



TRAIL WALKER

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

The Power of Passion for Trails



JOSH HOWARD
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

In the nonprofit world, validation comes in many forms. Some organizations seek the affirmation of their good deeds from donors and the public through complicated financial ranking systems. Others are satisfied by surviving the ebb and flow of organizational life cycles and keeping their doors open for one more day.

For the Trail Conference, building its reputation over the course of a century and serving as the go-to source for a great trail experience in the New York metropolitan region is not how I validate the effectiveness and impact of our organization. From my perspective, validation comes from within.

People's willingness to give their time and energy to an organization is a far more powerful measurement of its worthiness. In 2016, validation for the Trail Conference came from more than 2,400 volunteers who helped connect people with nature. These volunteers worked indoors and outside. Some got dirty, while others never needed a boot brush. Many were new and most were familiar faces. Altogether, our volunteers reported 104,000



ERIK MICKELSON

Trail Conference volunteers and staff work tirelessly to improve the public's access to nature.

hours of service. Including unreported hours, their donation of time is even larger.

But that is not the whole story. In addition to the energies of our volunteers, Trail Conference staff advanced the organization by contributing more than 48,000 hours of effort supporting volunteers, working with land managers,

Share Your Love of Trails

For the past 15 years (that's 31,200 hours of employment at the Trail Conference), my efforts have been validated by the smiles from a family

on a trail we maintain or the pride exuded from our trail crews when they describe a work trip they just completed. We'd love to share your reasons for volunteering. Email your story to volunteers@nynjtc.org.

In 2016, the Trail Conference put over
▶ **152,000**
hours of service into building, maintaining, and protecting trails—a new record.

and helping the public access more than 2,100 miles of trails.

That's 152,000 hours building, maintaining, and protecting trails and the lands they pass through. Another way to summarize this Herculean effort is that in 2016, the Trail Conference had the equivalent of 73 full-time employees fulfilling its mission. Our staff and volunteers worked the same number of hours as an individual can expect to work in 1.5 lifetimes. Or, more appropriately, the time it would take to hike the entire Appalachian Trail 35 times.

The Trail Conference is defined and validated by the people who dedicate their time to it. Whether they are paid or unpaid, the Trail Conference is recognized by the devotion and passion of the individuals who year after year selflessly provide the public with access to nature through a network of trails.

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Caring for 162 Miles of the Appalachian Trail
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National Trails Day Open House

On Saturday, June 3, nature lovers and outdoor adventurers came together to celebrate all things trails at the Trail Conference's National Trails Day Open House, sponsored by REI. The event, held at Trail Conference Headquarters, included guided hikes and stewardship opportunities through Ramapo Valley County Reservation to both enjoy and help make a difference at this popular park, located right next door to our historic home.

National Trails Day, observed every June across the country, recognizes the power trails have in connecting people with nature. Trail Conference Membership and Development Director Don Weise and Catskill Center Executive Director Jeff Senterman—a



ROBERT CELSTIN

board member of both the Trail Conference and American Hiking Society, which founded National Trails Day—gave opening remarks. Hikers then took to the trails, while our REI stewardship volunteers helped remove 38 bags of garlic mustard, six bags of litter, and even a kitchen sink from the Reservation. Around 300 people attended the celebration,

which also included tours of our headquarters at Darlington Schoolhouse, raffle prizes, food trucks, and partner organizations encouraging year-round engagement with nature.

"At the Trail Conference, every day is trails day," said Executive Director Ed Goodell. "It's very gratifying to see so many people enjoying trails and celebrating with us."

Trail Conference Hosts Wildflowers Art Exhibition and Elementary School Showcase

The glory of wildflowers is celebrated in the summer exhibition at Trail Conference Headquarters, on view through Sept. 28. The juried show features nearly 40 paintings, drawings, and photographs depicting or inspired by flowers, which were carefully selected from a wider array of submitted works. Most of the works can be purchased. The artists will donate a portion of the purchase price to benefit the work and programs of the Trail Conference.

In a gallery first, we have secured a corporate sponsor

for this exhibition. A generous donation from Dick Blick Art Materials will allow prizes to be distributed to outstanding participants. The Art Selection Committee is grateful to our prize jurors, Joseph Gennarelli, President of the Ridgewood Camera Club, and Lou Spina, President of Pascack Art Association, who volunteered their time and expertise in selecting the winning artists. (Winners were not available at press time; see nynjtc.org/news-center for the full list.)

Glenda Haas



Sunflowers, Aix-en-Provence, France. Oil on canvas.

If You Go

- ▶ **What:** Wildflowers Exhibition
- ▶ **When:** Open through Sept. 28 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.



Joyce Kilmer Elementary Student Show

Work by students participating in the Mahwah School District's Gifted and Talented Art Program was displayed at Trail Conference Headquarters throughout the month of May. The fourth and fifth graders from Joyce Kilmer School showed skill well beyond their years in their depictions of New York City bridges, owls, camels, and wildflowers. Mahwah Mayor Bill Laforet was an honored guest at the well-attended opening reception on May 8.

Jakob Franke Memorial Tree Planting

To celebrate his life and honor his memory, family and friends of the late Jakob Franke gathered at Trail Conference Headquarters on May 20. Those in attendance heard from Jakob's longtime colleague and friend, Dr. Richard Kessin, and Jakob's brother, Tiete Franke. Both provided a look at Jakob's personal life, his professional accomplishments, and his love for trails.

To thank the Trail Conference for providing Jakob with a place to volunteer in his retirement and to preserve his memory for years to come, the family planted a white pine tree in his honor at the Darlington



From left: Ed Goodell, Tiete Franke, Ettaly Jobs, Arva Rogers, and Gely Franke planted the memorial tree.

Schoolhouse. Executive Director Ed Goodell assisted Jakob's wife Gely, daughters

Ettaly Jobs and Arva Rogers, and Tiete in planting the tree near the building's entrance.

Trail Conference Staff Update

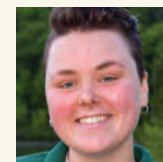
Welcome New Staffers Heather and Tori

Heather Darley, Communications Assistant,



of Montvale, N.J., joined the Trail Conference in 2016. Heather started as the assistant invasives program coordinator, and became the communications assistant this May. She is also a volunteer Catskills summit steward. Heather graduated from Ramapo College of New Jersey in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies. With a background in invasive species, volunteer coordination, and environmental advocacy, she is excited to collaborate with Trail Conference staff and volunteers and promote the wonderful work they do.

Tori Welch, Field Manager,



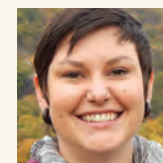
is from Hamburg, N.Y. Tori joined the Trail Conference in 2016 as a Conservation Corps member serving in Sterling Forest; she became full-time field manager this spring. In her new role, she looks forward to teaching sustainable trail building with the Trail Conference Conservation Corps. Tori graduated from the State University of New York at Fredonia in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in environmental science. In her free time, Tori enjoys making music on her djembe drum and being outdoors camping, hiking, biking, and

playing softball and tennis.

Farewell to Trail Builders Ama and Kevin

Ama Koenigshof and Kevin Simpson have left the Trail Conference to pursue other trail-building opportunities locally and abroad.

Ama Koenigshof, Trail Builder/Educator,



started with the Trail Conference in 2012 after leading trail maintenance and construction crews all over the country. She was instrumental in the development and success of both our Trail University and Conservation Corps programs. She served as manager of the Bear Mountain Trails Project, which includes the rehabilitation and reroute of the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain.

