



TRAIL WALKER

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

Protect the Land You Love

As more people seek to “unplug” from the demands of daily life, a sense of wanderlust urges us to hit the trails. Perfect social media posts advertise vast vistas that promise romance or adventure, fueling new interest in exploring all the outdoors has to offer. Not included in this sales pitch, however, is the urgent reminder that protecting, caring for, and advocating for parks and trails is our civic duty. The key messages of preparedness, Leave No Trace, and stewardship aren’t immediately introduced to these eager hikers arriving at the trailhead, meaning they’re only partially informed about the experience that lies ahead. Faced with this new wave of outdoor enthusiasm and the constant struggle to secure sufficient funding, it’s not a stretch to say that the caretakers of public lands are nearing a crisis point.

Now is the time to stand united by our passion for trails. It’s time to inspire trail adventurers of all ages, both new and old, to protect the land they love.

Since 1920, the Trail Conference has worked to connect people with nature through user education, public participation, and on-the-ground solutions. Working with our partners and the community to address the issues of over-



STEVE AARON

use and misuse on public lands presents the opportunity to be better trail builders—from the way we plan and execute a project, to the way we interact with users and encourage the respectful enjoyment of trails. Building sustainable trails is one of the most effective ways to prevent our most popular outdoor destinations from being “loved to death.”

And as guardians of 2,165 miles of trails in the greater New York metropolitan region, members of the Trail Conference community are some of the best possible ambassadors for safe, responsible

recreation in nature. Every time Trail Conference volunteers step on a trail, they are representing a nearly 100-year legacy of stewardship. They are embodying the values of an organization that strives to create better outdoor opportunities for everyone by empowering everyone to give back to the parks and trails they love. They lead by example to inspire a deeper appreciation for the care that open space requires.

The Trail Conference was founded by outdoor-lovers who believed the weariness of fast-paced, modern life could be cured by a walk in

the woods. For those who are just discovering that beautiful truth, welcome to the Trail Family. Let us be a resource for creating your social media-worthy trail moments. For those who have believed “going to the mountains is going home” before it became a T-shirt slogan, help us ensure the natural areas that are so important to you remain open and unspoiled. The trails are calling—for more than adventure. They’re calling for care and protection. Be the force that ensures our wild places remain wild. Help us protect the land you love.

Get Involved

Wondering how to get started? Here are three easy ways to make a difference:

Give a Shout-Out

Help us spread the word about our volunteers’ good work on social media. Give our volunteers a virtual high-five by tagging your trail photos #traillove and @nynjtc.

Give a Few Hours

Be a superhero for parks and trails: volunteer! Outside or inside, close to home or at your go-to weekend trail destination, we aim to connect you with the volunteer opportunity that is right for you. Tell us how you’d like to be involved at nynjtc.org/volunteer.

Give a Few Dollars

Whether you’re getting out there for fresh air, exercise, or a new adventure, you count on well-maintained trails—and we count on the support of every hiker, walker, and rider to make that possible. Make your gift at nynjtc.org/donate.

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Corps Honored in DC for Project of the Year

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference’s Bear Mountain Trails Project received a 2019 Project of the Year Award by The Corps Network at a ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 13. This national award recognizes Corps that have undertaken especially noteworthy endeavors within the past year. The Trail Conference received this prestigious honor during The



The Corps Network Chief Operating Officer Marie Walker presented the Project of the Year Award to Corps Manager Geoff Hamilton, left, and Corps member Eduardo Gill.

Corps Network’s 2019 national conference, “Resilience.”

The Trail Conference finished construction on the historic Bear Mountain Trails Project in September 2018. It was not only the most

ambitious rehabilitation of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) ever conducted, but also the project that launched our Conservation Corps program. Over the last 14 years, the Trail Conference has rallied the community to help transform the A.T. at Bear Mountain from an eroded, washed-out, 10-foot-wide scar into a safe, sustainable footpath and educational destination.

It is an incredible honor to receive the Project of the Year Award. We recognize everyone—from our Conservation Corps members to volunteers and partners—who worked on this project and offer our thanks for helping us create a world-class trail experience for all to enjoy.

Come Show Your Love of Trails on National Trails Day

Every day is trails day for the Trail Conference. But on National Trails Day, we add a little extra celebration to our stewardship. Join us Saturday, June 1, as we give back to the trails that offer us so much enjoyment!

POPULAR MECHANICS

Head to Mahwah, N.J., for our annual open house at Trail Conference Headquarters, co-hosted by Popular Mechanics. The event includes:

Stewardship Opportunities
From trail building to invasive species removal to litter clean-up, we'll be making a difference in Ramapo Valley County Reservation, located right next door to our historic home.

