



TRAIL WALKER

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

Sparking a Lifelong Appreciation for Nature

Trail Conference Stewards Are Ambassadors for Safe, Enjoyable, and Responsible Recreation Outdoors

Think back to your first memory on a trail. Think about where you were, who you were with. What do you most strongly recall?

Hopefully it's a fond memory! Hopefully it helped to spark a lifelong love of connecting with nature and the determination to protect that kind of experience outdoors.

Perhaps you had some sort of "trail ambassador"—a parent or scout leader or friend—who led the way. Your trail ambassador would have had a map and supplies and the know-how to explore safely and mindfully—and hopefully, they passed that knowledge and preparedness along to you.

These days, not everyone is so lucky to have a trail ambassador guiding them through the "hiking 101" lessons you likely gained firsthand from a trusted source. Where you once needed a map and/or guidebook—or a savvy trail ambassador—just to find a hike, the internet now provides endless recommendations at the tap of a button. But that URL doesn't necessarily give accurate information. And it very likely doesn't paint the full picture about our responsibility, as people who seek nature, to enjoy the outdoors with "best practices" in mind.

To provide that missing service to the public—a public that is using trails and parks at an unprecedented rate—the Trail Conference has taken a leading role in provid-



Trail Conference Stewards provide the public with the assistance and education they need to have great trail experiences while doing their part to protect the environment.

ing outreach and assistance to visitors through our Trail Steward program. Our Stewards bring face-to-face user education and sustainable, on-the-ground solutions to some of the region's most popular outdoor destinations. They are key in protecting the ecological integrity of these special places that are threatened by issues such as misuse and high usage. By encouraging public participation, Stewards are a solution multiplier.

In 2019, Stewards serving through the Trail Conference Conservation Corps were sta-

tioned at four locations and interacted with more than 89,100 people. In New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection Stewards trained by the Trail Conference counted over 24,500 people at three sites. And in the Catskills, volunteer Stewards overseen by the Trail Conference helped almost 20,000 visitors to the new Ashokan Rail Trail. That's more than 133,600 people given the opportunity to ask for a route recommendation and get a map to safely navigate it; to discover there are no trash receptacles along the trail and

that they should carry out everything they carry in; and to learn that staying on the trail isn't just safer for them—it actually helps protect the ecosystem.

In 2020, we plan to play a role in assisting even more visitors to popular trails. We're in the process of securing the resources and support to field Stewards in additional high-profile locations, such as Minnewaska State Park Preserve and along the Old Croton Aqueduct in Westchester County.

Our Steward program is

Thanks to Our Generous 2019 Steward Program Supporters

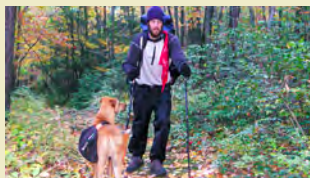
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having a positive impact on the way people experience nature and the way park agencies are managing and protecting their lands. Find recaps of our success in 2019 and our plans for 2020 on page 8.

And if you believe in the power of everyone having a "trail ambassador" to guide them towards a lifetime of safe, enjoyable, responsible recreation outdoors, please consider supporting the Trail Steward program at nynjtc.org/donate. Your gift will have a direct hand in deepening people's relationships to the natural world and empowering them—and in turn, all of us—to protect the environment.

[see STEWARDS, page 8](#)

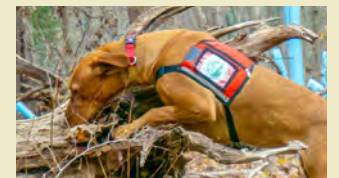
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Making Great Trail Experiences Possible

We asked our supporters to be part of the global giving movement surrounding #GivingTuesday—and the response was incredible! We challenged our friends, partners, and the greater community to show their support during our #TrailsGiving Week, Nov. 26 through Dec. 3. With your help, \$28,645 was raised and doubled. That means a total of \$57,290 raised during #TrailsGiving Week will go toward supporting the more than 2,000 volunteers who care for your favorite trails and protect the land you love. It's amazing what we can accomplish as a Trail Family!

In the spirit of the season, a generous donor extended this matching period through the end of 2019 to create our December Challenge. Through Dec. 31, 2019, your gift is doubled, meaning \$50 automatically turns into \$100. Give today at bit.ly/tc-dec19!

With increasing stress on our parks and trails due to unprecedented usage, invasive species, development, and weather-related damage, now more than ever, the work of the Trail Conference is needed. And that means your support is needed.

Your gift to the Trail Conference buys safety gear for our volunteers. It also allows us to provide training to our newest volunteers. It

helps our crews build bridges on trails and remove invasive plants from trail corridors, protecting the ecology. Your gift enables us to create maps for visitors to get to the trails and hike them safely. All that, in turn, empowers you to reap the restorative benefits of nature. That's worth a few dollars, isn't it? In our minds, it's priceless. And that's why we do this work.

So how much are *your* trail experiences worth? Let your generosity be your guide. Please donate to the Trail Conference now. Do your part to ensure your favorite trails and parks are cared for and protected—today, for the next 100 years, and beyond.



HEATHER DARLEY



KENDRA BAUMER

The passion, dedication, and leadership of our volunteers make the Trail Conference mission possible. Nominate an outstanding volunteer today!

Call for Volunteer Award Nominations; Save the Date for Our Appreciation Event

Trail Conference volunteers make incredible commitments to the trails and lands we all love. Our success as an organization comes from the hard work, dedication, and support of the many volunteers who selflessly share their time. Each year we recognize a number of outstanding individuals and organizations that exemplify the Trail Conference mission.

We need you to tell us about a volunteer blazing the way for good! We know there are many volunteers worthy of an award, and your nominations help us identify the

exceptional volunteers that deserve special recognition for their efforts.

Nominations will be open through January 13, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.

The awards will be presented on Sunday, March 8, at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. This year's event will be held at Skylands Manor in Ringwood, N.J.

Check nynjtc.org/awards for the awards categories and to register for the event. To nominate someone, fill out the online form or e-mail it with supporting statements to volunteer@nynjtc.org.

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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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ULSTER COUNTY
NEW YORK

Joshua Howard Named Trail Conference Executive Director

Joshua Howard has been named Executive Director of the Trail Conference. An 18-year member of the staff,



he assumed a joint leadership role as Chief Operating Officer in March, serving alongside Chief Financial Officer Mary Perro. Since then,

Josh has been responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Trail Conference, with Mary responsible for all financial matters.

As we look forward to entering our Centennial year, the Trail Conference Board of Directors has determined the organization will best be pre-

pared to meet the challenges of our second century with Josh at the helm as Executive Director.

“Josh has brought a new and refreshing leadership style to the Trail Conference,” said Board of Directors Chair Eddie Saiff. “He is very much a team builder with a vision

for the future that energizes all aspects of our organization. The Board and I are confident that with Josh as our Executive Director, his team in the office and in the field put the future of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in the best possible hands.”

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Where Does Your Trail Lead?

This October, the Trail Conference turns 100. While browsing through our archives in preparation for our Centennial, I came across our collection of newspaper columns by Raymond H. Torrey. One of the Trail Conference's founders, Torrey was editor of the Outdoor Page for the New York Evening Post. He wrote the column “The Long Brown Path,” which promoted hiking and other outdoor activities. On April 4, 1930, in a column titled “Appreciates Appalachian Trail,” Torrey shared a letter he received from Miss Angelique Rivollier, Director of the Inkowa Outdoor Club, about a hike she took along the Appalachian Trail from Sloatsburg, N.Y., to Greenwood Lake:

“There were six in the party and we voted it the most wonderful hike we ever had (the day was ideal) and the most beautiful trail we had ever been on. They asked that I write you and express to you, and through you, to the others who helped,



our appreciation of the hard work which made it possible for the rest of us to enjoy this lovely trail. It seemed to us this must be one of the most beautiful parts of the Appalachian Trail. Anyway, I don't believe it can be improved on very much. The trip last Sunday made us realize how blessed we are, who live in this big metropolitan area, to have so near at hand for our constant enjoyment so many beautiful mountains and trails. And I am afraid that as we go over the trails, we forget that it

is the hard work of a few that makes possible the enjoyment by many.”

As the new executive director of the Trail Conference, those words resonated with me. It was thanks to the efforts of Trail Conference volunteers that Angelique was able to explore “the most beautiful trail” on “the most wonderful hike.” Enabling the public to experience this region's parks was the cornerstone on which the Trail Conference was founded—and that's why we continue to do this work today.

