



TRAIL WALKER

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

Using Our Mightiest Tool to Protect Trails and Open Space



SONA MASON
WEST HUDSON
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Sometimes, the most powerful tool in the Trail Conference arsenal isn't rock bars or loppers, but our unified voice.

The voices of trail lovers near and far rang loud and clear when the Trail Conference raised the alarm that the Long Path and Highlands Trail are at risk of being severed in Orange County, N.Y. This summer, we succeeded in making the protection of these long-distance trails part of the conversation in the closely watched proposal to create the new Town of Palm Tree, which would include the Village of Kiryas Joel.

The Trail Conference has raised concerns in regards to the various proposals to expand development where the

Long Path and Highlands Trail co-align. Currently, vacant parcels along Seven Springs Road provide a woodland character for these trails, but the new proposals would likely lead to intense development. The rocky lands with moss-covered cliffs between Gonzaga Park and the Heritage Trail in Monroe are rich in wildlife habitat, and are the last refuge in the area for these multi-state trails. This critical pinch point forms a vital greenway connecting two state parks: Schunnemunk Mountain and Goosepond Mountain. If the land around Seven Springs Road is developed, the experience on these trails will be severely impacted and the parks will be isolated.

Before two public hearings on the issue in August, the Trail Conference called for the creation of a green corridor

Did You Know?

► The **358-mile Long Path** connects New York City at the George Washington Bridge with John Boyd Thacher Park in Albany County. The **182-mile Highlands Trail** connects the Delaware River in New Jersey to the Hudson River at Storm King Mountain.

between Gonzaga Park and the Heritage Trail to protect the Long Path and Highlands Trail. Members rallied by sending emails, making phone calls, and appearing at meetings to ensure Orange County legislators are aware of the significant threat that major residential



SONA MASON

Sign up for our e-newsletter at bit.ly/tc-ews for updates on this and other issues affecting trails.

development poses to these much-needed green corridors. Building on this momentum, the Trail Conference has been meeting with state, county, and municipal officials to come up with viable options for protecting these long-distance trails.

The Trail Conference has played a role in nearly every major conservation movement in the region for almost 100 years. We will continue to represent trail users in this and all battles to ensure public trails and parks remain open and safe for the next century—and beyond.

Championing the Long Path

Since 1960, the Trail Conference has spearheaded the effort to maintain, protect, and complete the Long Path. From unwavering advocacy efforts to key land acquisitions to an end-to-end race series, the Long Path—"New York's Greatest Trail"—has an ever-evolving story to tell. Turn to pages 6-7 to read more.

Working to Keep Blue Hole Beautiful



C. Stephens, Ian Dunn, Nikki Wowaka, and Sabina Cardenas greeted and educated visitors at the Blue Hole.

Due to overuse and misuse, Peekamoose Blue Hole in the Catskills was identified as a 2017 Leave No Trace Hot Spot. In other words, the Blue Hole has now been nationally recognized as a place in danger of being loved to death.

As part of the Leave No Trace Hot Spot Week at the Blue Hole in August, the Trail Conference-managed Catskill Conservation Corps, along with our friends at Leave No Trace, the Adirondack Mountain Club, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, came together for a litter clean-up. On Aug. 18, over 40 volunteers

removed more than 18 bags of trash from this swimming hole and the surrounding area.

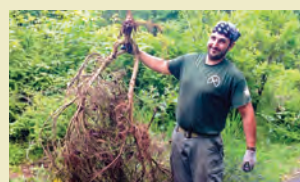
The following weekend, DEC staff and Sabina Cardenas, the Trail Conference's Head Summit Steward in the Catskills, set up an information table at the Blue Hole trailhead to greet visitors and educate them on regulations and Leave No Trace principles. "We wanted everyone to feel welcome, but also instill a sense of responsibility," says Sabina, who happily offers greetings and tips to Catskill guests in two languages. "Large groups gladly took bags

for their garbage and tossed it at the nearby dumpster. That's the kind of help we're looking for from our visitors."

Sabina continued to welcome visitors at Blue Hole on weekends through mid-September. The Catskill Conservation Corps organized two additional clean-ups, all in an effort to continue the message delivered during the events of Hot Spot Week.

"People are starting to realize they need to do their part," Sabina says. "Blue Hole is a gorgeous place, and hopefully these efforts continue so that everyone can see its beauty for years to come." Heather Darley

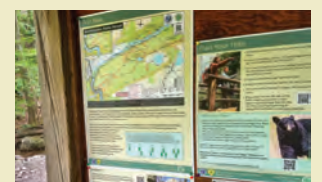
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Art Adventurer Gregory Frux Explores 'Wild Landscapes'



GREGORY FRUX

"Cerro Fitzroy," the highest peak in Patagonia



GLENDHA HAAS
ART SELECTION
COMMITTEE CHAIR

"Wild Landscapes, Near and Far," featuring oil paintings depicting diverse scenes from the Shawangunks to Patagonia by artist-adventurer Gregory Frux, will be on display in the gallery at Trail Conference Headquarters from Oct. 2 through Jan. 5, 2018. Frux will also be the featured speaker at the Trail Conference's annual gala, this year themed Keep It Wild, on Thursday, Oct. 19.

FruX studied painting and architecture in New York, but a love of the outdoors and wilderness travel has called to him since childhood. By age 20, he had walked 1,000 miles on the Appalachian Trail; he has since backpacked and traveled throughout the great ranges of North America and

If You Go

- ▶ **What:** "Wild Landscapes, Near and Far" featuring the work of Gregory Frux
- ▶ **When:** Oct. 2 through January 5, 2018, during regular Trail Conference hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday
- ▶ **Where:** Trail Conference Headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, N.J.
- ▶ **Details:** Find out more at nynjtc.org.

has summited 97 peaks over 10,000 feet. Recently, he has focused on technical rock climbing.

A great opportunity to integrate his love for the arts and the outdoors came through the

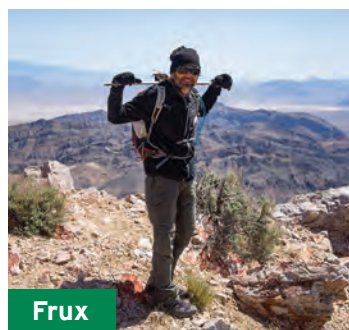
artist-in-residence programs in various national parks, including Weir Farm National Historic Site, Joshua Tree, Glacier, and Death Valley. In addition to painting and drawing, he gave educational talks and led hikes in each of these locations. His work is now part of the National Park Service's permanent collection.

FruX was also artist-in-residence aboard the cruise ship Orlova to Antarctica, where he painted from the ship deck, capturing the hours-long twilight and penguin colonies close up. He has traveled extensively in Arctic Norway and South America, and in all of these places, has kept elaborate sketch journals and done oil paintings capturing the natural beauty and local history. This summer, Frux will be the first-ever artist-in-residence at Mount Washington Observatory.

2017 Trail Conference Gala: Keep It Wild

The allure of unplugging from technology and reconnecting with nature is drawing more people outdoors, making the Trail Conference's efforts more important than ever. Join us in celebrating the people who protect our connection with nature and Keep It Wild at the 3rd Annual Trail Conference Gala on Thursday, Oct. 19.

