



TRAIL WALKER

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

Construction Expected to Begin in 2018 on Breakneck Connector



RICHARD ZAVAS

The partners spearheading creation of the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail are preparing for commencement of construction on the Breakneck Connector. The project will dramatically improve visitor access to Breakneck Ridge from Metro-North and NYS Route 9D. It is the first major undertaking by the coalition that has been work-

ing for years to plan how best to manage safety and visitation concerns along the portion of Route 9D between Cold Spring and Beacon. The Trail Conference is a member of this alliance and has played a role in shaping the Breakneck Connector project.

[see CONNECTOR, page 2](#)



D&B ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS

Trail Conference Stewards plan to be stationed at a new welcome center at the popular Breakneck Ridge trailhead.



EDUARDO GIL

Who Is the Trail Conference?

When a handful of passionate hikers decided to build the first public trail across Harriman State Park in 1920, they didn't blaze a path for their own recreation—they kicked off the beginnings of a trail revolution. This movement formed the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, which in turn has grown into an organization that stewards more than 2,150 miles of trails and the lands they traverse. Today, nearly every trail experience in this region has been made possible through the hard work of a Trail Conference volunteer.

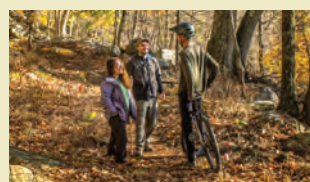
Who are these volunteers? Some have lovingly described them as "trail gnomes," people who quietly head into the woods, work swiftly, and leave no evidence of their efforts beyond safe, sustainable trails and improved green space. It's a special kind of trail magic, to be sure. But there is no magic wand. This magic is in the passion of these special individuals who give so much of themselves for the sake of helping others connect with nature.

There is no better way to describe what the Trail Conference does than by showcasing who the Trail Conference is. And so, on [pages 6 and 7](#), you'll find a "day in the life" snapshot of the organization, featuring some of these incredible people and their efforts to ensure that the trails and natural areas we share are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy, for generations to come.

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In Memoriam: John Gunzler

John Gunzler, a tireless champion of the Trail Conference for decades, passed away on Nov. 10. He was 82.

John generously gave back to the trails he loved through

volunteer service and financial gifts to the Trail Conference for many years. John was a very active member of the Board of Directors, serving from 1999 to 2008, and continued to be a leading member of various committees, including the Membership and Development, Nominating, Darlington



PHIL CANTOR

Schoolhouse, Finance, and Investment committees.

In 2011, John and his wife Marianne inaugurated the Trail Conference's Legacy Fund with a gift of \$100,000. Trails were a life-long passion for John and Marianne; in fact, it was on a hike in Harriman State Park that they met 58

years ago.

A Hungarian-born Holocaust survivor, John recently published a memoir about his life, *Happily Ever After: A Journey of Survival*, written by his granddaughter. In all of his endeavors, John always seemed to be a happy man. He will be greatly missed.

D&B ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS



The Breakneck Connector project will include many improvements, like this welcome center, that will help to create a better trail experience for all users.

CONNECTOR, from page 1

The Breakneck Connector project will:

- ▶ Create a pedestrian and bicycle path connection between the Breakneck Ridge Metro-North train stop and the Breakneck Ridge trailhead.
- ▶ Replace the Breakneck Ridge train platforms with ADA-accessible platforms that will decrease the time hikers need to exit the train, avoiding delays on the Hudson Line caused by the current platforms.
- ▶ Demarcate on-street parking and emergency vehicle staging along Route 9D in the

half-mile section north of the Breakneck tunnel, and eliminate nose-in and other dangerous parking conditions.

- ▶ Pave and stripe the current dirt parking area, including designated space for three emergency vehicles, bathroom facilities, and a trolley stop.
- ▶ Reduce the speed limit on Route 9D from 55 to 40 mph and add enhanced pedestrian crossings and other features to improve safety.
- ▶ Add a new welcome center for trail orientations and visitor assistance by stewards at the Breakneck Ridge trailhead, including new trailhead signs and other wayfinding.

Although the trails along the ridge will remain open

during construction, it is anticipated that the Breakneck Ridge trailhead and train stop will need to close temporarily to allow for safe and quick construction. The current anticipated timeframe for closure of the trailhead and the Breakneck Ridge train stop is in early 2018 and both would remain closed until the project is complete in mid-2019.

Read more at bit.ly/tc-bcc. Updated construction information will be made available on the project website at hudsonfordtrail.org and through the Trail Conference website, E-Walker, and social media. For alternative hikes around Breakneck Ridge, check out bit.ly/tc-btc.

Twice the Love for Trails and Parks

Our Giving Week and #GivingTuesday campaign was a success! A huge thank you goes out to the nature lovers and trail walkers who showed such generous support for our work and had their gifts doubled during this special fund drive.

Not to worry if you forgot to take advantage of this dollar-for-dollar match period: We've got several funds that have matching opportunities all year long. From supporting Summit Stewards in the Catskills to combating invasive species

to trail improvements in Ramapo Valley County Reservation and Harriman and Sterling Forest state parks, you can make your gift go twice as far for trails and trail lands when you donate to these projects.

Please consider supporting your trail builders, maintainers, and protectors with a tax-deductible gift to the Trail Conference today. Learn more about doubling the impact of your donation at nynjtc.org/donate, or contact Brendan Cunningham at 201.512.9348 ext. 828.



HEATHER DARLEY

You can double your gift to programs like the Catskill Summit Stewards.

Code of Conduct Adopted

Since 1920, the Trail Conference has partnered with parks and outdoor clubs to create, protect, and promote a network of public trails in the greater New York metropolitan region. The Trail Conference has attracted volunteers from all walks of life who provide valuable work in maintaining trails and many other functions, and their work is coordinated

by a professional staff. In an effort to ensure that the organization maintains a welcoming and professional environment, the Board of Directors has established a Code of Conduct applicable to both volunteers and staff members. It includes expectations for the resolution of Code of Conduct violations and conflicts that may arise among Trail Conference participants. View the Code of Conduct at bit.ly/tc-coc.

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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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email: info@nynjtc.org
editorial email: tw@nynjtc.org
website: www.nynjtc.org

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Multi-Use Trails Are Strengthening Our Force for Good

The Trail Conference, founded in 1920 with the purpose of creating a network of marked trails for the public to enjoy the region's parklands, recently adopted a new Trail Use Policy. In sync with our mission of ensuring that the trails and natural areas we share are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy for generations to come, the policy acknowledges that "trails should collectively afford appropriate and satisfying outdoor experience to the widest possible segment of non-motorized users." Rather than focus on particular use, it proposes that access to trails



on public lands should be based on four principles:

- ▶ **Trail Experience:** All trail users should respect and not disturb the ability of other trail users to enjoy the natural lands through which they pass.
- ▶ **Resource Protection:** Trail use should minimize damage to the treadway and disruption of plant and animal habitat.
- ▶ **Safety:** Safety of responsible users should be the primary factor in determining

permitted uses.

▶ **Management:** Land managers make the final decisions about trail use. It is important for user groups to volunteer to assist with maintenance and stewardship.

This new policy does not contemplate the wholesale conversion of existing hiking trails to multi-use or shared-use trails. In fact, we believe the opposite: that trails built and maintained for a single use are most satisfying for that use, whereas multi-use trails may compromise design standards among the uses. However, we also believe we can help bikers and equestrians create trails that will be popular for hikers and trail runners, too. Bikers and equestrians have long been frustrated by the lack of places to ride, and there



We are not only creating exciting new experiences for trail users previously unaware of the Trail Conference's 100-year legacy, we are creating new volunteers, new members, and new advocates. Goodell



are many "vacant" public lands that could support trails systems and preserve their ecological integrity.

Our work on the Red Back/Hutchinson/Munsee Eagle loop in Sterling Forest, funded by New York State Parks and private donors such as the

Tuxedo Hudson Company, is a good example of how we can build sustainable, multi-use trails with the successful participation of all user groups. We are not only creating exciting new experiences for trail users previously unaware of the Trail Conference's 100-year legacy, we are creating new volunteers, new members, and new advocates. These are the alliances that will allow us to strengthen our force for good, and to build, maintain, and protect the public trails that connect people with nature for another century.