Trails offer a break from our hectic lives and the chance to push ourselves to new limits. They provide solitude and social opportunities. Trails heal. They set us free. I follow a lot of outdoorsy folks on Instagram, and I love seeing all the incredible ways they connect with nature—whether that's setting out on the personal challenge of completing a trail marathon, or simply walking hand-in-hand with a loved one through the woods on a Sunday afternoon. Social media may have replaced newspaper columns for sharing our stories with the world, but what hasn't changed is the impor-



Josh thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2001. What's your favorite trail story?

tance of those stories to our mission. Since 1920, the Trail Conference has worked to empower everyone to explore the restorative benefits of nature.

It was during my own experience thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail in 2001 that I rediscovered my passion for the outdoors. My experiences along the A.T. motivated me to become more involved in protecting and maintaining the trails and trail lands I had just hiked through, which led to my first role at the Trail Conference, back in 2002.

As Angelique acknowledged in 1930, and what still rings true today, is that it's the work of volunteers who make these opportunities possible. Whether you seek the solace of nature or crave adventure,

your passions drive the path you choose. At the Trail Conference, our passion is creating great trail experiences. In fact, there's a good chance your last hike, trail run, or ride was made possible by some of our 2,000-plus dedicated volunteers.

So where does your trail lead? What outdoor experiences hold the most meaning to you? I hope you'll share your stories with us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter @nynjtc, or by emailing tw@nynjtc.org. As we celebrate 100 years of service, we'd love to share with the greater trail community the impact we've been able to have on your life.

Joshua Howard
Executive Director
executivedirector@nynjtc.org

In Memoriam

Norm Blumenstein

Norman Blumenstein, 75, of Sayreville, N.J., passed away on May 14. Norm was a long-time member, volunteer, and donor of the Trail Conference and a valued member of our Finance Committee. He was dependable, kept our Finance Committee minutes, and offered well-thought-out advice. We will sincerely miss him.

Rudy Templin

Rudolph Templin, 77, of Oakland, N.J., passed away on July 19. Rudy served in the Army National Guard for 6 years, graduated from Rutgers University, and earned his master's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Rudy worked as a certified public accountant for Balfour MacLaine Corp. in New York City until he retired.

Hiking and volleyball were Rudy's passions. He volunteered at the Trail Conference as a trail maintainer in Wawayanda State Park. He was also a volunteer

and member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Over 20 years ago, he started an interdenominational social group called Christian Singles of North Jersey. He loved helping people in need.

Rudy was a true gentleman, a spiritual inspiration, and a dedicated friend to all who knew him. He will be sorely missed.

Roslyn Willet

Roslyn Willet, 94, died peacefully in her Manhattan home on June 19. She enjoyed hiking, swimming, and dance, and was an enthusiastic patron of the arts.

Roslyn began her distinguished career as a dietician at the YWCA in 1944. She served as an executive at Stein Hall & Co. from 1944 to 1948, then became managing editor of Food Industries at McGraw-Hill in 1949—the company's first female editor. In 1954 she became the Director of the Institutional and Business Press Department at Farley Manning & Associates. In 1959, she became founder and president of Roslyn Willet and Associates, a public relations, marketing, and institutional food consult-

ing company she operated through the 1980s. Roslyn was a pioneering feminist, authoring influential articles and books. She was adjunct professor at Hunter College, the Polytechnic University of New York, and Columbia University School of Public Health. She was inducted into the Hunter College and City University of New York halls of fame in 2015. She will be dearly missed.

Liam Gillespie

William “Liam” Gillespie died peacefully on Nov. 18 at his home in Cold Spring, N.Y. He loved running, soccer, hiking, and the Hudson Valley. In the 1980s, he completed two New York City Marathons and joined the Hash House Harriers running group, running with them for two decades. He loved his community and his many friends in Cold Spring. In 2016, he was proud to receive his membership in the Catskill 3500 Club, having climbed all Catskill peaks over 3,500 feet in summer and winter. He will be greatly missed.



New and Returning Board, Voting Members Named for 2020

The Nominating Committee of the Trail Conference presented the following candidates for the Board of Directors for three-year terms and At-Large Voting Members for one-year terms. These nominations were voted on at the Annual Meeting held on Nov. 19 at Trail Conference Headquarters.

David Felsenthal, Counsel

David has been a member of the Trail Conference and an active hiker in the greater New York area for over 30 years. He has worked on legal issues for the Trail Conference, including recreational land use matters. A graduate of Princeton and Harvard Law School, David is an attorney and a partner at Clifford Chance, a global law firm. Before moving to New York, David lived in Taiwan and Switzerland, where he hiked extensively.

Ned Whitney

Ned is a returning Board Member who serves on the Audit, Finance, Membership and Development, and Governance committees.

He is a retired investment banker. Ned grew up in New England and has been active in outdoor activities, particularly hiking, biking and skiing, all of his life.

Patsy Wooters

Patsy is a returning Board Member who serves as Vice Chair. She is also active on the Strategic Planning, Governance, Membership and Development, and Advocacy committees. Patsy retired from a teaching career in 2007 and is a Trail Conference Life Member.

At-Large Voting Members

- ▶ Suse Bell
- ▶ Deborah Padula-Genna
- ▶ Matt Decker
- ▶ Jack Driller
- ▶ Harvey Fishman
- ▶ William Gannett
- ▶ Robert Lehmann
- ▶ James Piombino
- ▶ Anne Powley
- ▶ Kristin Reeves
- ▶ Peter Reiner
- ▶ Ruth Rosenthal
- ▶ Susan Scher
- ▶ Doug Sohn
- ▶ Robert Ward
- ▶ Kevin Bukowski
- ▶ Jane Daniels (Jan. 2020)
- ▶ Daniel Chazin
- ▶ Ron Rosen

Staff Update

Welcome, Olivia, Kathleen, Arden, Ryan, and Lenny



Olivia Sohn spent her childhood exploring the trails of Norvin Green State Forest. Her love of the outdoors prompted her to earn a bachelor's degree in biology at The College of New Jersey. After graduation, she served two AmeriCorps terms as a Trail Crew Leader for the Trail Conference Conservation Corps, building stone staircases in the Catskills and mountain biking trails in Sterling Forest. Olivia then moved to the West Coast, where she practiced a holistic approach to riparian conservation, first conducting stream habitat surveys for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and then restoring salmon habitat as the assistant supervisor for the Washington Conservation Corps. Olivia is thrilled to be back at the Trail Conference once again, now as the **Volunteer Engagement Assistant**, working with the tireless volunteers that made her time as a Corps leader so memorable.



Kathleen Bezik joined the Trail Conference full time in October as the **Executive Assistant**. Prior to this position, Kathleen served an AmeriCorps term with the Trail Conference Conservation Corps as a member of the Aquatic Invasives Strike Force Crew. She graduated from Temple University with a bachelor's degree in biology and has five years of research experience studying a variety of subjects, from neuroscience to marine ecology. Kathleen is fascinated with nature and values an adventurous and curious approach to outdoor conservation. From swimming with sharks as a dive volunteer at a local aquarium, to hiking trails in the area, she is passionate about sharing the outdoors with others.

Arden Blumenthal, our **Conservation Dogs Program Assistant**, first joined the Trail Conference as a volunteer for the Conservation Dogs Program in the spring of 2019. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Virginia Tech, where she worked with various species of wildlife, including the elusive Eastern hellbender salamander.



She went on to pursue a master's degree from Purdue University in ecology and evolutionary biology. Arden is passionate about human-wildlife conflict mitigation, animal behavior, and conservation biology, which has led her to start a career as a conservation dog handler. In her free time, she enjoys all outdoor activities, trying new breweries, playing board games, and baking.



Ryan Goolic's love for nature was fostered at a young age through years of outdoor activities with the Boy Scouts. He received his bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in environmental studies from The College of New Jersey. He got involved with invasive species by spending time in a research lab that focused on how invasives and deer interact

with the native forest plant communities. After graduation, he spent two years serving with AmeriCorps. His service included managing invasive plants with the Trail Conference's Invasives Strike Force, building trails in Sterling Forest, and restoring and protecting aquatic resources in Montana. Ryan spent 2019 as the Invasives Strike Force Crew Leader before transitioning to the position of **Terrestrial Invasive Species Project Manager**. When he's not waging war against invasive plants, you can find him looking for interesting bugs and fungi, cooking for friends and family, and unwinding through gaming.