Kevin Simpson, Bear Mountain Field Manager,



joined the Trail Conference as a Conservation Corps member on Bear Mountain in 2013. He returned to share his experience working with young people and knowledge of trails as field manager on the project.

We thank Ama and Kevin for all of their contributions to the Trail Conference and wish them the best of luck.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Let's Seize the Growing Enthusiasm for Trails

When the New York State legislature passed the 2017-18 budget on April 10, it included \$200 million to create the 750-mile Empire State Trail. It took the strong initiative of Governor Andrew Cuomo and many enlightened legislators, along with the state parks department and the Hudson River Greenway, to bring a project of this magnitude to reality.

Like the letter "T" on its side, the Empire State Trail will connect Buffalo to Albany and Manhattan to the Canadian border near Montreal. (The state also analyzed potential trail corridors on Long Island but could not identify a continuous east-west route from Manhattan to Montauk or Orient Point.) The funds allocated by the legislature will be used to complete unfinished gaps in the Erie Canal Trail, intercon-



nect various rail trails between NYC and the southern Adirondacks, and improve Bicycle Route 9 north to Canada. Andy Beers, Director of the Empire State Trail project for the Hudson River Valley Greenway and previously the Deputy Executive Commissioner of the New York State Parks department, says, "Initial activities during 2017 will focus on bidding and starting construction on several relatively straightforward trail improvements, along with launching public outreach and engineering design of the more complicated projects, which will include building roughly 100 miles of new trails."

The Empire State Trail is expected to traverse 27 counties, 130 municipalities, and 35 state parks. Over 50 bridges, culverts, and tunnels will need to be built or replaced over the next three to four years to complete the project. As the trail gaps are connected, one can envision the Empire State Trail functioning like a backbone of a statewide trail network.

I expect the Empire Trail to be very popular, especially among bikers searching for off-road rides and the increasing number of users who prefer casual, easy-to-moderate hikes.

Although \$200 million is a large sum, studies of the existing but unfinished Erie Canalway Trail show that it already has an economic impact of \$253 million annually. Putting trails at the top of the budget rather than the bottom is an overdue acknowledgement that trails and open space are both essential, serving as quality-of-life amenities as well as cost-effective economic engines. Parks contribute to

Putting trails at the top of the budget rather than the bottom is an overdue acknowledgement that trails and open space are both essential, serving as quality-of-life amenities as well as cost-effective economic engines.

Goodell



a clean economy just as solar panels do for clean energy.

Trails are at the heart of the Trail Conference's advocacy, and the funding of the Empire State Trail is the perfect opportunity to remind our representatives that adequate operating budgets are essential to protect existing trail networks and precious parks that are already serving so many. The bulk of

trails in our biggest state parks were built 50 or more years ago and are in dire need of major renovations to withstand the increasing number of trail users today. Certain very popular destinations (for example, Breakneck Ridge) are going to need major reconstruction similar to our 12-year, \$2 million project to restore and relocate the Appalachian Trail (now in its final phase of completion).

Join us in celebrating this recognition and doing our utmost to harness the growing enthusiasm for trails. Thank your representatives and let them know how important trails and open space are to you, or even better, email volunteers@nynjtc.org to find out how to get involved with our trail advocacy efforts.

Edward Goodell

Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

Explore Lesser-Traveled Trails in Norvin Green and Long Pond Ironworks

For many hikers in our region, Norvin Green State Forest likely brings to mind the spectacular views of Wyanokie High Point, shouting for echoes at Yoo-Hoo Point, and the familiar teal blaze of the Highlands Trail. On a less uplifting note, it might also draw recollections of dangerous parking situations along curving Otter Hole Road, crowded trails, and the New Weis Center lot straining under the burden of weekend hikers.

Fewer people have experienced the joys that the northern section of Norvin Green has to offer. For those willing to travel a few minutes north, the park features dramatic Manaticut Point, serene Lake Sonoma, and—one of my favorite views in New Jersey—the Highlands Trail overlooking the full horseshoe of Monksville Reservoir. Perhaps most importantly, the northern part of the State Forest offers a welcome respite from the often-hectic trails farther south. If you're looking for a



PETER DOLAN

Map Update

► The completely revised, 12th edition of the North Jersey Trails map set includes the blazing changes that have taken place in Norvin Green and Long Pond Ironworks. Read more on page 11.

hike away from crowds, this is the place for you.

In order to welcome more people to this underutilized trail network, the Trail Conference has been working to reblaze trails in Norvin Green State Forest and Long Pond Ironworks State Park to create a more user-friendly "loop trail" system. Following the successful reduction in lost hikers since reblazing portions of Ramapo Valley County Reservation last year, the Trail Conference worked with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) staff to implement similar loop trail changes in these parks. Only blaze colors were changed—no new trails were constructed—and long-distance trails such as the Highlands Trail have remained untouched. The hope is that these changes will enable casual hikers to comfortably enjoy this beautiful area with less confusion. *Peter Dolan*

Why Try a New Trail

As hikers, many of us seek solitude in nature and feel an obligation to tread lightly on the land. We encourage you to take advantage of these trail improvements to both escape the packed lots of other, better-known spots and ensure that you're not contributing to the overuse issue. By hiking

less popular trails, you won't just enjoy a "private" hike; you'll also help to spread wear and tear in a way that doesn't contribute to erosion and trail damage.

Though this initial reblazing project is complete, we still have a need for maintainers to help keep these and other trails in the area in top condition. If you're looking for a trail to adopt as your own, email pdolan@nynjtc.org.

News in Brief

Nominations for Board, At-Large Voting Members

The Trail Conference Nominating Committee invites nominations for membership on the Board of Directors and At-Large Voting Members. The qualifications for Board of Directors are current membership in the Trail Conference and service participation in trail activities or on a Trail Conference committee. The qualification for At-Large Voting Members is current membership in the Trail Conference. Self-nominations for At-Large Voting Members and Board of Directors are appropriate and welcome.

Please email your recommendations to nominations@nynjtc.org.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is August 4.

Save the Date: Volunteer Award Nominations

The Trail Conference call for Volunteer Award nominations has been moved to October this year. With more than 2,400 people donating their time to the organization, we know award-worthy volunteers are in our ranks. Help us recognize them by nominating individuals who have gone above and beyond. The awards, presented by the Trail Conference Board, will be handed out at a ceremony in February or March 2018. Find previous winners at nynjtc.org/content/awards.





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Ridge, Rocked

Imagine looking out over a breathtaking expanse of rich colors and textures, a complementary mixture of trees and rocks, as your eyes are naturally guided to the light piercing through an alternating series of sweeping clouds and blue skies.

Sounds pretty incredible, right? That was the scene at this year's Rock the Ridge 50-Mile Endurance Challenge at Mohonk Preserve. The weather may not have been "perfect" for this year's event, but it was perfect for my first race experience.

When I was first approached about participating in the race as part of a team raising money for the Trail Conference's conservation efforts along the Shawangunk Ridge, I was immediately interested, but unsure I'd be able to cut it. What finally convinced me to sign up was the powerful visual of sharing the experience with teammates, testing myself while exploring the beautiful Gunks, and influencing the protection of a greatly admired landscape.



ROBERT CELESTIN

If I could describe Rock the Ridge in one word, I'd have to say: rewarding. My 13.8-mile section of the 50-mile course meandered through areas of Mohonk Preserve and Minnewaska State Park Preserve that were new to me. It was exciting

► By participating in Rock the Ridge 2017, the Trail Conference team raised approximately \$20,000 for the organization's land conservation efforts.

and challenging at times, but once I got into a rhythm, the motivation to reach the end came quickly.