Brooklyn-based artist and adventurer Gregory Frux is the keynote speaker. He is an advocate for the environment, leading workshops for the Appalachian Mountain Club and devoting time and art to support conservation of unprotected wilderness in Utah. At the gala, Frux will draw on lessons learned during his ad-



RONALD BEIMEL

FruX

ventures when he discusses the importance of wilderness, whether in our own backyards or the far reaches of the planet.

During the festivities, we will be acknowledging the exceptional work of our outstanding corporate and public partners: REI and Bergen County Department of Parks. Long-time

volunteer Daniel Chazin will receive the Raymond H. Torrey Award, the Trail Conference's most prestigious award, given for significant and lasting contributions that protect hiking trails and the land upon which they rest. The night will include live entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, craft beverages, an auction, and more.

Our 2017 gala is made possible by the generosity of lead sponsor Cereus Financial Advisors, with additional support from Inserra Supermarkets Inc., BD, TD Bank, Campmor, Old Souls, Just Energy, and Valley Trust.

The gala is exclusive to Trail Conference members. For tickets, visit bit.ly/tc-gala17.

2018 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. 4, at Trail Conference Headquarters (600 Ramapo Valley Rd, Mahwah, N.J.). Meeting details are still being developed, but save the date.

WALTER DANIELS

Walt, of Mohegan Lake, N.Y., is a Trail Conference Life Member and currently serves as a member of the Board. Walt is active on the Policy Council as well as the Governance, Publications, Sawyers, Strategy, and Technology committees. Walt's term on the Board is renewed through 2020.

ANDREW GARRISON

Andy, of Wurtsboro, N.Y., is a current Board member and chair of both the Conservation Committee

and the Long Path North Committee. Andy's term on the Board is renewed through 2020.

RICHARD LEVINE

Rick, of Upper Saddle River, N.J., is a Trail Conference Life Member and currently serves as Board treasurer; he is also a member of the Audit Committee. Rick's term on the Board is renewed through 2020.

BETH RAVIT

Beth, of Closter, N.J., is a current Board member and an active member of the Audit, Finance, and Strategy committees. Beth's term on the Board is renewed through 2020.

EDWARD SAIFF

Eddie, of Mahwah, N.J., is current chair of the Board and of the Nominating Committee; he is also active on the Governance and Management committees. Eddie's term on the Board is renewed through 2020.

For full Board bios, visit nynjtc.org/about-us.

At-Large Voting Members

- ▶ Therese Allen
- ▶ Susan Barbuto
- ▶ Suse Bell
- ▶ Cliff Berchtold
- ▶ Norman Blumenstein
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- ▶ Matt Decker
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See website for dates & details.

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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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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Revisiting Our Mission

When the Trail Conference was founded in 1920, its purpose was to develop a system of marked trails and shelters so that parklands could be better enjoyed by the public.

As the planned trails were completed over the next decade, it became evident that ongoing trail maintenance was needed, too. Over the years, other activities in support of public trails were added to the mission of the organization, including the publication of trail guides and maps, trail advocacy, land acquisition, and habitat protection.

Nearly a century later, our mission is essentially the same as it was when the Trail Conference was founded. However, the environment in which we pursue that mission continues to change. Trail users are more numerous and diverse, the internet makes trails profusely accessible but doesn't promote trail knowledge or etiquette, park budgets are stretched thin, habitat protection has



become increasingly important, and global warming is altering everything.

Yet despite—or perhaps, more accurately, because of—these influences, creating and protecting high-quality trail experiences remains our primary purpose. Volunteering will continue to be the primary means by which we are able to accomplish the most with the least. Increasing awareness of the scope and scale of the Trail Conference's work is perhaps our greatest challenge, and it is absolutely essential for attracting sufficient volunteers and donors to accomplish it all.

That's why, as the Trail Conference approaches its 100th year, we've updated our mission statement. The heart of the Trail Conference has not changed since the mission was last revised 20 years ago, but

the words we use today better address the contemporary challenges and opportunities we face:

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 statement is a combination of mission and vision. In two sentences, it provides a high-level description of who we are, what we do, and what we expect to achieve. It is meant to inform, challenge, and inspire.

Paired with an updated set of values statements, we aim to reach and inspire a broader audience than ever before. The Trail Conference has always been a values-led organization; these core values are meant to be used to guide our attitudes, actions, and decision-making on a daily basis:

The joys of nature belong



The new statement is a combination of mission and vision. ... It provides a high-level description of who we are, what we do, and what we expect to achieve. It is meant to inform, challenge, and inspire.

Goodell



a healthy planet has to offer. **The right path is always a responsible one.** We take land stewardship seriously and approach every decision—whether we're out in the field or in our headquarters—with balanced judgment and firm conscience.

Respect is essential to success. In our partnerships, we exercise the same courtesy we advocate for on the trail, and we strive to be a trusted source of information and expertise for the trail community.

Trails have always belonged to all of us. And in that spirit, we want the Trail Conference to be a place where everyone who has a love of trails and natural areas feels like they belong and can give back. In that spirit, we hope our new mission, vision, and values statements reach everyone, promoting our integral role in their connection with nature and inviting them to join us in the cause.

Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

Creating Better Signage for a Better Trail Experience



PETER DOLAN
NEW JERSEY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

We've all seen them before—trailhead kiosks filled with waterlogged pages of info, sun-faded trail maps, inconsistent content, or no content at all. So it's with great pleasure that the Trail Conference can announce that, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, our staff and volunteers have developed a new set of signage for installation in most of the New Jersey state parks and forests where we maintain trails. These include popular destinations such as Mount Tammany in Worthington State Forest and Stairway to Heaven in Wawayanda State Park, as well as less-traveled areas that lacked trailhead signage entirely, such as parts of Norvin Green State Forest.

The final design is a set of panels that fit together like dominos. These signs allow each park to show a large, full-contour trail map, inter-



▶ When you find our new kiosks on your New Jersey adventures, snap a photo and tag us with #nynjtc on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter for a chance to be featured on our feed.

active map download link, description of the park's history and features, information on preparing for a hike, bear protocol, and info on how to become a trail volunteer. The signs are printed on PVC plastic in weatherproof, full-color ink—the same material used for lawn signs—which makes replacing damaged or outdated signs easy and cost-effective. This project was made possible through funding from a New Jersey Recre-

ational Trails Program grant.

These signs represent a huge success for the Trail Conference. For nearly 100 years, we have maintained trails on public land with relatively little publicity. Hikers could spend years in their favorite parks and, if they didn't bump into one of our trail maintainers, might never know how much volunteer work goes into keeping these areas safe and open. By putting this signage at trailheads, we not only ensure that hikers have access to legible maps and info when they need it, but also help spread the word that we're seeking volunteers to keep up the good work. As trails see increased use (and the erosion that comes with it), these new kiosk displays will help us reach more potential volunteers.

great service project—it's a popular one among Eagle Scout candidates—so if you know anyone interested in this kind of work, please contact Peter Dolan at pdolan@nynjtc.org.

Kiosk Builders Needed

Along with our park partners, we've identified a few locations in need of new kiosks—and we're looking for volunteers to help build them. Building kiosks is a

News in Brief

Road Closures on Route 202 at Trail Conference Headquarters

A section of Route 202 is closed for replacement of the culvert located just north of Trail Conference Headquarters at the Darlington Schoolhouse in Mahwah, N.J. The closure is expected to be in effect through October. Find detour information at bit.ly/tc-202rc.