Edward Goodell

Executive Director
goodell@nynjtc.org

Six Art Exhibitions Planned for Trail Conference Gallery

Located in the main hall of Trail Conference Headquarters, our art gallery is celebrating the close of a successful second year and has many exciting exhibitions lined up for 2018.

Gregory Frux's paintings and etchings of "Wild Landscapes, Near and Far," on display through Jan. 5, ends our second season. The New Year brings a new exhibit, "Hiker, Who Are You?," opening Jan. 8. This show features hiker portraits and stories and can be seen through March 6. An opening reception will be held on Jan. 11 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.; all are invited to attend.

In the spring, Pete Tilgner, a dedicated Trail Conference volunteer and former instructor of photography, will display

his photographs. Then, we will once again display the creativity of Joyce Kilmer Elementary students—the 2017 showcase of art by 4th and 5th grade participants of the Mahwah Gifted and Talented Program was a hit. Later, expect to see a group show called "Winging It!," featuring birds and bugs, as well as a show on botanical art and a solo artist show (TBA). Additionally, the Art Selection Committee is discussing presentations featuring art talks and demonstrations.

The Trail Conference Art Gallery is located at 600 Ramapo Valley Road in Mahwah, N.J. and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit nynjtc.org for more info.  Glenda Haas, Art Selection Committee Chair



Lori LaBorde is featured in the Trail Conference's first exhibition of 2018, "Hiker, Who Are You?"

Help Celebrate Our Volunteers on March 10

Trail Conference volunteers make incredible commitments to the trails and lands they love. With more than 2,400 people donating their time and energy to our mission, there are so many award-worthy volunteers in our ranks. We'll be honoring those who have gone above and beyond in the last year at our annual Volunteer Appreciation event on Saturday, March 10. Join Trail Conference volunteers, staff, and partners for awards, food, fun, and raffles. Mark your calendars now, and check bit.ly/tc-va18, where we will be posting full details about the day.

Trail Conference Staff Update

Welcome Kendra, Nicole, Eric, and Michael

Kendra Baumer, Volunteer Engagement Manager,



joined the Trail Conference in November. Previously, she supported the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters & Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania's work to protect the Delaware River Watershed by developing volunteer programs that moved online activists into offline action-takers. She worked in public relations after earning her undergraduate degree from Syracuse University, then went back to school for her Master of Public Administration concentrated in sustainability from CUNY Baruch College. She enjoys hiking, camping, backpacking, and nature photography.

Nicole Dion joined the Trail Conference in October as the **Finance and Operations Associate.**



This year, she will receive her bachelor's degree in accounting from Montclair State University. Since 2013, Nicole has been an active volunteer for several wildlife organizations, including Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, where she works on a variety of projects that help protect New Jersey's rare species. She was introduced to the Trail Conference in 2015 and volunteers for our invasive species programs.

Eric Stone, Invasives Program Educator and Volunteer Coordinator,



joined the Trail Conference in September after three years as a naturalist with Westchester

County Parks. He graduated from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse in 2012 with a B.S. in natural history interpretation and minors in recreation resource management and environmental writing and rhetoric. While in school, he developed a passion for connecting people to the land through hands-on experiences. In his free time, he enjoys teaching ancestral living skills and campfire cooking.

Michael Young



joined the Trail Conference in September as the **Terrestrial Invasive Species Project Manager.** In 2015, Michael received his B.S. in landscape architecture with a concentration in ecological design from Rutgers University. While at Rutgers, Mike interned with the Central Park Conservancy as a project manager and spent two seasons with Maplewood

Township in New Jersey as a horticultural specialist. 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 member of the 2016 Invasives Strike Force Crew.

Happy Trails to Sabina and Tori

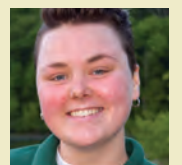
Sabina Cardenas joined the Trail Conference as **Finance**



and **Operations Assistant** in 2015. Her love for the outdoors was solidified when she spent one summer training to complete the Devil's Path in one day. She served as a member of our Conservation Corps' Palisades Crew in 2015 and spent two seasons as a Summit Steward

in the Catskills, a role she will continue to play for the Trail Conference. She is currently finishing her master's degree in school counseling and hopes to combine this with her passion for the outdoors to become a wilderness therapist.

Tori Welch, Field Manager,



joined the Trail Conference in 2016 as a Conservation Corps member serving in Sterling Forest. She became field manager the following winter and worked on teaching sustainable trail building with the Corps. Tori graduated from the State University of New York at Fredonia in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in environmental science. She has returned to her hometown of Buffalo, N.Y.

We thank Sabina and Tori for their contributions and wish them the best of luck.

Notes from the Field: Improving the Lenape Trail



DEBRA KAGAN
LENAPE TRAIL
FIELD MANAGER

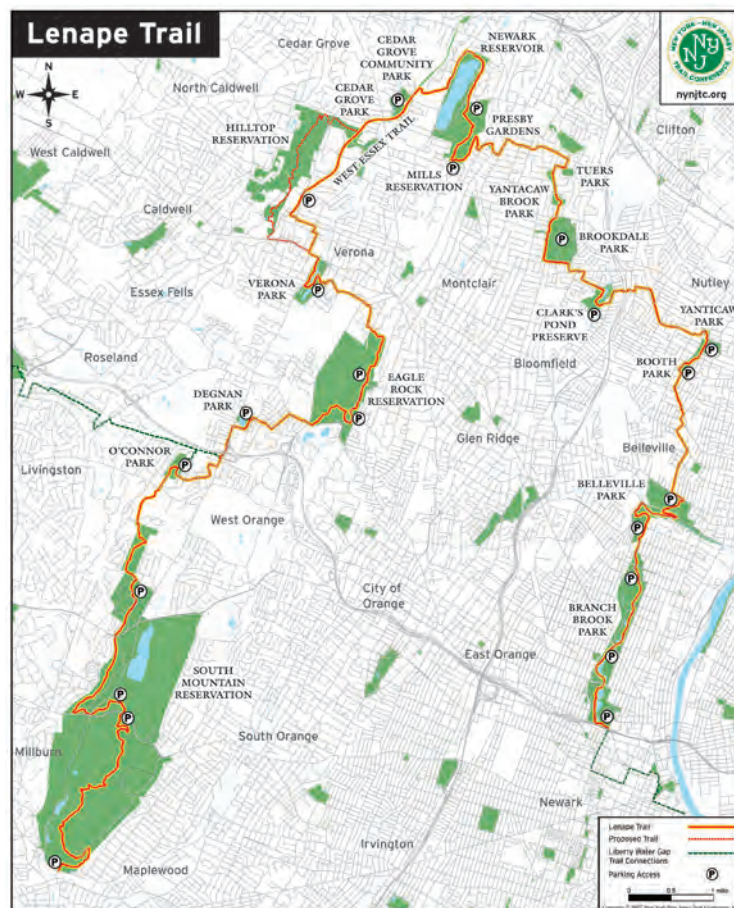
On the evening of Nov. 2, the Trail Conference hosted the first Lenape Trail Gathering, held at the Robert J. O'Toole Community Center in Cedar Grove, N.J. The event, co-sponsored with the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, celebrated the latest improvements to this unique urban trail, created by Al Kent over 40 years ago.

The 34-mile Lenape Trail is an urban/suburban network that ties together 12 communities in Essex County. As one of the Lenape Trail field managers, I've been following the trail's yellow blazes from one park and township to another, meeting some amazing people along the way. The dinner was the first time we were able to get so many of the trail's stewards in one location, and

it made me appreciate once again the great diversity of landscape, wildlife, and people connected by the Lenape Trail.

Winding through parks like Branch Brook and Brookdale—both planned by Frederick Law Olmstead, the designer of New York City's Central Park—and providing access to the broad, scenic overlooks and quiet woods of Eagle Rock, South Mountain, Mills, and Hilltop reservations, the Lenape Trail offers green respite in one of the most densely populated counties in the country. All along the way you'll find several small gems, like the Nutley Historic Museum, making the Lenape Trail a rich resource to get outdoors and engage with nature and local history.

