and on Instagram at [@tcconservationcorps](https://www.instagram.com/tcconservationcorps).

JUNE 28

Giant Ledge, Catskills

"Today is my first time on Giant Ledge since training concluded. The weather is ideal and the view is beautiful. Despite all this, not all is perfect on Giant Ledge. On our hike we dismantle several illegal fire rings and cover damaging social trails with brush. It is discouraging to see fragile places treated this way but it reminds me how much Stewards are needed here. We also assisted several hikers in finding the best trail to take.

- Claire McMahon, Catskill Crew

JULY 17

Breakneck Ridge

In previous days stewarding here, there have been very few people who didn't have enough provisions or proper equipment to hike Breakneck, and most of the work involved advising people which trails would give them the experience they wanted. There were people who were unprepared and resistant to advice, but they felt like rare exceptions. Not today.

Today, we had multiple people an hour who were wearing flip-flops, sandals, and in one case, dress shoes. They insisted they were fine or just walked past us. Even more troubling, there were many people who had little to no water who were looking to hike



SARAH DICKINSON

Breakneck

continues on page 8 >

continued from page 7

Breakneck. On a day with the temperature climbing above 90, that was a potentially deadly mistake.

People were mainly receptive to our insistence that they not attempt the hike without water. I think the fact that they were drenched in sweat from the walk along the highway to the trailhead helped strengthen our argument. Later in the day, someone experienced heat exhaustion; we provided assistance. This was the day that outlined exactly how needed Stewards are at Breakneck.

- Ryan McClean, Hudson Valley Crew

JULY 18

Bear Mountain

It was a beautiful day at Bear Mountain! It was quite amazing to see so many people: more than 1,000. It was remarkable to me the diversity in visitors to the park. Whether hiking or picnicking, there's something for everyone! I'm really enjoying stewarding at Bear Mountain, if only for the fact that we are helping a lot of people engage in the outdoors for the first time. It is many people's first hiking experience and to be able to help them have an enjoyable time is really rewarding for me. Any information was valuable to them, and I taught quite a few people how to read blazes. There were multiple groups that came to say thank you after their hike and all seemed eager to come back.

-Rosa Bledsoe, Hudson Valley Crew



SARAH DICKINSON

Bear Mountain

AUG. 22

Minnewaska

Today was a great day on the trail. High traffic throughout the entire day from start to finish. My hike time seems to get less every time I venture my way to Gertrude's Nose. On several occasions I passed large groups ready to brave the hike; I educated them on the rare plant species that live atop the Nose. Around 2 p.m. I heard the loud buzzing that is starting to haunt me in my sleep; I immediately ran over to



PATRICK HUNSBERGER

Minnewaska

Thanks to Our Supporters!

The 2020 Steward Program would not be possible without support from the following:

- ▶ REI
- ▶ Hudson Highlands Land Trust
- ▶ John and Frank Sparacio Charitable Foundation
- ▶ Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, Inc.
- ▶ Diane Alden
- ▶ Town of Cortlandt
- ▶ Catskill 3500 Club
- ▶ Mountain Tops
- ▶ Community Grants Fund of Putnam County of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley
- ▶ Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.
- ▶ Town of Ossining
- ▶ Teatown Lake Reservation
- ▶ Marie Considine
- ▶ Marguerite Pitts
- ▶ Robert Pearson
- ▶ Choire Sicha

the gentleman manning the drone before he even got lift on the device. I informed him that drone use is indeed prohibited in Minnewaska and he politely put it away.

The day went by quickly, and I chose to complete the entire loop (7.8 miles) back to the parking lot. On my way back, I encouraged each and every hiker who was taking a break to take a good break, because this is a more intense hike than most people (including myself) may initially realize. Intense equals rewarding to me when it comes to hiking, and I like to pass that message on to hikers: It'll be worth it. And boy was it worth it!

- Patrick Hunsberger, Catskill Crew

AUG. 30

Croton Gorge Unique Area

Stewarding at the Croton Gorge Unique Area is truly a unique experience. The gentle flow of visitors allows for a genuine conversation to take place—conversation about

why the area is closed and how we aim to mitigate negative environmental impacts to this site in the future. The vibrant yellow police tape and glaring orange "CAUTION" signs stage this area almost as if it were a crime scene, and in reality it is.

The overuse and misuse of this resource is truly a crime, the Croton River being the victim. Seeing these symbols so closely associated with wrongdoing in our society integrated with the landscape of an area so well loved often piques the interest of those passing by and creates an opportunity to teach. It is very rewarding to interact with individuals who are genuinely curious and willing to expand their environmental education. These long conversations about conservation and environmental degradation with residents and visitors is what gives me hope that the site will one day be able to return to its former glory.