A fantastic thing about Rock the Ridge is the inspiring, electric atmosphere of race day. Runners and walkers—total strangers—passed positive vibes to each other the entire day, keeping spirits high. It was a unique and inclusive thing to experience. Seeing people at events like this makes me feel grateful that there are such passionate advocates for preserving our natural world.

👉 Robert Celestin

News in Brief



DANIELLE RICHARDS

Third Annual MRCC/ Trail Conference Run and Walk Sets Attendance Record

A 5-year-old boy and 93-year old woman were among the record 330 runners and walkers to cross the finish line at this year's MRCC/Trail Conference 5K Run and 3K Walk on May 21. The scenic course started and ended at the Trail Conference's historic headquarters at Darlington Schoolhouse, winding through the woodlands and waterways of Ramapo Reservation along the way.

Hosted by the Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce (MRCC) and the Trail Conference, the event featured food, music, and a variety of exhibits. Near-perfect conditions led

to several course records being broken this year.

The annual event helps attract new people to the Trail Conference and draw attention to our efforts to restore the popular trails of Ramapo Reservation. Last year, MRCC donated \$10,000 to the Trail Conference, and a similar donation is expected this year. The Trail Conference thanks MRCC, the event volunteers, and all participants for making 2017 the best year yet! 🍷 Don Weise

Registration Open for SRT Run/Hike

Celebrate one of the storied long-distance trails created by the Trail Conference by participating in a footrace along the Shawangunk Ridge Trail, Sept. 15-16. Experienced thru-hikers and ultra-runners can choose from 30 miles, 50 miles, or the entire 70-mile length of the SRT. There's also a half-marathon option. Find more info and register at www.srtrunhike.com. 🍷 Ken Posner

TRAIL CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

DONORS TO THE ANNUAL FUND February 16 - May 15, 2017

TRIBUTES

From a group of close friends, in loving memory of our friend Ian Corey Bennett, who passed away on 4/15/07 at age 26. He grew up in Salisbury Mills, and hiking on Schunnemunk Mountain was a meaningful activity for our circle. The gift is also in honor of his parents, Lisa & Syed Zafar.

Michael Moran

In honor of Cindy & Jonathan Cohen's birthdays & their anniversary

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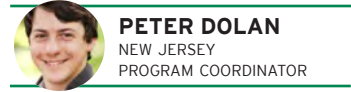
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If You See Something on the Trail, Say Something

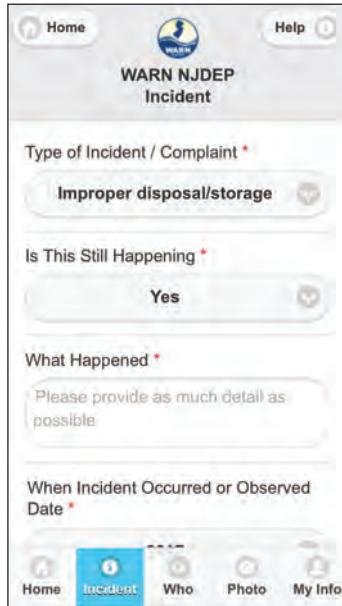


PETER DOLAN
NEW JERSEY
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

While trails can take you to some breathtakingly beautiful places, it's no secret that they have their fair share of ugly problems, too. Many of us have been out at one point or another and stumbled across an illegal dump site, trailhead vandalism, or a pack of off-road vehicle users tearing up the trail on ATVs and dirt bikes. The Trail Conference receives reports like these from the public on a near-daily basis, and one question comes up consistently: What can I do to help?

Luckily, if you're hiking on

state park land in New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has a hotline for exactly these issues. Stop reading, take out your phone, and save the following number: 877-WARNDEP (877-927-6337). Calling this number is the best way to let state park personnel know about illegal use on their land. For those who carry a smartphone, the new WARN DEP mobile app serves the same function. (Find more info about the app at www.nj.gov/dep/warndep.htm.) If you find evidence of illegal use, call the WARN DEP phone number or make a report via the app as soon as possible to ensure the park can follow up



on the problem. It's important to note that the WARN DEP hotline is for non-emergencies only. If help is needed immediately, call 911.

For those of you hiking on non-New Jersey state park land, your best bet is to get in touch with the park office directly to report illegal use. You can find most parks in the region here: nynjtc.org/hike-finder-map. Each park has its main office number listed under the Contacts, Dogs and Fees tab.

The most important thing is to get into the "if you see something, say something" mindset while out on the trail. We need your help to keep the places we love clean and protected!



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.



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Trail and Summit Stewards: Helping to Ensure a Safe, Enjoyable Trail Experience

A friendly greeting, helpful guidance, and the encouragement to have a safe experience on the trail—the Trail Conference Trail and Summit Stewards have once again returned to Breakneck Ridge, Bear Mountain State Park, and the Catskills to provide these valuable services to visitors.

Between Memorial Day Weekend and early fall, outdoor adventurers at these hiking destinations will encounter Trail Conference Stewards on weekends and holidays. Stewards provide outreach and information about park regulations, hiker safety, preparedness, and other best practices. In addition to readying hikers for their journeys, Stewards also help discourage and mitigate misuse of trails and the surrounding lands through their education and public re-



JIM BOUTON

lations work. In all locations, Trail Conference Trail and Summit Stewards count visitors to collect much-needed trail usage data to help guide future planning of trails and resources in the parks.

Stewards are very knowledgeable about all of these trails, and help guide visitors toward under-used sections of each park, including alternative picnic areas and hik-

ing options, to help alleviate crowding in the most congested areas. They also provide recommendations on things to do in the nearby "trail towns," promoting a deeper sense of community around these incredible parks. Through this program, the Trail Conference hopes to build excitement about being outdoors and cultivate and recruit volunteers as trail stewards in their own right, serving and protecting our parks, open spaces, and public trails.

The Trail Conference Trail and Summit Steward Program has been committed to educating and assisting the public in the safe, enjoyable, and responsible use of hiking trails since 2013. The 2017 Steward Program has been made possible through a lead gift of \$30,000 from REI and donations from other funders.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

For the second year, REI has donated \$30,000 to the Trail and Summit Steward Program. Additional support for the Steward Program has been provided by:

Breakneck Ridge

- Mountain Tops
- Dutchess County Tourism
- Seamus Carroll
- Michelle Smith

The Catskills

- Catskill 3500 Club
- Catskill Mountain Club
- Hunter Foundation

Bear Mountain

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Advocacy Update: New Jersey

Open Space Funding Secured

Land conservation and stewardship efforts in New Jersey saw an infusion of green this spring, when \$59.5 million in Green Acres funding was finally appropriated by Governor Chris Christie in the beginning of May. This marked closure to a process that had begun in November 2014, when New Jersey residents overwhelmingly voted to establish a long-term, sustainable source for open space funding. The Trail Conference worked with the New Jersey Keep It Green Coalition to ensure these funds would go toward

Alongside our partners in the New Jersey Keep It Green Coalition, the Trail Conference never stops working to protect and promote open space in the Garden State.

new land acquisition, capital improvement projects in state-owned lands, and Blue Acres funding.

Inaugural Open Space Month

June has been designated New Jersey's inaugural Open Space Month. The Trail Conference worked with Keep It Green in promoting this campaign to celebrate New Jersey's rich history of land preservation, to advocate for future acquisition and stewardship and, simply, to celebrate the natural beauty of the state and the recreational opportunities our lands provide. The June 3

National Trails Day Open House held at Trail Conference Headquarters and the June 17 Day of Stewardship at the Delaware Water Gap were terrific opportunities to celebrate Open Space Month.