Trail Conference to Host A.T. Vista 2020

The Trail Conference is proud to be selected as host of A.T. Vista 2020, the biennial conference celebrating the Appalachian Trail. Tentative dates are Aug. 7-10, 2020, at Ramapo College of New Jersey in Mahwah, right next to our headquarters. For more info and updates, visit atvista2020.org.

Celebrate the Catskills During the 2017 Lark in the Park

The 2017 Catskills Lark in the Park will be held Saturday, Sept. 30, through Monday, Oct. 9. Since its inception in 2004, the Lark has brought together people and organizations participating in hundreds of events aimed at celebrating and heightening awareness of the Catskill Mountains region of New York State and the Catskill Park. Activities annually include organized hikes, bicycle trips, paddles, service, and cultural and educational events. The coordination of this event is managed through a partnership between the Trail Conference, the Catskill Mountain Club, The Catskill Center, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. We'll be hosting several events this year; check out the full schedule at catskillslark.org.

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Best Practices Adopted in New Outdoor Activity Safety Guidelines

The safety and satisfaction of our volunteers is paramount. To help reduce the risk of accidents and avoid injuries, the Trail Conference has formalized several best practices in a set of Outdoor Activity Safety Guidelines. The Guidelines will be recommended as best practices initially, with the intention of phasing them in as requirements over the next 24 months. During that time, training and support will be provided.

How will these new guidelines affect you? For many volunteers, there will be no change in how you approach your responsibilities. Others will need to take additional steps to reduce the risk of injury while out on the trails.

▶ The complete Outdoor Activity Safety Guidelines are available for review at bit.ly/tc-oasg. Be on the lookout for information sessions and workshops later this year. Sign up for E-Walker for bi-monthly newsletters to stay informed on this and more trail news.

To help understand the best practices we are enacting, meet some volunteers who are taking steps to ensure they are safe and following the new Outdoor Activity Safety Guidelines.  **Josh Howard**

TRAIL MAINTAINERS

Matthew Maintainer is a trail maintainer on Slide Mountain. Matthew always carries a first aid kit, his water bottle, snacks, work gloves, and a pair of clippers. The Guidelines also require Matthew to wear eye protection, such as safety goggles or glasses (sunglasses and prescription glasses are fine).

INVASIVE PLANT SURVEYORS

Surveyor Sandy is an invasives surveyor in the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area. In addition to her GPS and plant identification materials, she carries a first aid kit. Sandy is likely to encounter some of the same potential hazards—uneven terrain, slip/trip and fall hazards, poison ivy/oak, insect bites, and bee stings—



JEREMY ARGAR

as Matthew, but since she is not cutting and clipping, eye protection is not required.

WORKSHOP LEADERS

Teaching Trisha and Thomas are leading a trail maintenance workshop for 20 volunteers in Fahnestock State Park. Prior to the workshop, Thomas checks their first aid kit, counts out eye protection and gloves for all attendees, confirms Trisha's first aid certification is still valid, and checks where the closest medical facilities are located. Thomas also rehearses his tailgate safety speech to remind participants of the potential hazards they might encounter during the workshop.

TRAIL CREWS

Leader Lara is a trail crew leader working to rebuild a section of the Mullet Loop Trail in the Neversink River Unique Area. Before the work trip, Lara's crew meets at the trailhead to review the planned work, potential hazards, safety procedures, and required safety gear for the day. Lara reminds everyone which crew members have wilderness first aid or basic first aid certifications and where the nearest hospital is located. She tells the crew that she will be carrying the first

aid kit. Lara explains the work plan is to build a small turnpike along an eroded section of trail and that they will be using hammers to crush rock, so eye and ear protection, dust masks, hard hats, and gloves will be required. During this tailgate safety session, she asks Unprepared Eugene to change out of his shorts and flip-flops and put on his long pants and boots. Lara also privately checks with Allergic Alan, making sure he packed his Epi-Pen since he is highly sensitive to bee stings.

SAWYERS & SWAMPERS

Chainsaw Charlie and Swamper Stephanie are preparing to clear blow downs on the Four Birds Trail. Charlie has a valid B level sawyer certification from completing the mandatory USFS chainsaw safety course, and both have current first aid certifications. Charlie and Stephanie regularly

work together as a sawyer and swamper team, but prior to leaving the trailhead, they review their equipment and plans for the day. Stephanie makes sure they each have hard hats, ear and eye protection, gloves, and a first aid kit with trauma packs. Charlie inspects his saw, sawyer chaps, bar oil, and fuel canisters. Each has a back-

pack with water and food, as well as long-sleeved clothing to wear while working. Stephanie has an emergency whistle she uses to communicate with Charlie while he is working. They share in assessing the safety of their work sites, and Charlie is careful to communicate his cutting plans with Stephanie before he starts his saw.



SONA MASON

TRAIL CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

May 16 - August 15, 2017

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Trail Conference Receives 5-Year Contract to Continue Leading Lower Hudson LHPRISM

For the last five years, the Trail Conference has been doing our part to protect the rich biodiversity of the region as leaders of the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (LHPRISM). During this time, LHPRISM partners have removed more than 220,000 invasive plants over 1,600 acres and involved 7,000 volunteers in protecting our natural areas. So we're thrilled to announce that the Trail Conference has been awarded a new, 5-year contract from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to continue leading the Lower Hudson region's invasive species management efforts from 2018-2022.

This new contract allows us to build on the successes of our current program. We plan to:

- ▶ Work with partners to develop and implement a regional strategy for invasive species management.
- ▶ Develop management plans for high-priority species in the region.
- ▶ Offer training programs for volunteers and members of the public.
- ▶ Assist with developing site management plans.
- ▶ Continue our volunteer programs, such as the BlockBuster Survey and Southern Pine Beetle trap monitoring.
- ▶ Enhance our capacity to detect new invaders in the region.

You Can Help

▶ Invasives know no boundaries; a robust Invasives Strike Force in both New York and New Jersey benefits the entire region. Help us expand our efforts—please consider helping the Trail Conference fund a dedicated New Jersey Invasives Strike Force crew in 2018 and 2019. Call Development Director Don Weise at 201.512.9348 ext. 813 for more information. To donate directly to our invasives work in New Jersey, go to nynjtc.org/donate and write "NJ ISF Crew" in the special instructions box.

More Awards for Invasives Programs

The Trail Conference was also awarded a 3-year NYS DEC Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control grant in July to manage sticky sage (*Salvia glutinosa*) in Dover, Japanese angelica tree (*Aralia elata*) in Red



Giant hogweed is a priority species for LHPRISM to eradicate.

▶ Improve our website and social media presence.

With this funding, we will grow the impact of our work with:

- ▶ Full-time staffing of an invasives program educator and volunteer coordinator, an invasives project manager, and an aquatic program coordinator.
- ▶ Full funding for a seasonal crew to perform invasive plant early detection and control work in the Lower Hudson

Hook, silver vine (*Actinidia polygama*) in Mt. Kisco, and giant hogweed throughout the Lower Hudson region.