Guided Hikes
Explore the popular network

of trails in Ramapo Reservation on a guided hike. We're offering several options for all interests, including: an interpretive hike with a town historian; a yoga hike; a traverse of the recently completed Vista Loop Trail; an orienteering hike sponsored by Suunto Compasses; and a family-focused nature hike.

Between activities, grab a bite to eat from a food truck, participate in our outdoor gear raffle, take advantage of our annual sale on maps and books, and explore popular outdoor retailers showing their trail love with demos and awesome swag. Popular Mechanics, Merrell, Campmor, Salomon, Wild Birds Unlimited, Northeast Mountain Guid-

Thank You

Thanks to ExtremeTerrain's Clean Trail Grant Program for supporting the Trail Conference with a \$250 donation. We'll use the grant to provide food and refreshments for participants at our National Trails Day event at our headquarters.

ing, L.L. Bean, BushSmarts and more will all be on hand to talk trails, gear, and all things outdoors.

Visit nynjtc.org/events for more info on our National Trails Day Open House. We hope you'll come explore with us on June 1!



Explore, give back, have fun! National Trails Day activities include hikes, projects such as trail building, and more.

More Trails to Love with JORBA, REI

Also in celebration of National Trails Day, we'll be co-hosting a stewardship event with REI and our mountain biking

friends at JORBA. We'll be working on improving the multiuse Crossover Trail in Ringwood State Park in Ringwood, N.J. Everyone is invited to come out and give back! Learn how great trails are made and hang out with other trail lovers. Find more info at nynjtc.org/events.

International Symposium Features Trail Conference Presenters

JESSIE JOHNSON AND MATT SCHNEIDER/ LEAVE NO TRACE CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS



The high usage at Breakneck Ridge will be addressed in two presentations at the International Trails Symposium.

American Trails hosts the 24th International Trails Symposium and Training Institute in Syracuse, N.Y., April 28 through May 1—and the Trail Conference will be well-represented at this biennial gathering of trail leaders.

Staff and volunteers will be making presentations alongside some of our partners on the following topics important to our mission and in connecting people to nature:

- ▶ **DIY Volunteer Program Assessment: Maximize and Sustain Your Volunteer Community** — Volunteer Engagement Manager Kendra Baumer
- ▶ **Trail Map "Dos and Don'ts:"**

Best Practices for Designing Trail Maps — Cartographer Jeremy Apgar

- ▶ **Old Trails, New Systems: Re-Imagining Existing Trail Networks** — New Jersey Program Coordinator Peter Dolan and Regional Park Superintendent of New Jersey State Parks Joshua Osowski
- ▶ **Managing High-Use Trails: Why Trail Stewards Are a Necessity in Creating Safe, Sustainable Trails** — Senior Program Coordinator Hank Osborn (This presentation will be recorded and available to view after the event; we'll post the link at nynjtc.org.)
- ▶ **New York's Breakneck Ridge: A Challenge for Hikers Becomes a Challenge to**

Sustain — Senior Program Coordinator Hank Osborn and Statewide Trails Planner for NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Chris Morris

- ▶ **Grassroots Greenway: Protection of Long-Distance Trails Creates Important Parkland** — West Hudson Program Coordinator Sona Mason, Director of Conservation and Stewardship for the Orange County Land Trust Matt Decker, and Senior Vice President of Open Space Institute Terrence Nolan

The Symposium is open to the public. Passes and more information can be found at americantrails.org/symposium.

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AMBER RAY EDITOR
STEPHANIE HINDERER DESIGNER

MISSION STATEMENT

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer-powered organization that builds, maintains, and protects public trails. Together with our partners, we strive to ensure that the trails and natural areas we share are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy for generations to come.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

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JEREMY APGAR

Headquarters Open Saturdays Through November

With warmer weather comes extended hours at Trail Conference Headquarters. Our Trail Store is now open Saturdays during peak hiking season. Stop by for maps, sunscreen, hats, and more from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday through November. We'd love to chat about trails with you.

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STEVE ARON

The Trail Conference is constantly working to preserve land for our long-distance trails.

A Victory for the Long Path: Schoharie Section of Trail Protected Forever



ANDY GARRISON
LONG PATH CHAIR

Another mile of the Long Path has been permanently preserved, thanks to the efforts of Trail Conference volunteers and staff. This mostly forested, 149-acre parcel is located in the Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County, New York. The parcel is adjacent to Burnt-Rossman Hills State Forest, located 35 miles northwest of the Catskill Park by trail. Future plans are to transfer this parcel to New York State as an addition to the state forest.