The dinner brought together trail maintainers and members of local park conservancies, walking groups, and historical societies to celebrate the latest improvements to the



A planned reroute of the Lenape Trail includes Presby Memorial Iris Gardens.

Lenape Trail, made possible by a generous grant from Partners for Health. These upgrades include: a full inventory and assessment of trail conditions; increased access with new signage in four parks; and an up-to-date map available in digital and print formats. Get yours at nynjtc.org/park/lenape-trail.

In the Works

One of the most exciting changes to the trail is the planned reroutes to include two historic landmarks: the spectacular blooms of the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens and the sweeping vistas and profound tributes of the 9/11 Memorial in Eagle Rock Reservation. In addition, when new blazing is completed, the trail will include the Hilltop Reservation, the restoration of which was recently completed through the heroic efforts of local volunteers. They restored an amazing natural meadow, which is now seasonally filled with birds, butterflies, and a great variety of beautiful grasses.

To ensure this unique trail remains accessible to all for many years to come, we need the help of people who believe in the power of connecting with nature—people like you. The Lenape Trail offers a wide range of opportunities for volunteering. Contact Peter Dolan (pdolan@nynjtc.org) to learn more.

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Protecting Open Space and Trails in Orange County

From improvements on the Highlands Trail to land preservation, exciting things are happening in and around Goosepond Mountain State Park

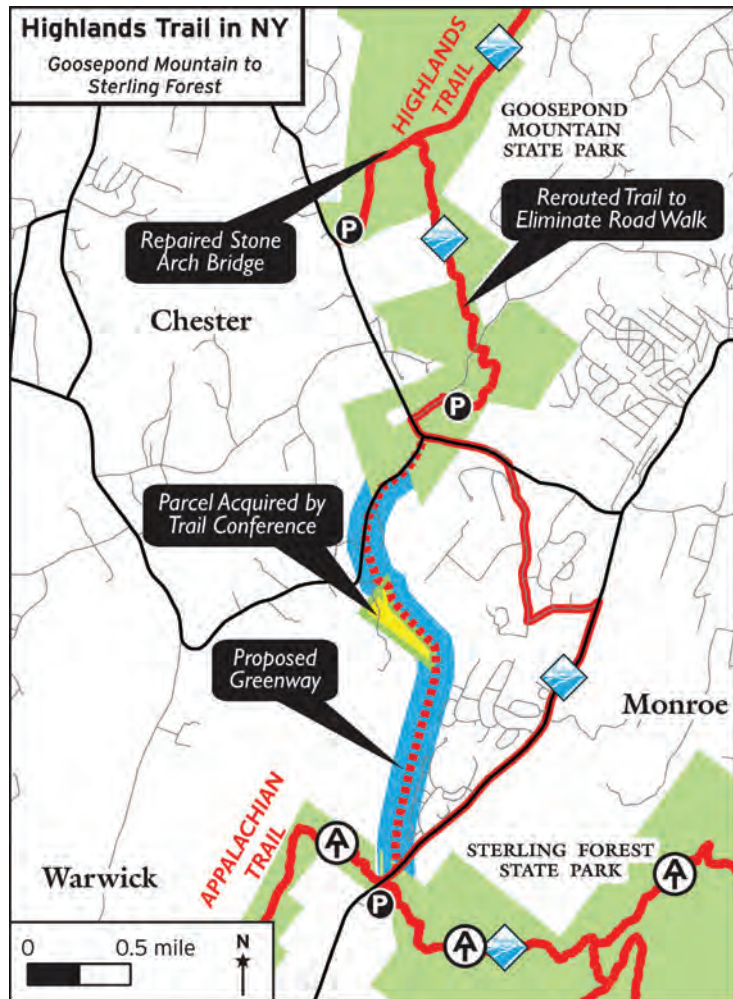
In August, the Trail Conference acquired a piece of undeveloped land in Chester, N.Y., that is key to ongoing efforts to create a greenway from Sterling Forest to Storm King state parks in Orange County. The 14.3-acre parcel is an important step in forming a corridor for the Highlands Trail between Goosepond Mountain State Park and the Appalachian Trail corridor in Sterling Forest. Preservation of this land will allow the Trail Conference to eliminate a dangerous section of road walk on the Highlands Trail.

The Highlands Trail is a 182-mile-long route that extends from Pennsylvania to Connecticut. It highlights the natural beauty of the Highlands region, linking scenic and historic attractions in

New York and New Jersey along the way. The Trail is a cooperative effort of state and local governments, local businesses, the Trail Conference, and other conservation organizations.

The Trail Conference continues to focus its conservation efforts on protecting trails and trail lands, with an emphasis on long-distance trails such as the Highlands Trail. The Trail Conference will hold this parcel until it is sold to the state for permanent protection.

We are thankful for the efforts of our volunteers and partner organizations, including Open Space Institute and Orange County Land Trust, who work diligently with the Trail Conference to identify and acquire properties that are important to trail protection.



Highlands Trail Gets Rerouted Onto Parkland



GLENN OLESAK
HIGHLANDS TRAIL CHAIR

A section of the Highlands Trail along Laroe Road in Chester, N.Y., has been rerouted through Goosepond Mountain State Park. The former road walk—which at one time forced hikers to step into a deep ditch to avoid approaching traffic—has been replaced with a beautiful, well-graded multi-use trail. Approximately 2 miles long, this new section of the Highlands Trail now passes 200-year-old oaks as it winds its way along the shoulders of the park's hills.

Parking for this section of the trail is at Bull Mill Road on the southern end and at a newly improved roadside parking

pullout on Laroe Road at the junction of Lazy Hill Road. Here, you'll find a connector trail (black-on-blue diamond blaze) that creates access from the parking area to the newly relocated Highlands Trail. Thanks to recent work by state parks staff and the Long Distance Trails Crew, this connector trail is now accessible to persons with disabilities from the parking area to the Seely Brook bridge.

I'd like to thank Mark Hohen-gasser, Park Planner for NYS Parks, for getting the new trail approved; the volunteers who helped build the trail; and Trail Conference staffers Sona Mason and Erik Mickelson, whose passion for and dedication to this project went above and beyond the call of duty.



This new section of the Highlands Trail is right on the border of original and newly protected parkland.



Long Distance Trails Crew Completes Stone Arch Bridge

Starting last January, the Long Distance Trails Crew took on the task of repairing the severely damaged stone arch bridge over Seely Brook in Goosepond Mountain State Park. Over 30 work days, 43 volunteers gave a total of 2,493 hours to rehabilitate this stream crossing. They built 145 square feet of crib wall, installed 350 pounds of rebar, and mixed and poured 580 bags of concrete—that's over 25 tons! The finished crossing, celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 4, is 18 feet wide and 37 feet long. This once dangerous section of the Highlands Trail is now beautiful and safe. In addition to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, thanks goes to Jeff and Elizabeth Zahn, the Board family, the Bellvale Community, Protection Fence Inc., and many individual donors. Marty Costello, LDTCC Member

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Sloatsburg, NY
845.618.9112
www.valleyrockinn.com

RAMSEY OUTDOOR

Ramsey Outdoor
▶ 10% discount on non-sale items.
835 Route 17 South
Ramsey, NJ
201.327.8141

281 Route 10 East
Succasunna, NJ
973.584.7798
www.ramseyoutdoor.com



Old Souls
▶ 10% discount on in-store non-sale items.
63 Main Street
Cold Spring, NY
845.809.5886
www.oldsouls.com



Campmor
▶ 10% discount on non-sale items, retail store only.
810 Route 17 North
Paramus, NJ
201.445.5000
www.campmor.com



Minnewaska Lodge
▶ \$20 discount on room rate for a midweek stay and \$10 off a weekend stay.
3116 Route 44/55
Gardiner, NY
845.255.1110
www.minnewaskalodge.com



Seven Lakes Station Taproom and Market
▶ 10% off your tab, bar only. Market & happy hour excluded.
80 Orange Turnpike
Sloatsburg, NY
845.712.5586
www.sevenlakesstation.com

A Day in the Life of the Trail Conference

Both on and off the trail, every day of the year, there is a member of the Trail Conference family working hard to make your next adventure possible. From Manhattan to Albany, the Delaware Water Gap to the Taconics and beyond, right now, Trail Conference volunteers and staff are working to improve access to outdoor opportunities for all and protect the belief that the joys of nature belong to everyone.