Lenny Bussanich, our **Fulfillment Coordinator**, comes to the Trail Conference with more than 20 years of experience in the outdoor industry. His most recent role was as Social Media Content Strategist and Partnerships Manager, where he helped elevate his former employer's branding within the outdoor community. At the same time, he renewed older and established new relationships with nonprofit organizations dedicated to outdoor

education and stewardship. Lenny is passionate about the outdoors and trails and hikes or bikes regularly on the weekends.

Happy Trails to Mike



Michael Young, our former **Terrestrial Invasive Species Project Manager**, has left the Trail Conference to pursue other opportunities. In 2015, he received his bachelor degree in landscape architecture with a concentration in ecological design from Rutgers University. Throughout his career, Mike has interned with the Central Park Conservancy, spent two seasons with Maplewood Township in New Jersey as a horticultural specialist, and worked as a material planner in corporate aviation for Dassault Falcon Jet. Earlier in life, he was the trail maintainer for Greenbrook Nature Sanctuary along the Palisades, where a desire to protect our native environment was fostered. More recently, he was a crew member of the 2016 Invasives Strike Force Crew. We wish him good luck on his next adventure!

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AUGUST 16 - OCTOBER 31, 2019

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William DesJardin

In honor of Barbara Erdsneker
Joe Farkas

In honor of Kevin Graney
Shepard Grinker

In honor of Evan Siegel
Shepard Grinker

In honor of Three Arrows Cooperative
Lawrence Sapadin

In memory of Elijah Cummings, a true statesman who worked tirelessly for the benefit of his fellow Americans
Bob Jonas

In memory of Nature Jim Clawson
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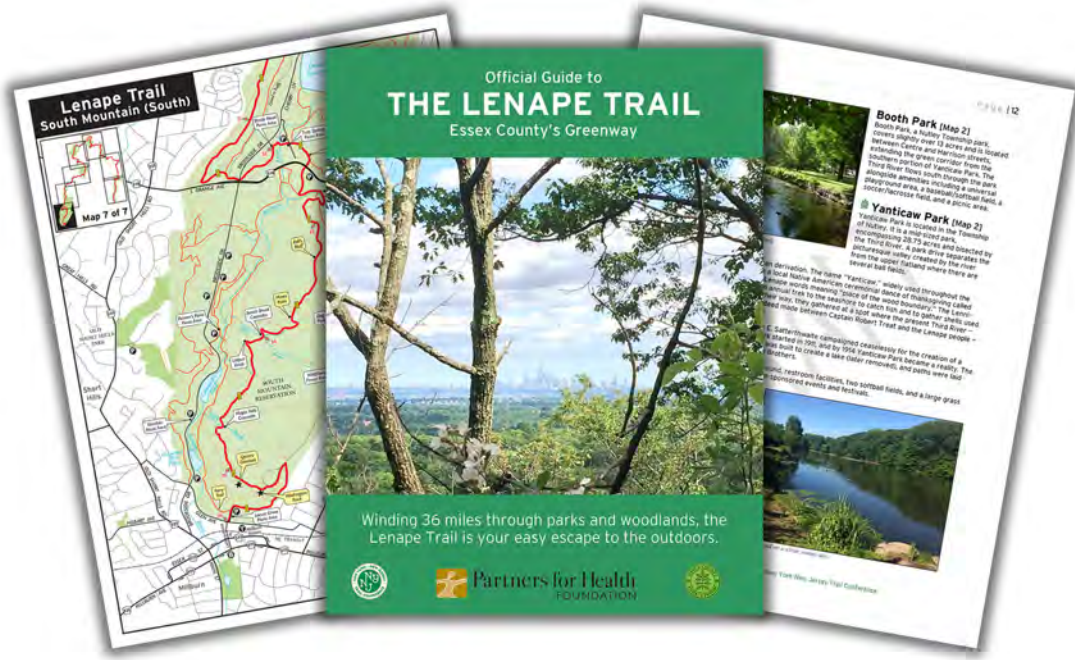
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Lenape Trail Guide Is Your Key to Exploring Essex County

New Jersey's 36-mile Lenape Trail brings visitors to Essex County's great outdoor destinations by connecting 18 parks and 11 communities. Since 2017, generous support from the Partners for Health Foundation has enabled the Trail Conference to focus on the Lenape Trail and make this unique urban-suburban trail a destination for residents to explore the wide range of healthy outdoor activities found right in their own backyards. In partnership with the Essex County Park System, the last several years have seen trail reroutes, signage installation, and public workshops that resulted in improved trail visibility, enhanced volunteer recruitment, and new partner connections all along the trail. We have also renewed the local volunteer committee, led by Supervisor David DeShazer, and host regular crew trips to improve the trail. Now, we are pleased to offer Lenape Trail visitors an in-depth guide to the trail and its abundance of recreational opportunities.

The Official Guide to the Lenape Trail is your key to ex-



ploring the Lenape Trail and the parks through which it traverses. It includes detailed maps and descriptions of points of interest along the trail, making it valuable for hikers and historians alike. Created as a PDF, you can view the full guide (or just the sections that interest you) by clicking the "Lenape Trail Guide and Maps" button at LenapeTrail.org. For those who want to own a hard copy,

the 42-page free PDF can be printed and bound at home or your local copy and print center. In addition, you can download a digital Lenape Trail map through the Avenza Maps app on your mobile device. You can also view an interactive map online, which is perfect for trip planning. Information on the app and interactive map can also be found through LenapeTrail.org.

Lenape Trail Field Manager Debra Kagan orchestrated the creation of this digital guide with expert input from local museums, historical societies, and nature centers in the hope it will enrich the trail experience of county residents and attract new hikers, walkers, and volunteers. It is an essential tool for both promotion and consistent, stable management of the volunteer-maintained Lenape Trail.

We thank the Partners for Health Foundation for their support and for allowing the Trail Conference to continue growing and improving this important trail. Interested in volunteering? Email volunteer@nynjtc.org.

News in Brief

Share Your Trail Conference History

As the Trail Conference approaches its 100th birthday, some of our long-time volunteers are spearheading efforts to create a display of the organization's history in the main hall at our headquarters. The proposed theme is "We Work, We Play"—and we need your help!

We're looking for memorabilia and photos that demonstrate our mission and growth, from our earliest days, right up to the present. We're seeking old trail signs and blazing materials, as well as tools of our trade. Photos that show group trips, work trips, youth endeavors, and projects both underway and completed are encouraged. Although we have photos of our founding members along the historic staircases, we'd also like to see some photos of our "old timers."

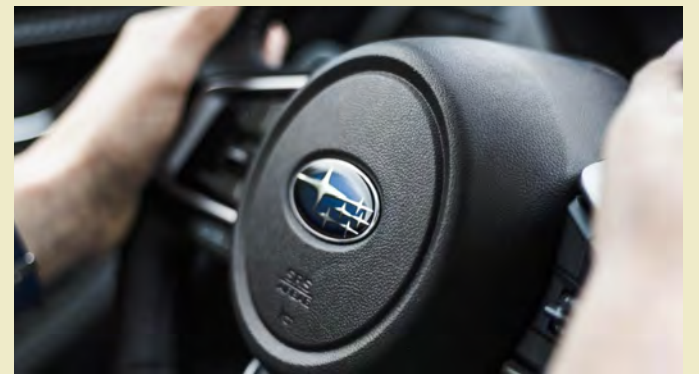
Central North Jersey Trail Co-Chair Bob Jonas has already assembled some of

this material, but he is looking for more that represents our entire region—from the Catskills in the north to the Sourlands in the south.

While we have two cabinets to fill, space is not unlimited. Please email Bob at yroke70@gmail.com with items that you might be willing to contribute. Looking forward to a broad assortment of interesting artifacts! Bob Jonas

Save the Date: Voting Members Meeting

Our Spring Voting Members Meeting and Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 26, at Trail Conference Headquarters. At press time, the agenda had not yet been set. If you have agenda items to suggest, please email them to kbezik@nynjtc.org. Meeting information and materials will be provided in advance. More details will be posted to nynjtc.org as they become available.



Liberty's 'Share the Love' Event Benefits Trails and Parks

Do you plan to buy or lease a new car between now and Jan. 2, 2020? If so, your purchase can result in a \$250 donation to the Trail Conference. As part of Subaru of America's annual Share the Love event, Liberty Subaru of Emerson, N.J., has named the Trail Conference as one of their Hometown Charities! This means that for every new vehicle purchased or leased, Subaru will donate \$250 to the charity you designate.

