



TRAIL WALKER

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

United by Trails

The trail community in the greater New York metropolitan area is an inspiring movement. We are wanderers, runners, hikers, and riders of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. We appreciate, respect, and deeply treasure the wealth of wild places reachable within just a few hours of home because we live in one the most amazingly cosmopolitan regions on Earth. Our life experiences may be worlds apart, but on the trail, we are united in our passion to connect with nature.

The founding of this movement runs parallel with the founding of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. In 1920, through the spirit of volunteerism, dedicated members of local hiking clubs created the Trail Conference to work alongside burgeoning park administrations and make newly preserved public

lands accessible to everyone via blazed trail systems. Nearly 100 years later, our legacy of building, maintaining, and protecting trails and stewarding parklands as a volunteer-powered organization continues. Today, we don't just serve as the hub of this trail community, we operate as one big Trail Family.

Like any good family, the Trail Conference works together in good times and bad to get the job done. A small staff coordinates and supports the work of over 2,000 volunteers across 25 counties. Together, we contribute around 100,000 hours of labor each year. We care for 2,165 miles of trails and the lands through which they pass. The Trail Conference is devoted to our Trail Family members, advocating for the interests of trail users and constantly seeking ways to improve your



ERIK MICKELSON

Great trail experiences are made possible through the efforts of our Trail Family.

outdoor experience.

The next time you're out on the trail, take a moment to reflect on the hard work of the Trail Family members who give so much of themselves to ensure great trails and parks remain open, safe, and enjoyable for all. You'll find their stories throughout the pages of this newsletter. You'll also find them on the trail, day in and day out, caring for our lands, our trails, and each other. Because that's what family does.

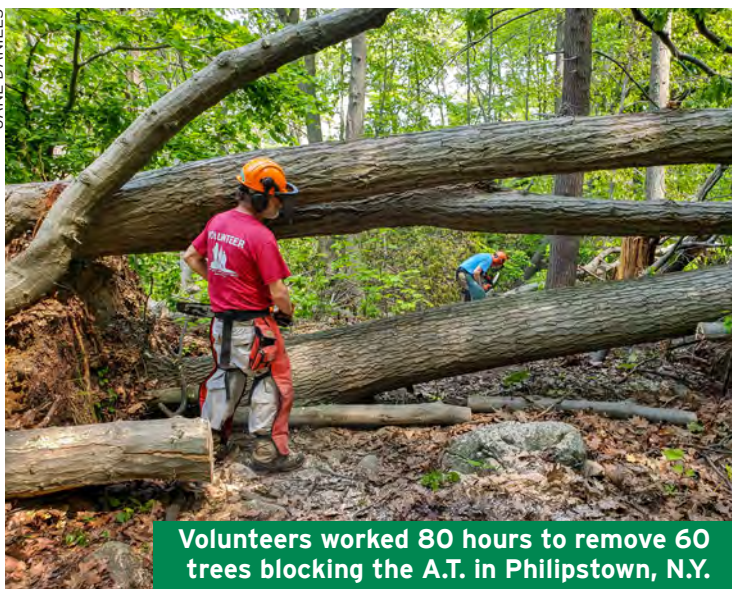
Trail Family Values

The Trail Conference has been mobilizing volunteers and advocating for the care of public trails for nearly 100 years. With your help, we can continue to keep trails and the lands they traverse open and safe for another century—and beyond. In 2017, more than 2,100 volunteers donated

at least 94,000 hours of service to trails and parks in our region. Find out how you can give back at nynjtc.org/volunteer.

Your membership also supports your trail community. Become a member of our Trail Family and receive great perks like discounts in our store and at participating retail partners. Learn more at nynjtc.org/membership.

JANE DANIELS



Volunteers worked 80 hours to remove 60 trees blocking the A.T. in Philipstown, N.Y.

Volunteers Rally After Storms Damage Trails

On May 15, trails throughout the Hudson Highlands changed dramatically and, for those who love, hike, and maintain those trails, catastrophically. Like many people, my husband and I were prepared, based on forecasts and warnings, for a severe storm and resigned to losing power as usual. Instead we had 15 minutes of lightning, rain, some wind, and then assumed much ado about nothing. Boy, were we wrong. Extensive sections of trails were buried beneath uprooted and sheared trees. In almost all cases, the trees were mature, live, healthy and fully leafed hardwoods. The Appalachian Trail was especially hard hit at a time when thru-hiking activity is starting to peak. Trails were not only impassable but incredibly difficult to find, even by those of us who know them well." Mary Dodds, Trail Tramps Crew Chief

When trails are threatened, the Trail Conference responds. Across the region, volunteers like Mary have been making heroic efforts in a remarkably short amount of time to clear and restore

trails damaged by these spring storms. On **pages 6-7**, we've gathered on-the-ground reports from Trail Conference volunteers who have been selflessly giving days at a time to clear blowdown and make

sure affected trails are once again passable and safe. It's just one more incredible way our Trail Family works hard to make connecting with nature possible for all who seek to get outside and explore.

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Protecting and Promoting the Appalachian Trail pages 8 and 12



HEATHER DARLEY



HEATHER DARLEY

National Trails Day: Hikes, Stewardship, and Lots of Trail Love



HEATHER DARLEY
COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Every day is trails day for the Trail Conference. And on National Trails Day, we add a little extra celebration to our stewardship. On Saturday, June 2, trail lovers throughout the region joined us to give back to the trails that offer so much enjoyment. National Trails Day, observed every June across the country, recognizes the power trails have in connecting people with nature.

At **Trail Conference Headquarters**, 300 nature lovers and outdoor adventurers celebrated at our National Trails Day Open House with guided hikes and stewardship opportunities next door at Ramapo Valley County Reservation. The day included tours of our historic Darlington Schoolhouse building, prizes donated

by our sponsors, food trucks, an origami craft table, and partner organizations encouraging year-round engagement with nature.

At **Bear Mountain State Park**, trail lovers gathered to celebrate on the Appalachian Trail—on the very first section of the A.T. built 95 years ago by Trail Conference volunteers. More than 45 volunteers picked up litter, helped the Invasives Strike Force Crew remove nearly 400 invasive plants, restored the native landscape at the Trails for People exhibit, and set three stone steps with the Bear Mountain Trail Crew during the event, co-sponsored by our friends at REI. All their hard work was rewarded with T-shirts, lunch, and raffled gear provided by REI.

At **Ramapo Reservation, Sterling Forest State Park, and Hudson Highlands State**

Park Preserve, our Conservation Corps crews invited volunteers to learn about trail building and try their hands at constructing sustainable trails. These Trail Love events, hosted by our Ramapo, Palisades, and Taconic trail crews, served as an introduction to the work we do every day and provided a fun opportunity to get a little dirty and give back. The Ramapo Crew cleared 100 feet of new trail, the Palisades Crew built 80 feet of new trail, and the Taconic Crew set four stone steps.

The Harlem Valley Appalachian Trail Community (HVATC) celebrated with guided hikes and stewardship events at the **Pawling Nature Reserve (PNR)**. Hosted by The Nature Conservancy, HVATC was joined by the Trail Conference, members of the PNR, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Groundworks Hudson Valley, National Parks Conservation Association, Sierra Club Military Outdoors, and The Mission Continues. Forty-five volunteers lent a hand with trail repairs and helped install 10 water bars on a 1-mile section of the A.T.