BT

Brian Tragno

Trail Steward

After working all week as a coffee shop manager in Manhattan, Brian Tragno has what he calls the perfect weekend job: being outside and educating hikers as a Breakneck Ridge Trail Steward. Brian, who lives in Astoria, N.Y., and grew up hiking in New Jersey, joined the Trail Conference as a Steward in 2013. The Breakneck Stewards often see about 2,000 visitors at this popular trailhead every weekend, and Brian's favorite part of the job is introducing first-time hikers to this challenging-but-rewarding trail—as long as they've got the right shoes and enough water, of course! "There is an incredible community surrounding Breakneck: regulars who hike this trail every weekend and people who are out on their first hike ever. The views and experience can hook people," Brian says. "We're here to educate visitors, recommend new hikes, and get people involved with the trails they love."



CB

Cliff Berchtold

Trail Maintainer, ISF Surveyor, Workshop Instructor

"As a citizen scientist, you get a better idea for the health of a forest," says Cliff Berchtold, who has been keeping an eye on trails and trail lands as a Trail Conference volunteer for more than 20 years. A retired director of transportation for Monroe-Woodbury School District, Cliff joined the Trail Conference as a trail main-

tainer in 1995 and became an Invasives Strike Force surveyor in 2013. The Trail Conference's Invasives Strike Force (ISF) trains volunteers in invasive plant identification and survey protocol in efforts to protect biodiversity in our region. Since he joined ISF, Cliff has surveyed 58 miles of trails for invasives. Cliff, who lives in Monroe, N.Y., also volunteers in the Trail Conference office helping to prepare for the season by creating maps and processing data. But his favorite part of the job is getting outside while giving back to benefit future hikers. "In today's fast and techy world, surveying for invasives forces you to slow down," he says. "You can soak in the forest, appreciate the smaller things in nature, and get to know that piece of trail."



CS

Connie Stern

Trail Supervisor, Trail Crew Member, Trail Maintainer, Swamper, A.T. Corridor Monitor

"Working outside in the water and mud, you feel like a kid again. I'm more active, happier, and healthier than ever," says Connie Stern, who began volunteering with the Trail Conference in 2009.

Since her retirement as a physical therapist in 2014, Connie has become a member of three different trail crews, a trail maintainer, an Appalachian Trail corridor monitor, and swamper to her sawyer husband, Fred Stern (also a trail superhero). In December, she was named Trail Supervisor for Southern Westchester. On Wednesdays, you'll find the Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., resident with the Trail Tramps Crew; Fridays she works with the Westchester East Trail Crew; and other days, she helps out the East Hudson Trail Crew on the Cornish Trail, the trail she maintains

in Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve. On non-crew days, Connie stays busy walking trails to evaluate the conditions, clips back invasive plants, and monitors two sections of the Appalachian Trail corridor. "I'm so proud to wear my Trail Conference volunteer T-shirt," Connie says. "It's such a great organization, and being a part of that is just wonderful!"

DH
GH

David Haas

Committee Member

Glenda Haas

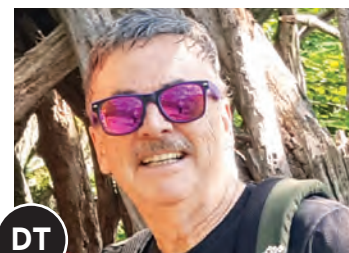
Committee Chair

Longtime members David and Glenda Haas have become more involved in the Trail Conference since the organization's move to the headquarters at Darlington Schoolhouse. David, owner of the investment firm Cereus Financial Advisors, serves on the Development, Events, and Fundraising committees, while Glenda, program director for the Community Arts Association, serves as the chair of the Art Selection Committee. The Mahwah, N.J., couple seamlessly works together to raise funds and visibility for the Trail Conference.

Glenda spearheaded the formation of the Art Committee to decorate Trail Conference Headquarters' grand stairwell with the history of the building and organization. She has been instrumental in transforming the main hall into a rotating art gallery. "By hanging art from the walls, we can invite the community in to enjoy this beautiful building and learn about the Trail Conference," she says.

Glenda and David's good work coaligned in preparation for the 2017 Annual Gala, planned by the Events Committee. Artist Gregory Frux was the keynote speaker,

whose work was the featured fall art exhibition. "We're constantly taking on new projects," David says. "It's been quite a fun adventure!"