- Sarah Dickinson, Hudson Valley Crew



ROSA BLEDSOE

Croton

Loop Trails Bring Safer, and More Enjoyable Hiking to NJ Parks



KYLIE YANG
NEW JERSEY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Networks of marked trails usually grow organically over many years, with additions of new spurs and connectors that can eventually lead to confusing webs of different trail markings. While long-time hikers in an area take these gradual changes in stride, the final product can be overwhelming to someone new.

Over the past few years, a concerted effort has been made to identify and improve trail networks in several New Jersey parks that have disproportionate numbers of lost hikers. Ramapo Valley County Reservation was the first park to undergo these changes under the leadership of Trail Conference volunteers and staff. In addition to clarifying trail networks by combining shorter trail segments into larger, coherent loop hikes, these improvements have also included strategic new trail connections that opened up expanded hiking possibilities. In areas seeing spiking visitation and persistent issues with lost hikers, these changes have helped keep novice trail users safe while providing more opportunities for veteran outdoor enthusiasts. It's a win-win for everyone.

This year, additional trail networks are receiving similar attention. Based on input from hikers, volunteer leaders, trail stewards, search and rescue personnel, and park staff, the Trail Conference has been able to improve the experience in Ringwood State Park, Ramapo Mountain State Forest, Abram S. Hewitt State Forest, and Wawayanda State Park's Terrace Pond area by reblazing trails. No new trail construction was necessary for most of these

trail network revisions, with paint and brushes being the only tools needed.

While on-the-ground implementation only began this season, making these changes possible was a long-term project. Over the past two years, Trail Conference volunteers and staff spent countless hours discussing, planning, scouting, and obtaining state park approval for these projects. This summer's rapid burst of in-the-field activity was the culmination of all that diligence.

Chief among our state park partners are New Jersey State Park superintendents Jessica Krugel and Eric Pain. Jessica and Eric both have a long history of support and cooperation that has allowed the Trail Conference to tackle otherwise impossible projects, and these reblazing efforts are the latest successes in our partnership together.