Thanks to everyone who showed their support on National Trails Day and makes trails an important part of their lives!



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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

Thank you for your hours!

I'm reading a fascinating book by Florence Williams called *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative*. It says a lot about why people love trails and are motivated to give back by volunteering. At the Trail Conference, many people say volunteering is fun and even more say it is deeply satisfying. But we hear from very few volunteers, if any, who like the paperwork involved.

In our efforts to recruit a greater number of volunteers to meet the needs of our public trails, we've been advised more than once that it might help to eliminate the requirement to record and report hours of service. We understand it's not a desirable part of volunteering, but we do it because volunteer hours are a key measure of the Trail Conference's success.

A broad range of entities are



interested in the scale and scope of the efforts of Trail Conference volunteers. Some of our park

partners need work reports so they can provide liability and workers' compensation coverage to those who serve on their land. Our work on both the Appalachian Trail and New York State trails are an example of this.

Grantmakers often want reports to chronicle volunteer hours and accomplishments. Agencies in New York and New Jersey recently began allowing grantees to report volunteer hours to meet matching requirements for funds. So, for example, every verified hour of volunteering with the crew at Bear Mountain last year

provided \$27.50 in matching funds to fulfill the conditions of our grant.

Public officials are very impressed when they see so many of their constituents donating their time to a cause. They interpret it as a good indicator of the magnitude of public interest. They are also impressed by the taxpayer savings when volunteers are involved. The scope and scale of the Trail Conference's work is often what gets it a place at the table on important issues.

The amount of volunteer time put into a project speaks to the value the public gives a project. This is the internet's all-important "social validation"—the more people use, like, or rank something indi-

The amount of volunteer time put into a project ... speaks to the value the public gives a project.

Goodell



cates its value to others. Similarly, it is a strong vote of confidence in the Trail Conference that more than 2,000 individuals are volunteering almost 100,000 hours annually. When someone is thinking about volunteering, becoming a member, or supporting our efforts, it helps to know that they are part of a broader movement.

Finally, the Trail Conference's strategic plan has made total annual volunteer hours the organization's key metric for volunteer engagement. The bottom line is that volunteer hours are a proxy for everything that is good about volunteering. As a volunteer organization, we will, at a very high

level, be judging ourselves based on increasing our total volunteering.

Under these circumstances, reporting volunteer hours is not going to go away—but we are going to make it easier. We're working on streamlining reporting formats to be less complicated and quicker to complete. We are also developing direct online reporting options. Our goal is to test and perfect these in the second half of 2018 and make them more widely available in 2019.

I hope this gives you a better understanding of how important volunteer hours have become for the Trail Conference. Thank you for building a volunteer-powered organization with your passion, dedication, leadership, and ... reporting!

Edward Goodell
Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

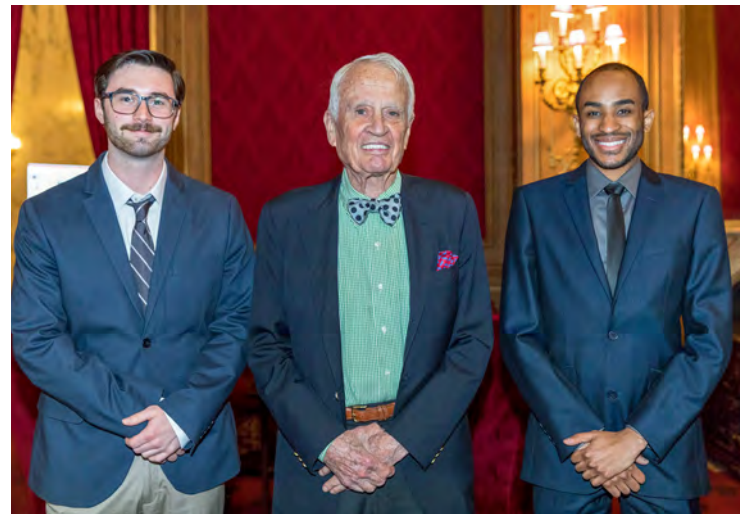
Trail Symposium Engages Public in Environmental Conservation

On April 7 and 8, the Trail Conference hosted a Trail Symposium to engage current and future volunteers in learning about building, maintaining, and protecting trails and parks. The symposium featured workshops on sustainable trail design, Leave No Trace principles, and invasives species management, as well as an advocacy roundtable. By bringing people together through learning opportunities and conversations about the shared duty of conservation, we can better work toward preserving the integrity of our natural world. To find an upcoming stewardship event near you, visit nynjtc.org/events.

McHenry Awards Further Research in Invasive Species, Local History

The Trail Conference has received a Barnabas McHenry Hudson River Valley Award from the Open Space Institute to support our efforts to combat invasive species throughout the region. The award funds the work of Robert Celestin, who has been serving as a GIS associate with the Trail Conference for nearly two years, as he builds a comprehensive geographic invasive plant species database covering the Lower Hudson Valley. Robert is finishing his bachelor's degree in information technology from Marist College.

Robert's work will integrate several separate sources of invasives data into one dynamic database. The database, integrating information from the Trail Conference as well as



McHenry awardees Zachary Henderson (left) and Robert Celestin (right) attended an awards luncheon in May with Barnabas McHenry (center).

other environmental agencies, will enable more efficient invasive species management and

treatment planning, provide a more robust and accurate view of regional species distri-

bution, and aid in combating the rapid spread of invasives by allowing for informed early detection surveys.

Another Trail Conference intern, Ramapo College of New Jersey student Zachary Henderson, received a McHenry Award through the Palisades Park Conservancy. Zack will be working on Iona Island organizing the archives of Major William Welch, who created Harriman State Park, served as its first general manager, and was the founder of the Trail Conference.

We congratulate the awardees and look forward to working with them to preserve both the rich biodiversity of our local ecosystems and the history of open space protection in our region.

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In Memoriam

Betty Heald

Elizabeth (Betty) Heald of Paramus, N.J., passed away on May 21. A life member of the Trail Conference, she was a devoted educator, bicyclist, mountain climber, and horticulturist. As a science teacher, avid naturalist, and environmentalist, Betty influenced many to carry on the mission of caring for our planet. Hiking was her life's passion; Betty earned membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club's Northeast 111, the 100-Highest, the ADK-46ers, and the Catskill 3500 Club (all in winter). She contributed a feature to the



book *Women with Altitude: Challenging the Adirondack High Peaks*, which chronicles the experiences of 33 women who scaled the 46 Adirondack High Peaks. A trailblazer and role model for women wishing to experience the outdoors, Betty was hiking until the age of 90.

Richard Zinn

Richard Zinn of Teaneck, N.J., passed away on April 1 at the age of 94. He is survived by his loving wife Helen. Richard was a long-time member of the Trail Conference. He was much loved as a volunteer at our headquarters, where he was known as Richard "Zen"

for his calm and enduring willingness to dig into whatever work was at hand. Richard's life was long and interesting. He managed Zinn's Health Food Store in the 1930s, served as a communicator on bombers over Germany during World War II, and traveled the world. Richard was known for leading hikes along the Appalachian Trail and other local trails with groups like Wednesday Hikers into his 80s. Richard is remembered as someone who enjoyed our public spaces to the utmost and volunteered so future generations could enjoy our outdoors, too.