Keeping an Eye on Trenton

This is a critical year in New Jersey politics. The governor's seat and all 120 seats in the Assembly and Senate up for re-election in New Jersey this year, but a great deal of focus remains on the incumbent administration and their maneuverings. The Keep It Green Coalition has

monitored Christie's repeated attempts to move money intended for communities recovering from environmental damages caused by corporate polluters to the General Fund. Natural Resource Damages (NRD) funds are critical for both rural and urban communities throughout the state attempting to rebuild from the misdeeds of corporations. The Trail Conference and its coalition partners at Keep It Green were successful in getting a question on this November's ballot to ensure impacted communities get the money rightfully theirs to recover from pollution.

Adam Page Taylor

A.T. in Brief



Meet the 2017 New Jersey Ridgerunners

Ridgerunners are seasonal employees who hike and camp along the Appalachian Trail to help hikers and other visitors understand Leave No Trace principles and avoid unnecessary resource damage. The Trail Conference partners with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and New Jersey State Parks to train and deploy ridgerunners along the Trail in N.J. Say hello to ridgerunners Ellen Mathias, George Rue, and Matthew Derrickson when you're out on the A.T. this summer!

Two Projects Receive Grants from ATC, L.L. Bean

Two in-the-works Trail Conference projects on the Appalachian Trail have been made possible by grants from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy through funding from L.L. Bean. Volunteers will be rebuilding rotting steps at the intersection of Taconic Parkway and Miller Hill Road in Dutchess County, N.Y., and repairing the footbridge at the Little Dam Inlet in Orange County, N.Y. The grants total \$3,755. Thanks to ATC and L.L. Bean for their support!

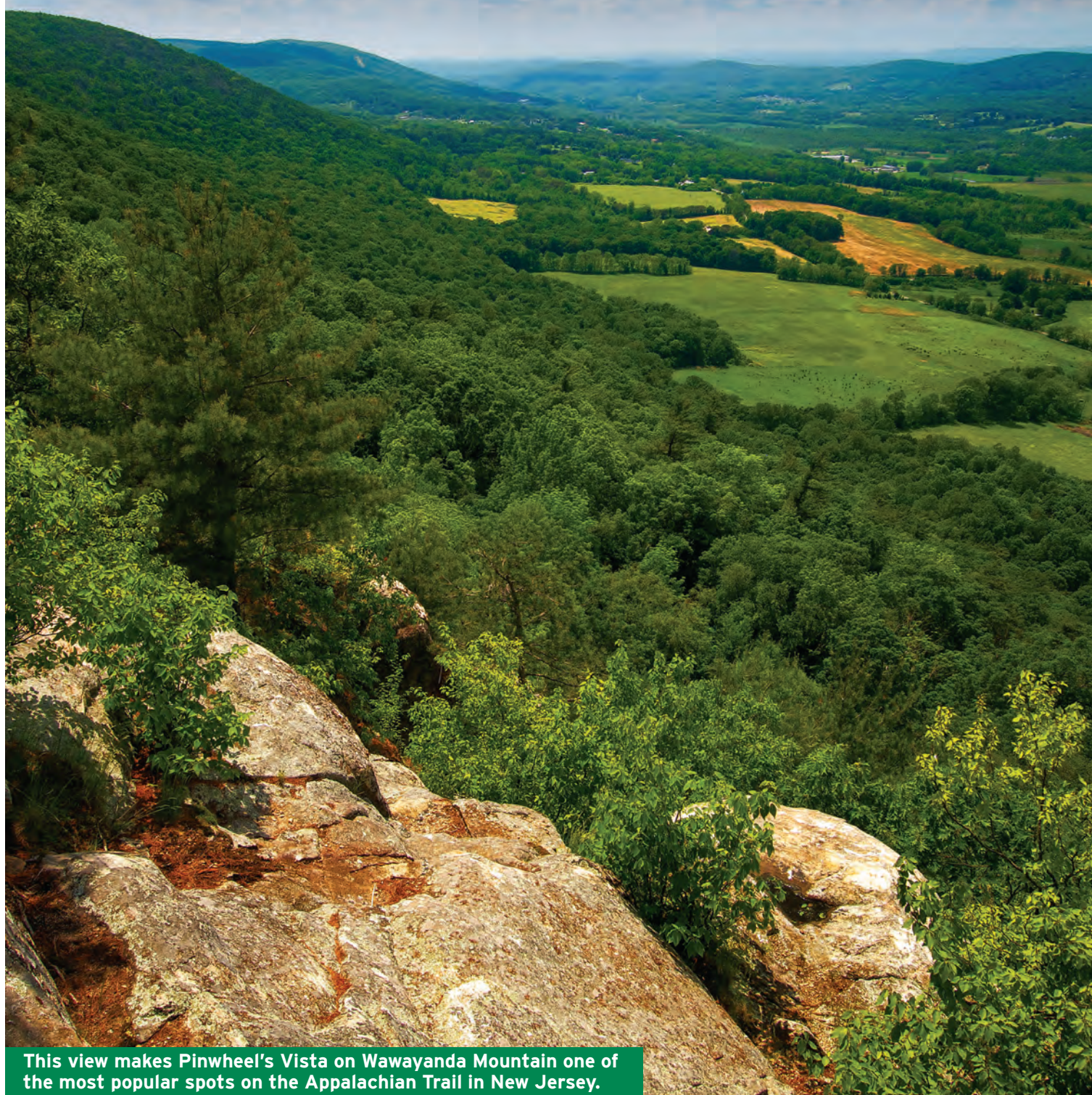
Harlem Valley Appalachian Trail Community Honored

The Harlem Valley Appalachian Trail Community (HVATC) was honored with the Outdoors Award of Distinction at a breakfast on May 9 recognizing the winners of the 2017 Dutchess Tourism Awards of Distinction. The towns of Dover and Pawling were officially recognized as the HVATC on March 2, 2013. Working with the Trail Conference, more than 75 volunteers spent two-and-a-half years constructing the 1,600-foot boardwalk, which includes a 34-foot bridge across the Great Swamp in Pawling. This effort has increased local stewardship and expanded sustainable tourism efforts.

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference volunteers built the very first section of the **Appalachian Trail**, through Bear Mountain-Harriman state parks, in 1923. The passion that the A.T. brings out in people and the community that surrounds this incredible trail is nothing short of inspiring. We're proud to play an important role in its continuing legacy.

LARRY ZINK

FOR THE LOVE OF THE TRAIL



This view makes Pinwheel's Vista on Wawayanda Mountain one of the most popular spots on the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey.

Reroute on Bear Mountain Nears Completion

The Megalithic Trail Crew is working on the historic relocation and restoration effort of the Appalachian Trail in Bear Mountain State Park. This season, the crew aims to complete the final 0.25-mile reroute of the Appalachian Trail on the Upper East Face of Bear Mountain. Seven Conservation Corps members, two field managers,

and hundreds of volunteers are building approximately 250 stone stairs and a large section of crib wall to create a trail that will withstand the 100,000-plus annual visitors to this segment of the A.T.—and they need your help!

If you enjoy working outdoors and learning new skills, the Megalithic Trail Crew is eager to meet you out on the

trail. Over the last 10 years, people of all ages and walks of life have worked together on this crew learning how to build sustainable trails. The crew is at work five days a week and will teach you everything you need to know to help make an impact on the legacy of the Appalachian Trail. Find out how to get involved at bit.ly/tc-mtc.