We also recently completed a program agreement with USDA APHIS to head up the mile-a-minute biocontrol program for the Lower Hudson, which will fund a seasonal intern position and provide for biocontrol weevil releases.

region and a seasonal aquatic stewards crew to perform watercraft inspections and survey for aquatic invasives.

- ▶ Budget an annual amount of \$100K for contract projects.

Dr. Linda Rohleder, the Trail Conference's Director of Land Stewardship, will continue to lead LHPRISM and its 45 partner organizations. The aquatic program will be led by Samantha Epstein at Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.

Mike Young, a member of the 2016 Invasives Strike Force Crew, is the new terrestrial invasive species project manager. He is responsible for overseeing all invasive plant control projects we undertake and training and managing the seasonal ISF Conservation Corps crew. Eric Stone is the new invasives program educator and volunteer coordinator. He will conduct training sessions and manage the volunteers for our ISF program and several programs for the LHPRISM.

Creating a Blueprint to Protect New Jersey's Last Undeveloped Lands

Newark's Branch Brook Park, preserved in 1895, was the first county park in the United States and the beginning of a proud legacy for New Jersey as a national leader in land conservation. In 1961, the division of Green Acres was created to help N.J. municipalities through the often challenging and costly process of land acquisition. Through the work of Green Acres, local and county governments, and nonprofits, a third of the state's approximately 5.4 million acres has been preserved. Conversely, a third of the state has been developed, leaving around one third of the state "up for grabs." These remaining acres and the conservation opportunities they represent are the focus of a project called the New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

- ▶ Feedback or questions about the Conservation Blueprint can be sent to conservationblueprint@gmail.com, or via the comments section in the menu bar of each map on the website.

As New Jersey moves toward becoming the first state to reach full build-out—projected to occur within the next 50 years—fostering a collaborative approach to preserve the state's most valuable lands has become more important than ever. The Blueprint brought together a steering committee of over 20 nonprofit organizations and state and federal agencies to identify the most critical lands that



The Conservation Blueprint is a tool to help preserve open space in N.J.

remain vulnerable to development. Led by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the GeoLab at Rowan University, the committee decided which values would inform the prioritization models used to identify conservation opportunities as they relate to water quality, ecology, agriculture, and community green space.

The results of this process can be found at njmap2.com/blueprint. Here you can look at the priority maps, as well as the data sets and reference layers that support them. (The priority models are still a work in progress as the methodology is refined using input from various advisory boards.) The design and navigation of the maps are user-friendly, allowing anyone to view data

at both a statewide and parcel level, with multiple base maps available. Members of environmental commissions and open space planning boards have already reported the usefulness of this tool.

The Conservation Blueprint is indeed a planning tool, and one of its primary goals is to be used in building connected networks of protected lands and trails. The current trails data set is incomplete, but the Trail Conference sits on a task force that is working on creating a comprehensive, statewide trails layer to make the Blueprint even stronger. The hope is that with the aid of the Conservation Blueprint, more land is preserved and more trails are built to connect people with protected open space. [Adam Page Taylor](#)

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 dozens of partner discounts.



Solar for Good: Suntuity
▶ Suntuity Solar offers an affinity program for New Jersey residents of the Trail Conference. Request a free quote for installing a solar panel system at your home or business. www.solarforgood.org/NY-NJTrailConference

BROOKLYN CAMP SUPPLY



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▶ 20% discount on regularly priced items. Members can use the code NYNJTC16. 144 N. Seventh St. Brooklyn, NY 888.610.6418



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495 N. Franklin Tpke. Ramsey, NJ 201.962.8383 www.bodynbrain.com



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▶ Get dealer's invoice pricing on Subaru, Hyundai, Kia, and Genesis vehicles.
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Liberty Kia
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Liberty Hyundai & Liberty Genesis
305 Route 17 North Mahwah, NJ
201.529.2400 www.libertycarsnj.com

From the photographer, Steve Aaron:

What the Long Path Means to Me

“To me, the Long Path is distinctly New York in its diversity of terrain and scenery. Starting in the city, the trail wanders through parklands surrounded by suburbs. It continues through some of the state’s greatest parks, highest mountains, charming rural towns, and ends just outside the state capital.

The diversity of landscapes on the Long Path is truly moving. The Hudson River, New York’s historical lifeblood, is visible from the Long Path in many spots. The trail covers the Palisades, Harriman, Schunmunk, Wallkill Valley, Shawangunks, Catskills, and the hills and escarpments of Albany County in a journey of physical and beautiful diversity.

From the lowest point at sea level along the Hudson to the trail’s summit atop Slide Mountain, the Long Path takes in a sampling of all that is beautiful and interesting in the Hudson Valley region.”

Steve Aaron specializes in conservation, recreation, and tourism photography. Find him at www.steveaaronphoto.com, or on Facebook @SteveAaronPhotography.

THE LONG PATH:

‘NEW YORK’S GREATEST TRAIL’

STEVE AARON



Morning on the Long Path in the Shawangunks.

Conceived in 1931 as New York’s answer to the Long Trail in Vermont, the Long Path was originally meant to be an unmarked route connecting scenic or historic points of interest from New York City to Lake Placid. Since 1960, the Trail Conference has spearheaded the effort to maintain, protect, and complete this long-distance trail. Today, the aqua-blazed Long Path extends 358 miles from 175th Street Subway Station in Manhattan to John Boyd Thacher State Park near Albany, connecting the most cosmopolitan area in the country with the region’s most wild places. The goal is to extend the trail across the Mohawk River and Saratoga County to link with the Adirondack State Park trail system.

By the Numbers

358

Miles in length, from Manhattan to John Boyd Thacher State Park

430

Approximate mileage, once the trail is constructed to the northern terminus in Northville, Fulton County

12

Counties the Long Path traverses

148

People who are documented as completing the trail from NYC to Thacher Park. This record-keeping began in 1991.

9

Days to complete the Long Path by record-holder Ken Posner

170 Acres of Open Space Protected to Enhance Long Path Experience

The Trail Conference, with a generous grant from the Open Space Institute (OSI) and tireless support from the local Long Path North Hiking Club, has purchased approximately 170 acres of undeveloped land in Berne in Albany County, N.Y., for permanent protection. The acquisition allows the Trail Conference to take the Long Path off of a 2.35-mile road walk and reroute it through woodlands.

The Trail Conference’s work on the Long Path over the last 30 years has focused on fully protecting the existing trail corridor and eliminating road walks with strategic land purchases and trail relocations and construction efforts.

“We very much appreciate our good working relationships with the Long Path North Hiking Club and OSI, which will allow the popular Long Path to be enjoyed by the public for generations to come,” said Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell.

The acquired property has

been recognized as a priority opportunity to protect and enhance the Long Path. Approximately 11.5 trail miles east of Middleburgh, N.Y., the Long Path reaches the western side of the property. Currently, the trail then makes a long road detour around the north and east sides of the property before entering the state-protected lands of the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area. Together with recently attained trail agree-

Protecting Trails and Creating Parks

The Trail Conference’s Conservation Committee works to preserve open space with a vision to create green corridors, eventually linking lands that have already been preserved. Our work in purchasing key parcels of land for transfer to state

ownership not only improves the trail experience by allowing us to move trails off of road walks, it also aids in the creation and expansion of public parks. The Trail Conference has played an important role in conserving lands that led to the preservation of several state forests, including Huckleberry Ridge, Graham Mountain, Gobbler’s Knob, and Roosa Gap.

ments over neighboring lands, the reroute will run southeasterly through the property to the northeastern corner of the Wildlife Management Area. From there, it will continue east along its present route.