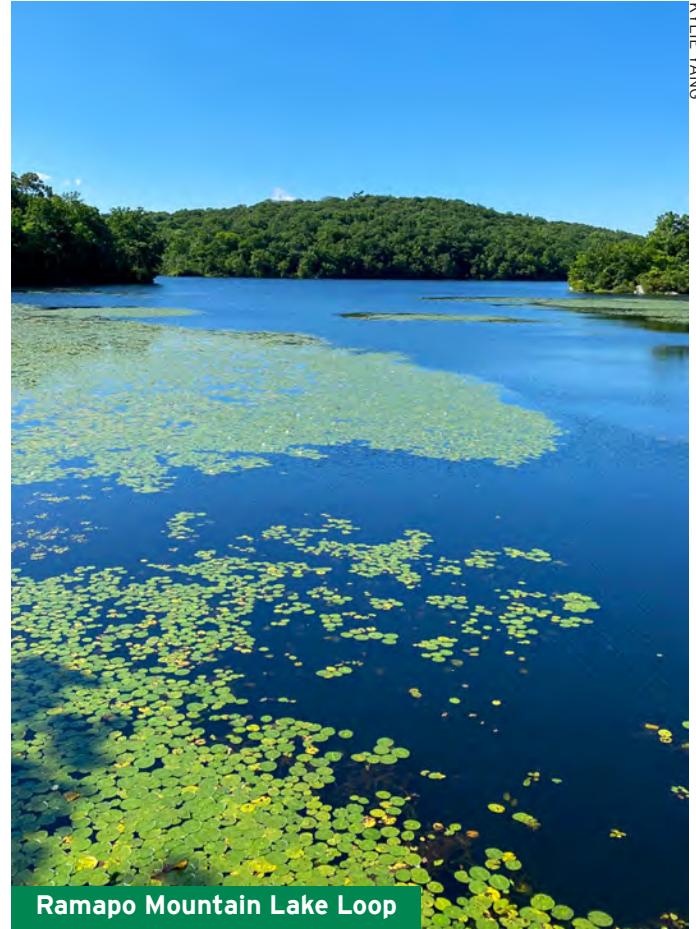
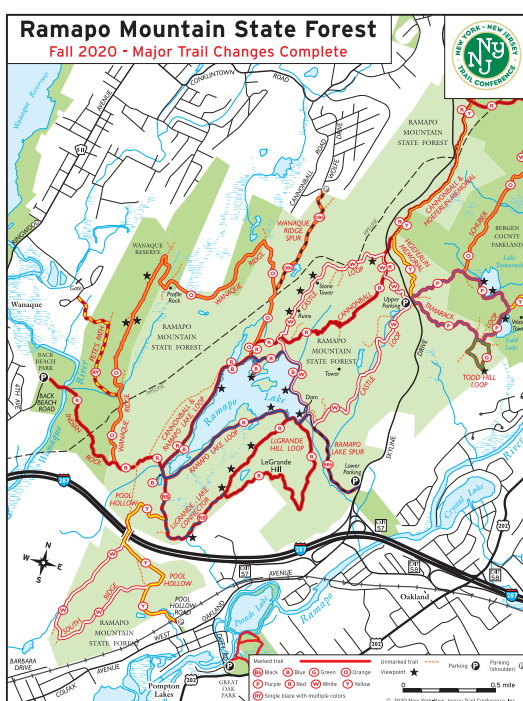
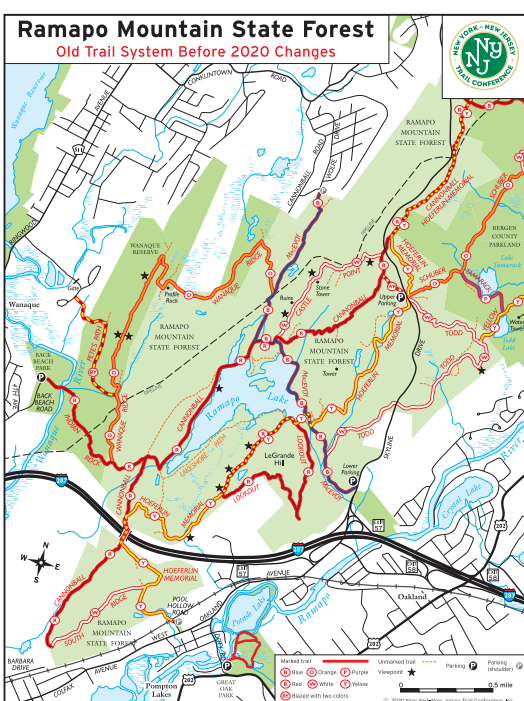
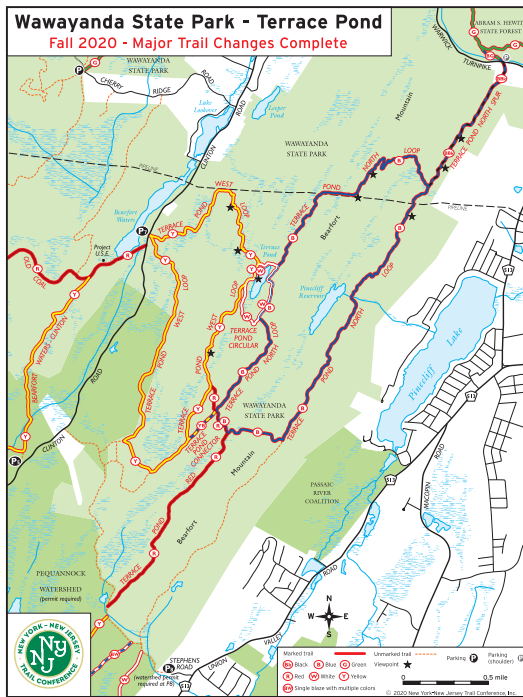
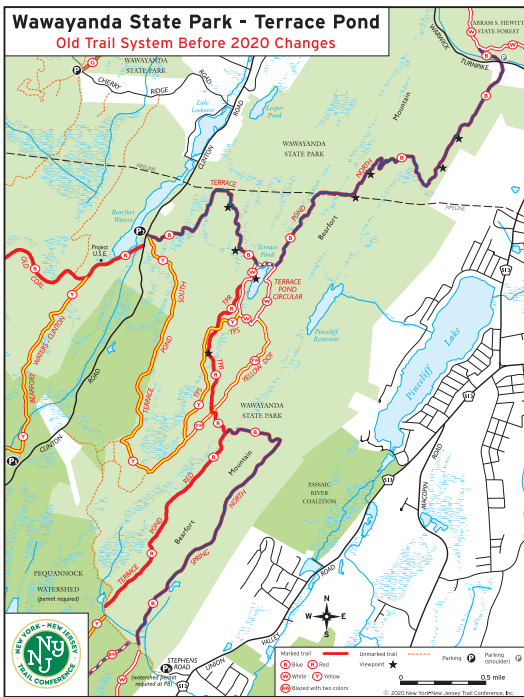
Wawayanda State Park and Abram S. Hewitt State Forest

In Wawayanda State Park and Abram S. Hewitt State Forest, Trail Chair Nick McKenna played a crucial role in planning and implementing trail changes. "Bearfort Ridge boasts some of the best hiking in New Jersey, with grand views from the mountaintop overlooks and stunning ponds hidden between the ridges," said McKenna. "For nearly 15 years, it has been my honor and privilege to care for the trails in this special and unique area. This project represents the biggest change to the region's trails in more than a generation—changing popular loop hikes into a single color to reduce lost hikers, while also creating appealing new options for experienced and adventurous hikers as well."