There and Back Again: From Thru-Hiker to Volunteer Leader

On Sept. 21, 2016, I reached the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail at 1 p.m. I touched the Mount Katahdin sign and my hike was over. For 168 days I was heading to Maine and this mountain summit. Now I was there and my hike was over (except for the 5-mile walk back down the mountain). On the way down I was in a daze, a mix of emotions and thoughts, passing hikers I had seen on and off every day for more than five months. They were my family. Now with a quick hug, they were gone, heading back home. Sitting in the car on the way back to my home in the Catskills, I thought, now what?

I needed to stay connected to the Trail, that I knew.

As volunteer chair of the 32 lean-tos in the Catskill Park, I knew the Trail Conference was the organization that maintained the A.T. from the Pennsylvania-New Jersey border through New York to Connecticut. I realized I needed to have a piece of the Trail to oversee and stay connected to that community. I soon took on the volunteer role of A.T. Chair for Orange and Rockland counties of New York.

I have the most awesome job of overseeing the Appalachian Trail for the Trail Conference from the N.J. border to the north end of the Bear Moun-

tain Bridge. I have an awesome committee of volunteers who do their part in maintaining the Trail and watching the corridor boundary.

This July, I plan on hiking the section of trail I oversee for the Trail Conference. On July 21, I will begin the hike from the New Jersey-New York border to the east side of the Hudson River. My goal is to interact with current thru-hikers and day hikers to tell the Trail Conference story and share a little trail magic. Our maintainers through Orange and Rockland will be doing the same. Look for us out on the Trail in July!

👉 Moe Lemire



Moe Lemire, pictured at Bear Mountain during his thru-hike, now oversees this section of the A.T.

Trail Conference Makes Its Appalachian Trail Days Debut

During my thru-hike last year, I attended Appalachian Trail Days in Damascus, Va.—the largest A.T. event in the world. Past thru-hikers have a reunion, current hikers are inducted into their “class,” and every gear rep and who’s who of the A.T. community attends this festival. Last year I thought to myself, the Trail Conference needs to be here. The Trail Conference needs to share the important role it has played, and continues

to play, in the history of the Appalachian Trail—as builders, maintainers, and protectors. What better way to tell that story than to attend Trail Days.

This year, on May 17, I started driving south with Catskill Program Coordinator Doug Senterman to set up a Trail Conference table in Damascus for the very first time. We arrived Thursday morning at 7 a.m. and set up our camp. It was so ex-



citing to see hikers from the Class of 2017 run over to our table and say, “I’m from New York/New Jersey and I live right here!” pointing to the big map of the A.T. through the two states. To hear those

hikers say, “Oh, you are the organization I can join to give back to the A.T. community when I finish my hike,” was incredibly rewarding. I could see the future generations of the Trail Conference stand-

ing before me.

On Sunday as we were packing up camp, this year’s class was doing the same in tent city, preparing to continue their journey. As they walked past us to head back onto the Trail, they waved and said, “See you in New York!” Mission accomplished: The 2017 hikers now not only know the Trail Conference exists, they are excited about the organization and our work. 👉 Moe Lemire



Long Distance Trails Crew Rehabilitating A.T. on West Mountain

The Long Distance Trails Crew (LDTc) is working on a long-term project to rehabilitate a section of the Appalachian Trail on West Mountain. The crew will quarry a large amount of big rocks and move them to a staging area closer to the worksite. Once there, we will begin building steps.

On a recent work trip, the crew noticed several areas of trail needing some “warranty work.” These sections show water damage from several recent rain storms. The sections needing repairs were rehabilitated in 2014 by the crew during dry weather. With the problems now visible, we can build better

water management features that will alleviate the problem.

The Appalachian Trail is always changing and evolving. All along the A.T., work crews like the LDTc constantly relocate and rehabilitate portions of the Trail to protect nature and to enhance the A.T. hiking experience. 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

Greater Blairstown Becomes the First Appalachian Trail Community in New Jersey

The Trail Conference welcomes Greater Blairstown as the first Appalachian Trail Community in New Jersey. Trail Communities promote and protect the Appalachian Trail and act as good friends and neighbors to the Trail, welcoming thru-hikers as well as day hikers and other casual users of the A.T. Greater Blairstown was approved as an A.T. Community last October, and on April 22, an inaugural ceremony was held beside Blair

Falls to officially bestow the designation upon the area. Greater Blairstown joins 40 other towns and cities along the A.T. corridor from Georgia to Maine that support and promote the Trail. Hundreds of folks turned out for the celebration, including local elected officials and legislators, generating important support for the work of the Trail Conference and its hundreds of volunteers.

Karen Lutz, Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region for

the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, emceed the event, and Peter Dolan, the New Jersey Program Coordinator for the Trail Conference, led a hike on a section of the Trail from Blairstown Road to the fire tower. Trail Conference supervisors and maintainers Katie Kingsbury and John Pappas made sure the Trail was in prime condition for the special day.

The 72 miles of the Appalachian Trail through New Jersey are maintained by 40 volunteers and so many others who selflessly and collectively devote hundreds of hours to enhancing the experience of all who hike on the Trail. We look forward to working with our new friends in the Greater Blairstown Trail Community on educating the public about this wonderful natural resource in New Jersey.

👉 Steve Weissman, New Jersey Appalachian Trail Chair



Steve Weissman speaks at the ceremony.

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

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

Rehabilitating the Trails of the Ramapo Mountains



DON WEISE
MEMBERSHIP AND
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Trail Conference has a long history of building, maintaining, and protecting hundreds of miles of trails throughout the Ramapo Mountains. These mountains—a forested chain of the Appalachians in northeastern New Jersey and southeastern New York—serve the millions of outdoor enthusiasts throughout the greater New York metropolitan region. Local residents and visitors alike come to experience the distinctive features and vistas that the Ramapo trail systems make accessible. But after years of wear from an increasing volume of users, many of the trails need repairs—and in some cases, sustainable redesign and construction.

In places like Ramapo Valley County Reservation in Bergen County, N.J., and the many parks that adjoin it, trails are actually being loved a little too much. Trail erosion and widening from trampling feet, unofficial “shortcut” trails, and even hazardous overflow park-



HEATHER DARLEY

ing are taking a toll on the user experience and nature. Thanks to generous support from the William Froelich Foundation, the Trail Conference, in partnership with Bergen County Department of Parks, has developed a long-term plan to improve the heavily used trail systems of the Ramapo Mountains. And if we can raise \$150,000 in private donations from the

community, our two major supporters will match every dollar you and I donate to the newly created Ramapo Trails Fund will be tripled—and that \$450,000 will allow us to complete this ambitious project.

Creating a more sustainable trail system in the Ramapo Mountains will take time, money, and plenty of hard

work to finish. But all contributions—gifts of time and money—will allow the Trail Conference to significantly increase the public value of these hiking destinations. Together, we can enhance the overall outdoor experience they provide. Find out how to do your part in contributing to the restoration of the trails in the Ramapo Mountains at bit.ly/tc-rtf.

Trail Rehab Has Begun

The Ramapo Trails Fund is supporting the inaugural season of the Trail Conference Conservation Corps' Sweet Water Trail Crew. The crew's four Corps members are already hard at work improving a steep and heavily eroded social trail used to access a popular waterfall site in Ramapo Valley County Reservation—but they need your help! If you enjoy working outdoors and want to learn more about how sustainable trails are built, come out and join the crew for a day of stewardship. Give them a few hours of your time, and they'll teach you everything you need to know to give back to the trails you love. Learn more at bit.ly/tc-swc.