In fact, if you buy or lease a car at Liberty Hyundai and Genesis in Mahwah or Liberty Kia in Ramsey, your purchase will also result in a \$250 donation. Find more details at bit.ly/tc-stl19.

Two things to remember:
 ▶ Make sure you choose the Trail Conference as the charity you want to support.
 ▶ Trail Conference members who show their membership card will also get dealer's invoice pricing on Subaru, Hyundai, Kia, and Genesis vehicles at the Liberty Family of Dealerships.

Our thanks to Liberty and everyone who chooses to support the Trail Conference mission!

810 ROUTE 17 NORTH, PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY 07652
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*Liberty Subaru customers must choose NY-NJ Trail Conference from a list of "Share the Love" charities. Liberty Hyundai, Liberty KIA, and Genesis of Mahwah customers must present NYNJTC membership card at time of purchase or lease. This offer is valid only at Liberty dealerships.

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

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

Spotting Lanternfly Before It's Too Late



ARDEN BLUMENTHAL
CONSERVATION DOGS
PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is hopping closer and closer to the Hudson Valley and northern New Jersey—and you need to be aware of the threat it poses to our region. First discovered in Berks County, Pa., in 2014, these plant hoppers are native to China, India, and Vietnam. They are thought to have arrived in the States as egg masses on a shipment of stone. These ravenous bugs feed on over 70 species of plants, including maple, walnut, fruit trees, and even grape vines and hops. SLF physically stress plants by draining vital nutrients and leaving a sticky excrement that promotes the growth of harmful black mold. Should lanternfly proceed unchecked through New York and New Jersey, both the environmental and economic impacts of a lanternfly feeding frenzy could be significant.

For perspective, New York alone has a \$52.3 million annual grape yield contributing to a \$4.8 billion wine and



Watch Dia and Fagen (above) in action on Instagram @diasavestheforest.

grape industry. As of September, there were a total of eight quarantined counties with established populations in New Jersey. Certain goods or materials cannot be transported out of these counties without following strict regulations. Even still, 11 counties in New York State have confirmed sightings of spotted lanternfly believed to be hitchhikers from travelers' cars or equipment. The pest

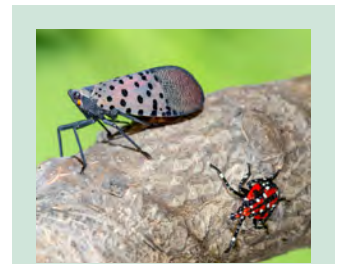
has been found in a total of eight states.

Until an effective solution to eradicate spotted lanternfly is found, land managers and state and federal agencies are focusing on keeping populations under control. Preventing the spread of SLF to other counties and states presents another challenge.

The Trail Conference has an innovative solution to this growing problem. Since

August, our Conservation Dogs program has partnered with NYS Parks, NYS Department of Transportation, and USDA to conduct cargo searches and field surveys for spotted lanternfly. Because human eyesight is not always a reliable way to find these harmful bugs, conservation dogs' incredible sense of smell is an ideal method to search for them.

This summer, program



SLF winged adult (top) and 4th instar nymph

If you think you've seen a spotted lanternfly or an egg mass, please send a picture to spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov in New York or SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov in New Jersey.

manager Josh Beese brought the first dog on our team, Dia, to Chester County, Pa., to train in the detection of SLF. Due to the magnitude of the threat, he additionally brought Fagen—the dog he works with in FEMA search and rescue efforts—along for training. Both dogs succeeded in learning to detect adult spotted lanternfly and SLF egg masses and have been participating in our searches and surveys.

With financial and volunteer support, the Trail Conference can expand this program and keep spotted lanternfly and other invasive plant and pest species under control, limiting their impact. Find out how you can be part of the solution at nynjtc.org/dogs.

More Than Service to Trails and Parks

What's it like to serve as an AmeriCorps member in the Trail Conference Conservation Corps (TCCC)? It's giving your time—full-time, for six months—to protect the environment and the public's ability to safely enjoy it. That's not an easy gig. But for some of our members, it's not only an incredibly rewarding experience—it's life-changing.

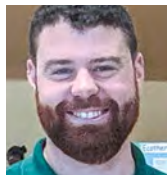
Here are a few of their stories from the 2019 season:

Stephen Sullivan, Trail Steward

To be honest, I originally saw my season with the TCCC as an opportunity

to burn time until the next semester of college started. I was entirely wrong.

The first few days alone showed me just how special the program and the people in it are. When working Breakneck Ridge and Bear Mountain, I saw firsthand just how necessary the early intervention of Trail Stewards is to keep the parks safe and fun for those visiting. When in the Catskills, I learned how diverse the hikers in those mountains could be. And when trail building and maintaining with Andy Garrison, Long Path Trail Chair, I learned how much effort truly goes into trail construction and rehabilitation, and saw the indefatigable devotion the



Trail Conference volunteers have towards their mission. And of course, my fellow Corps members showed a level of camaraderie, support, and love for one another that I had only seen before in the military.

I had started out as an outsider to the world of conservation, and by the end of the program, I found myself ready to redirect my life towards it. Opportunities and paths I never would have imagined before have become my goals for the future. I found more than I was looking for, and I'm forever grateful to this program for that.

Heather Platt, Aquatic Invasives

AmeriCorps positions are fulfilling for the soul. The chance to experience enriching positions in communities of need fills you with excitement and the feeling of

being needed. The environmental stewardship positions available through

AmeriCorps allow everyone—whether you enjoy public communication or manual labor—to get out into the public and pull their weight. There is happiness to be found outdoors, and there is fulfillment in being part of a larger community. *Heather just started a new job as an ecological restoration project assistant at NYC Department of Parks & Recreation. Congrats!*

Kasia Ozimek, Trail Crew

I graduated in December 2018 with a bachelor's degree in biology and art but didn't know which field to pursue for a job. So, I searched for a temporary position to help me figure out what my next



big career step would be, and I thought trail work would be perfect.

This experience has allowed me to see the hard work and dedication it takes to maintain and build sustainable trails. Learning various techniques from field managers Erik Mickelson and Ben Sugar built my confidence on the trail, allowing me to make decisions without awaiting their approval. Working with volunteers helped me realize that teaching is one of my passions. I will now continue a career path in education. Overall, I am grateful for all the experiences and friendships I have made throughout the term, and I can't wait to come back and volunteer in my spare time!



New Signage Improving Navigation from Tuxedo Station to Harriman

The first trail ever built in Harriman, the Ramapo-Dunderberg (R-D), will get a major facelift starting in 2020, just in time for its—and the Trail Conference’s—100th birthday. Regarded as one of Harriman-Bear Mountain’s most scenic trails, the 23-mile R-D was built in 1920 to connect the village of Tuxedo Park to the Hudson River.

In preparation for the upcoming Harriman Connections project, which will repair and rebuild the R-D and other trails in 2020-2021, volunteers and staff have been working to install new, improved signage. The attractive new signs are significantly improving navigation of the first section of trail, which passes through a residential



neighborhood on its way to the forest.

Created by volunteer Glenn Gross, the new signs will complement a Trail Conference public education effort to help prevent hikers from getting lost, inadvertently wandering onto private property, or parking in areas where it is not permitted.

Stay tuned for more information about both projects and how they are transforming the user experience on some of the region’s most iconic trails.



Bear Mountain Volunteers Continue A.T. Care

Sean Sully and his merry men, volunteers of the recently completed Bear Mountain Trails Project, took the ongoing care of the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain under their wing. Sean discovered several social trails being created around the sides of the stone stairs

and called up some of his fellow volunteers. Together, they installed several permanent obstacles, effectively blocking off the side trails and restoring the corridor. It is gratifying to have volunteers from the project apply their skills and passion toward ensuring this popular trail remains in good shape for years to come!

Happy Trails to Bob Ward

After 69 years of service, Bob Ward retired from his volunteer role as our Queens Rockaways Trail Supervisor on Nov.



1. Bob also resigned from his chairmanship of the Queens Trails Council on Oct. 23. The Queens Borough Commissioner of Parks presented Bob with the new sign that will be placed on the Bayswater Trail in the Far Rockaways, Queens, indicating the new name of the trail: Bob’s Trail.