Trail Conference Receives Grants to Protect Long Path

The Trail Conference has been awarded two grants from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) to continue our efforts to protect and complete the Long Path, "New York's greatest trail." The Land Trust Alliance and state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced the awards, funded by the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), on April 24.

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.

The Trail Conference will receive \$30,000 for the Long Path Acquisition Plan, a project that will allow our volunteers and staff to inventory the approximately 200 properties across 10 counties that need to be acquired to permanently protect the 430-mile trail corridor of the Long Path. For many years, the Trail Conference has been steadfastly working toward this goal. This has largely been a piecemeal project, adding parcels one-by-one, slowly but surely closing or narrowing gaps and re-routing the trails from dangerous road walks onto undeveloped land. Ultimately, ownership of these lands is



Ashokan High Point, as seen from the Long Path on Wittenberg Mountain in the Catskills.

STEVE AARON

transferred to New York State or other conservation agencies. The Long Path Acquisition Plan will provide accurate mapping of the targeted parcels with defined acreage, estimated cost of acquisition, and projected wildlife and recreation benefits.

Additionally, the Trail Conference has been awarded \$17,300 to cover the indirect costs of acquiring a 170-acre property in Albany County. The Trail Conference, with a generous grant from the Open Space Institute and support from the local Long Path North Club, purchased the

undeveloped parcel in 2017. The Trail Conference can now take the Long Path off a 2.35-mile road walk and reroute it through the wooded land and into the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area. The Trail Conference will hold the property until it is sold for permanent protection by New York State.

"Support from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program helps to ensure the popular Long Path can be enjoyed by the public for generations to come," said Trail Conference Executive Director Edward Goodell. "Our work in

purchasing key parcels of land for transfer to state ownership not only improves the trail experience, it aids in the creation of green corridors that protect precious ecosystems while improving the quality of life for local communities. These grants will enable the Trail Conference to collaborate better with regional land trusts, the DEC, and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to complete the Long Path approximately 100 years after it was conceived."

Find more information on the Long Path at nynjtc.org/region/long-path.

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February 1 - April 30, 2018

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In the memory of Michael T. De Luca, who always was ready to kick up his heels to walk with Nature

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NY, NJ Parks Receive Trail Steward Training



HANK OSBORN
SENIOR PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

The Trail Conference began its Trail Steward program as a one-month pilot at Breakneck Ridge in 2013. Since then, the program has grown in numerous ways. The first year we trained two Stewards for one location. This May, the Trail Conference trained 35 Stewards assigned to four locations in two states. Thanks to a generous \$30,000 grant from REI, sponsorship from Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT), and gifts from other supporters, this season Trail Conference Stewards are stationed in New York on the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain State Park; at Breakneck Ridge in Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve; and at several locations in the Catskills: Giant Ledge, Slide Mountain, North Point, and Blackhead Mountain. In New Jersey, the Department of Environmental Protection enlisted the Trail Conference for guidance on best practices to deploy their Stewards at Terrace Pond in Wawayanda State Park. Stewards in all locations are on duty from Memorial Day weekend through November (earlier at some spots).



Meet the 2018 Breakneck Ridge Stewards.

The Trail Conference is recognized as the regional leader in fielding Stewards; our N.Y. and N.J. state partners sent more than a dozen park employees to the full-day training at our headquarters in Mahwah, N.J., and to site-specific locations for each Steward program. State employees were trained to work alongside Trail Conference Stewards, supplementing and complementing the hard work required at each location. At Breakneck Ridge, N.Y. State Parks employees are now working alongside Trail Conference Stewards every weekend; at Terrace Pond, N.J. State Stewards assist visitors, protect the area from dumping, and educate the public about park regulations.

Steward training was enhanced this year to include more in-depth Leave No Trace training, as well as natural resource protection instruction provided by HHLT. Besides providing financial sponsorship of the Breakneck Ridge Trail Steward program, HHLT helped facilitate Steward education to promote conservation ethics and proper stewardship practices.

In June, the Trail Conference welcomed a small team from New York State's Excelsior Corps program. These Corps members were stationed at Breakneck Ridge for 10 days, which allowed us to conduct surveys of the increasing number of hikers who are climbing Breakneck during the week. The Excelsior Corps will return to work alongside Trail Conference Stewards for another 10 days at Breakneck during the 2018 Leave No Trace Hot Spot week in late October.

Later this summer, the Trail Conference will introduce a volunteer Trail Steward component to complement the current program and provide much-needed additional coverage at these high-usage trailheads. For more details, email volunteer@nynjtc.org.

Thank You, Supporters!

For the third year, REI has generously given lead support to make the Trail Conference's Steward Program possible. This year, we also thank:

- ▶ Hudson Highlands Land Trust

- ▶ Catskill 3500 Club
- ▶ Michelle Smith
- ▶ Ulster County Tourism
- ▶ Seamus Carroll & Marie Wieck
- ▶ Dutchess County Tourism
- ▶ Hunter Foundation
- ▶ Catskill Mountain Club
- ▶ Fred Osborn
- ▶ Mountain Tops
- ▶ Rock & Snow
- ▶ Frost Valley YMCA
- ▶ Sierra Trading Post

Making Great Trails Possible

Thanks to the following businesses and foundations for supporting the work of the Trail Conference in 2018.

Two A.T. Projects Receive Grants from ATC and L.L. Bean

Two Trail Conference projects on the Appalachian Trail have been made possible by grants from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) through funding from L.L. Bean. Volunteers will be replacing 1,128 feet of deteriorated puncheon planking near Vernon, N.J., and will finish building steps at the Taconic Parkway. The grants total \$8,575.

Orange & Rockland Sponsors Ramapo Trails Project

Orange & Rockland Utilities has donated \$10,000 to support the Trail Conference's Ramapo Trails Project. This grant funds our work to make a significant, lasting impact on the sustainability, navigability, and safety of the trail system in Bergen County's Ramapo Valley County Reservation and the adjoining parklands.

Harriman Family Foundations Support Work in Harriman-Bear Mountain

The Trail Conference is grateful for the support of the Harriman Family Foundations for their generous \$10,000 support of our work on the Spider Hill House interpretive center at Bear Mountain and for their \$25,000 support of our trail work in Harriman-Bear Mountain state parks and the West Hudson region.



Thanks to **L.L. Bean** in Paramus, N.J., for donating 25 packs (a value of \$2,000) for use by our Conservation Corps crews serving in parks throughout the region. And a special thank you to **Meadtown Cleaners** (1483 Route 23 in Kinnelon, N.J.) for helping outfit our Corps crews by professionally sewing the AmeriCorps and Conservation Corps patches on their uniforms and backpacks at nearly half-price. First opened in 1978, this family-owned and operated business provides environmentally friendly, organic dry cleaning, as well as expert custom tailoring. Consider supporting the local businesses that support us!

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Rock & Snow, an outdoor retailer in New Paltz, N.Y., has been supporting the Catskill Steward Program every year since its inception in 2015. Since then, the store has custom-fit over 30 Stewards in top-quality gear designed for travel in the outdoors. This year, Rock & Snow outfitted the Catskill Stewards with shirts and rain shells to help with the unpredictable mountain weather. The owners and employees have all been exceedingly generous with their time and commitment to the Catskill Steward Program. Thank you!

Rock & Snow also offers Trail Conference members a 10% discount. Find them at 4 Main Street in New Paltz; 845.255.1311; www.rockandsnow.com/store.