The purchase includes a small house and outbuildings. The developed lot has been subdivided from the undeveloped land for separate sale. The Trail Conference will hold the land until it is sold for permanent protection by the state.

STEVE AARON



Follow the Long Path to spectacular places like the Indian Ladder Trail in John Boyd Thacher State Park.

People for Trails

ANDY GARRISON

Wurtsboro, NY

"It takes a lot to manage a trail that is 430 miles long," Andy Garrison says matter-of-factly. As volunteer chair of the Long Path North and chair of the Trail Conference Conservation Committee, it's quite possible that Andy knows more about and devotes more time to preserving and improving the Long Path than anyone else.

Beyond the formidable task of ensuring this long-distance trail is properly maintained, the elements of advocacy and conservation are an ever-present challenge. Andy explains: "In a state park, for example, the trails are protected, and you work with the park officials. But the Long Path crosses the land of many different government agencies, corporations, and private landowners, and each of these has their own set of rules and management practices. So in addition to trail maintenance," Andy says, "we are constantly working to move sections of the trail that are on roads into the woods."

This is done by getting approvals to construct new trail on already protected land—not always an easy task, Andy says, as it sometimes takes more than a decade or two to get these approvals from the land managers. In areas that lack preserved land, the Trail



The Long Path is now 86 years old. Its time has come.

Andy Garrison



Conference relies on private landowners to allow the trail to cross their property. Andy and his fellow Conservation Committee members also work to purchase strategic parcels of land with a vision to eventually link already preserved land, creating green corridors for trails like the Long Path to traverse.

The Long Path has personal significance to Andy, who hiked the entire trail with his son in a series of backpacking trips in 2006, two years after the pair had completed Vermont's Long Trail (the original inspiration for the Long Path itself). "I realized

after the Vermont trip that the Long Path needed a lot of things before it was ready to be a pleasurable trail to thru hike," he recalls. Already active in maintaining and protecting trails along the Shawangunk Ridge, Andy moved his focus to the Long Path, and has been making considerable contributions to the trail for the last 13 years. In that time, thousands of acres of undeveloped land have been preserved and about 40 miles of the Long Path have been moved off of roads.

Inspired by that progress and the increased interest in the trail, Andy is optimistic that the completion of the Long Path remains a reality. "Beyond the current terminus at Boyd Thacher State Park, work has already begun to extend the Long Path," he says. Then he adds: "We can always use more help."

KEN POSNER

New York, NY

Since thru-running the Long Path in 2013—in just nine days, the current fastest known time—Ken Posner has become one of the most enthusiastic champions of the trail. Whether on his blog, *The Long Brown Path*, in his book, *Running the Long Path*, or in casual conversation, he speaks about the trail with respect and reverence. In the last four years, he has become a Trail Conference Board member, volunteer supervisor for 30 miles of the trail in the southern Shawangunks, and is organizer of the Long Path race series of trail-racing events, designed to promote and celebrate this storied trail.

"The experience of completing the Long Path was so special for me," Ken says. "It's my life's goal to get more people to complete the Long Path, whether hiking or running, in sections or straight through—especially for those folks who will never have enough time to do the Appalachian Trail."

Ken finds the trail's principal idea—a footpath connecting Manhattan to the Adirondack Park—a spectacular concept, but



says the trail in its current state is a remarkable experience that deserves more attention, from both a recreation and conservation standpoint.

"The Long Path is a living, breathing thing, and a labor of love on behalf of the volunteers who are continually working to improve it," Ken says. "It connects the dots between the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley and the cosmopolitan sprawl of the New York metropolitan area, taking you to some very special places and some very popular places. No two miles of the Long Path are the same, which makes it such a unique trail to explore and so important to protect."

Friends of the Long Path

Friends of the Long Path is a dedicated group working to improve the overall hiking and backpacking experience for New York State's Long Path. Search "Friends of the Long Path" on Facebook to join the group and get regular updates on the trail.

Remembering the Work of Jakob Franke

One of the most instrumental people in the protection and promotion of the Long Path was former Long Path South Chair and Conservation Committee Chair Jakob Franke, who passed away in November 2016. Jakob was active along the trail's entire length, and influential in several trail projects and conservation and advocacy issues.



"Jakob and I worked together for 12 years, and he inspired many—including me," says Andy. "He

is missed very much." The Trail Conference is actively looking for a new Long Path South Chair to manage the Long Path from Manhattan to US 209 in Wawarsing, N.Y.; contact volunteers@nynjtc.org for more information.

Get Involved

The Long Path exists because of the incredible passion of volunteers who want to be a part of the legacy of New York's Greatest Trail. Maintainers and trail managers are always needed—adopt a section of the Long Path to call your own! Or come spend a few hours with one of our crews and help with the ongoing task of reducing road walks by constructing new trail. This fall, we have Long

Path relocation projects in the northwest corner of Harriman State Park, on the Greene/Schoharie County line in the northern Catskills, and at the Schoharie/Albany County line connecting with the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area. Come help us improve the trail that runs from the Big Apple to the Big Park! Learn more and discover all the ways you can get involved by emailing volunteers@nynjtc.org.

Taking Conservation Action to Avoid Advocacy Emergencies

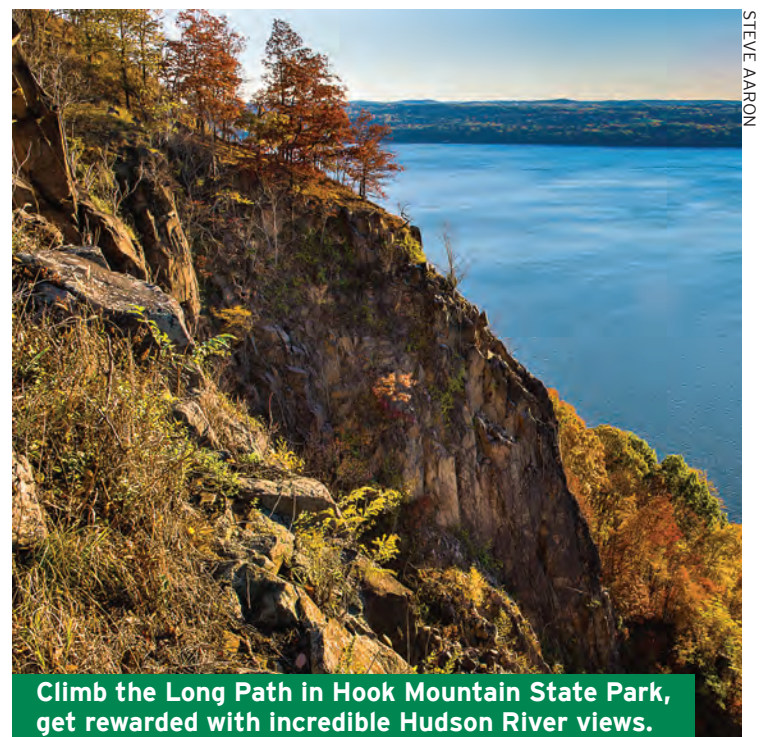
In the Trail Conference's conservation work to protect the Long Path, no county has proven to be a harder challenge than Orange County. As we take a stand to safeguard the Long Path and Highlands Trail from development in Monroe (read more on page 1), it's important to acknowledge the incredible progress made in keeping Orange County green over the last two decades. No preserved land existed on the Shawangunk Ridge in the

Long Path/Shawangunk Ridge Trail corridor in Orange County prior to 2000; now, thanks to the work of the Trail Conference Conservation Committee and our partners, nearly 2,800 acres of land have been preserved on the Shawangunk Ridge in Orange County.