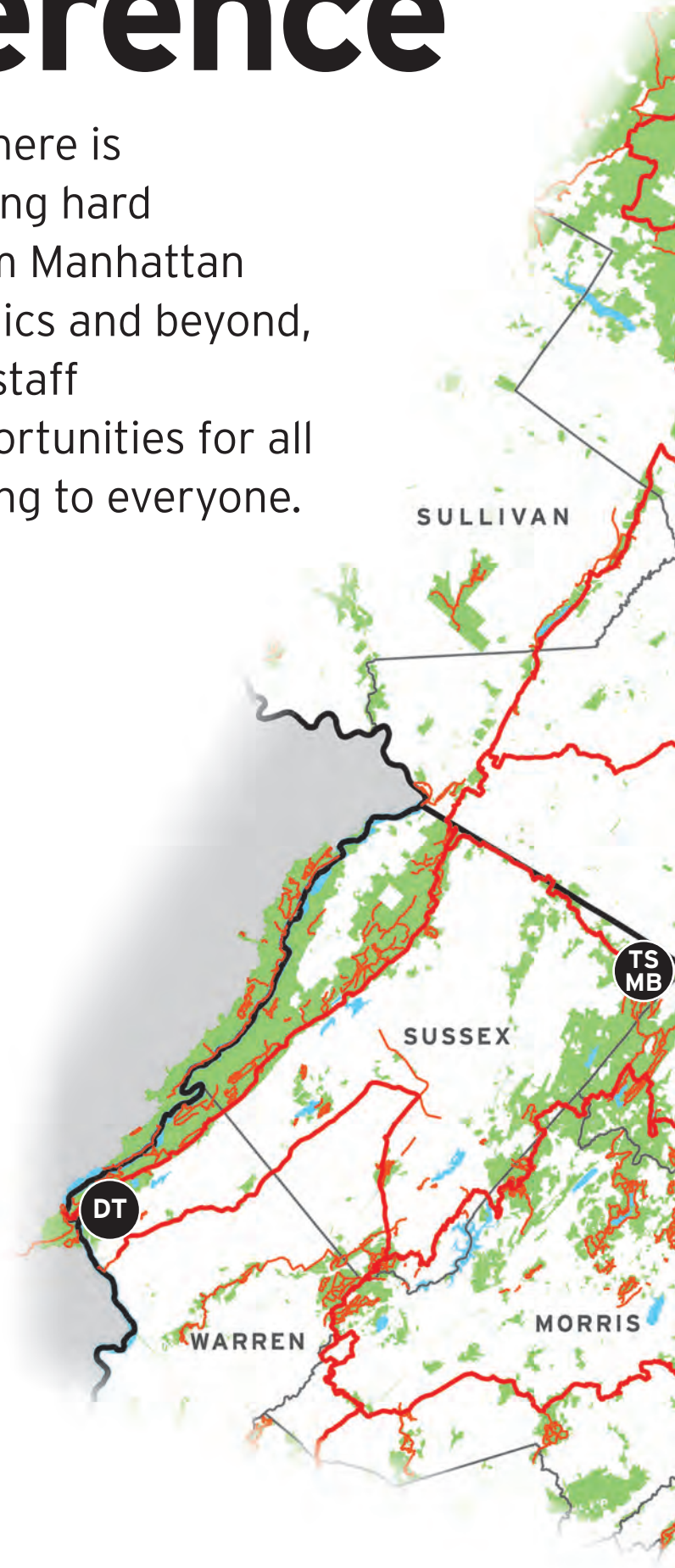
DT

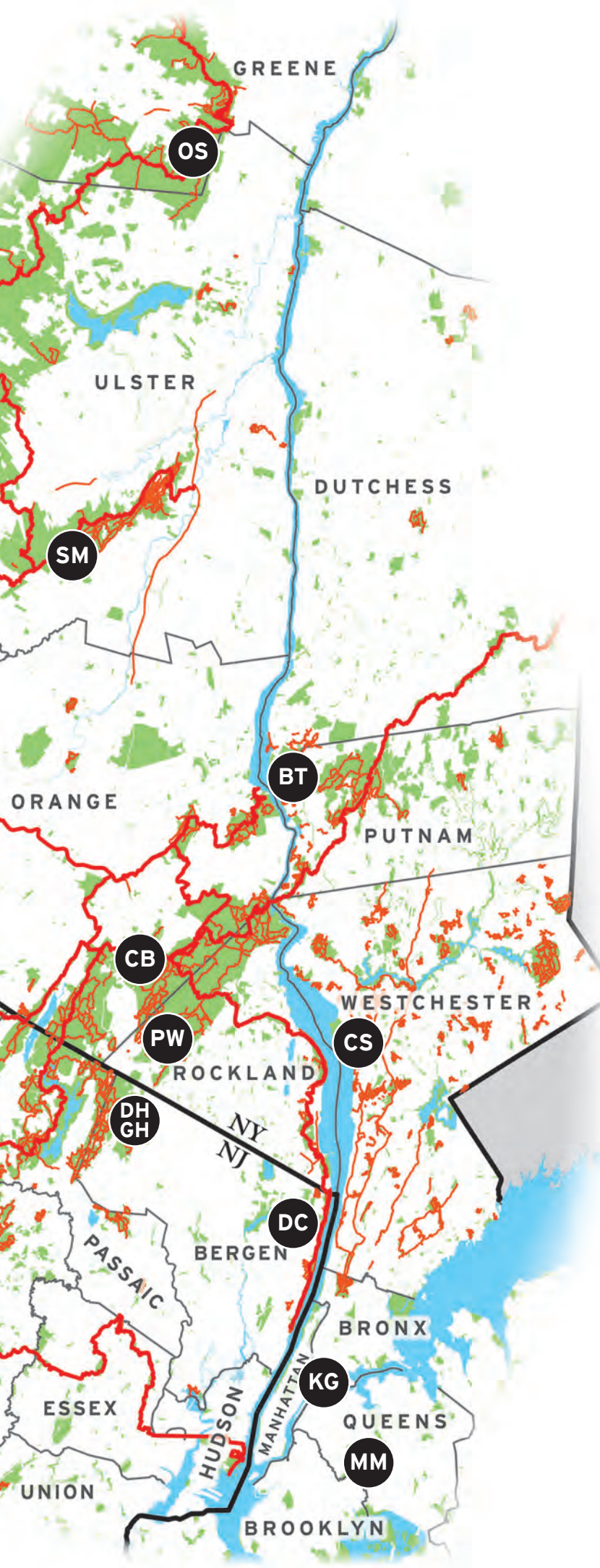
Don Tripp

Trail Chair, Headquarters Volunteer

Don Tripp loves interacting with people who have a passion for the outdoors. The retired commercial mortgage banker joined the Trail Conference in

2009, and he's been a tireless champion for the trails ever since. As the West Jersey Trail Chair, he oversees supervisors and maintainers around the Delaware Water Gap region. Don, who lives in Lambertville, N.J., also volunteers at the front desk of Trail Conference Headquarters selling maps, marketing publications to prospective retailers, and answering email inquiries. "I enjoy reading and responding to questions about hiking," Don says. "The questions are fun and interesting to answer!" Don often answers calls and emails from hikers concerned about trailhead parking, reading maps, and running into snakes. "That's what I like the most: educating and connecting people with nature," Don says. When he's





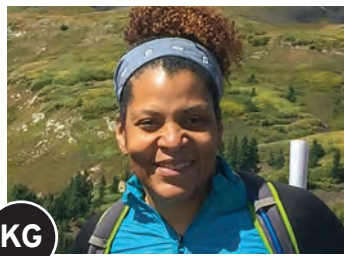
not “on duty,” Don enjoys getting outside to hike the trails he works so hard to protect.



Sona Mason
Program Coordinator

“You can’t love and protect what you don’t know, and trails create a path for people to explore, experience, and develop a passion for wilderness,” says West Hudson Program Coordinator Sona Mason. Sona, who lives in Pearl River, N.Y., works to pro-

tect trails and trail lands in a region that is rapidly developing, so conservation of open space is a big part of her job. In addition to supporting trail crews and maintainers, she provides staff assistance to the Conservation Committee, a team of volunteers that works to preserve green corridors to protect and improve trail experiences throughout the region. Thanks in part to their efforts, Huckleberry Ridge, Gobbler’s Knob, and Roosa Gap state forests were all protected. “The Hudson Valley is unique in that there’s such wild topography within reach of the most densely populated area in the country,” says Sona. “We’re working to create a legacy of wilderness in this sea of development before it’s too late.”



Katina Grays
Member Club Representative

“The outdoors belongs to all of us, but for some people of color, the outdoors is a complex thing,” says Katina Grays. Katina, who lives in Harlem, is the NYC Volunteer Leader for Outdoor Afro, a national non-profit that celebrates and inspires African American connections and leadership in nature. She is passionate about building an inclusive community for people to connect in and with nature, working to dissuade any fears of the outdoors. The New York City chapter of Outdoor Afro joined the Trail Conference as a member club in early 2017; Katina has led several hikes with the Trail Conference, and is always up for bringing outdoor adventure—from backpacking to archery—to her members. She believes in creating cultural outdoor experiences that are accessible—95 percent of their events are reachable by public transit—as well as meaningful: Outdoor Afro has organized healing hikes after social justice crises. “My favorite part of my work is building a deep and restorative community where we can connect within nature to heal and reflect or just go out and have some fun,” she says.



Mk Moore
Trail Chair

Mk Moore is the Trail Conference’s Trail Chair for a region that’s not exactly known for trails: New York City. “There are a lot of great hiking parks in the city that people aren’t really aware of,” says Mk, who lives in Kew Gardens in Queens. To protect one of his favorite parks, Mk formed the Friends of Forest Park volunteer group in 2015; one of his favorite projects in stewarding this 500-acre green space in his borough is organizing trail maintenance and invasive plant removal events. “We go out and repair damage to trails, close desire lines, and make trails better for the average hiker,” he says. This job is a team effort: NYC Parks provides mulch, for example, and Scouts, students, and volunteers help lay it out to create a nicer experience for everyone. Mk—an Air Force veteran and retired clinical psychologist—loves connecting with all the different trail users. “I’m curious what brings people out to the trails,” he says. “I meet a lot of bird watchers and parents bringing their kids outside. City parks are a great

way to see nature without taking two trains or renting a car.”



Daniel Chazin
Writer, Editor, Project Manager, Committee Member

Daniel Chazin is the man behind many of the Trail Conference’s hike descriptions and guidebooks. He joined the Trail Conference in the late 1970s and served on the Board from 1982 to 2016. A retired lawyer who lives in Teaneck, N.J., Daniel is currently a member of the Publications and Conservation committees.

For the past 35 years, Daniel has written or edited many of the organization’s most popular guidebooks, and has been extensively involved with creating and updating Trail Conference maps. More recently, he has dedicated himself to writing and maintaining over 300 hike descriptions on the Trail Conference’s website, including easy-to-follow directions to explore trails throughout our region. Daniel’s Hikes of the Week are featured on nynjtc.org and in North Jersey’s *The Record* newspaper.

This past October, Daniel was given the Raymond H. Torrey Award, the Trail Conference’s most prestigious award. Daniel has noted that it is particularly appropriate for him to have received an award named for Torrey, who was also a writer and editor—Torrey not only wrote hiking columns for the *New York Evening Post*; he also edited the first edition of the *New York Walk Book*.