Supervisor Keith Scherer

BEFORE

AFTER



KYLIE YANG

Ramapo Mountain Lake Loop

addition of a spectacular new floating walkway (discussed on page 12) makes this scenic path worth a visit, even for those who have walked it before.

Castle Loop

Existing trails create a loop hike from the upper Skyline Drive parking lot, taking visitors to the popular Van Slyke Castle ruins and alongside scenic Ramapo Lake.

Ramapo Mountain State Forest and Ringwood State Park

In Ramapo Mountain State Forest, Regional Trail Chair Chris Connolly has been working all summer at a heated pace (literally) to create four new loop experiences, blazed using existing trails. These loops will allow visitors to follow one blaze color along 2- to 4-mile circuits to popular destinations like Ramapo Lake, the Van Slyke Castle ruins, and Tamarack/Todd lakes. In the past, completing one of these popular loops required linking together multiple trails; hikers of the Castle Loop, for example, previously had to follow five different blaze colors to complete this circuit through the dense local trail network. Even experienced map-users should appreciate the ease of following this trail without having to pull out the map at every intersection.

Ramapo Lake Loop

Already a popular hike, this trail departs from the lower Skyline Drive parking lot and connects to a convenient loop around Ramapo Lake.

LeGrande Hill Loop

Previously the Lookout Trail, this existing route circles LeGrande Hill with beautiful views of Ramapo Lake.

Tamarack Loop

This circuit builds the relatively new Tamarack Trail into a self-contained water-side loop experience from the upper Skyline Drive parking lot.

Todd Loop

This “bonus loop” stacks nicely onto the new Tamarack Loop for hikers looking for a little extra distance and another vista on their journey.

Five Ponds Loop

This game-changer of a trail will take you to five of Ringwood’s most beautiful ponds and water bodies. It promises to become one of the park’s premier hiking destinations! As a bonus, the trailhead parking lot has ample space to accommodate visitors even when other areas are overflowing.

We hope you have a chance to explore these trails, whether you’re a new hiker looking to gain confidence or a veteran explorer looking to see what stacked-loop routes you can make from these new configurations. For larger versions of these maps, visit bit.ly/tc-loops20.

also played an integral role in making these on-the-ground changes. Scherer, who admits he was “a geeky 12-year-old” when he got his first Trail Conference map, said he has been looking forward to the Trail Conference Centennial for 30 years. “Given the circumstances,” he said, “I could not think of a better way to celebrate: planning and building trails to get people outside and connecting with nature, the way 100 years of volunteers did before me.” What a way to celebrate! McKenna,

Scherer and their team have contributed 285.5 hours creating the following new trails:

Bearfort Ridge

Existing trails in Abram S. Hewitt State Forest have been combined to create a single-color loop from the parking lots on Warwick Turnpike. The newly blazed West Ridge Trail can be used by experienced hikers to create an alternative loop.

Terrace Pond North Loop

Recent conservation efforts in partnership with The

Land Conservation of New Jersey ensure that access to this trail will be protected in perpetuity. The incorporation of a new trail section turns this previously linear hike into a satisfying loop.

Terrace Pond West Loop

Existing trails and woods roads create a loop from Clinton Road that offers diverse forests and swamp views while leading you to Terrace Pond.

Terrace Pond Circular

While this trail is unchanged from its historic route, the

Conservation Dogs Partnership Tackles Spotted Lanternfly Issue



ARDEN BLUMENTHAL
CONSERVATION DOGS
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

As the invasive insect spotted lanternfly (SLF) encroaches closer to New York's forests, fields, and farms, state agencies have made finding and intercepting this destructive species a priority.

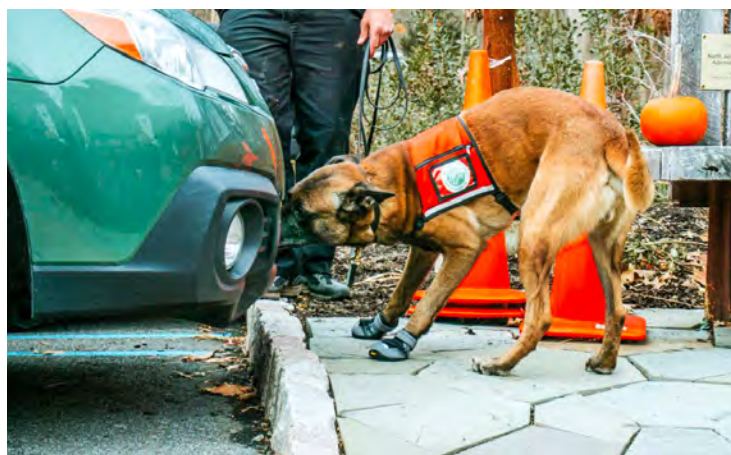
Early detection and elimination of SLF infestations is critical to preventing agricultural damage and the degradation of natural areas. Detecting populations while they are still small and not yet established would not only reduce the overall negative impacts of SLF, but also the cost of damages and management.