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Mitchell Bailey

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

AFTER THE STORM: VOLUNTEERS RESTORE ACCESS TO TRAILS

Across the region, Trail Conference volunteers are working hard to clear and repair trails temporarily closed or damaged by several remarkably strong storms that hit our parks this spring. Here are their stories.

A Note of Gratitude

Trail Conference sawyers are trained for this purpose—to step up and help out where and when our parks need us. It isn't often we get hit with this kind of crazy weather. Our sawyers have gotten out in both New Jersey and New York parks and should be extremely proud of the work done.

In working with park partners, our sawyers have shown the commitment we all have to our trail systems and to working with our various land managers.

The Sawyer Committee appreciates this work. Our land partners are appreciative. Your work makes us all look good.
Estelle Anderson
Chair, Trail Conference Sawyer Committee

EAST OF THE HUDSON RIVER

'The Thunderstorm Did This?'



MARY DODDS
TRAIL TRAMPS CREW CHIEF

On May 21, Trail Tramp Crew member Dave Margulis and I determined that approximately a half-mile of the Sugarloaf Trail in the Castle Rock Unique Area of the Hudson Highlands was essentially impassable. On May 28, B sawyers Andrew Seirup, Walt Daniels, Fred Stern, and Bryan Blackburn were joined by A sawyer Paul Bisset to assess the damage. Trail Tramps Dave Margulis, Connie Stern, Marilyn Blaho, and Martha Rabson joined Pat Bisset and Bruce Lucas as swamper. I led, literally, since it was up to me to actually find the trail. (I hate to admit that I actually lost it in one spot and we ended up clearing one tree from a private road.)

Bryan and I started at

7:30 a.m. and were joined by the rest of the crew at 9 a.m. Five crew, including two sawyers, finished the clearance at 4 p.m. Just as the five of us were tackling the final section of blowdowns, a pair of hikers caught up with us. I advised them that they could not pass and pointed to their goal, Sugarloaf, dead uphill to the south. They opted to bushwhack (against advice) after commenting, "the thunderstorm did this?" We had just finished clearing the trail when they returned, grateful they did not have to retrace their off-trail route up.

The penultimate mess removed from the trail consisted of more than five intertwined trees, ranging in size from about 8 inches to 20 inches, including one massive root ball. This is how we classify our blowdowns:

▶ **Hot Mess Blowdowns:** essentially the crowns of trees,

The Damage

Sawyer Bryan Blackburn kept a tally of the blowdown he and his fellow volunteers tackled on the Sugarloaf Trail in just one day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.:

- ▶ 24" Tulip
- ▶ 24" Red Oak
- ▶ 18" Tulip
- ▶ 24" Tulip
- ▶ 10" Maple
- ▶ 12" Red Oak
- ▶ 12" Dead Hemlock
- ▶ 20" Red Oak
- ▶ 16" Red Oak
- ▶ 16" Red Oak
- ▶ 2 x 6" dead Red Oak
- ▶ Top of 12" Red Oak
- ▶ Tops of multiple, including 16" Red Oak
- ▶ Twin 12" Red Oak
- ▶ Preparations for the 24" White Oak

resulting in long sections of trail being completely blocked by numerous, fully leafed branches.

- ▶ **BA Blowdowns:** ("BA" subject to interpretation): large tree trunks across or—worst-case scenario, running the length of—the trail.
- ▶ **BA Hot Mess Blowdowns:** combination of the first two.

WHAT WE KNOW:

- ▶ The Sugarloaf Trail and many sections of the Appalachian Trail are now cleared.
- ▶ Work is ongoing.
- ▶ The sides of trails are covered with removed debris.
- ▶ Sugarloaf now has spectacular views which did not exist prior to the "thunderstorm."

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW:

- ▶ What will replace destroyed mature forest sections, especially in the short term.
- ▶ The future effect of extensive debris on trail drainage

and structure.

▶ How many more crews and maintainers will be needed to deal with the damage resulting from these increasingly common severe storms. Many of our maintainers and crews were still dealing with March storm damage when this thunderstorm hit.

▶ There are still trails which have not been surveyed for damage. If you encounter severe damage while hiking, please report it at nynjtc.org/contact-us.

WHAT WE ARE PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL FOR:

▶ Willing and able crew members, especially sawyers, who have been out every day. I am especially thankful that sawyer certifications beat the storm, enabling newly B-certified sawyers to go out with only one or two swampers.

Sawyer/ Swamper Primer

The Trail Conference trains select volunteers in the safe and responsible removal of blowdown requiring chain-saws in accordance with the United States Forest Service Saw Policy. When you hear our volunteers talking about their sawyer certification level or swampers, here's what they mean:

A-Level Sawyer: An apprentice sawyer who

can saw only under the immediate supervision of a B-level sawyer.

B-Level Sawyer: An intermediate sawyer who may independently saw (with the assistance of a swamper) in moderately complex situations.

Swamper: A worker who assists sawyers by clearing away cut tree sections and clears brush, limbs, and small trees. A swamper remains alert for dangerous situations and may also carry supplies.

MOE LEMIRE





CHRIS CONNOLLY

Chris Connolly and Alec Malyon, pictured, cleared two huge blowdowns on the Marsh Trail in Ramapo Valley County Reservation, next to Trail Conference Headquarters.

NEW JERSEY

'Sawing Up a Storm'



DAVID DAY
WEST JERSEY TRAIL
CREW CHIEF

Our sawyers have been “sawing up a storm” throughout our regions of New Jersey. Many areas escaped with only minor impact; others were absolutely devastated. In some cases, our volunteers have had to shove branches and cut logs out of the way simply to get to the locations where they can begin clearing trails.

Sawyer Joel Pinsker worked with our Wawayanda West trail supervisors to clear 12 trees. Meanwhile, Bob Jonas working with Estelle Anderson in Morristown National Historical Park cleared 40 trees blocking trails, with Bill Harrison serving as a swamper on some trips.

In Worthington State Forest, our volunteer trails supervisor Mark Kern and sawyer Greg Bernet joined David and Monica Day as two saw teams and began working their way up the Dunnfield Creek Trail val-

ley. Many of the downed trees were mature and large—lots of trees were in the 30-inch range. At the end of May, it was still unknown how much work remained because no one had been able to get through to make a full assessment. The trail’s first three-quarters of a mile was a nearly continuous blockage.

Tillman’s Ravine in Stokes State Forest had dozens of similarly large trees, all pitched down off the sides of the ravine landing headfirst into the stream, totally blocking access. Sawyer Chet Morris worked for days to get basic access opened. The West Jersey Crew and its saw teams worked to clear Tillman’s Ravine and its stream and to rebuild portions of trail tread that had been ripped out by root balls.

Many other sawyers all over our N.J. region have been working hard as well. We haven’t yet received full reports to mention their efforts, but all work is greatly appreciated.

WEST OF THE HUDSON RIVER

'The Long Path Is a Mess'



KEVIN MCGUINNESS
LONG PATH SOUTH CHAIR

When experienced New York State Park Ranger Lt. Mickey Cahill says part of your trail is a “mess,” it gets your attention. On May 15, Mickey informed the Trail Conference about a large number of blowdowns over a short portion of the Long Path just north of the Lemon Squeezer, adjacent to the Dismal Swamp in Harriman State Park. That’s when he used the M-word.