Tara Spear and Mike Bousquet
Trail Maintainers

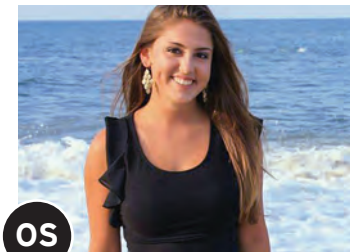
Tara Spear and Mike Bousquet love getting outdoors to give back to the trail community. “We hike a lot,” Tara says. “We’re in the woods anyway, so it just made sense to do something useful while we’re on the trails.”

Tara thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2016, and for her birthday, Mike surprised her by adopting her very own stretch of her favorite trail. The Hewitt, N.J., couple maintains two sections of the A.T. in Wawayanda State Park.

“We’re really particular about picking up trash,” Mike says. So they created the group Make West Milford Clean Again to tackle the trash problem at Wawayanda’s Terrace Pond. Tara, an Applied Behavior Analysis School Therapist and grad student, also volun-

teers for New Jersey Search and Rescue in West Milford.

Their favorite part of the job is “connecting with people who are into the outdoors and encouraging people to leave no trace,” Mike, an engineer, says. “I love being a part of a 2,000-plus-mile trail community,” Tara adds. “Trail maintainers help make it all possible.”



Olivia Sohn
Crew Leader

Olivia Sohn came to the Trail Conference as an Invasives Strike Force volunteer in 2015. Now her days involve moving rocks you’d imagine are impossible to transport with the help of her trail crew (and some rock bars). For the 2017 season, Olivia served as crew leader for the Trail Conference Conservation Corps’ Rockalaka and Sterling Forest crews. Her season was split between the Catskills and Sterling Forest State Park.

Olivia, who lives in Ringwood, N.J., loved building trail in the Catskills’ Sloan Gorge Preserve, a former bluestone quarry that has many glacial features and interesting geology, with rocks perfectly shaped for creating stone steps—a big part of her trail-building efforts this year. “We test every step by dancing on it to make sure it’s stable and comfortable,” Olivia says. Seeing a completed staircase on a trail she helped build for future generations of hikers, she adds, is one of the best parts of the job.



Patsy Wooters
Board Member, Committee Member

With an endless passion for nature, Patsy Wooters is the Board Vice Chair and belongs to the Advocacy and Management committees. She’s been familiar with the Trail Conference since her dad’s days as a volunteer in the ’70s, and has been a member herself since 1984. Patsy, of Suffern, N.Y., spent her childhood adjacent to the mountains and grew up hiking and camping with her father in Harriman State Park. A retired NYC public school teacher, Patsy’s fascination with wildlife and ecology drives her to protect them. “I’m very attached to the mountain forest, and as a board member, I can help to preserve it for the long term,” she says. “Trails allow us to connect with true wilderness. Hikers are critical for protecting lands that would otherwise be developed.”

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

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



Zeroing in on Invasives: How the Invasives Strike Force Targets Specific Projects



ERIC STONE
INVASIVES PROGRAM EDUCATOR
& VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Have you ever walked down the trail and noticed a fallen tree covered in vines? Have you walked through the woods only to see a thick cover of thorny plants under the trees? Nearly anywhere you walk in lower New York or northern New Jersey, you can find invasive species like Japanese barberry and Ori-

ental bittersweet affecting our landscape. At the Trail Conference, we manage the response to invasive species throughout our whole region. To provide the most protection to the local biodiversity in our natural areas, we focus our efforts on priority projects.

Our work begins with our volunteer surveyors. Every year, nearly 250 surveyors devote 2,500 hours collectively to search for invasive plants along our trails, natural areas,

and human-impacted lands. We use the data they collect to make distribution maps of invasives in our region. These maps tell us two important things: where invasive plants are, and where they aren't. Both of these pieces are critical to our next step.

At the start of each year, land managers and land stewards submit requests for invasive plant removal. These requests can range from half-day volunteer projects to week-long projects that re-

quire specialized equipment and trained professionals. To see if a project works toward our larger goal of managing the spread of invasive species, we ask the following questions:

▶ **What species is it?**

The New York State Invasive Species Council assesses the risk of species becoming invasive in New York and maintains a list of the riskiest invaders. We use this list, along with reports from experts, to determine our prior-

ity species for management.

▶ **Does the project protect critical habitat?**

Throughout our region, we have rare and endangered plant communities. If invasive plants threaten these populations, we act to protect them.

▶ **Is the project located along a travel corridor?**

By tackling plants along these paths, roads, rivers, and other places where they can spread easily, we can prevent their advancement to other areas.

▶ **Will the site be restored?**

Land managers should try to replant the area with native plants. This helps prevent the invasive plants from coming back.

▶ **What resources can the Trail Conference provide?**

While we contract out certain projects on private land, most of our removal is done by our Invasives Strike Force group of 100 dedicated volunteers and our four-person seasonal Conservation Corps crew. Over the last three years, our crew and 300 volunteers have removed over 208,000 invasive plants from our trails and natural areas.

If you're interested in volunteering to help combat invasive species, email invasives@nynjtc.org. We'll also be hiring four qualified people for our 2018 seasonal crew. Find more info at nynjtc.org/corpsmembers.

Advocacy Update

Voters Approve Environmental Proposals in NY, NJ

Voters in both New York and New Jersey had the opportunity to weigh in on several ballot questions this Election Day. Thanks to your support, both New York Proposal 3 and New Jersey Question 2 were approved by voters—a win for the environment, parks, and trails.

Approval of Proposal 3, the Public Health and Safety Land Account, creates a 250-acre Forest Preserve “land bank” in New York. Adirondack and Catskill communities will be able to draw upon this land bank when infrastructure projects require use of small amounts of Forest Preserve land without having to receive an individual constitutional amendment for approval.

Approval of Question 2, Revenue from Environmental Damage Lawsuits Dedicated to Environ-

mental Projects Amendment, creates a “lockbox” that will require New Jersey’s Natural Resource Damages funds to be used only for their intended purposes: 1. Repair, replace, and restore damaged natural resources; 2. Preserve natural resources; and 3. Pay the legal costs for environmental contamination claims.

Protecting the Long Path and Highlands Trail

We would like to thank everyone who spoke up for trails and contacted legislators, wrote public comments, and showed up at hearings in support of protecting a greenway for the Long Path and Highlands Trail in Monroe, N.Y. This has enabled us to have meetings with leaders and legislators about first steps toward protecting these trails. We will keep you updated on progress.

Force of Nature Shows Its Strength on Bear Mountain

No matter who you are, trail building can sound like an intimidating task. While double jacks and grip hoists aren't part of everyone's tool vocabulary, giving back to the trails you love is something we can all do together.

On Sept. 30, the Trail Conference hosted a female-focused introduction to trail building in celebration of REI's Force of Nature campaign. Field managers Tori Welch and Ellie Pelletier led a trail-building workshop on the reroute of the original section of the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain State Park. We were joined by four Conservation Corps members and 18 volunteers.

The workshop began with a lesson on tool safety. Tori and Ellie explained why the trail is being built with crib walls and stone steps, and how these features help con-



HEATHER DARLEY

control soil erosion created by trail traffic and water runoff.

The participants then picked up their rock bars and set eight, 1-ton rock steps—work that might typically take a crew two or three days to complete. “I walked away from the trail that day feeling empowered and inspired,” says volunteer and new Trail Conference Finance and Operations Associate Nicole Dion. “Being a part of such

a supportive group of women helped me to test my own mental and physical strength while learning new skills.”

At the Trail Conference, we're surrounded by strong and inspiring women who are at the forefront of our field. Our 100-year legacy was blazed by both men and women, and we continue to celebrate and support this passion for the outdoors. Every day, we're connecting with new people from all walks of life who believe in creating a welcoming environment to get outside and give back—because YOU are a force of nature, and together we can move mountains.

We invite all women to get outside and give back to one of our most cherished connections to nature: trails. Stay tuned for more Force of Nature events in 2018!

Heather Darley

Thank You, Volunteers!