Meet the 2017 Invasives Strike Force Crew

The 2017 Invasives Strike Force (ISF) Conservation Corps Crew is declaring war on invasive plants in northern New Jersey and the Lower Hudson Valley. These “problem” plants don't stand a chance with this crew protecting our natural areas!

Under the guidance of the Trail Conference's Director of Land Stewardship Linda Rohleder, ISF Crew Leader Spencer Barrett is joined by Matt Simonelli, Ryan Goolic, and Daniel Pollard this season. The ISF Crew clears invasive plants along hiking trails to protect native habitats. They are hard at work

removing emerging invasive species—those that are just starting to invade areas of our region. A few of their target species for this season are sticky sage, giant hogweed, silver vine, and jetbead.

A new addition to the ISF Crew is Allison McKenna, who is our Invasive Species Early Detection Summer Intern. She is attending the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF). Allison will be monitoring emerging invasive plants in our area. Her work will help the ISF Crew in understanding how



AMBER RAY

ISF Crew members, from left: Spencer Barrett, Ryan Goolic, Matt Simonelli, Daniel Pollard, and Allison McKenna

effective previous treatment efforts were and how these emerging invasive species are spreading throughout the region. Also aiding in our invasive species efforts is GIS Associate Robert Celestin. Robert's mapmaking, GIS, and database skills help our

ISF Crew to plan and prepare for the season ahead.

Whether you're interested in protecting our parks, preserving our native plants and wildlife, or learning how to tame that vicious vine in your home garden, there's a place for you on the Inva-

sives Strike Force! For more information, contact us at invasives@nynjtc.org. To sign up for one of our volunteer work days, visit nynjtc.org/events and search “invasives.” We hope to see you on the trails!

Heather Darley

Big Trail Improvements for an Up-and-Coming Trail Town Corridor

For even the casual visitor to Harriman and Sterling Forest state parks, the changing face of the trail towns along Route 17 through Rockland and Orange counties is obvious. The Tuxedo Hudson Company has fastidiously been renovating properties in Sloatsburg and Tuxedo, with plans to open a bed-and-breakfast, coffee house, bicycle shop, and more along this corridor.

Less conspicuous are the changes taking place a little farther out of town, in the area's real attraction—the nearly 70,000 acres of open space that Harriman and Sterling Forest encompass. Just as these trail towns are receiving a facelift, the trails themselves are garnering attention. This season, the Trail

Conference is proud to enlist two Conservation Corps trail crews—Floworks and Palisades—in eastern Sterling Forest. Both are working on the new multi-use Munsee Eagle Trail, which will complete the construction of a sustainable network of interconnecting loop trails.

Thanks to Tuxedo Hudson Company founder Michael Bruno's generosity, the Trail Conference has launched the inaugural season of the Floworks Trail Crew. Michael and his company have provided funding in the form of a 1:1 matching grant to inspire others to contribute to our trail-building efforts in these parklands. A fully funded Tuxedo Trails Improvement Fund will allow

us to reconstruct some of western Harriman's most historic trails. Find out more or donate at bit.ly/tc-ttip.

Complementary to the 2017 work of the Floworks Crew is the service of the Palisades Trail Crew, funded by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for a fifth season. In a Transcontinental Railroad-like build, the Palisades Crew is constructing trail southward while Floworks builds northward. Once finished, the new Munsee Eagle Trail will combine with the Hutchinson and Red Back trails to create a 7-mile loop for hikers and mountain bikers to mutually enjoy. Both crews are eager to teach new and



EDWIN MCCRATH

The Floworks and Palisades trail crews are building a new multi-use trail in Sterling Forest.

experienced volunteers alike how to build multi-use trails. Find out how to get involved at nynjtc.org/corps.

Whether through a donation to the Tuxedo Trails Im-

provement Fund or by coming out with our crews for a day of stewardship, you can play an important role in creating the trail adventures of your future in Sterling Forest.

Thank You, Volunteers!



1 On May 27, Boy Scout Troop 258 of Mahwah, N.J., installed a 22-foot bridge on the Schuber Trail in Ramapo Valley County Reservation. The project was organized by Eagle Scout candidate Manav Goel.

2 The Cub Scouts of Pack 94 of Suffern, N.Y., helped clear corridor on the Munsee Eagle Trail in Sterling Forest State Park on National Trails Day, June 3.

3 Volunteers from the Trail Conference and Friends of FDR State Park improved trails—including work on a bridge—in the Westchester County park on I Love My Park Day, May 6.

4 On May 16, the dismantled Batavia Kill shelter, built by Trail Conference volunteers, was flown into its new site close to the existing lean-to near Windham in the Catskills. Thanks to the

NYSDEC Forest Rangers and New York State Police Aviation Unit for making it happen. Now we need your help making the lean-to safe and usable. Email volunteers@nynjtc.org for info on how to help with construction.

5 Volunteer sawyer Peter Meyer made short work of this deadfall that was blocking the Long Path/Shawangunk Ridge Trail by the Basha Kill Wildlife Management Area

in Sullivan County, N.Y.

6 Trail Conference volunteer Gene Giordano and staffer Sona Mason shared safe hiking tips with third graders from the Warwick Central School District in Orange County, N.Y., in May.

7 Members of the Chinese Mountain Club of New York collected several bags of garbage on the Shore Trail in Palisades Interstate Park on May 20.

Tool Donation Equips Next Generation of Maintainers

The Larry Wheelock Tool Room at Trail Conference Headquarters now has a full complement of trail maintenance tools, thanks to a generous donation by John Blenninger, volunteer trail maintainer and supervisor at Black Rock Forest for more than 40 years. A quintessential trail maintainer, John has accrued an artisanal collection of clipping and blazing tools, which will be available on loan to clipping crews.



Both the Trail Conference and Black Rock Forest have benefitted enormously from John's dedication and meticulous attention to detail. In addition to forging strong relationships with park partners and at the Trail Conference, he has proven that no tree has bark too rough for a perfectly painted trail blaze.

Many thanks to John for his years of service and his big-hearted gift to the next generation of trail maintainers. Sona Mason

Donations for trail-building tools and equipment are eligible for a dollar-for-dollar match through the Zakim Tool Fund. Find out more at bit.ly/tc-ztf.

Ticks 101: Avoiding Bites on and off the Trail

Thirty years ago, few people worried about tick bites and even fewer had heard of Lyme disease. Now, not knowing about the danger can lead to serious illness.

Ticks are tiny arachnids that latch onto mammals or birds, feeding on the blood of their host and passing on the germs they've picked up feeding on previous hosts. A tick that bites you after feeding on a deer, for example, can share those germs with you.

Lyme disease is the best-known tick-borne illness, but ticks can also transmit Bartonella, Babesia, anaplasma, mycoplasma, Ehrlichia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and the Powassan virus, a rare but potentially fatal brain infection. And, since ticks frequent-

ly carry multiple pathogens, it's not unusual for those who are bitten to develop more than one of those co-infections.

Does that mean a tick bite will automatically lead to one of those diseases? No. Not all ticks are infected. But recent studies indicate more ticks are carrying more germs than ever before. And indications are this is the worst tick season we've ever seen. Ticks are on the trail, on rocks, and probably even in your backyard.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates 300,000 new cases of Lyme are diagnosed in the U.S. every year, but scientific groups like the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS) insist Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses are substantially un-



derreported and undertreated.