Harriman Long Path volunteer trails supervisor Thom Patton and I took quick action. We walked the trail together on May 18 and estimated approximately 30 blowdowns over less than a quarter mile. It looked like a tornado had hit this relatively sheltered section of trail; in fact, it was the worst blowdown issue either of us had seen since Sandy devastated portions of the Long Path. Compounding the situation was the location of the trail, which runs along an area of bedrock that slopes toward the swamp, making it difficult for hik-

ers to navigate around or through the mess.

This was a formidable job. Who could tackle it? And in a timely manner? Only one answer: the tireless Long Distance Trails Crew (LDTCC). Thom contacted the crew, and they did not waste time. The LDTCC mobilized and got to work on May 23. Armed with three chainsaws, hand saws, picks, hammers, ropes, a winch, and of course hard hats and safety glasses, LDTCC members Erik Garnjost, Marty Costello, David Booth, and Jeff Raskin, led by Crew Chief Chris Reyling, were joined by Thom and me for the clearing and restoration work.

And boy, did they go to work. Besides the number of blowdowns—some more than 3 feet in diameter—and the tight location, several trees posed challenges beyond just sawing. One very large tree had grown on the sloping bedrock immediately adjacent to the trail, and when it fell, it not only blocked the trail, but the huge root ball also pulled up so much of the tread that it was filling with

water from the swamp. It was too close to the swamp to cut and clear, so the decision was made to raise and harden the path between the rock slope and the root ball. Large rocks were carried in to fill the low muddy area, and then smaller rocks were used to fill in the spaces. Dirt from the root ball was knocked down to fill and cover the rocks and widen the trail space, and any roots that were sticking out were trimmed back.

By late afternoon the trail had been completely cleared, cleaned up, and restored. But the LDTCC wasn’t finished. On the hike out, they also cleared several blowdowns on the Appalachian Trail and Arden-Surebridge Trail. Why? Because that is what they do. And the crew got great thanks from a couple of Appalachian Trail thru-hikers who had started the trail in February and were well on their way to Maine!

This is what the Trail Conference volunteers do. This is what your membership supports. This is why your trails are blazed, kept clear, and navigable.

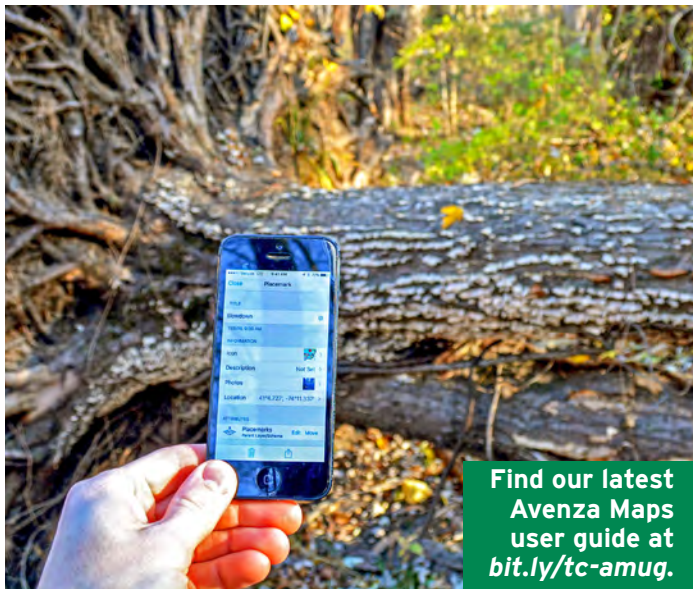


DAVID DAY

The West Jersey Trail Crew has worked tirelessly to clear major blowdown in several areas.



Herculean efforts need equally large thanks. The Appalachian Trail in Dutchess and Putnam counties was hit particularly hard by the spring storms. By the end of May, Chair Jim Haggett had tallied at least 300 hours donated by more than 20 volunteers working tirelessly to make the Trail passable again. These photos were taken on the A.T. north of the Miller Hill Road/Taconic State Parkway intersection.



Find our latest Avenza Maps user guide at bit.ly/tc-amug.

Report Issues on the Trail with Avenza Maps

Whether you are a trail maintainer, invasives surveyor, or the average trail user, you can use the Avenza Maps app to report issues along the trails. From blowdowns and damaged bridges, to illegal ATV use and even map errors, you can use the app to mark a specific issue location, take a picture, and send the report to a supervisor or the Trail Conference office. The location information,

especially when paired with a geotagged photo, can be very helpful for working to resolve the issue.

Thanks to volunteers and staff of the Trail Conference, a new user guide to the app provides step-by-step directions for how to report trail issues. It also covers other basics, including how to download maps and record points and tracks, as well as important tips such as how to perform data backups and ways to use battery life efficiently. Read more about the Avenza Maps app and its features on [page 11](#).

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Elizabeth Levers Inducted into A.T. Hall of Fame



RON ROSEN
A.T. COORDINATING
COMMITTEE CHAIR

On May 4 at the Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, Pa., the Appalachian Trail Museum Society posthumously inducted Elizabeth Levers as one of four members of the eighth class of the Museum's Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame. During my time as chair of the Dutchess/Putnam Appalachian Trail (A.T.) Management Committee (a Trail Conference trails committee), I originally nominated Elizabeth for the award in 2001. This year, I accepted the designation in her memory at the awards ceremony, and the next day made a presentation at the A.T. Museum in Gardners, Pa., about Elizabeth's life and contributions to the Trail.

The nomination was based on Elizabeth's extensive lead-



ership in selecting the permanent route of the A.T. in New York once the 1978 amendments to the National Scenic Trails Act provided funding to allow the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire a corridor of land for the Trail. Her leadership contributions to the Trail Conference were many: In 1965, she single-handedly "invented" the organization's Litter Day, which became an annual event to clear the trails at the start of the hiking season. The success of this venture, and

her natural leadership abilities, resulted in her being elected the first female president of the Trail Conference in 1970. As president, she was involved in the leasing of the Trail Conference's first office at 15 East 40th Street in Manhattan and hiring the first part-time executive director (Bob Parnes).

During the 1970s, Elizabeth joined many other trail leaders in lobbying for the passage of the National Trails funding amendments. Once Congress and President Jimmy Carter approved the amendments, Elizabeth represented the Trail Conference in a meeting called by NPS in Philadelphia—she was the designated representative for the state of New York. The Park Service gave these volunteers one month to designate a permanent route for the Appalachian Trail! Elizabeth quickly arranged for the New York State government



In this photo taken on one of the A.T. route-finding trips in October 1982, Elizabeth Levers teaches Ron Rosen and his son Alvin how to make a reed instrument out of blades on grass.

to conduct a flyover to locate the general route for the Trail. She then led work parties on the ground, armed with walkie-talkies, to flag the 108-mile route from the borders of New Jersey to Connecticut. Shortly afterwards, Elizabeth worked with NPS realty agents to personally visit 150 individual property owners; her enthusiasm resulted in almost all of the landowners being willing to sell the required land to the National Park Service.

Elizabeth was recognized with honorary life membership in the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and the Appalachian Trail Conference (now Conservancy). Once other leaders were found for the

Dutchess County and Putnam County portions of the A.T. in the early 1980s, Elizabeth became the Chair and Land Corridor Manager for the Orange and Rockland Counties' A.T. Management Committee.