To address this urgent issue, many innovative tracking methods—including the use of drones, environmental DNA (eDNA) and conservation detection dogs—have been developed to bolster traditional search strategies. But how

effective is the use of detection dogs compared to other methods? That's what the Trail Conference Conservation Dogs program, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), Working Dogs for Conservation, and researchers from Cornell University want to find out.

The Trail Conference's Conservation Dogs program successfully trained our two dogs, Dia and Fagen, to detect spotted lanternfly adults in summer 2019. Since then, our team has been advancing the dogs' training, integrating different life cycles of the insect pest, as well as several possible search locations.

Researchers from Cornell's natural resources and entomology departments have partnered with the Trail Conference, NYS DEC, and Working Dogs for Conservation to tackle the SLF issue. This group of collaborators has re-



If you think you've seen SLF, email spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov in N.Y. or SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov in N.J.

cently been awarded one of seven grants through the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability.

In its 13th year, the Atkinson Venture Fund (AVF) has awarded over \$1.1 million to highly innovative and collaborative projects. By supporting projects that emphasize cross-disciplinary collaboration and innovation, AVF may

help establish the viability of some unproven research ideas so that they can receive funding from external sources in the future.

Our project will focus on quantifying the potential of using dogs to detect spotted lanternfly egg masses in one of the highest-risk agricultural settings: vineyards. Researchers will be using the data col-

lected by the Conservation Dogs program and human searchers to create an occupancy model. This model will estimate how likely SLF is to be found in a given location and how likely a dog versus a human is to find it.

Overall, the study will evaluate where SLF is expected to be found in a given location and how conservation detection dogs can be used for early detection of SLF under different environmental factors. The hope is that the results of this study will provide state agencies with tools to choose the best search methods for SLF. Not only that, but the Conservation Dogs program believes this study will lay the groundwork for future use of the conservation detection dog method for the early detection of other detrimental insect species.

Follow the work of our Conservation Dogs team on Instagram: [@diasavetheforest](https://www.instagram.com/diasavetheforest).

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

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 Inc.
www.blackrockforest.org

Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn

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

Canal Society of New Jersey
www.canalsocietynj.org

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

Catskill Mountain Club
www.catskillmountainclub.org

Chinese Mountain Club of New York
www.cmcny.org

Closter Nature Center Association
www.closternaturecenter.org

Dyke Hikes
www.meetup.com/Dyke-Hikes/

East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
www.ehtps.org

Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
www.flatrockbrook.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

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

Lewisboro Land Trust

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
www.littlestonypoint.org

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

Manitoga / The Russel Wright Design Center

Mohonk Preserve
www.mohonkpreserve.org

Monmouth County Park System

Morris County Park Commission
www.morrisparks.net

Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club
www.nassauhiking.org

The Nature Place Day Camp
thenatureplace.com

Nelsonville Greenway Committee
VillageofNelsonville.org

New Jersey Highlands Coalition
www.njhighlandscoalition.org

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

New York Alpine Club

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

New York Ramblers
www.nyramblers.org

NJBG/Skylands Association Inc

The Outdoors Club, Inc.
outdoorsclubny.org

Palisades Parks Conservancy

Pine Hill Community Center
www.pinehillcommunitycenter.org

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

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

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

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

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

South Mountain Conservancy Inc.
www.somocon.org

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

Take A Hike! N.J.
takeahikenj.com

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

TriState Ramblers
www.tristateramblers.org

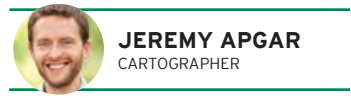
Urban Trail Conference, Inc.
www.urbantrail.org

Valley Stream Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/vshclub

Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners
www.warrenparks.com

Westchester Trails Association
www.westhike.org

New Harriman-Bear Mountain Maps Are Here for Your Fall Adventures



JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

Did you know that the first edition of our **Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails** map set was created in 1975? Forty-five years later, the 19th edition of our popular map set has been completely updated for 2020 and is now available, just in time for fall. This two-map set covers more than 230 miles of marked trails and is a must-have for your adventures on the large network of trails in Harriman and Bear Mountain state parks.