Both the Long Path and Highlands Trail are listed on the New York Open Space Conservation Plan as part of their green corridors initiative, which recommends

"landscape-scale conservation in order to assure connectivity among [already] protected lands to provide greenways and wildlife migration routes."

Without a formal agreement to protect land in Monroe for these trails, the opportunity to connect several county and state parks will be lost. The time to preserve a green corridor in Orange County is now, and the Trail Conference is working hard on negotiations to save this undeveloped land.



Climb the Long Path in Hook Mountain State Park, get rewarded with incredible Hudson River views.

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

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

Connecting the Best of Essex County Outdoors via the Lenape Trail

The Trail Conference's work on the Lenape Trail has been reinvigorated in 2017, thanks to support from the Partners for Health Foundation in Essex County. The Lenape Trail passes through 19 different parks in Essex and serves as a "highlight reel" of what the area has to offer in terms of hiking and outdoor recreation, from the paved jogging paths of Brookdale Park to the rugged hiking of Eagle Rock Reservation.

Through the Partners

for Health grant, the Trail Conference has been able to deploy two seasonal field managers to engage Essex County Parks staff and local volunteer conservancies to continue improving this community resource. Some highlights include plans to incorporate the spectacular meadows of Hilltop Reservation, route the trail straight through Presby Memorial Iris Gardens, and bring hikers to a 9/11 memorial overlooking New York City's skyline for a moment of re-

► The Lenape Trail is in need of volunteers to care for this unique path and ensure the good work continues long after our field managers wrap up their season. If you're interested in helping to improve the Lenape Trail, contact pdolan@nynjtc.org.



DENNIS PERCHER

The efforts of volunteers who worked on the South Mountain Connector Trail will be celebrated Oct. 1.

lection. Additionally, the grant will allow us to install new navigational signage and develop an accurate map of the entire trail, thanks to the field managers' GPS inventory and assessment and the work of our Trail Conference cartographer. This map will be available on nynjtc.org and on flyers distributed in places like libraries and historical centers throughout Essex County. To top it all off, we'll be running three free trail maintenance workshops along the trail this

fall—check out nynjtc.org for details.

We invite everyone to attend a ribbon cutting for the new South Mountain Connector Trail at the Lenape trailhead across Route 10 from 2 Ellison Ave., West Orange, on Sunday, Oct. 1, from 3-4 p.m. Join members of the South Mountain Conservancy, the Trail Conference, and West Orange government in formally opening this half-mile section, which was finished in July after 15 months of work. [Peter Dolan](mailto:pdolan@nynjtc.org)



GEORGETTE WEIR

West Jersey Crew Chief David Day and crew member Pete Zuroff work on repairing old decking on the Pochuck Boardwalk.

Help Improve Trails in NJ this Autumn

Looking to volunteer for trails this fall? There's a wide variety of locations and projects to choose from with the West Jersey Trail Crew: installing stepping stones along the Cedar Swamp Trail in Wawayanda State Park, building brand-new trail in Worthington State Forest, or tackling a variety of tasks in dramatic Tillman's Ravine in Stokes State Forest. Find out how to get

involved at bit.ly/tc-wjct.

You can also join the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Mid-Atlantic Crew in repairing the Pochuck Boardwalk, arguably the most famous stretch of the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey. The work is being coordinated by NJDEP and will take place in late September through early October. Potential volunteers can reach out to Kevin Murphy at Wawayanda State Park, 973.853.1102.

Trails in our region need more repair and improvement than we can provide, and every person's help matters. Don't let a lack of trail-building experience hold you back; everyone is welcome to join in, and we'll teach you all the skills you need to give back to the trails you love.

Call for Volunteer Award Nominations

With more than 2,400 people donating their time and energy to the Trail Conference mission, there are many award-worthy volunteers in our ranks. We need your help nominating individuals for our annual awards, presented in late winter 2018 (date TBD) by the Trail Conference Board.

The nomination process is easy: Check nynjtc.org/awards to see the awards categories and qualifications, then fill out the nomination form online or e-mail it to awards@nynjtc.org. For nomination examples, see bit.ly/tc-vans.

Work on the Munsee Eagle Trail Continues

In Sterling Forest State Park, the Palisades and Floworks trail crews have been working on the construction of the Munsee Eagle Trail. Once finished, this new, multi-use trail will combine

with the Hutchinson and Red Back trails to create a 7-mile loop for hikers and mountain bikers to enjoy. We'll have a crew working on this project through November, and they're eager to teach new and experienced volunteers alike how to build multi-use trails. Email volunteers@nynjtc.org for info on how to get involved.



HEATHER DARLEY

Long Distance Trails Crew Rehabs Stone Arch Bridge



The Long Distance Trails Crew is making significant progress on repairing a severely damaged stream crossing over Seely Brook in Goosepond Mountain State Park in Chester, N.Y. This crossing on the Highlands Trail is an old, double-arch stone bridge that has been breached.

There have been many attempts to keep the passageway open, like adding rubble

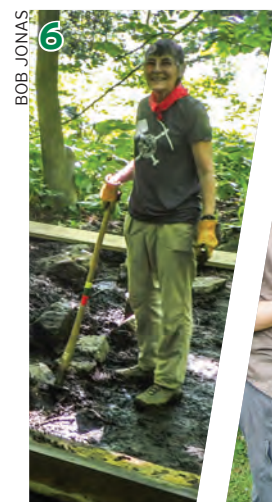
and fill in the center section, and using old telephone poles to span the center gap with planking laid across as a roadway. That worked fine for a while, but that wooden roadway had become totally deteriorated and has been removed. We are in the process of encasing the deteriorated stone arches in concrete, filling in the gap, and finishing up with a crushed stone surface. Upon its completion, a

celebration to christen the new bridge will be held. (Details will be announced on nynjtc.org and in E-Walker.)

This project will take a lot of time and effort on the part of the LDTC volunteers, so all help is welcome. Our experienced crew and crew leaders are eager to teach volunteers of all abilities the skills needed to build hiking trails. Find out more at bit.ly/tc-ldtc.

Marty Costello, LDTC member

Building, Maintaining, and Promoting Trails



1 Sweet Water Trail Crew leader Connor Moriarty wrote about his season working to reroute the waterfall section of the Vista Loop Trail in Ramapo Valley County Reservation on our website. Check it out at bit.ly/tc-swtc-17.

2 Our Taconic Trail Crew is working hard to improve trails in Hudson Highlands State Park. This season was spent constructing stone stairs on the Highlands Trail and on the Undercliff Trail.

3 The Rockalaka Trail Crew split their season

restoring trails at Sloan Gorge Preserve, seen here, and building a scenic loop trail at Platte Clove Preserve in the Catskills.