The Trail Conference presented Bob, who is 91 years young, with a framed version of the Summer 2019 Trail Walker article about his dedication and passionate volunteerism, as well as a print of a hand-drawn map of Queens trails from 1936. The map was updated in 1950—the same year Bob began volunteering for the Trail Conference. He received a plaque that reads: “Presented to Bob Ward, a champion of trails in the borough of Queens, New York City, and beyond. In recognition of seven decades of outstanding service to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.”

Thank you, Bob!

Thank You, Dan

Daniel Hoberman, Board Counsel since 2014, has reached his term limit and stepped down from the role. An avid hiker, he initially became involved with the Trail Conference as the Chairman of Workshops at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Biennial Conference in 2007, hosted by the Trail Conference. While a member of the Trail Conference’s Publications Committee, he was instrumental in bringing the PDF Map app to our community. Dan received the Trail Conference’s Paul Leikin Extra Mile Award in 2007. A graduate of University of Vermont and Rutgers-Camden Law School, Dan is a civil trial attorney and mediator engaged in the private practice of law. We’ll see you on the trail, Dan!



LDTC Constructing Long Path Reroute at Hook Mountain

The Long Distance Trails Crew (LDTC) has been doing a major stonework project rerouting the Upper Nyack Trail to connect Nyack Beach with the Long Path under the shadow of Hook Mountain in Rockland County, N.Y. This moves the White Trail/Long Path off the road and onto a newly acquired portion of land adjacent to the Marydell Faith & Life Center in Nyack. The LDTC is building new trail through an area packed with big rocks and fallen trees. The crew is making great progress but there is a lot of work to be done. If

interested in helping out, email crew@longdistancetrailcrew.org. The LDTC expects the project to be completed sometime next year.

Pine Meadow Bridge Restored

The West Hudson South Crew rebuilt a bridge in Harriman State Park that was first damaged in 2011 and needed more attention to be sustainable. Over many work trips this fall, crew members and trail maintainers worked together to restore this important bridge carrying three trails—Pine Meadow, Seven Hills, and Kakiat—to the popular Pine Meadow Lake. Help also came from mem-

bers of the trail community who carried in pieces of lumber for the railings. The project’s leaders stacked a pile of two by fours near the Reeves Meadow Visitor Center with a sign asking hikers to help carry pieces in for the bridge restoration. Within a few days, all the wood was piled up by the bridge!

Crossover Trail Completed

JORBA’s Ringwood Trail Crew completed relocation and improvement of the multi-use Crossover Trail in Ringwood State Park in September 2019. The project was over 6 years in the making. The final section was the last of at

least nine sections that were either realigned or improved. The new route eliminates the steepest, wettest, and most unpleasant part of the old trail and replaces it with a sustainably built path with turnpike, culverts, and bridges to keep hikers and bikers high and dry. JORBA and Trail Conference volunteers combined forces to tackle part of the trail’s construction at a National Trails Day event held by the two organizations and our friends at REI and New Jersey State Parks. Thanks to JORBA volunteers and Trail Conference Supervisors Art and Ellen White for playing a lead role in this project and creating another great trail for our community.

Cheers to Ramsey Outdoor!

Michael Levine of Ramsey Outdoor presented Trail Conference Development Director Don Weise with a check for \$600 raised during the outdoor retailer’s Pint Night on Nov. 14. Seventy-five outdoor-lovers came out to the store in Succasunna, N.J., to listen to Don’s talk, “Great Trails Off The Beaten Path,” and to swap their own trail tales. Thanks to Ramsey Outdoor and everyone who attended this fun evening!

Hudson Nor’Westers Complete Black Rock Forest Reroute

The Hudson Nor’Westers, under the leadership of Crew Chief Dave Webber, just completed a wonderful project in Black Rock Forest: a reroute of the Scenic/Highlands Trail up and over the Mineral Springs Waterfall.

In June, Dave and four of the Trail Conference’s Trail Stewards did a reroute of the trail to swing over to the picturesque falls and then follow along the edge of the cliff before rejoining the old trail. At that time, the crew realized that a steep section of the old trail

where it joined the relocation needed work to keep it from eroding. Stone steps to the rescue.

In the fall of 2019, over the course of nine work trips, the crew built a beautiful, 18-step stone staircase to create a safe experience for visitors on a sustainable trail built to last for decades.

Additional thanks to IBM, which awarded the Trail Conference a \$2,000 grant in recognition of Dave’s volunteer service. Thanks for all you do, Dave!

The Stats



- ▶ Work Trips: **9**
- ▶ Workers: **17**
- ▶ Hours: **365**
- ▶ Steps: **18**
- ▶ Wall Built: **5 square feet**
- ▶ Additional Trail Improved: **11 feet**
- ▶ Rocks Moved: **Lots!**

STEWARDS, from page 1

2019 Corps Season

In the Field

Trail Conference Conservation Corps (TCCC) Stewards were stationed at Breakneck Ridge, on the Appalachian Trail in Bear Mountain State Park, and in the Catskills on Slide Mountain and Giant Ledge during the 2019 season. Stewards provided outreach and education every weekend from May through October and on Fridays when the weather was nice and visitation was expected to be higher.

The goal of the Stewards at Breakneck Ridge and Bear Mountain is to ensure each visitor is prepared for the hike and that the mountains are protected. Hikers often require education on adequate shoes and water for the journey, as well as a clear understanding of their route up and back. Stewards have greatly reduced the number of injuries and lost hikers along the trail, particularly on the rugged Breakneck. These efforts have also slowed erosion of the mountains' ecosystem as fewer hikers wander off trail. Stewards integrate Leave No Trace (LNT) principles into conversations with hikers, which has had a significant impact on the reduction of litter on the trails. Stewards also discuss post-hike plans with visitors, providing ample opportunities to recommend the restaurants and businesses of the surrounding towns.

These actions ultimately make trails on Breakneck Ridge and Bear Mountain more accessible for new hikers, more sustainable for the ecosystem, and more supportive of the local economy.

The growing popularity of hiking in the Catskills has left a mark on areas such as Giant Ledge, which is a quick hike with a rewarding view. With an average of 300 visitors traversing this out-and-back trail on weekends, the presence of Stewards is crucial. Much of the Stewards' day on duty is spent sharing information on legal campsites and the impact of illegal camping and firepits and removing signs of illegal use to deter visitors from gravitating toward those areas. Stewards use their knowledge of LNT to explain to visitors the importance of staying on the trail, being considerate of other hikers, and respecting the environment.

This season, the Stewards also performed outreach to potential new Trail Confer-



Trail Conference Stewards are guiding students in the benefits of nature and mindful recreation outdoors.

ence volunteers through on-the-ground Introduction to Trail Maintenance workshops. Stewards trained in the art of trail maintenance and light trail construction also joined seasoned Trail Conference volunteer leaders to clear neglected sections of trails in areas west of the Hudson River and in the Catskill region.

In the Classroom

TCCC Stewards developed the program's first classroom component in the 2019 season. Stewards visited several classrooms over the fall, giving presentations to hundreds of kids in schools throughout the region. Topics included an overview of the work of the Trail Conference, the seven principles of Leave No Trace, why it's important to let nature's sounds prevail, places to hike locally, and why graffiti on trails is a complicated problem. Students also participated in activities focused on different LNT principles. Every class seemed to have fun with the presentation, and students showed a high degree of retention when quizzed on LNT afterwards. Classroom visits will be a regular part of our Steward program moving forward.

2019 Partner Programs

In New Jersey

In New Jersey, Trail Stewards are hired and managed by State Park staff with training,

data management, and other support from Trail Conference staff and volunteers. This partnership allows State Parks to collect and manage more useful information than would otherwise be possible, while allowing the Trail Conference to be present and involved in the program without the challenges and expense of hiring more seasonal staff. After the State's first year of Trail Stewards in 2018 at Terrace Pond in Wawayanda State Park was deemed a great success, minimizing illegal activity and injury at the popular site, the State expanded the Steward program to cover Ramapo Mountain State Forest and Worthington State Forest in 2019. The latter in particular is a high-value area for Stewards, who encountered 17,611 visitors in their time onsite from

mid-June to mid-November.

At Terrace Pond, where the Stewards now have two years of data, both the narratives and the numbers tell an astounding success story. In 2018, the site averaged 2.9 illegal swimmers per day. In 2019, that number dropped to only 0.6—about an 80% reduction in that dangerous behavior. Other activities, such as drinking and unauthorized camping, were similarly reduced or eliminated entirely.