Updates on this latest edition include several trail changes, such as recent relocations of the Arden-Surebridge Trail near Island Pond, a new seasonal Long Path route, and adjustments to trails and points of interest within Kakiat County Park. Other adjustments to the map include an all-new roads layer to improve navigation to trailheads and help clarify trail crossings; improvements to water features like stream crossings and waterfall points of inter-

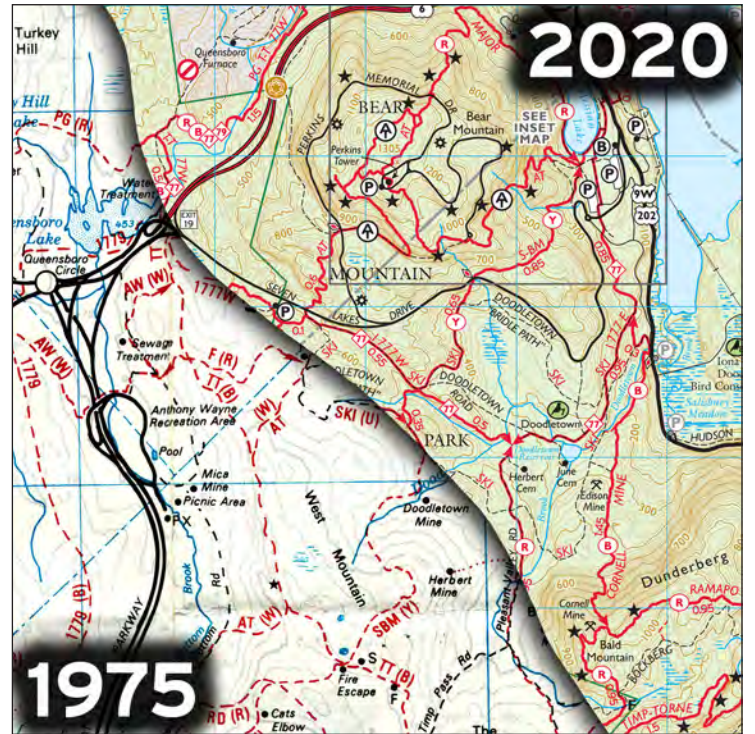
est; mileage number improvements; and unmarked trail updates. We also worked with members of the Saw Mill River Audubon to highlight areas of special interest for birding. Additional changes throughout make this 19th edition of **Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails** our most accurate map yet of these popular parks.

All maps feature detailed junction-to-junction trail mileage numbers, 20-foot el-

evation contour lines, parking areas and public transportation information, viewpoints and other points of interest, UTM gridlines, and tables of detailed trail information.

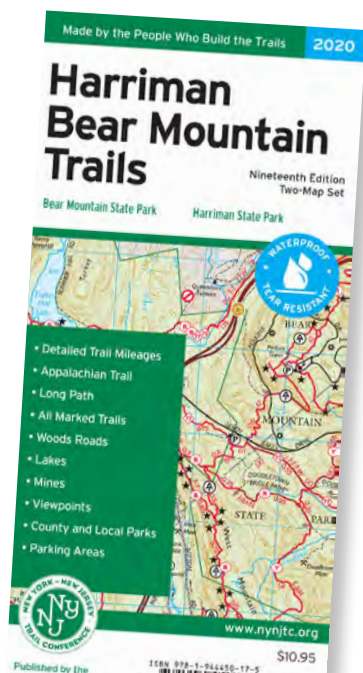
The **Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails** map is available in print format in vibrant color on our popular waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek by shopping online at nynjtc.org. In addition, it is available in digital format on Apple and Android devices through the Avenza Maps app, including as one map that combines the two section maps. As described in our last issue of Trail Walker (“Get the Most Out of Avenza Maps”, Summer 2020), if you are currently using the previous 2018 edition of these Avenza Maps app maps, you should see an “update available” notice within the app. From there you will have the option to download the latest 2020 maps at a discount. Learn more about our GPS-enhanced maps at nynjtc.org/pdfmaps.

Built on more than 85 years of mapping experience, Trail Conference maps are your source for reliable trail infor-



mation in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region. These maps are Made by the People Who Build the Trails and are regularly updated with changes to the trails. Sales of these maps directly support our organization’s efforts to keep the trails open and safe for all to enjoy.

Special thanks to volunteer project manager John Mack and all the volunteers and park partners who helped produce this map revision! The map was also produced with support from Storm King Adventure Tours, a proud supporter of our volunteers.



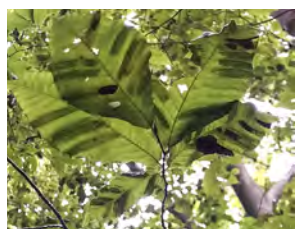
The Beech Leaf Disease Mystery



BRENT BOSCARINO
INVASIVE SPECIES CITIZEN
SCIENCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

With more people seeking the comforts and escape of the outdoors, more eyes can be on the lookout for threats to forest ecosystems and natural areas. One of the more worrying patterns emerging from reports from our volunteers concerns the health of beech trees in the Lower Hudson Valley and northern New Jersey. Many of our region’s beeches are showing signs of stress, with numerous reports of leaves curling up, darkening, and eventually withering and falling off. These symptoms are not only being seen in older beech trees, but young saplings as well. These signs are disturbing, as beeches are important climax trees that play an important role in our forest ecosystems. Many large and small mammals rely upon beech trees as an important food resource and den habitat.