4 Our loyal supporters are invited to attend monthly hikes and work project tours as a thank you for helping protect the trails we all love. August's Member Hike explored the A.T. in Sterling Forest State Park, featured Cat Rocks, pictured, and ended at the Bellvale Farms Creamery in Warwick, N.Y.

5 Thanks to the Suffern Boy Scout Troop 21

committee members, the southern trailhead of the longest trail in Harriman State Park is now graced with this beautiful new sign. The Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail is more visible for hikers to find and enjoy.

6 Central North Jersey Trails Co-chair Estelle Anderson tackled a drainage problem on the Grand Loop Trail in the Jockey Hollow section of the Morristown National Historical Park, making this popular pedestrian/equestrian trail much

easier to walk.

7 At the Clearwater Festival at Croton Point Park in Westchester County, N.Y., on June 17 and 18, several volunteers, including Rose Bonanno, pictured, spread the word about all the ways the Trail Conference helps people get outside.

8 Orange and Rockland County Appalachian Trail Chair Storm (a.k.a. 2016 A.T. thru-hiker Moe Lemire) hiked the section of the A.T. he oversees in July and shared a little trail magic along the way.

9 This season on the Appalachian Trail reroute on Bear Mountain, the Megalithic Trail Crew has worked on what Crew Leader Tim Palumbo has lovingly dubbed "The Impossible Staircase." Read about the (totally doable) project at bit.ly/tc-mtcis.

10 The Nor'westers Trail Crew improved a stream crossing on the Blueberry Run Trail in Minnewaska State Park Preserve this summer. Pictured are volunteers Jim Gebhard, Ernie Gehrler, Don Cohen, and Karol Wojnar.

PHOTOS: MARTY COSTELLO

BRAYDEN DONNELLY

HANK OSBORN

BOB JONAS

ANDREA MINOFF

VICTORIA WELCH

HEATHER DARLEY

VICTORIA WELCH

SONA MASON

DAVE WEBBER

Supporting the Trail Conference Mission and Vision, Today and for Years to Come

In 2011, longtime Trail Conference members and supporters John and Marianne Gunzler inaugurated the Trail Conference's Legacy Fund with a very generous gift of \$100,000. Trails are a lifelong passion for John and Marianne; in fact, it was on a hike in Harriman State Park that they first met 58 years ago. On their frequent hikes together since, they see firsthand the positive impact Trail Conference volunteers make on trails.

The Gunzlers have been

giving back to the trails they love through volunteer service and financial gifts to the Trail Conference for decades. John has been an active member of the board of directors, serving from 1999 to 2008, and has continued to be a leading member of various committees.

"If you think, as I do," says John, "that the Trail Conference is a critical institution for making it possible to enjoy the outdoors in this region, you should be concerned for its



long-term future. It's a small, often hand-to-mouth operation that is vulnerable to changing circumstances. The Legacy Fund is building the

financial resources that are lessening that vulnerability."

John notes that even though the work of the Trail Conference is accomplished largely by volunteers, "those volunteers must have staff support and an organization to be effective and accepted by park partners." And as he looks at trends in the public financing of parks, "there is going to be more and more work for the Trail Conference to do."

Additional gifts throughout the years have allowed the

Legacy Fund to better carry out the Trail Conference's mission. The principal is invested, and a portion of the annual revenues are being used to support trail building, maintenance, and protection.

The Legacy Fund is a great place to make a planned gift to support the Trail Conference's second century of service. For more information, contact Don Weise, Membership and Development Director, at dweise@nynjtc.org or 201.512.9348, ext. 813.

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
<http://www.adkli.org>

ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter
www.midhudsonadk.org

ADK Mohican Chapter
<http://www.adkmohican.org>

ADK New York Chapter
www.adkny.org

ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter
www.hudsonhikers.org

Adventures for Women
<http://www.adventuresforwomen.org>

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

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

Appalachian Mountain Club Mid-Atlantic Office

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

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

Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council

Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn

Boy Scout Troop 21, Suffern

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

Canal Society of New Jersey
<http://www.canalsocietynj.org/>

Catskill 3500 Club
<http://www.catskill-3500-club.org>

Catskill Mountain Club
<http://www.catskillmountainclub.org>

Chinese Mountain Club of New York
www.cmcny.org

Church Communities Foundation - Platte Cove Community
<http://www.bruderhof.com/>

Closter Nature Center Association
www.closternaturecenter.org

Community Search and Rescue
<http://www.commsar.org>

Discover Outdoors
<https://www.discoveroutdoors.com>

East Coast Greenway Alliance
<http://www.greenwaynj.org>

East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
www.ehtps.org

Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
www.flatrockbrook.org

Friends Of Garret Mountain
friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com

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

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

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

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

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

Frost Valley YMCA
<https://www.frostvalley.org>

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

Greener New Jersey Productions, Inc
<http://www.greenernewjersey.org>

Harmony Hall - Jacob Sloat House
<http://www.friendsofharmonyhall.org>

Hilltop Conservancy, Inc.
<http://www.hilltopconservancy.org>

Hudson Highlands Gateway Task Force
<http://www.TownofCortlandt.com>

Hudson River Valley Greenway
<http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com>

Hunterdon Hiking Club
www.hunterdonhikingclub.org

Interstate Hiking Club
www.interstatehikingclub.org

Lake Hopatcong Foundation
www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
www.littlestonypoint.org

Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference
<http://www.ligreenbelt.org>

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

Mohonk Preserve
<http://www.mohonkpreserve.org>

Morris County Park Commission
<http://www.morrisparks.net>

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

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

Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club
www.nassauhiking.org

Nelsonville Greenway Committee
VillageofNelsonville.org

New Jersey Highlands Coalition
<http://www.njhighlandscoalition.org/>

New Jersey Search and Rescue Inc.
<http://www.njsar.org>

New York Alpine Club
<http://www.nyalpine.com>

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

New York Ramblers
<http://www.nyramblers.org>

NYC Outward Bound Center
<http://www.nycoutwardbound.org/>

Protect Our Wetlands, Water & Woods (POWWW)
<http://box292.bluehost.com/~powwwworg>

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods
www.siprotectors.org

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

RPH Cabin Volunteers
rphcabin.org

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

Salt Shakers Trail Running Club
<http://www.saltshakersrun.com>

Shelton's Shooters Sussex 4-H Club

Shorewalkers Inc.
<http://www.shorewalkers.org>

Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group
<http://www.sierraclub.org/atlantic/lower-hudson>

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

Somers Land Trust
<http://somerslandtrust.org/>

South Mountain Conservancy Inc.
www.somocon.org

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

Storm King Adventure Tours
<http://www.stormkingadventures.com>

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

Tenafly Nature Center Association
www.tenaflynaturecenter.org

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

The Highlands Natural Pool
<http://www.highlandsnaturalpool.org>

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

The Outdoor Club, Inc.
www.outdoorsclub.info

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

Thendara Mountain Club
www.thendaramountainclub.org

Town of Lewisboro
<http://www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec>

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

University Outing Club
<http://www.universityoutingclub.org>

Urban Trail Conference, Inc.
www.urbantrail.org

Valley Stream Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/vshclub

Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee

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

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

Yeshiva University High School Outdoors Club

Find Your Next Hike with Our Interactive Map

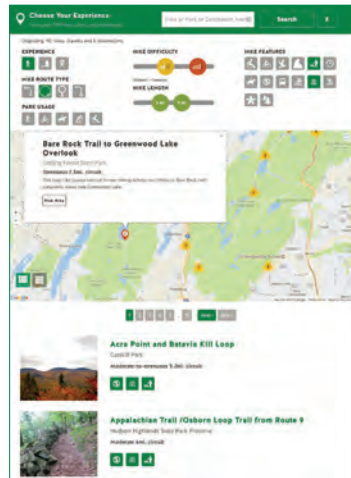


JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

Did you know that more than 400 hike descriptions and 350 park descriptions are available on our website, and that you can find your next adventure using an interactive map?