This project began when I drove up to Schoharie County to attend the annual meeting of the Long Path North Hiking Club, which manages the Long Path north of the Mohawk River in Schoharie, Albany, and Schenectady counties. As chair of both the Long Path North and Conservation committees, I arrived early to check out the trail. To my surprise, I found a realtor sign advertising that a private property providing

nearly a mile of Long Path access was for sale. This became an urgent situation. If a private sale were to occur, we faced the possibility of losing the trail easement, potentially being forced to move almost a mile of the Long Path onto paved highway. A plan was developed for the Trail Conference to purchase the property, not only protecting the Long Path but also conserving a beautiful section of forest in the process.

The Trail Conference has been actively purchasing land for the protection of trails since 1939. Nearly 50 years ago, George Zobelein became the first trail supervisor of sections 1 through 4 of the Long Path; he and Win Perry began working to protect the trail soon after it was built in that area. (George was a very busy guy; in addition to his Long Path contributions, he was also Trail Conference president, Publications Chair, and the initial force behind the Metro-North train stop for the Appalachian Trail in Pawling, N.Y.) The Trail Conference's

commitment to both building and protecting the Long Path and our other long-distance trails has always been at the core of what we do.

These trails are increasingly pressured with development and, unfortunately, it's a race to preserve them. We would like to ramp up our efforts to permanently protect our long-distance trails—and you can help. We purchase trail lands with funds from the Trail Conference's Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund (LASF). It's a revolving, donor-supported fund. When we sell land to the state for permanent protection, the proceeds are returned to the fund. We work with other land conservation partners whenever possible, allowing us to stretch our funds and preserve more trail miles.

Be a part of this conservation legacy by making a donation to our Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund. Go to nynjtc.org/donate, and in the special instructions box, write "For LASF." Help protect the land you love today!

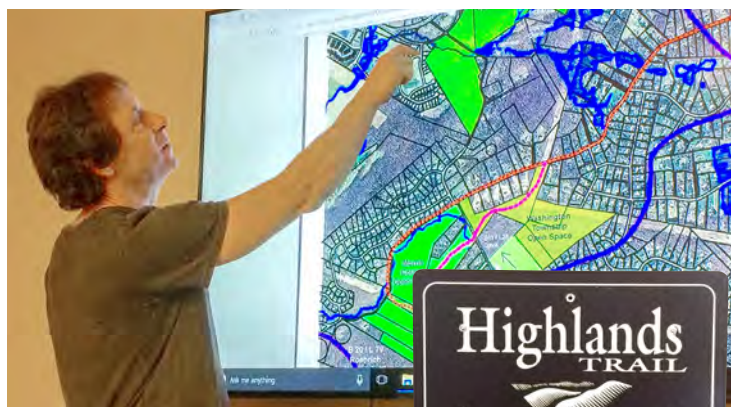
Highlands Trail in New Jersey Continues to Grow



PETER DOLAN
NEW JERSEY
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Everybody knows about the Appalachian Trail—the 174 miles of A.T. maintained by the Trail Conference in New Jersey and New York are well-hiked, with some places seeing more traffic than they can handle. The Highlands Trail, in comparison, is something of a secret. Another long-distance trail cared for by the Trail Conference, it extends 180 miles from the Delaware River at the New Jersey/Pennsylvania border to the Hudson River in New York. Plans are underway to extend the Highlands Trail east to the Connecticut border.

The Highlands Trail (or HT) is a dynamic, living trail, constantly being re-routed onto newly preserved lands, slowly settling into a final route in the



Highlands Trail Chair Glenn Oleksak, above, is a driving force behind the HT. New signs, right, created by a volunteer will soon be installed.

same way the A.T. did decades ago. Working with the Land Conservancy of New Jersey, the Trail Conference recently routed 4.61 miles of Highlands Trail to take advantage of 2,218 acres of land preserved at Hudson Farms in western New Jersey, taking the trail off a disturbed quarry area and onto beautiful woodland. In a separate success, the HT will soon be blazed to co-align with a new trail built by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation in the Musconetcong Gorge, taking 1.5 miles off road walks and into forest. Thanks to Trail Chair Glenn Oleksak, you can always follow

the current route of the Trail at TheHighlandsTrail.org.

The biggest challenge facing the Highlands Trail now is finding volunteers to keep pace with its growth. To help, 2019 will see the first roving HT crews—ad hoc teams that will visit different HT locations throughout the year. We welcome everyone to join in at any time for a day of giving back. Email pdolan@nynjtc.org to have your name added to the mailing list. Can't volunteer but still want to show your love for the HT? Stop by our headquarters' front desk for a free Highlands Trail sticker (while supplies last).



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As the Trail Conference approaches its centennial, we are preparing to tackle new and exciting challenges that our volunteers, staff, and partners will confront heading into our second century. Moving forward, we are pleased to announce the creation of two new leadership positions.

Joshua Howard will be our Chief Operating Officer responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Trail Conference and Mary Perro will be our Chief Financial Officer responsible for all financial matters.