The staff of New Jersey State Parks have expressed their happiness with the outcomes of this Steward year, and are looking toward growing the program even further in 2020.

In the Catskills

After a decade of planning and years of construction, Ulster County opened the 11.5-mile Ashokan Rail Trail (ART) in October. The ART follows the northern shore of the Ashokan Reservoir between West Hurley and Boiceville, N.Y., in the southern Catskills. It is the first time these lands have been open to the public without a permit in over a century.

Within the first month of opening, over 10,000 visitors enjoyed the trail. These visitation numbers continue to increase. Volunteer Trail Stewards trained and managed by the Trail Conference are playing a critical role in both the trail experience and visitor management. The program was created in partnership with the Woodstock Land Conservancy, Ulster County, and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

"Simply put, without the ART Stewards program, we could not have successfully managed the massive numbers of visitors who have come out since opening day," said Kevin Smith, Chair of the Woodstock Land Conservancy. "[The Steward Program] has

been an unqualified success."

In November, the Trail Conference was awarded a \$50,457 Smart Growth grant from New York State to support the ART Steward program. "The magnificent natural resources of the Catskill and Adirondack Forest Preserves attract visitors and residents from around the world, and it is crucial that New York continues to invest in smart planning to ensure the environment and local economies are protected," said Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

2020 Preview

In considering the future of the Trail Conference, the Steward program provides a clear blueprint for spreading the benefits of nature and outdoor recreation. We expect to once again field Stewards at Breakneck Ridge, Bear Mountain, and in the Catskills. Additionally, we are working with our agency partners to be stationed at New York's Minnewaska State Park Preserve and Croton Gorge Unique Area.

At Croton Gorge Unique Area, Stewards will engage and educate visitors on Leave No Trace principles as well as the area's rules and regulations. The program will begin in late May and run through Columbus Day weekend. Three uniformed Stewards will be stationed at the trailhead and parking area along the Old Croton Aqueduct State Park, adjacent to the trailhead to the DEC Unique Area. On weekends and holidays, one Steward will remain at the parking area while two Stewards will educate and interact with visitors along the Croton River. The Stewards will be bilingual to engage and educate both English and Spanish-speaking outdoor enthusiasts.

Read more about the Steward Program and support the cause at nynjtc.org.



Volunteer Trail Conference Stewards have been available to assist the 20,000-plus visitors who have used the Ashokan Rail Trail since its opening in October.

Your Gift Goes Twice as Far

Welch Trail Education Center Challenge

Help us make urgently needed improvements to our Welch Trail Education Center in Harriman to accommodate 50 new Conservation Corps members in 2020. Thanks to a generous 1:1 match from an anonymous

donor, your donation will be doubled! Your gift helps us tackle large-scale projects, support volunteers, and put more advanced expertise to work on the ground. Make an impact at bit.ly/tc-wtecc.

Zakim Family Tool & Signage Fund Match

The right trail-building tools are priceless to our volunteers, enhancing their

efficiency and morale and making our trails better. Trailside signage keeps visitors on the right path and improves their trail experience. Thanks to a generous 1:1 match from the Zakim family, your donation to the Zakim Tool & Signage Fund will be matched dollar for dollar. The total match limit is \$5,000. Make your donation at bit.ly/tc-ztf.

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For the Love of Family, For the Love of Trails



ROBERT C. ROSS
TRAIL CONFERENCE
LIFE MEMBER

Since the creation of the Trail Angel Society, I've been working with Trail Conference Communications Manager Amber Ray to encourage people to protect themselves and their loved ones through estate planning. Empowering people to safeguard their most valuable assets—and yes, I'm referring to their spouses and children and other loved ones!—is very important to me.

So you may have noticed this space in Trail Walker has consistently urged readers to make an estate plan. Author Jill Schlesinger puts it bluntly in "The Dumb Things Smart People Do with Their Money":

"Of all the off-the-hook stupid mistakes you can make with your money, failing to have a will is indisputably the worst. Not only can it result in massive financial losses for your loved ones, depending on the size of the estate, but it can also cause them any number of other hardships. Want to leave open the possibility that the people closest to you don't receive any money from your estate, while other, less deserving people do? Want to leave open the possibility that your minor children are improperly cared for after you're gone? Or that your loved ones have to sell heirloom property in order to pay estate taxes or settle other debts? Or that... they have to undergo terrible stress, anxiety, and hassle? Then by all means, don't get a will. Oh, and while you're at it, don't engage in any other form of end-of-life planning, either."

At the 2019 Trail Conference Benefit, Amber delivered the same message from her own personal experience:

"Today, I'd like to talk about love. And I want to talk about two kinds of love in particu-



Amber and her husband Justin made the decision to protect the future of their daughter and her experiences outdoors.

lar—the love of family, and the love of trails.

We all work hard to show love to our families, but have we created a will to show our love after we're gone? Fifty-eight percent of Americans do not have an estate plan, and many existing plans are not up-to-date.

To motivate more of us to take this important step, one of our trail-loving members has a challenge for each of us. This generous donor will immediately donate \$500 to the Trail Conference for every one of us who pledges to name our organization in her or her will. His passion for encouraging people to take care of themselves and their families by getting their affairs in order was the spark I needed to draw up a will for my family.

It may have taken a little convincing, but I finally made the appointment for my husband and I to meet with a lawyer. As a young couple, we

are not alone in delaying making these provisions for our daughter. Only 38% of Americans with little ones have done so. If your kids are among that other 62%, please urge them to make a will and appoint a guardian for your grandchildren. I realized having the formal means to protect our young daughter when we are no longer able to care for her wasn't something I could keep putting off.

We try to live a fairly simple life, putting great value in spending as much time outdoors as possible. It was only through the process of creating a will that I realized I don't need a large estate to protect both my daughter and her outdoor experience, even after I'm gone. So I am putting the Trail Conference in my estate plans to ensure our mission is carried on.

Our donor has research that shows that virtually every person who pledges this really

Trail Angel Society Founding Members

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does it. So our donor trusts us. He has done this successfully for other nonprofit organizations. He is now willing to do this for us.

Please sign a trail pledge to leave any amount you wish to the Trail Conference and

Making the Most of Your Legacy

On Sept. 8, I had the privilege of meeting the founding members of the Trail Angel Society and presented my ideas on how to maximize their legacies at their Founding Members' Brunch, held at Trail Conference Headquarters. I was grateful for their engaged participation, as it made for an interactive discussion.

Echoing Trail Conference Life Member and fellow Trail Angel Society Founding Member Bob Ross, The Charles Schwab Guide to Finances After Fifty suggests, "...think about planning your estate as planning your legacy. It's your opportunity to make your mark on the world—to help and protect the people you care about most. It is your opportunity to give back to your community, or university, or cause."

We spent about an hour post-brunch talking about the use of donor-advised funds, qualified charitable distributions, and a few other legacy-maximizing techniques, including beneficiary designations, charitable trusts, and charitable gift annuities. You can find some introductory information about these strategies at bit.ly/tc-lfp19. If you're interested in learning more about your options, please feel free to contact me at 201-848-6802 or michael@cereusfinancial.com.

Michael Dunne, CFP®,
Financial Advisor
Cereus Financial
Advisors, LLC

demonstrate both of your loves—the love of your family and your love of trails."

You can find Amber's video at youtube.com/nynjtc.

Whatever you do, make an estate plan for your sake, for the sake of the people you love, and for the sake of the organizations that you love.

Tips

- 1** Commit to put your affairs in order.
- 2** Provide for yourself first.
- 3** Provide for the people you love next.
- 4** Then provide for the organizations you love.
- 5** Finally, implement your plan.

Yes, I want to be a Trail Angel!

Confidential Pledge Challenge Form

I am pleased to inform you that I have named the **New York-New Jersey Trail Conference** as a beneficiary of my estate plan. I understand that this is a non-binding statement. Although I intend this gift to remain in force, this document does not constitute a legally binding pledge.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ DOB _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

I understand that this future gift entitles me to membership in the Trail Angel Society and that the membership list may be published in Trail Conference publications and website. However, the nature and size of my intention, as well as the names of anonymous donors, will be kept confidential.

Kindly return this completed form to: Development Director, Planned Giving,
 NY-NJ Trail Conference, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430
 Please contact us with any questions: 201.512.9348 x813, dweise@nynjtc.org

My future gift:

- Is _____ percent of my estate worth approximately \$ _____
- Is in the specific amount of \$ _____
- Is an amount I would prefer to keep private.