So, what's a hiker to do? First, prevention is key. Wear clothing that covers most of your body and use tick repellent. Remove and launder your clothes promptly after hiking,

and check your body for ticks or unusual marks.

There's no reason to let ticks scare us out of the woods, but it makes sense to know the risks, take common sense precautions, and get the proper treatment, if necessary.

📍 **Mike Schneider** with Michele deAntonio, MD

What to Do After a Tick Bite

▶ If a tick is latched onto your body, remove it carefully at the head with sharp tweezers or a tick removal tool. Squeezing the tick could lead to infection.

▶ Clean the affected area thoroughly, and apply an antibacterial cream.

▶ Save the tick in a clear plastic bag to identify the species. This will help determine which infections

could be involved.

▶ Symptoms of tick-borne infections can often look and feel like a variety of other illnesses, such as the flu. Lyme disease is often accompanied by a "bull's-eye" rash at the site of the tick bite, but not always. If you've been bitten, contact a doctor experienced in treating tick-borne infections.

Mike Schneider is an Emmy Award-winning journalist. He most recently created and hosted the PBS hiking/adventure show On the Trail with Mike Schneider. Michele deAntonio, MD is a board-certified pediatrician. She is a member of ILADS: The International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society. The couple are avid hikers and Trail Conference members.

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 Mid-Hudson Chapter www.midhudsonadk.org	East Coast Greenway Alliance www.greenwaynj.org	Long Path North Hiking Club www.schoharie-conservation.org	Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson/
ADK Mohican Chapter http://www.adkmohican.org	East Hampton Trails Preservation Society www.ehtps.org	Mohonk Preserve www.mohonkpreserve.org	Somers Land Trust http://somerslandtrust.org/
ADK New York Chapter www.adkny.org	Flat Rock Brook Nature Association www.flatrockbrook.org	Morris County Park Commission http://www.morrisparks.net	South Mountain Conservancy Inc. www.somocon.org
ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter www.hudsonhikers.org	Friends Of Garret Mountain http://friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com/	Mosaic Outdoor Mountain Club of Greater New York, Inc. http://www.mosaic-gny.org/joomla/	Southampton Trails Preservation Society http://southamptontrails.org/
Adventures for Women http://www.adventuresforwomen.org	Friends of Pelham Bay Park http://www.pelhambaypark.org/	Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy http://mmc.nynjtc.org	Storm King Adventure Tours http://www.stormkingadventures.com
Alley Pond Environmental Center http://www.alleypond.com/	Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway in Teaneck http://www.teaneckgreenway.org/	Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club www.nassauhiking.org	SUNY Oneonta Outdoor Adventure Club www.oneonta.edu/outdoors
AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter http://www.amcmohawkhudson.org/	Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc. http://aqueduct.org/	Nelsonville Greenway Committee VillageofNelsonville.org	Tenafly Nature Center Association www.tenaflynaturecenter.org
Appalachian Mountain Club Mid-Atlantic Office	Friends Of The Shawangunks http://shawangunks.org/	New Jersey Highlands Coalition http://www.njhighlandscoalition.org/	The Catskill Center for Conservation & Development http://www.catskillcenter.org
Bellvale School www.brudershof.com/en/international-directory/united-states/bellvale	Friends of Van Cortlandt Park http://vancortlandt.org/	New Jersey Search and Rescue Inc. www.njsar.org	The Highlands Natural Pool http://www.highlandsnaturalpool.org
Black Rock Forest Consortium Inc. http://www.blackrockforest.org/	Frost Valley YMCA www.frostvalley.org	New York Alpine Club http://www.nyalpine.com	The Nature Place Day Camp http://thenatureplace.com/
Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council	German-American Hiking Club http://gah.nynjtc.org/	New York City Audubon Society, Inc. www.nycaudubon.org	The Outdoor Club, Inc. www.outdoorsclub.info
Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn	Harmony Hall - Jacob Sloat House www.friendsofharmonyhall.org	New York Ramblers www.nyramblers.org	The Storm King School http://www.sks.org
Boy Scouts of America, Troop 21	Hilltop Conservancy, Inc. www.hilltopconservancy.org	NYC Outward Bound Center www.nycoutwardbound.org/	Thendara Mountain Club www.thendaramountainclub.org
Boy Scouts of America-Northern NJ Council www.nnjbsa.org	Hudson Highlands Gateway Task Force www.TownofCortlandt.com	Protect Our Wetlands, Water & Woods box292.bluehost.com/~powwworg	Town of Lewisboro www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec
Canal Society of New Jersey http://www.canalsocietynj.org/	Hudson River Valley Greenway http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com	Protectors of Pine Oak Woods www.si protectors.org	TriState Ramblers TSR.nynjtc.org/Schedules.html
Catskill 3500 Club http://www.catskill-3500-club.org	Hunterdon Hiking Club www.hunterdonhikingclub.org	Rip Van Winkle Hikers http://newyorkheritage.com/rvw	University Outing Club www.universityoutingclub.org
Catskill Mountain Club www.catskillmountainclub.org	Interstate Hiking Club www.interstatehikingclub.org	RPH Cabin Volunteers rphcabin.org	Urban Trail Conference, Inc. www.urbantrail.org
Chinese Mountain Club of New York www.cmcny.org	Lake Hopatcong Foundation www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org/	SAJ - Society for the Advancement of Judaism http://www.thesaj.org/	Valley Stream Hiking Club www.meetup.com/vshclub
Church Communities Foundation - Platte Cove Community www.brudershof.com/	Little Stony Point Citizens Association www.littlestonypoint.org	Salt Shakers Trail Running Club http://www.saltshakersrun.com	Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee
Closter Nature Center Association www.closternaturecenter.org	Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference www.ligreenbelt.org	Shelton's Shooters Sussex 4-H Club	Westchester Trails Association http://www.westhike.org
Community Search and Rescue http://www.commsar.org		Shorewalkers Inc. www.shorewalkers.org	WWW http://www.weishike.com/
Discover Outdoors www.discoveroutdoors.com		Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group sierraclub.org/atlantic/lower-hudson	Yeshiva University High School Outdoors Club

MAP TALK

As the Trail Conference cartographer for nearly 10 years, I have received praises on the quality of our maps, as well as many inquiries about them. The purpose of this column is to share some answers to questions I regularly receive. If you have a question about our maps, email apgar@nynjtc.org and include "Map Talk Question" in the subject line. Your question might appear in the next issue of Trail Walker.



JEREMY APGAR
Trail Conference Cartographer

At the Trail Conference, our basic principle is that we intend to show on the maps what is actually on the ground as much as possible. However, decisions about what to show are shaped by several factors, including intended user groups, a hierarchy of information significance, input from park managers, and issues with unofficial social paths.

Our primary intended users are, broadly, users of maintained trails, so most decision-making starts here. The needs and desires of

How do you decide what trails or features to include on a map?

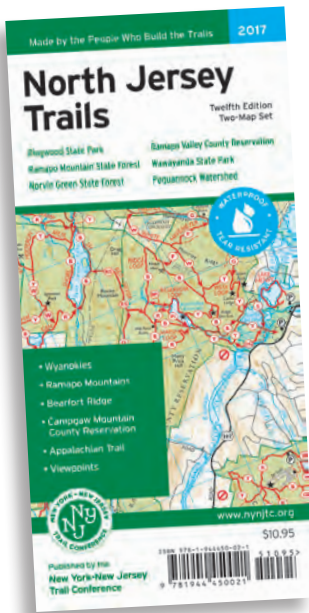
other users are considered on a map-by-map basis, but can include the needs of park managers, hunters, and other off-trail users.