1 We're delighted to introduce John Fiedler as the new volunteer trail supervisor at Black Rock Forest. John lives locally, in Cornwall, N.Y., and has been a maintainer of several trails in the park for over five years. He's looking for new maintainers to adopt trails in Black Rock Forest and is eager to meet all who are interested in giving back. Email volunteers@nynjtc.org for info on how to get started.

2 At the Trail Conference's Annual Gala on Oct. 19, longtime volunteer Daniel Chazin received the Raymond H. Torrey Award,

the Trail Conference's most prestigious award, given for significant and lasting contributions that protect hiking trails and the land upon which they rest.

3 The Taconic Trail Crew worked in Hudson Highlands State Park this season, setting 133 stone stairs as they improved sections of the Highlands and Undercliff trails.

4 On Black Friday, 30 volunteers hit the trails with us at Ramapo Valley County Reservation for a clean-up hike with United By Blue and Campmor.

5 Appalachian Trail thru-hikers Storm (aka Moe Lemire, Orange and Rockland County Appalachian Trail Volunteer Chair), Bear Bait, and Goner gave back to the trail they love, helping the Megalithic Trail Crew put in stairs on the new section of the A.T. on Bear Mountain in October.

6 Our loyal supporters are invited to attend monthly hikes and work project tours as a thank you for helping protect the trails we all love. October's Member Hike explored the new multi-use trails in Sterling Forest

State Park, and ended with lunch at the Valley Rock Inn & Market.

7 Trail Conference volunteers, Hudson Valley Hikers, and Clean Up the Hudson Highlands opted outside on Black Friday and cleaned up 140 pounds of trash on and around Breakneck Ridge.

8 The West Jersey Crew recently completed work on an extensive relocation of the Rock Cores Trail in Worthington State Forest. Abandoning the old and heavily eroded trail, the new path uses climbing turns, stone

staircases, and a bridge to provide a brand new hiking experience. It's great as a nearby alternative to hiking Mount Tammany, which can be overcrowded at peak times.

9 Work on the trails in northern Norvin Green and Long Pond Ironworks in New Jersey continues. Recently, members of the Venturing Officers Association with the Boy Scouts of America volunteered to improve the blazing and trail corridor on the way to Lake Sonoma. If you're interested in helping on these trails, email pdolan@nynjtc.org.

News in Brief



A Donation That Blazes Trails

The Trail Conference would like to thank Benjamin Moore for the donation of over \$1,000 worth of paint. Generous supply and tool donations like this make our work possible. This white, blue, red, and yellow paint will allow our maintainers to freshen up their blazes and help people stick to the trail. If you're a maintainer whose blazes are in need of fresh paint, email volunteers@nynjtc.org

nynjtc.org for more info.

Patagonia, L.L. Bean, Interact Marketing Support the Corps

The Trail Conference Conservation Corps trains the next generation of environmental stewards to preserve the integrity of trails and natural areas and engage volunteers to inspire a deeper appreciation for the care that open space requires. Support for the Conservation Corps comes from public and private donors who believe in the power of connecting people with nature. Thanks goes to L.L. Bean and Patagonia for

supplying crew members with rucksacks and raingear respectively, and Interact Marketing for a \$500 gift to fund the crews' work. If you're interested in learning more about supporting the Conservation Corps, contact Geoff Hamilton at geoff@nynjtc.org or 201.512.9348 ext. 819.

AmazonSmile: Shop Online, Support Trails

Want to know how to give back to your favorite trails at no cost to you? When you shop AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price on eligible orders to the Trail Conference. Bookmark bit.ly/tc-as and show your love

of trails every time you shop. Thank you to our supporters for raising \$121.78 in the third quarter in 2017!

Trail Conference Honored as a 'Champion of the Palisades'

On Oct. 5, the Palisades Parks Conservancy honored "The Champions of the Palisades" at their 2017 Annual Benefit Dinner. The Trail Conference, along with the Natural Resources Defense Council, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, Larry Rockefeller, Scenic Hudson, and LG Electronics, Inc., were awarded for their collaborative work in



protecting the Palisades Cliffs. In 2012, these five conservation groups had raised concerns about the original proposed height of the LG headquarters design to be built adjacent to the New Jersey section of the Palisades Interstate Park, a National Natural and Historic Landmark. This three-year battle was settled amicably in 2015 when LG announced a redesign of its proposed new headquarters reducing the height of the tallest building from 143 feet to the tree line, at 70 feet.

PEOPLE FOR TRAILS

JAMES SULLIVAN

Walden, NY

The Morgan Duke Conservation Society is a volunteer organization and Trail Conference partner that works to protect natural resources and wildlife habitat throughout the Catskill and Adirondack Forest Preserve lands. James Sullivan is the founder, president, and chief executive officer. James was first inspired to take action after a camping experience in

the Adirondacks: "I noticed a blue heron stepping in litter in what should have been pristine wilderness," he says. "I decided I needed to do something about this."

For the last year, James and his team of Morgan Duke volunteers have been working to protect Vernoooy Kill State Forest and Peekamoose Blue Hole. Due to overuse and misuse, the Blue Hole was



KACIE QUACKENBUSH

identified as a 2017 Leave No Trace Hot Spot. In August, Morgan Duke volunteers were a part of this litter clean-up effort along with the Catskill Conservation Corps,

Leave No Trace, Adirondack Mountain Club, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Through organizing litter pickups, various recycling

drives, and much more, James and his organization seek to minimize human impact on the natural environment in efforts to protect and restore wildlife habitat and preserve nature for the enjoyment of future generations. They also work to educate people on the consequences of littering by means of outreach and fundraising.

Environmental conservation is a shared duty, and partnerships like this one are essential to preserving the integrity of our natural world. To learn more about the good work of the Morgan Duke Conservation Society, visit morganduke.org.

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 New York Chapter
www.adkny.org

ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter
www.hudsonhikers.org

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

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

AMC Delaware Valley Chapter
<http://www.amcdv.org>

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

**Appalachian Mountain Club
Mid-Atlantic Office**

Bellvale School
<http://www.bruderhof.com/en/international-directory/united-states/bellvale>

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

Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council

Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 21

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

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

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

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

**East Hampton Trails Preservation
Society**
www.ehtps.org

Flat Rock Brook Nature Association
www.flatrockbrook.org

Friends of Garret Mountain
friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com

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

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

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

Friends of the Shawangunks
<http://shawangunks.org/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hunterdon Hiking Club
www.hunterdonhikingclub.org

Interstate Hiking Club
www.interstatehikingclub.org

Lake Hopatcong Foundation
www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org/

Little Stony Point Citizens Association
www.littlestonypoint.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club
www.nassauhiking.org

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

Nelsonville Greenway Committee
VillageofNelsonville.org

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

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

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

New York Alpine Club

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

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

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

Outdoor Afro NYC
facebook.com/groups/outdoorafro.nyc

The Outdoor Club, Inc.
www.outdoorsclub.info

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

Protectors of Pine Oak Woods
www.siprotectors.org

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

RPH Cabin Volunteers
rphcabin.org

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

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

**Shelton's Shooters Sussex
4-H Club**

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

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

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

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

South Mountain Conservancy Inc.
www.somocon.org

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

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

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

Sundance Outdoor Adventure Soc

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

**Tenafly Nature Center
Association**
www.tenaflynaturecenter.org

Thendara Mountain Club
www.thendaramountainclub.org

Town of Lewisboro
www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec

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

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

Urban Trail Conference, Inc.
www.urbantrail.org

Valley Stream Hiking Club
www.meetup.com/vshclub

**Wappingers Greenway
Trail Committee**

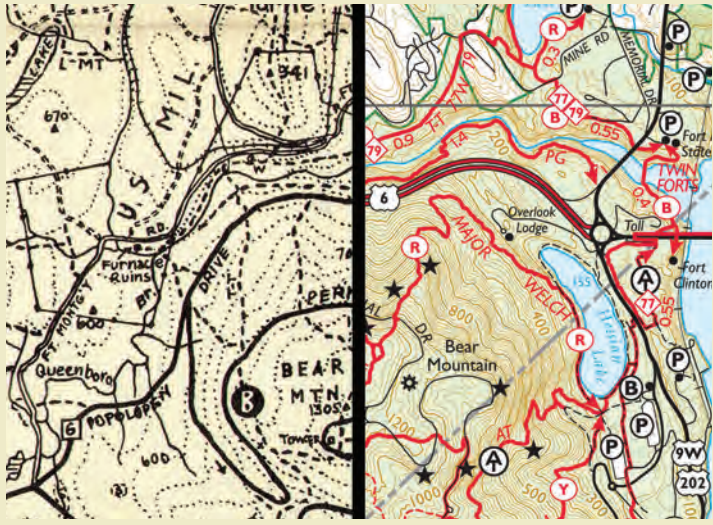
Westchester Trails Association
<http://www.westhike.org>

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

**Yeshiva University High School
Outdoors Club**

MAP TALK

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



How did Trail Conference maps develop their distinctive design?