This is my best estimate at this time and the amount of my future gift may be different.

Trail Angel Society:

- Please list me publicly as a member of the Society. My name should appear as _____
- Please **DO NOT** list my Society membership publicly. I prefer to remain anonymous.

PEGGY DRESSEL



Watercolor Wonderland

The Art Center Watercolor Affiliates, known as ACWA, consists of an excellent group of 24 artists who love the excitement and challenging medium of watercolor. Members work in a variety of styles, both traditional and contemporary.

Education and awareness of watercolor as a medium is their goal. ACWA exhibits bi-annually at the Art Center of Northern New Jersey as well as other public spaces in the metropolitan area. The work of ACWA artists will be on display at Trail Conference Headquarters at 600 Ramapo Valley Road in Mahwah, N.J., Jan. 8 through March 3, 2020.

Upcoming Exhibitions

▶ **J. Alexander Baker**, March 4 through May 5

▶ **Mahwah Schools Gifted and Talented Showcase**, May 6 through June 2

The exhibition, themed “The Elements,” is free and open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A reception, also open to the public, will be held on Jan. 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



PAMLEGGETTE

Hikers' Directory

Can't find your club? This list represents all Trail Conference member clubs whose dues are up-to-date. If you have questions about your club's status, please ask your officers to contact the Membership and Development team at 201-512-9348.

ADK Long Island
www.adkli.org

ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter
www.midhudsonadk.org

ADK Mohican Chapter
www.adkmohican.org

ADK New York Chapter
www.adkny.org

ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter
www.hudsonhikers.org

Adventures for Women
www.adventuresforwomen.org

Alley Pond Environmental Center
www.alleypond.com

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter
www.amcdv.org

AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter
www.amcmohawkhudson.org

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

Black Rock Forest Consortium Inc.
www.blackrockforest.org

Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council - Rockland District

Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn

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

BSA Troop 21 - Hudson Valley Council
www.suffern21.mytroop.us

Canal Society of New Jersey
www.canalsocietynj.org

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

Catskill Mountain Club
www.catskillmountainclub.org

Chinese Mountain Club of New York
www.cmcny.org

Church Communities Foundation - Platte Clove Community
www.bruderhof.com

Closter Nature Center Association
www.closternaturecenter.org

Community Search and Rescue
www.commsar.org

Dyke Hikes
www.meetup.com/Dyke-Hikes

East Hampton Trails Preservation Society
www.ehtps.org

Finger Lakes Trail Conference
www.fingerlakestrail.org

Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
www.flatrockbrook.org

Friends of Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park & Trump State Park

Friends of Garret Mountain Reservation
friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com

Friends of Pelham Bay Park
www.pelhambaypark.org

Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway in Teaneck
www.teaneckgreenway.org

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc.
aqueduct.org

Friends Of The Shawangunks
shawangunks.org

Frost Valley YMCA
www.frostvalley.org

German-American Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/GAHCNYNJ

Hike The World
www.hiketheworld.com

Hilltop Conservancy, Inc.
www.hilltopconservancy.org

Hunterdon Hiking Club
www.hunterdonhikingclub.org

Interstate Hiking Club
www.interstatehikingclub.org

Jolly Rovers Trail Crew Inc.
jollyrovers.org

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
www.littlestonypoint.org

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

Mohonk Preserve
www.mohonkpreserve.org

Monmouth County Park System

Morris County Park Commission
www.morrisparks.net

Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy
mmc.nynjtc.org

Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club
www.nassauhiking.org

The Nature Place Day Camp
thenatureplace.com

Nelsonville Greenway Committee
VillageofNelsonville.org

New Haven Hiking Club
www.NHHC.info

New Jersey Forty Plus Hiking Club
meetup.com/NJ-Forty-Plus-Hiking-Club

New Jersey Highlands Coalition
www.njhighlandscoalition.org

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

New York Alpine Club

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

New York Ramblers
www.nyramblers.org

Outdoor Promise
outdoorpromise.org

The Outdoors Club, Inc.
www.outdoorsclub.info

Pine Hill Community Center
www.pinehillcommunitycenter.org

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

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

Ramapough Conservancy, Inc.

Rip Van Winkle Hikers
newyorkheritage.com/rvw

Rock Lodge Club
www.rocklodge.com

RPH Cabin Volunteers
rphcabin.org

SAJ - Society for the Advancement of Judaism
www.thesaj.org

Salt Shakers Trail Running Club
www.saltshakersrun.com

Sassquad Trail Running
www.sassquadtrailrunning.com

Shorewalkers Inc.
www.shorewalkers.org

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

Somers Land Trust
somerslandtrust.org

South Mountain Conservancy Inc.
www.somocon.org

St. Benedicts Prep Backpacking Project
www.sbp.org

Storm King Adventure Tours
www.stormkingadventuretours.com

The Storm King School
www.sks.org

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

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

Teatown Lake Reservation
www.teatown.org

Tenafly Nature Center Association
www.tenaflynaturecenter.org

Thendara Mountain Club
www.thendaramountainclub.org

Town of Lewisboro
www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec

Town of Woodstock

TriState Ramblers
www.tristateramblers.org

Troop 1 Mount Kisco
www.troop1mountkisco.com

University Outing Club
www.universityoutingclub.org

Urban Trail Conference, Inc.
www.urbantrail.org

Valley Stream Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/vshclub

Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee

Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners
www.warrenparks.com

West Milford 13ers
facebook.com/groups/567990510619405

Westchester Mountain Bike Association

Westchester Trails Association
www.westhike.org

Yorktown Trail Town Committee

Be a Map Advocate!



JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

My name is Jeremy, and I am a map advocate! We need your help in spreading the word that trail users should be properly prepared with accurate, up-to-date Trail Conference maps. There is no shortage of trail information on various websites, mobile apps, and social media, but if people don't know about our maps, a potentially great trail experience could be thwarted by unreliable and outdated information.

So what is so great about Trail Conference maps? I have been the Trail Conference cartographer for more than 12 years, and I try to produce trail maps that are simplistic in design, yet detailed, accurate, and attractive. The Trail Conference's trail mapping history has uniquely positioned our organization as a leader in trail map best practices, and our map story goes back more than 80 years, when Bill Hoferlin began making trail maps for the New York metropolitan area in the mid-1930s. The Trail Conference continued making quality trail maps after Bill's death in 1970, and since then, we have largely learned what does and does not work on trail maps. So our maps today use a simplistic, trail-focused map style with a basic color scheme, including the prominent red trail lines, and typically a simple topographic background. The trail information, however, is very detailed, with high-



quality trail routes, junction-to-junction trail mileages, and detailed points of interest.

Beyond the best practices of our map design, our maps are also "made by the people who build the trails" and revised regularly. Dedicated volunteers have always played a key role in the production of our maps and books, and through the years, our publications

have developed a reputation for being highly trusted sources of trail information.

However, no matter how well-designed, accurate, or up-to-date a map is, it does not do any good unless trail users know about it! In the past decade, we have made strides in getting maps out to trail users in formats beyond our traditional map sets, such

as our Avenza Maps app maps with more than 200,000 downloads, free handout maps in certain parks, and large kiosk maps at many trailheads. Even so, there are still many trail users who don't know about our great maps.

Trail users often get their information from mobile apps like AllTrails and GaiaGPS, Google Maps and other websites, and social media postings. If someone searches for a trail, they might find Trail Conference maps and information, but they may instead see a trail route on a Google Map, find a loop hike in a trail app, or find a map from the park's website. While these other sources can sometimes be sufficient for a trail user's needs, their reliability may be mixed, and they can often be inaccurate or outdated. The Google Map might show an incorrect parking area, the trail app might only show select trails within a park, and the park-created map may not have been developed with best practices in mind.

There is no denying that these other resources can be useful or provide additional functionality beyond what the Trail Conference currently offers. However, the primary point we want to stress to trail users is that a Trail Conference map is one crucial component of having the most complete and up-to-date trail information. If you like a mobile app or other source of trail information, be sure to also include a Trail Conference map as one of your resources.

Spread the Word

Now more than ever, we need people like you to be strong advocates for our maps! Being a map advocate can take many different forms:

- ▶ Carry a print or digital map out on the trails and show it off to others you encounter!
- ▶ If you are a club member, ask other members, especially newer members, if they have the latest maps.
- ▶ If you lead hikes, suggest that hikers have a Trail Conference map.
- ▶ When discussing trails on social media, mention which Trail Conference maps you used.
- ▶ If you volunteer and are approached by people out on the trail, take out a map and ask them about their trip.
- ▶ If you visit a park office, outdoor retail store, or other shop and think they should sell our maps, talk to the manager and also let us know we should reach out.
- ▶ Consider joining our publications efforts if you have time to help develop and market our publications.