To access this wealth of information on your desktop or mobile phone, visit nynjtc.org/hike-finder-map or simply click the green hiker icon at the top of any page on our website. You can then use an interactive map to select hikes and parks, or view all hikes and parks in sortable lists.

The map allows you to search for a hike or park by name, and/or use a variety of filters to narrow down your options. Want to find a moderate to strenuous loop hike, between 5-9 miles in length, that has views and allows leashed dogs? These filters, and many



more, are available for you to adjust. You can also explore options right on the map by zooming in and out of the Google-style interface.

Once you have chosen and clicked on a hike, you can access a complete hike description, photos of some key features, written directions to the trailhead and information about available public

▶ Looking for more tips to get the most out of our interactive map? We've added additional instructions to help you take full advantage of all the features the hike finder offers at nynjtc.org/hike-finder-map.

transportation, links to available print and digital maps, and more. You can even grab a printable version of the description in the Let's Go section, so that you can be sure to have all the essential information when you are out on the trail.

With a free website account, you can also save hikes to Your Favorites and, after you have gone on a hike, come back to rate your experience and provide a trip report. Our volunteers appreciate hearing praise for trails in great condition, concerns about trails needing some help, and any issues with the descriptions or supporting maps, so these trip reports are a simple way to get involved with our trail maintenance and improvement efforts.

If you haven't checked out our improved website, be sure to visit soon and use these great resources to plan your next trip out on the trails!



Coming Soon: Updated East Hudson Maps and Harriman Trails Book

The Trail Conference Publications Committee is working hard to complete revised editions of two popular titles. The 12th edition of the East Hudson Trails map set, showing more than 150 miles of trails in the New York Highlands east of the Hudson River, will contain several important trail updates. It will also include trail mileages directly on the front of the map, a feature requested by many of our map users. The fourth edition of the *Harriman Trails* guidebook—the definitive guide and history to trails in Harriman and Bear Mountain state parks—will include many trail updates, as well as newly discovered historical photos and additional scenic photos. Both are expected to be available before the end of the year or in early 2018, so stay tuned for more details.

Trail Conference Staff Update

Welcome New Catskill PC Alex

Alexander Bradley, Catskill Program Coordinator, comes



to the Trail Conference from Maine, where he worked as trail specialist in Baxter State Park. Alex has served on and led conservation corps trail crews across the country, and has worked as a crew leader and assistant regional steward at Maine Coast Heritage Trust. He received an associate's degree from Washington County Community College in adventure recreation and tourism and GIS technology. He graduated from the University of Maine with a bachelor's degree in environmental recreation tourism management with a concentration in recreation and natural resources. Alex enjoys hiking, kayaking, and biking and looks forward to pursuing these activities in the Catskills and Hudson Valley.

Will Steps Into New Role

After serving as Trail Conference Buildings and Grounds Manager for nearly two years, **Will Smith** has stepped into the new role of **Information Systems**

Manager.

Will brings 40 years of computer engineering and management experience to the position. He has previously held computer design, engineering, and software management positions for several engineering firms. He has a bachelor's degree from Rutgers College of Engineering and a master's from New Jersey Institute of Technology. Will's love of the outdoors began as a boy while spending summers with his grandfather in Phoenicia, N.Y., in the Catskills.



Happy Trails to Catskill PC Doug

Catskill Program Coordinator Doug Senterman has



left the Trail Conference to pursue his own construction and contracting business. Doug started volunteering with the Trail Conference as a boy, joined the staff in 2015, and has now stepped into the role of volunteer Catskills Lean-to Chair. He was the recipient of the William Hoferlin Award for exemplary service in 2013. We thank Doug for all of his contributions and wish him the best of luck.

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- Create a personal sense of responsibility for our wild places.

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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

HIKERS' MARKETPLACE

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Two Streams and a Dream

FDR State Park is the largest park in the Town of Yorktown in New York's Westchester County, featuring a popular swimming pool and picnic areas, as well as a lake for fishing and more secluded woodlands for exploring. Creating greater access and connecting the park to the Yorktown business area via an abandoned rail bed was a dream of Regional Director of New York State Parks Taconic Region Linda Cooper, who previously served as Yorktown town supervisor. Long-time residents and active Trail Conference volunteers Jane and Walt Daniels had an even larger goal: Connect Yorktown's 25-mile trail system surrounding the Taconic State Parkway to FDR and beyond. With the opening of a new trail connection in July, significant progress has been made in achieving these goals.

Two factors helped jumpstart the Crom Pond Trail project: The Trail Conference maintains trails in FDR, and Jane is president of Friends of FDR State Park. In 2013, the latter received a federal Recreational Trails Program grant to

FEATURED HIKE

Details

- ▶ **Trail:** Crom Pond Trail
- ▶ **Park:** FDR State Park, Westchester County, N.Y.
- ▶ **Difficulty:** Easy
- ▶ **Length:** 2 miles
- ▶ **Dogs:** Allowed on leash
- ▶ **Features:** Bikes allowed; fees

build two bridges and a boardwalk in the wooded area in the east and southeast sections of FDR. From the beginning, Jane realized that the Friends would need help with such an ambitious project—so she rallied her trail friends.

Over the next four years, almost 90 people became involved in multiple trail-

building projects to open inaccessible areas of the park for the public to enjoy. In addition to the ongoing work of the Friends, Jane supervised volunteers from the Westchester Mountain Biking Association and the Pleasantville MTB Team, who built a 70-foot boardwalk. She mentored Boy Scout Eric Fitzgerald, whose Eagle project was building a 20-foot bridge over the inlet stream of Crom Pond. And she directed volunteers from the Trail Conference, including the Westchester Trail Tramps trail crew, as well as Conservation Corps members, in building a 32-foot outlet bridge with a 50-foot boardwalk on the north side and a 25-foot ramp on the south side. On July 29, the completion of the outlet bridge and this inspired trail project was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Without so many groups pitching in, this highly anticipated trail connection could not have been made. Thanks are due to everyone who helped. Many hands do make light work, even if it involves moving rocks and lumber.



Volunteers, park staff, and officials who helped make the Crom Pond Trail possible attended the opening ceremony.



Trail Conference member Bob Gurian worked on the bridge.

▶ For a full hike description of the Crom Pond Trail in FDR State Park, visit bit.ly/tc-cpt-fdr.



Bill Doller, Friend of FDR member, was one of nearly 90 volunteers who helped with this trail project.

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

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.

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

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We maintain more than 2,100 miles of trails. Your membership helps us provide access to open space for everyone.

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