Beech leaf disease (BLD) is one possibility that scientists and land managers are exploring as a potential explanation for the symptoms reported in our region. BLD was first discovered and reported in 2012 in Ohio but has expanded its distribution to include parts of Ontario, Canada, Connecticut, and parts of Westchester,



Keep an eye out for any signs of beech leaf disease on your next hike. This is the telltale striped banding pattern of BLD in the Frederick P. Rose Preserve in Waccabuc, N.Y.

Suffolk and Rockland counties in New York. The primary diagnostic symptoms of BLD include striping of beech leaves between leaf veins. These striped bands tend to start as dark green and later progress to lighter green, then brown and withered as they lose their ability to photosynthesize (see photos). The cause of BLD is still a bit of a mystery. Most experts agree that it is due to a tree pathogen and not other abiotic factors such as changes to soil acidity or rainfall patterns. Recent research has linked BLD to microscopic *Litylenchus* worms, a genus of nematodes, but no widespread studies have been performed to irrefutably confirm this.



The withered, dark green appearance of beech leaves in the Granite Mountain Preserve are seen next to an asymptomatic beech leaf (top left of photo).

Adding more complexity to the beech health issue are other reports of large swaths of beech trees in Dutchess County, N.Y., and Harriman State Park that are showing similar signs of beech leaf distress, but without the clear diagnostic banding and striping of BLD. One prevailing hypothesis is that in these instances, the leaf curling and darkening are the direct result of freeze and snow events that occurred in early May. If this is the case, we can hope that the beeches may

recover next year. These lingering questions further highlight the importance of citizen/volunteer reporting (including good photographic evidence) of beech leaf distress so we can continue to put together a more cohesive picture of what may be afflicting these trees. For more information on how to join in this beech tree effort and further species tracking efforts through the power of citizen science, contact Brent Boscarino at bboscarino@nynjtc.org.

Zero-Waste Hiking Hacks

Are you looking to take the next step in minimizing your impacts on the outdoors and the environment?

The concept of zero waste can be defined as aiming to send nothing to a landfill. While being 100% zero-waste may not always be possible, simply being more conscious of the single-use items we consume during our outdoor endeavors can have many positive impacts for the planet, including: avoiding potential litter, alleviating stress on landfills, and protecting the land and wildlife you love.

With a little planning, there are several easy steps we can all take to reduce our waste when recreating outdoors. Read our tips at bit.ly/tc-zerowastehiking20.

Heather Darley



An Innovative Solution to a Persistent Challenge



KYLIE YANG
NEW JERSEY PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

The Terrace Pond Circular Trail is home to a difficult crossing where the pond becomes a bog. This crossing had historically been a log bridge, but after a series of hurricanes, it was destroyed beyond repair. The crossing has since been a series of floating logs that require a delicate sense of balance. On several instances, we witnessed visitors lose their footing and sink, often up to their knees, into the water and deep mud beneath.

The pond's natural outlet features sheer rock edges filled with loose organic material. It is impossible to set bridge foundations; there is nothing to set them into. Stepping stones were installed at one end of the outlet by the West Jersey Trail Crew 15 years ago, but they are slowly vanishing into the mud. In the absence of a stable surface to build upon, the local geology and geography made a floating crossing the only option.

The Terrace Pond Outlet floating walkway, purchased through the generosity of long-time Trail Conference supporter Robert C. Ross, is a modular floating system manufactured by Candock, a Canadian company that has been constructing, distributing, and installing such systems for 20



No more boots will be lost in the mud at the outlet at Terrace Pond, thanks to a floating walkway and the efforts of volunteers.

years. The walkway is designed to function either on water or mud, which made it the perfect solution for this outlet, which can be largely water or largely bottomless mud, depending on the season. Over two months, the floating walkway was assembled onsite from 19-inch square “cubes,” each weighing 12 pounds. The cubes are UV- and pol-

lution-resistant. The walkway is 3 “cubes” wide and 114 feet long, extending the width of the outlet. It includes railings on both sides.

On June 29, the New Jersey Forest Fire Service delivered the 10 loads of floating walkway materials via helicopter. The West Jersey Trail Crew started work the following weekend and completed the walkway on August 30.

The materials were staged in an area just above the outlet, and a highline was rigged to transport the components to the site. While the materials were delivered preassembled in short sections, the walkway had to be built “in place”—that is, in the outlet. However, the

path of the walkway had to first be cleared of floating and submerged logs—as well as tree stumps still anchored in the ground. Then, the walkway sections were moved from the staging area via highline and lowered into the outlet. The crew had to align the ends of the two sections, then connect them together—all the while trying to keep themselves and their tools from falling into the mud or water.