To those of you who have been strong map advocates, thank you! You are a big part of the reason our maps and books have continued to be the go-to trusted source for quality trail information. As we move into our 100th year, it is as important as ever to responsibly educate trail users, so please consider being a map advocate if you aren't already!

HIKERS' MARKETPLACE

GO PLACES WITH TRAIL MAPS AND BOOKS FROM THE TRAIL CONFERENCE



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

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

Find it on our online store under Combos.



VISIT nynjtc.org/shop
OR CALL 201.512.9348

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

First Edition Westchester Map Set Is Here

As pre-announced in the Fall 2019 Trail Walker, the brand new Westchester Trails map set has arrived and is now available for purchase. This three-map set features more than 160 miles of trails in popular parks in Westchester County like Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, and Teatown. All maps include helpful junction-to-junction trail mileage numbers, detailed 10-foot elevation contour lines, and parking and public transportation access points. As always, the maps are available in print format on waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek, as well as in digital format on Apple and Android devices through the Avenza Maps app.

So grab your copy today to explore these parks in Westchester County! Shop our online store at



www.nynjtc.org or stop in at Trail Conference Headquarters.

We wish to thank Teatown for their financial support toward production of this map set. Map production was also funded in part by a grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway.

TAKE A HIKE!

RAMSEY OUTDOOR

FREE Trail Conference cap offer with new membership!

Ramsey, NJ | Succasunna, NJ
1-800-699-5874
www.ramseyoutdoor.com

Three Lakes Loop Shows Off Teatown's Beauty



DANIEL CHAZIN
WRITER, EDITOR, PROJECT
MANAGER, COMMITTEE MEMBER

This hike traverses the southeastern section of Teatown Lake Reservation, a 1,000-acre nature preserve in Westchester County. It follows the shore of three scenic lakes—Vernay Lake, Teatown Lake, and Shadow Lake—and traverses interesting terrain, with many old stone walls reminding the hiker that this area was once farmed.

From the parking lot, cross Spring Valley Road at the crosswalk, turn left beyond the gap in the stone wall, then turn right onto a woods road—the route of the orange-blazed Three Lakes Loop. Follow this trail down to the lake and turn right onto the white-blazed Vernay Lakeside Connector, which follows along the northern shore of the lake. After passing the dam of the lake, the trail continues on a woods road, soon reaching a wooden walkway on the left that leads to an observation platform.

Here, the white-blazed trail turns right and climbs on a grassy woods road. It continues under the power lines, descends to cross paved Spring



Valley Road, and ends at a junction with the white-blazed Lakeside Overlook Trail. Turn left onto this trail, which descends to the lakeshore and ends at a junction with the blue-blazed Lakeside Loop.

Turn left onto the Lakeside Loop, which soon crosses a floating boardwalk along the southern end of the lake. At the end of the boardwalk, turn left onto the joint Three Lakes/Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail, blazed with orange and green markers. Just ahead, the trails turn left onto Spring Valley Road. Follow the road for 100 feet, then turn right and reenter the woods.

In a third of a mile, after crossing a wetland on puncheons, you'll come to a T-intersection. Here, the green-

blazed Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail leaves to the right, but you should turn left, continuing to follow the orange-blazed Three Lakes Loop. The trail passes a waterfall, crosses two streams on footbridges, and climbs gradually on a winding footpath. It then recrosses under the power lines, with views to the left.

The trail now begins a gradual descent to the dam at the western end of Shadow Lake. It crosses the dam, bears right, and soon begins a winding descent to Vernay Lake, where it bears right and follows the lakeshore. A white-blazed connector trail goes off to the right, but you should continue ahead on the orange-blazed trail, which follows a narrow footpath to a concrete dock



Details

- ▶ **Trail:** Three Lakes Loop
- ▶ **Park:** Teatown Lake Reservation, Westchester County, N.Y.
- ▶ **Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate
- ▶ **Length:** 3 miles
- ▶ **Dogs:** Allowed on leash
- ▶ **Features:** Views, waterfall

Read the full hike description at nynjtc.org/hike/three-lakes-loop

on the left, with panoramic views over the lake. The orange-blazed trail turns right opposite the dock, climbs stone steps, and joins a woods road that leads back to Spring Valley Road.



Spreading Our Mission Through Running

On a crisp November morning, 20 enthusiastic trail lovers gathered to experience the joy of running Sterling Forest's multi-use trails and try on a pair of Hoka trail running shoes. This was just one of 12 monthly Trail Conference Trail Runs, which are rapidly gaining popularity and enlightening a new group of trail users to the value of the Trail Conference's work.

The Trail Conference offers trail runs year-round throughout the bi-state area to engage the community, attract member support, and highlight trail projects. Runs range from 5 to 9 miles with options to lengthen or shorten, and there are two or three group leaders to accommodate a range of paces. Runs may be combined with trail etiquette, safety, and form clinics, which regularly emphasize the importance of yielding to hikers and horses.

We will also partner with member clubs, such as Sassquad Trail Running, which will host the Squatchy Onesie Fest 5K-Marathon at Trail Conference Headquarters on Feb. 15, 2020. Sassquad will also make a donation to the Trail Conference after the party ends. To get in on the fun and learn more about our monthly runs, join our Trail Conference Trail Runs Facebook group or email dweise@nynjtc.org.

Don Weise,
Development Director

Trials of a Trail



MARY DODDS
TRAIL TRAMPS
CREW CHIEF

When Daniel Chazin asked me to recount the work my Trail Tramps Crew had done on the "new" Three Lakes Loop trail in Teatown, I realized that much of the work we had done was no longer part of any trail. Sometimes nature intervenes, and plans and visions for a trail system change.

A little history: The Three Lakes Loop is comprised not only of new trail but also of many preexisting trails. Both the new and old trails have undergone name changes and other tweaking. The Tramps did a lot of new trail construction after Teatown acquired the Vernay Lake property in 2011. We did a major reroute of an existing trail off the power lines. We also built several of the stream bridges and blazed and re-blazed routes when trail designations were changed. And we have cleared the beaver dams and worked on beaver deterrent projects on the Shadow and Vernay lakes. It was never ending and often frustrating work. If only we could recruit and train



Beaver activity and wet weather may have forced the Trail Tramps to build (and rebuild) new trails in Teatown, but a sustainable trail system now exists.

beaver for trail work!

As new and existing trails and trail sections were added, it became apparent that there should be one trail: the Twin Lakes Trail. Unfortunately, one of the new sections turned out to be more beaver- than hiker-friendly. Tramps built a roughly 100-foot boardwalk, a trail section which had to be relocated almost as soon as it was completed, and a "paved" highway. Maybe we should have known. Obviously, it was a wet area to begin with. Hence the boardwalk, reroute, and pavement. It held up for almost 3 years. Then a combina-

tion of beaver activity and an exceptionally wet year contributed to a water table rise that flooded trail and boardwalk and forced closure of the area.

It is discouraging. But we have accepted that good things have resulted from this experience. We learned a lot about building in problem areas. A more sustainable trail system now exists. And the Twin Lakes Trail has been consolidated with existing Teatown trails to form the Three Lakes Loop. The best result is that this section will now be used for education and research by Teatown

and its student and science participants. Tramps are very excited to see what happens next. Who knows—sometime in the future, there may even be a trail reincarnation!

So, the next time you visit Teatown, take Daniel's hike, described above. Or, check out the Trail Conference's newly released Westchester Trails map set (see page 11 for more details) and plot your own hike through this lovely preserve, which features three lakes, hills, forests, and even a hidden valley! But don't look for the boardwalk—it was dismantled last summer.

Upcoming Trail Runs

- ▶ **Jan. 4, 2020,** 9:30 a.m. – New Year's Run, Tourne County Park (Morris County, N.J.)
- ▶ **Feb. 8,** 9:30 a.m. – Lenape Trail Adventure (Essex County, N.J.) [changed from Feb. 29]
- ▶ **March 28,** 9:30 a.m. – Long Path, Palisades: Early Signs of Spring (Bergen County, N.J.)
- ▶ **April 18,** 9 a.m. – Sterling Furnace Preview Run (Orange County, N.Y.)