Elizabeth died on Nov. 1, 1998, at the age of 93, then living near relatives in Laramie, Wyo. On her death, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regional forester Fred Gerty remarked, "Elizabeth's memorial is the A.T. in New York. A tireless lady, she wandered through the woods for mile after mile working to move the A.T. off the roads. The permanent blazes stand as tall, strong, and bright as Elizabeth's dedication."

Raising Awareness at Trail Days

May 18 through 20, Orange and Rockland Appalachian Trail Chair Storm (Moe Lemire), Orange and Rockland A.T. Corridor Supervisor Karma (Tara Spear), and Communications Assistant Heather Darley represent-

ed the Trail Conference at Appalachian Trail Days in Damascus, Va. They spread the word about the Trail Conference's role in maintaining and protecting the A.T. through New York and New Jersey, and how our volunteers built the first 20 miles of the A.T. back in 1923. Native New York and New Jersey thru-hikers and trail enthusiasts were excit-

ed and inspired to see their home states represented at Trail Days. "We had people running up to our tent saying how nice it was to see a little piece of home in Virginia," Storm said. Connecting people with nature and educating them about the work and care involved with protecting trails is how we create new volunteers, members, and trail advocates.

The A.T. Needs You This Season

Throughout the hiking season, our trail crews will be working on several projects on the Appalachian Trail—including the Long Distance Trails Crew's rehabilitation of the Trail on West Mountain in Bear Mountain State Park, the West Jersey Trail Crew's restoration of the Pochuck

Boardwalk in Wawayanda State Park, and our Conservation Corps crew's reroute of the original section of the A.T. on Bear Mountain. Our crews are eager to meet people who want to make a difference outdoors and to teach you the skills needed to help build and repair trails. Visit nynjtc.org/events or email volunteer@nynjtc.org for details and work dates.



Vernon Named Appalachian Trail Community

On April 29, Vernon, N.J., was officially designated an Appalachian Trail Community—the second A.T. Community in New Jersey. Among those presenting the honor during the event at Heaven Hill Farm were Trail Conference Executive Director Ed Goodell, Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Karen Lutz, Regional Superintendent of Northern Division of NJ State Park System Joshua Osowski, and other state and local officials. "We look forward to working with our new friends in the Vernon Trail Community on raising awareness of the Appalachian Trail and sharing the joys of this natural resource with an even greater number of people," Ed said.



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KENDRA BAUMER
VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT
MANAGER

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is an organization powered by volunteers. Without you, we can't fulfill our mission to ensure the trails and natural areas we share are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy.

This means it's crucial our volunteer programming supports you and fosters positive experiences for all volunteers.

Over the past five months, we've assessed the volunteer experience through three methods: an online survey sent to all volunteers, which garnered 254 responses; a 20-participant focus group; and 22 in-person interviews.

A BIG thank you to all those

who participated. Openly sharing your thoughts provided valuable insight that will help shape the future of our volunteer programming. We learned a lot and here are some specific highlights of what you told us:

▶ The best parts of volunteering are the chance to give back and grow. Roughly three-quarters of volunteers feel there is opportunity for growth and 96 percent feel volunteering for the Trail Conference is doing work for the greater good.

▶ We understand you don't volunteer to get recognition, but your hard work deserves resounding gratitude! Eighty percent of volunteers feel they receive enough appreciation, but unfortunately only half feel that recognition comes from the Trail Conference.

Therefore, we will implement more recognition programs and we'll be better about verbalizing the gratitude we feel on a daily basis.

▶ It became clear our communication needs improvement. The focus group graded our communication skills below average and stated we need to communicate more proactively. Additionally, the interviews indicated a desire for better opportunities to interact with other volunteers. We'll be increasing volunteer-centric communications and events to ensure you get the information you need in a timely manner, as well as network with others who share your passion.

▶ One of the biggest needs voiced is for more training. Seventy-two percent expressed interest in additional work-

shops to expand skills and 32 percent want a better onboarding process when people initially volunteer. We intend to provide all volunteers with the support they need to do their job well.

We're getting to work right away on making updates and improvements. As things become ready, we will openly roll them out. Do you have ideas on how we can continue to improve the volunteer experience? Reach out to Kendra (our Volunteer Engagement Manager) and Jennifer (our Program Assistant) with your thoughts at volunteer@nynjtc.org.

Full results of the assessment can be viewed at bit.ly/tc-vpar18.

Thank you again for your participation and ongoing support during this process!



ALLEGRA MATHIENS

We're working hard to improve your trail-and volunteer-experience.

Staff Update

Happy Trails to Eric
Eric Stone has left the Trail Conference to launch the Rewilding School's outdoor-based forest preschool program. Eric joined the Trail Conference as the **Invasive Species Educator and Volunteer Coordinator** in 2017 after three years as a naturalist with Westchester County Parks. We thank Eric for his contributions and wish him the best of luck.

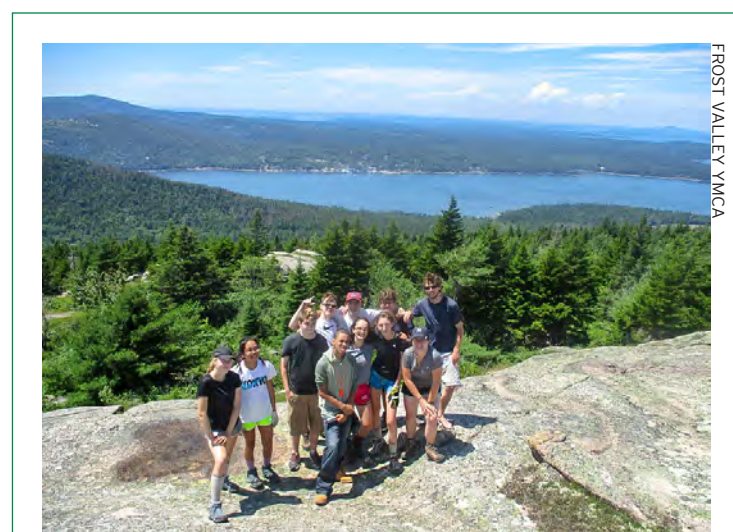
Member Benefit: Guided Hikes

To thank you for making our work possible, we invite all Trail Conference members at the Sponsor Level (\$75 individual, \$90 joint) and higher to join our monthly Member Appreciation Hikes, sponsored by L.L. Bean. Come meet your fellow members and see examples of our recent work or trails we are targeting for improvements. Not a member yet?

Join now at nynjtc.org/membership.

Tentative Member Hike Schedule

- ▶ **July 27:** Black Rock Forest, N.Y.
- ▶ **Sept. 7:** Delaware Water Gap, N.J.
- ▶ **Oct. 12:** Evening Hike: Sugarloaf Hill and Manitoga, N.Y.
- ▶ **Nov. 9:** Sterling Forest, N.Y.
- ▶ **Dec. 14:** Evening Holiday Hike, Ramapo Valley County Reservation, N.J.



FROST VALLEY YMCA

Never Too Young to Serve Outdoors

Frost Valley YMCA offers three service trips for teenagers every summer—and one favorite among budding outdoor enthusiasts is the Catskill Trail Builder trip, which is available Aug. 12-24 for campers entering grades 9-12. During this adventure, campers join newfound friends in the Forever Wild Catskills to help maintain the trails and complete trail work for the area. Earning up to 35 service hours, campers still have plenty of time to explore the best vistas and visit local fire towers. To learn more, visit frostvalley.org/camp or call 845-985-2291 today!