In terms of a hierarchy of information, our highest priority is ensuring that maintained, official trails are accurately represented. Next, we focus on information needed for getting to the trails and learning what can be expected on the trails, including parking locations, roads, and points of interest on or near the trails. Then we consider various data layers that can serve as navigational aids for users of the maintained trails—things like unmarked woods roads or paths, utility corridors, and streams and wetlands. Lastly, but still important, are park boundaries and other non-parkland features within the map's coverage area.

An important thing to consider is that we don't make these decisions in isolation, but rather make sure to work with park managers to ensure their input is fully considered.

One area of concern to many park managers and volunteer trail leaders alike is how to show unofficial social paths, as high use in certain areas has become increasingly problematic. These decisions are typically made on a case-by-case basis. We often try to strike a balance by showing portions of unofficial paths that may be obvious and important for navigational purposes, but not showing a path's entire route so as to minimize detrimental impacts of choosing alternate routes off maintained trails.

Overall, we do our best to carefully consider everything that goes onto our trail maps.



New North Jersey Map Set Features Updates to More Than 20 Parks

A completely revised, 12th edition of the North Jersey Trails map set, with over 275 miles of marked trails in northern New Jersey, is now available. This edition contains many revisions to the trails in more than 20 parks, including major changes to trail systems in several parks.

The new map set shows the changes to the trail systems at

Ramapo Valley County Reservation and Campgaw Mountain County Reservation, which have been completely revamped with new trails and blaze colors. To better show the expanded trail network in Ramapo Reservation, a new, enlarged inset map of the Reservation has been included. The updated maps also show the trail blazing changes and relocations in Norvin Green State Forest, as well as trail relocations in Ringwood State Park. Newly created parklands are shown, including Ramapo Mountain Preserve, Fuller Mountain Preserve, Great Oak Park, and additional Appalachian Trail buffer lands in

Wawayanda State Park. Other parks shown on the map include Long Pond Ironworks State Park, Ramapo Mountain State Forest, Abram S. Hewitt State Forest, and the Pequannock Watershed. Nearly 15 miles of the Appalachian Trail and 40 miles of the Highlands Trail are shown on the maps.

Additional corrections and adjustments to the map make

this 12th edition of North Jersey Trails even more accurate than before. At only \$10.95 (\$8.21 for Trail Conference members), this map is a must-have for exploring these popular parks in northern New Jersey.

The map is available in print format in vibrant color on our popular waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek at nynjtc.org and Trail Conference Headquarters. In addition, it is available in digital format on Apple and Android devices through the Avenza Maps app. Learn more about our GPS-enhanced maps at nynjtc.org/pdfmaps.

Jeremy Apgar

► Special thanks to all the volunteers and park partners who helped produce this revised edition of the North Jersey Trails map set!



YOUR PLANNED GIFT TO THE TRAIL CONFERENCE WILL:

- Help us protect trails and trail lands for future generations.
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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

Understanding Split-Interest Gifting with Charitable Remainder Trusts

Split-interest gifting, covered broadly in the Fall 2015 Trail Walker article "How Split-Interest Charitable Giving Can Benefit You and the Trail Conference," is a planning technique that allows the grantor and the charity to be the beneficiaries when donations are made to certain trusts.

One of these charitable split-interest gifting strategies is the Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT). A CRT is an irrevocable trust that names one or more individuals as income beneficiaries for either a term up to 20 years, or for life. This income stream can be fixed or variable depending on time horizon and

economic factors. At the end of the donor's interest, the remaining assets will pass to charity.

The donor, or grantor, receives an income tax charitable deduction equal to the present value of the remainder interest passing to charity at the end of the trust term. It is calculated using the IRS sec. 7520 rate which, during low interest rate environments, is an excellent estate planning technique.

The allowable charitable deduction in any given year is limited to 50 percent of the donor's adjusted gross income. Amounts exceeding this limit may be carried forward against future income for up to five years.

For more info, contact Jim Cantela, CFP Vice President—Trust Relationship Officer, Trust Services at Valley National Bank at 862.207.7327 or jcantela@valleynationalbank.com.

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New Double-Loop Hike Offers Twice the Views

Visitors to Norvin Green State Forest have a new option to explore some of the most spectacular features of this beautiful green space in Passaic County, N.J.

Trail Conference volunteers, with the cooperation of State Forest officials, have laid out and blazed a new trail section at the southern end of Norvin Green that, for the first time, enables visitors to incorporate two peaks—Torne Mountain and Osio Rock—into a loop hike. This new construction allows hikers to make a double loop and climb Osio Rock, with its magnificent views, without having to retrace one's steps. This enhancement of the trail system in the area was made with improving the users' experience in mind.

Hikes on the new figure-eight double loop begin from the Otter Hole Road parking area and incorporate both the blue-blazed Hewitt-



Details

- ▶ **Trails:** Hewitt-Butler and Torne trails
- ▶ **Park:** Norvin Green State Forest, Passaic County, N.J.
- ▶ **Difficulty:** Moderate
- ▶ **Length:** 3 miles
- ▶ **Dogs:** Allowed on leash
- ▶ **Features:** Views

Butler Trail and the red-blazed Torne Trail. The Hewitt-Butler Trail is steeper and climbs to the summits of Torne Moun-

tain and Osio Rock, with many panoramic views of the surrounding area, while the Torne Trail follows a narrow valley, connecting at both ends with the Hewitt-Butler Trail. The detailed hike description available at nynjtc.org takes the Hewitt-Butler Trail from the parking area over Torne Mountain, then down and over Osio Rock, returning on the Torne Trail. Although it is less than three miles long, the hike may seem somewhat longer, as it involves considerable ups and downs on rocky trails.

The new extension of the Torne Trail was laid out and blazed by volunteers Loreen Adamo, Jocelyn Coalter, Ted B. Jackson, Paul Makus, and Bob and Estelle Jonas. If you'd like to get involved in great trail projects like this one, email volunteers@nynjtc.org for more info.

Find the full hike description at bit.ly/tc-tmor.



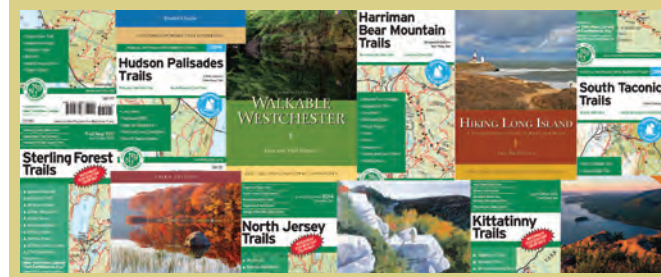
PHOTOS: DANIEL CHAZIN



The new loop offers great views, such as this vista from Osio Rock.

HIKERS' MARKETPLACE

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Find all of our publications and select trail guides from others at nynjtc.org, and get your member discount!

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.

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

25% Discount on Trail Conference books and maps when purchased directly from the Trail Conference. Get a 10% discount on Trail Conference logo goods. Visit nynjtc.org/shop.

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

Free Enrollment in our Trail University introductory courses.

Workshops and Seminars on trail maintenance and construction, leadership training, wilderness first aid, environmental monitoring, GPS operation, and more. Find details at nynjtc.org/trailu.

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

Join now at nynjtc.org/membership.

Join/Renew Trail Conference Membership

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

Included with membership: Trail Walker, 10% discount on purchases at many outdoor stores, and 25% discount on Trail Conference maps and books and 10% discount on logo goods purchased directly from the Trail Conference. Save time and a tree by joining or renewing online at nynjtc.org.

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