JEREMY APGAR
Trail Conference Cartographer

Pick up any of our maps, and you can immediately tell it has been produced by the Trail Conference based on a few hallmark features: an uncluttered design, limited color palette, prominent trail network, and rugged Tyvek.

This past fall, the New York Map Society (newyorkmapsociety.org) invited me to talk about trail map history at the iconic main branch of the New York Public Library, and I was able to piece together a fascinating, 100-year progression of

trail map design.

The first real trail maps in our area were a series of Hikers Region Maps, first produced by William Hoferlin in 1934. While these maps were entirely in black ink, they did use circled letters to indicate blaze colors, a method still used today.

Hoferlin died in 1970, leaving a void in trail map availability. The Trail Conference picked up this mantle, and in 1975, the debut edition of Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails became the first standalone map to have red trail lines. It split up a large area into two smaller maps, and was our first Tyvek map set.

Over the next 15 years, several map iterations allowed for the experimentation of various designs. It wasn't until the 1989 edition of Harriman-Bear Mountain

Trails that our maps had developed consistent design components, such as red solid lines for trails, brown contours, green parklands, and thick Tyvek.

In 2000, our first digitally produced map of Sterling Forest further experimented with map design, such as shaded relief and colored elevation shading. By 2007, when I became staff cartographer, the look of our maps had largely shifted back to a design used in the late '80s and early '90s, which, for the most part, can still be seen today.

As of 2018, the Trail Conference has printed about 800,000 maps since the early 1970s! Our easy-to-read design that has developed over more than 45 years is a key reason why our maps have continued to serve the trail-using public.



Updated East Hudson Map Features Mileages and Improved Contours

A completely revised, 12th edition of the East Hudson Trails map set, showing more than 150 miles of trails in the New York Highlands east of the Hudson River, now includes trail mileage numbers on the face of the map. This edition also features new, improved elevation contour lines and several important trail changes.

Trail mileage numbers give distances between trail junctions and important features along the trail, and this popular feature is now on more than

half of our trail maps. In addition, the improved contour lines make cliffs and steep trail areas much easier to identify. Among the other significant changes on the maps are a revised trail system at Manitou Point Preserve, a newly built section of Highlands Trail, revised blaze colors in Manitogeta, the addition of trails in Garrison School Forest, large parkland additions to Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve and Fahnestock State Park, and other new trails in these parks.

Many additional adjustments to the maps make this 12th edition of East Hudson Trails more accurate than ever before.

Parks shown on the maps include Fahnestock State Park, Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, Castle Rock Unique Area, Hudson Highlands Gateway Park, Manitogeta, Manitou Point Preserve, Mount Beacon Park, Nelsonville Nature Preserve, Garrison School Forest, and West Point Foundry Preserve. All maps include UTM gridlines,

► Special thanks to all the volunteers and park partners who helped produce this map revision. The map set was also produced with support from Old Souls, an outdoor store and retail partner of the Trail Conference.

parking areas, viewpoints, and other points of interest.

At only \$11.95 (\$8.96 for Trail Conference members), this map set is a must-have for enjoying the excellent outdoor experiences throughout the Hudson Highlands region.

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



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- Help us protect trails and trail lands for future generations.
- Preserve people's connection to the natural world.
- Create a personal sense of responsibility for our wild places.

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You can make a bequest by sharing the following sample language with your attorney:

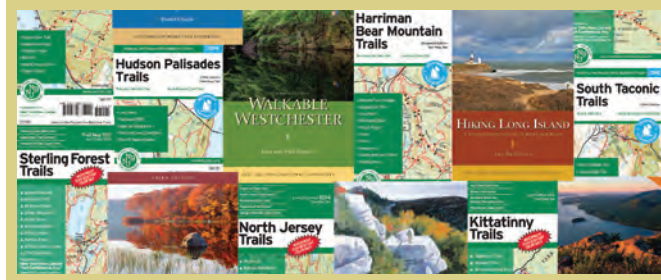
I bequeath to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, with principal offices located at 600 Ramapo Valley Rd, Mahwah, NJ 07430, the sum of \$_____ (or _____%) for its general unrestricted environmental conservation purposes.

TO LEARN MORE AND GET MATERIALS, CONTACT:

Don Weise, Development Director
dweise@nynjtc.org | 201.512.9348 x813

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Building Your Next Adventure in Sterling Forest



ROBERT CELISTIN

Find a description of the Red Back Trail loop at bit.ly/tc-rbl. Check out a larger version of the map seen below at bit.ly/tc-mutsf.



ERIK MICKELSON
FIELD MANAGER

Ask people returning from a journey on the new trails at Sterling Forest State Park about their experience, and you're likely to catch their excitement: "fun and flowy," "special," and "my new favorite trail" have become common descriptions.

The new and repurposed trails are mostly narrow, single-track, multi-use trails. In 2016, the Red Back Trail was rerouted in a few sections and the 2-mile Hutchinson Trail was opened. This year has seen the addition of more than half of the planned Munsee Eagle Trail, with 3 miles built so far. The Munsee Eagle will connect the Red Back and Hutchinson into a loop for hikers and bikers.

The Hutchinson and Red Back out-and-back section is currently open to equestrians, hikers, and mountain bikers; the Munsee Eagle will only be

open for hiking and biking. After the completion of the Munsee Eagle Trail, the future vision is to improve the rest of the Red Back Trail, opening approximately 6 additional miles to all three user groups.

In the meantime, you can enjoy the Hutchinson Trail, which joins onto the southeastern section of the Red Back loop. The entire distance from the Caretaker Parking Area to the South Gate Parking Area is 3.5 miles, which can be done



Help Finish These Trails!

Exciting new trails aren't possible without the support of the people who use them. Volunteers are needed to help complete the final section of the Munsee Eagle Trail—no experience necessary! Give a few hours of your

time, and we'll teach you everything you need to know to help build trails. Contact Field Manager Erik Mickelson at emickelson@nynjtc.org for info on how to get involved. If you'd like to support our efforts without getting dirty, your gift at nynjtc.org/donate goes a long way in allowing us to improve your trail experience.

as an out-and-back or one-way hike or ride with a car shuttle.

The new trails incorporate several sustainability features like softer grades, pinches, and a general narrowness and turns to slow bikes down. They were built with frequent drains, open sight lines, and some banked curves and parallel trail features like rollers and drops for bikers, trail runners, or adventurous hikers. The character is a little different than a pure hiking trail in sections, but it is equally enjoyable for boots and sneakers. It's a playful trail with a sense of adventure that showcases the unique beauty of Sterling Forest.

In spite of all these design considerations, please refrain from using the trails after a significant rain event, or on the thaw end of a freeze-thaw cycle. Feet and tires rut the trails on wet, muddy days.

Besides that, have fun and enjoy the new sights and shiny ribbons of dirt waiting for you in Sterling Forest.

Sharing the Trail



Because the new trails in Sterling Forest are mostly single-track, multi-use trail with some short sections that are particularly narrow, please practice proper trail etiquette. Pause and acknowledge each other's presence. All users yield to horses, and bikes yield to horses and hikers. If possible, yield to horses down slope to avoid potentially scaring them from higher ground.

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

Join/Renew Trail Conference Membership

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

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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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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.

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

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