Let's take a hike!

bearmountain
andharriman
hikes.com

bearmountainhikes
@gmail.com

Blue Hole Permitting System Proposed

On March 29, New York State Department of Envi-

ronmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced a proposal to establish a no-cost, day use permitting system requiring visitors to obtain a permit to access the Blue Hole, located in the Sun-

Crew News

Conservation Corps Crews

This season, the Trail Conference Conservation Corps is comprised of 25 AmeriCorps members building trails, improving parks, and teaching volunteers stewardship skills. Our trail-building crews can be found in Bear Mountain, Sterling Forest, and Hudson Highlands state parks in New York, and in Ramapo Valley County Reservation in New Jersey. Our Invasives Strike Force crew is working in the Lower Hudson Valley to protect native habitats. If you're new to trail building, sign up for a Trail Love day at bit.ly/tc-traillove18 for the perfect introduction to how trails are made. Want to help combat invasives? Search "invasives" at nynjtc.org/events for an event near you. Or email volunteer@nynjtc.org, and we'll hook you up with the right crew.

Check catskillconservationcorps.org for upcoming events and more details.

MEVO Trail Crew

The Trail Conference and MEVO (Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization) are teaming up for another year of trail building. While the MEVO Trail Crew's core is made up of college-age students, all volunteers are welcome to join them as they tackle trail projects in several North Jersey parks under the guidance and training of a Trail Conference field manager. Search "MEVO" at nynjtc.org/events to view their schedule, or email crew leader Violet Reed directly at violet@mahwahevo.org.

Lenape Trail Crew

This rapidly growing group focuses on work in Essex County parks. Their urban setting makes for a unique trail volunteer experience where you can start the day at a coffee shop, move on to blazing telephone poles, and then ascend a rugged trail for views of the NYC skyline. This is a great crew for taking your first step into trail work. Search "Lenape" at nynjtc.org/events or email crew leader David DeShazer at djdesazer@gmail.com for details.

Catskill Conservation Corps

The Trail Conference manages the Catskill Conservation Corps (CCC), your portal to volunteer opportunities in the Catskill Park. This season, the CCC is hosting events for every interest and skill, from trail building to litter clean-ups.

down Wild Forest of the Catskill Park in the town of Denning, Ulster County, on summer weekends and holidays. This proposal is designed to allow DEC to strike a balance between ensuring state lands are open and ac-

cessible to the public, reducing environmental damage, and enhancing public safety. As of May 29, DEC was still reviewing public comments on the proposal. Find full details and get updates at dec.ny.gov/lands/109922.html.

'Winging It!' Now on Display



GLENDA HAAS
ART SELECTION
COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Trail Conference Gallery is presenting "Winging It!," a group exhibition featuring art and photographs depicting birds and bugs. The show opened June 7 and can be viewed during regular business hours at Trail Conference Headquarters.

This is a juried show, with prizes provided by Dick Blick Art Materials. Winners will be selected by guest judges Tom Valenti, noted painter, art instructor and past president of Allied Artists of America, and Scott Gunther of Wild Birds

Unlimited in Paramus.

The winners will be announced at a celebratory party for the show on June 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be provided through generous donations from Acme Markets, Inc. and Chicken & Rib Crib of Mahwah. Wild Birds Unlimited will be providing a door prize, and Dick Blick and Ramsey Outdoor will also contribute gift bags for all participating artists in attendance. The reception is open to the public.

The Trail Conference will host additional bird-related activities, including a hike and lecture, through the show's closing on Aug. 28.

If You Go

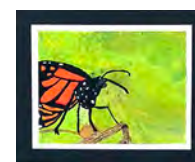


- ▶ **What:** "Winging It!" group exhibition
- ▶ **When:** Now through Aug. 28 during regular Trail Conference hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday
- ▶ **Where:** Trail Conference Headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, N.J.
- ▶ **Details:** Find more at nynjtc.org

Young Artists Featured in Spring Show

The Trail Conference hosted its Second Annual Young Artists Show featuring works by Project Challenge Art students from Mahwah's Joyce Kilmer Elementary School and Ramapo Ridge Middle School. Art by 43 students was on display at our headquarters, May 8 through June 5.

Student works in the exhibition included enlarged spring flowers in multi-media technique; Northeastern butterflies in oil pastel; landscapes inspired by author Joyce Kilmer's own backyard; colorful oil pastel rainbows honoring a retiring teacher; pencil shading (value) studies



based on dog's noses and butterflies; pencil value studies of

metallic objects; and colorful, surrealist multimedia personal perspectives. These works showcase their accomplishments from the school year.

The Project Challenge Art Program serves visually talented students in the Mahwah Public Schools. This program provides students with the opportunity to advance their artistic potential and abilities, heighten aesthetic awareness, interpret and analyze artistic expression, and deepen their understanding of the imaginative and creative process. This year's show added works from Ramapo Ridge's sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

👉 **Diane Stripe, Art Selection Committee Member**

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
<http://www.midhudsonadk.org>

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

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

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

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

Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council - Rockland District

Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn

Boy Scouts of America-Northern NJ Council
<http://www.nnjbsa.org>

BSA Troop 21 - Hudson Valley Council
<http://www.suffern21.mytroop.us/>

Byram Township Environmental Commission
<http://www.byramtp.org>

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

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

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

East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
www.ehtps.org

Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
www.flatrockbrook.org

Friends Of Garret Mountain
<http://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/>

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

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

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

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
www.littlestonypoint.org

Long Path North Hiking Club
<http://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

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

Nelsonville Greenway Committee
VillageofNelsonville.org

New Haven Hiking Club
<http://www.NHHC.info>

New Jersey Forty Plus Hiking Club
<https://www.meetup.com/NJ-Forty-Plus-Hiking-Club>

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

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

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

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

The Outdoor Club, Inc.
www.outdoorsclub.info

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

Palisades MTB
www.facebook.com/groups/palisadesmtb

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

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

Rock Lodge Club
<http://www.rocklodge.com>

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

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.stormkingadventuretours.com>

Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society
<http://www.meetup.com/Sundance-Outdoor-Adventure-Society>

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

Teatown Lake Reservation
<http://www.teatown.org>

Tenafly Nature Center Association
www.tenaflynaturecenter.org

Thendara Mountain Club
www.thendaramountainclub.org

Town of Lewisboro
www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec

Trail WhippAss
<http://www.trailwhippass.com>

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>

Yeshiva University High School Outdoors Club

Navigate the Trails with Just a Few Swipes

Have you checked out our app maps on Avenza Maps yet? If not, you're missing out on a very popular and helpful way to use our high-quality trail maps right on your phone or tablet. You can choose from

more than 70 Trail Conference maps, including several maps that are only available as digital app maps. When combined with the GPS capabilities of your device, you can pinpoint your location on the map, record points and tracks, measure distances, and even report trail issues. You can learn more at nynjtc.org/pdfmaps.