“This is by far the most unusual project we have worked on,” said David Day, co-leader of the West Jersey Crew. “While the assembly was amazingly simple, working at that site was truly a challenge.”

In addition to constructing the walkway, the crew fabricated and installed a 20-foot-long trail ladder over a steep ledge on the existing trail at one end of the outlet. They also rerouted a section of trail around another steep ledge on the approach to the outlet.

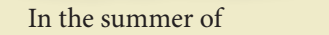
Additional support for the crew's work was provided by Wawayanda State Park, which made their service vehicles available for transport. The section of the Terrace Pond Circular Trail that crosses the outlet was closed for the duration of the work; the NJDEP Trail Stewards stationed at Terrace Pond enforced the closure, helping to ensure the success of the project.

From a conservation point of view, the new floating walkway protects the environmentally delicate shoreline and also improves water quality.

Robert C. Ross



West Jersey Crew: A Productive First Two Years of Trail Building



Pochuck: It's Now Walkable

It's been a long time coming—the 1980s, in fact—since the largest single volunteer effort on the Appalachian Trail Conference, and they should know it was really completed. The great AT relocation...
More than 2,400 hours of labor in 2001 by NYNJTC and ATC Mid-Atlantic...

—Larry Whelbeck
Trail Conference in New Jersey

In the summer of 2001, the West Jersey Crew—at that point in its second year of existence—joined the ongoing effort to construct the Appalachian Trail's Pochuck Boardwalk in Vernon, N.J. For two weekends that summer, the crew camped and worked on the boardwalk construction. The crew continued to work on the boardwalk until it was finished in 2002; they continue to care for it today as needed. Their efforts were, and continue to be, part of a massive undertaking in the works since the 1980s. In 2001, more than 2,400 hours of labor by Trail Conference and ATC Mid-Atlantic Crew volunteers—bolstered by logistics and onsite project management by NJDEP personnel—went into building 2,600 feet of boardwalk and about 400 feet of soil trail (also worked on by the West Jersey Crew). The following spring, razing over the last bridge and about 250 feet of additional boardwalk were completed. “Tie-downs” to keep the boardwalk from floating off its piers in very high water were also installed. At the time, it was the largest single volunteer effort on the Appalachian Trail.

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Experience Terrace Pond in a Whole New Way

Wawayanda State Park, located in northern New Jersey, encompasses 35,000 acres from eastern Sussex County to northern Passaic County. This sprawling park is home to Terrace Pond, a glacial lake situated at almost 1,400 feet. Here you can see the threatened and endangered: red-shouldered hawk, barred owl, and great blue heron. This region is rich in iron history: You'll find a furnace from the 1840s and remnants of the iron mining village that used to thrive here. Wawayanda was primarily a smelting site, and Bearfort Mountain was the source for trees to make charcoal to fire the forge. (While not close to this hike, the forge can be found in the main park area.) A very remote and wild area, there are frequent sightings of creatures ranging from red efts to wild turkeys to black



bear around Terrace Pond. The Terrace Pond North Loop from Warwick Turnpike features rocky terrain, mixed-oak hardwood forest and scrub oak forest, the lovely namesake pond, hemlock groves, and excellent views. It showcases some creative solution-finding on the part of Trail Conference volunteers, supporters, and partners—including a newly reconfigured trail loop system that makes navigation a little easier for visitors (read more on pages 6-7), and a floating walkway to keep feet dry for decades to come (article above). Read the hike description at bit.ly/tc-tpnl. Kylie Yang

FEATURED HIKE

Details

- ▶ **Trail:** Terrace Pond North Loop from Warwick Turnpike
- ▶ **Park:** Wawayanda State Park, Sussex County, N.J.
- ▶ **Difficulty:** Moderate to difficult
- ▶ **Length:** 8 mile loop
- ▶ **Dogs:** Allowed on leash
- ▶ **Features:** Views, glacial pond

ADVISORY
The Terrace Pond area is very popular with hikers and, while the P7 lot on Clinton Road is more crowded than Warwick Turnpike, you might still have trouble parking if you visit at a busy time. Try to schedule your hike for an “off” time such as early morning or week-day, rather than a week-end afternoon.

TAKE A HIKE!

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FREE Trail Conference cap offer with new membership!

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1-800-699-5874
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Thank You

Thank you to the following individuals who helped build the walkway: Billy Cerez, Mike Daly, Peter Dolan, Chris Durning, Shelley Harvey, Tom Karakowski, Jim Mott, Lee Mott, Justin Robinson, TJ Robinson, Tom Robinson, Tamar Schragar, Rabindra Singh, Olivia Sohn, Sean Sullivan, Bill Taggart, Linda Taggart, Dan Walter, Don Walter, Ryan Windess, Kylie Yang, Nicole Zonsius, the NJDEP Trail Stewards, and David and Monica Day, West Jersey Crew co-leaders.