If you have been using the Avenza Maps app, thanks for your support, and please continue rec-

ommending it to fellow trail users whenever possible! Recently, we've expanded our offerings of maps to include new "combined" maps that piece together maps that are, in print



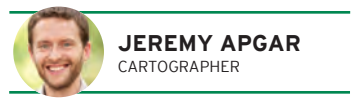
format, provided as separate maps. We now offer combined maps of the Catskills, North Jersey, Harriman-Bear Mountain, Kittatinny, and East Hudson. The app itself has also seen many improvements, including better ways to manage and export point and track data, improvements to managing your account and purchased maps, and behind-the-scenes fixes to improve performance and reliability.

We expect to contin-

ue expanding our catalog of digital app maps, and we will soon offer additional free maps. The app itself will also continue to be improved, especially in the coming months as enhancements to the app's Map Store search will make it much easier to view our full catalog of maps. If you have suggestions for app maps or feedback about the app, you can use our online contact form (nynjtc.org/contact-us) to let us know what you think.

Jeremy Apgar

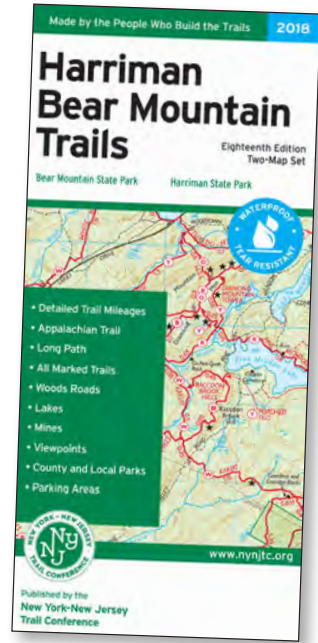
Updated Harriman-Bear Mountain Map Set Available This Summer



JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

The revised 18th edition of our Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails map set, available in early summer, is a must-have for enjoying and exploring the large network of trails in New York's Harriman and Bear Mountain state parks. This two-map set covers more than 230 miles of marked trails, including the Appalachian Trail and Long Path, and features trail mileage numbers and detailed elevation contour lines.

The 18th edition includes the latest trail updates, such as a relocation of the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail near the Timp, a newly marked side trail to Tom Jones Shelter, the addi-



tion of recently acquired parklands, additional viewpoint stars along the Suffern-

Bear Mountain Trail and other trails, and improvements to trail mileage numbers to make them even more useful for trip planning. Additional adjustments make this 18th edition our most accurate map yet covering these popular parks.

All maps also include parking areas and public transportation information, viewpoints and other points of interest, UTM gridlines, and tables of detailed trail information.

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

Special thanks to the volunteers and park partners who helped produce this map revision! This map set is sponsored by Ramsey Outdoor, a retail partner of the Trail Conference.

The Must-Have Maps and Books for Your Next Adventures

You count on the Trail Conference for the best trail maps and guidebooks in the region—and we're working hard to provide you with the most up-to-date information possible. Our Publications Committee is in the middle of a very busy map- and book-making year. Here's a roundup of the latest publications you can buy now, and a look forward to what you can expect in the months ahead.

► **East Hudson Trails map set** – Our 12th edition arrived in January with brand new trail mileage numbers and improved elevation contour lines. Check out this popular three-map set featuring more than 150 miles of marked trails in portions of Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester counties.

► **Harriman Trails: A Guide and History book** – A revised fourth edition of this comprehensive guidebook is available now with significant updates to the 2010 edition. Grab this must-have book to learn about all the

trails in Harriman and Bear Mountain state parks.

► **Hudson Palisades Trails map set** – Available in early summer, our sixth edition of this map set becomes the latest map to feature junction-to-junction trail mileage numbers. It covers more than 100 miles of marked trails and bike paths along the western side of the Hudson River from Fort Lee, N.J., northward to Haverstraw, N.Y.

► **Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails map set** – Available in early summer, our 18th edition of this map set includes several important updates. Check out the article to the left for details.

► **Westchester Trails map set** – A brand new map set featuring some of the best trails in Westchester County is on target to be available soon.

► **Catskill Trails map set** – A revised 12th edition of our largest map set is expected in late summer or fall. This important tool for exploring the Catskills features several trail updates and map improvements.

Visit the Trail Conference Marketplace online at nynjtc.org/shop to browse available maps and books.



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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



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July Is Appalachian Trail Magic Month



HEATHER DARLEY
COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

The Trail Conference welcomes the Appalachian Trail Thru-Hiker Class of 2018 to our 174-mile section of the A.T.! Our volunteers care for the Trail through New Jersey and New York, ensuring the iconic, white-blazed path is well-maintained for all who follow it. This summer, we encourage adventure-seekers to explore one, a few, or all of the A.T. hike options described on our website at bit.ly/tc-athikes.

As stewards of the Appalachian Trail's birthplace—Trail Conference volunteers built the first section of the Trail through Harriman-Bear Mountain state parks in 1923—it is our everyday responsibility to protect its route through our region. Our A.T. volunteers will be out in full force from the Delaware Water Gap to the Connecticut border maintaining the Trail and engaging visitors as the thru-hiker "bubble" makes its way through our region. July

More to Explore

▶ Check out **pages 6-7** to learn how Trail Conference volunteers sprang into action when unprecedented blowdown severed part the Trail's route through Dutchess and Putnam counties.

▶ On **page 8**, read about all our trail crews working throughout the season to improve the Appalachian Trail.

20-22, everyone with a passion for the Appalachian Trail is invited to visit our Conservation Corps crew working on the reroute of the A.T. on Bear Mountain. This is the biggest, most ambitious rehabilitation project to take place on the Appalachian Trail, and we need your help finishing the job! Stop by for a few hours—or the whole weekend!—to learn about trail building and help us turn the oldest, most-used section of the A.T. into a

modern, sustainable trail.

In exchange for your hard work, everyone who volunteers on the Bear Mountain project July 20-22 is welcome at the Welch Trail Education Center in Harriman State Park, not far from the Trail itself, for a campout. Thru-hikers are encouraged to take a zero day and get a good night's rest in our bunk house or pitch your tent lakeside. Grab a hot shower, and join us for a free barbecue each night! Throughout the weekend, shuttles will run from the A.T. Bear Mountain summit at Perkins Memorial Tower to Welch Trail Education Center. Sign up at bit.ly/tc-atmw18, or email volunteer@nynjtc.org for more info.

Also in July, the RPH Cabin Volunteers will be holding their annual work weekend and barbecue July 13-15 in East Fishkill, N.Y.,—another trail work party with the added bonus of camping out and camaraderie. And expect to spot an impromptu tailgate or two at A.T. trailheads throughout the month as our Trail Family offers some trail magic!



The popular Pinwheel's Vista on Wawayanda Mountain from the A.T. in New Jersey.

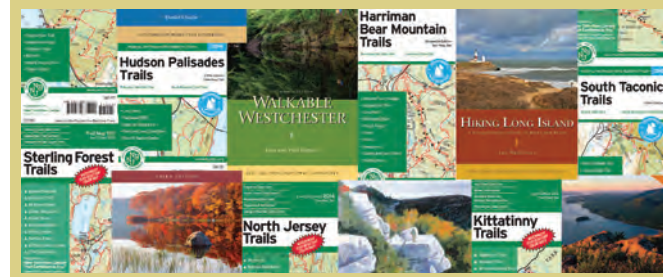


Find Your A.T. Adventure

Find details about the Appalachian Trail's route through N.Y. and N.J., including great hike options and hike descriptions, at bit.ly/tc-athikes.

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!

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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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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.

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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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