We look forward to continuing the Trail Conference's critically important work of building and main-



taining over 2,100 miles of trails and protecting public parks and recreation areas in New York and New Jersey through the tireless efforts of our thousands of dedicated volunteers. We are confident that the quality of the Trail Conference mission and its programs will continue to be maintained and developed with this experienced leadership team.

Eddie Saiff
Board of Directors Chair

Be a Trail Champion

While the Trail Conference's nearly 100-year history is full of advocacy success stories, we do not fight these battles alone. Our actions and voice are amplified when we work together—which is why we need you.

On the advocacy front this winter, challenging weather did not prevent our staff and volunteers from traveling to Albany to represent the Trail Conference and discuss the issues and needs of trails and parks with New York State elected officials. One new volunteer traveled by train from Manhattan, while others spent the night before these "advocacy days" in hotels to ensure they did not miss this opportunity to be champions for the environment. Engaging our representatives in conversations about the importance of trails and parks makes a difference; these elected officials decide how funding should be allocated. If you would like to see this process in action or be a part of it, keep a lookout every January and February as we highlight upcoming advocacy days in our e-newsletter and at nynjtc.org/events.

In the meantime, we are growing our advocacy



team to create a force to push back against threats to your trails, with current emphasis on the Long Path and Highlands Trail in Monroe, N.Y. A proposal to create the Village of Seven Springs near the recently formed town of Palm Tree poses an urgent threat to these long-distance trails. Should this land be intensely developed, as is the vision of the land owners and developers, access for the Long Path and Highlands Trail will be cut off. Our last shot at creating a greenway between Gonzaga Park and Orange and Rockland Lake is this sliver of undeveloped land. It's the last possible link between Schunmunk Mountain and Goosepond Mountain state parks, and a crucial safe passage for these two trails.

If you would like to be part of this team, email Sona Mason at smason@nynjtc.org.

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Introducing the Trail Angels Society



DON WEISE
MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

At the Trail Conference, we believe our volunteers and the donors who support them are Trail Angels. Our first 100 years of volunteering has been an important source of innovation and resilience for trails and parks in New York and New Jersey. To ensure skilled volunteers will be plentiful enough to protect these public lands and trails during our next 100 years, we need to be forward-thinking in the ways we seek funding to continue this vital work.

The idea of a Trail Angel Society was introduced in the previous issue of Trail Walker, and we received a lot of positive feedback on the concept. We're pleased to announce that we are moving forward in the creation of this society to ensure that trails and natural areas in this region are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy for generations to come.

The purpose of our Trail Angels Society will be to provide reliable income over the long term, which makes it ideal to be funded by planned gifts, such as a bequest or other provision in your estate plan

that benefits the Trail Conference. To encourage gifts made in this way, we will launch a Trail Angels Society open to anyone who confirms that the Trail Conference will benefit from their estate plan.

We are also extremely excited to announce that a generous donor who believes in the importance and power of "paying it forward" has offered to ensure the Trail Conference benefits from the generosity of Trail Angels Society members both now and in the future. Every time a person confirms the Trail Conference has been named in their will or estate plan, the donor will write a \$500 check to support our work today (see below). You will not only be paying forward your love for public lands and trails, you will also be making a big difference right now.

We are so grateful for the creativity and fortitude of our members and volunteers. It is what enables the Trail Conference to fulfill its mission, year after year, decade after decade, century after century. Join the Trail Angels Society by making a provision in your estate plan to benefit the Trail Conference and assure an immediate contribution to celebrate your generosity.



JAMES WHEELER

A Pledge Challenge for the Trail Conference

A generous donor has come to the Trail Conference with an exciting idea.

This donor will give a contribution of \$500 to the Trail Conference right away when someone indicates that he or she has made a bequest or a provision in his or her estate

plan that benefits the Trail Conference.

When you complete the bequest intention form (see below) and send it in to us, our donor will write a check to the Trail Conference for \$500 for each form we receive. The donor is creating an immediate incentive to encourage future bequest proceeds.

Your bequest intention form is non-binding; people can change their minds as their circumstances change.

The form is to show that you are making plans now, but you have every right to change them later.

If you've made a provision in your estate plan that benefits the Trail Conference, use this form to let us know, even if you've told us previously, and we can benefit NOW from our generous donor. If you're working on your estate plan and you intend to benefit the Trail Conference with a provision, use this form when you have

finalized your plans and take advantage of this exciting Pledge Challenge.

One person who's made a commitment said, "This is a great way for me to help the Trail Conference without costing me a penny now. The Trail Conference gets \$500 today, and I leave a nice legacy later on."

For more information, contact Membership and Development Director Don Weise at dweise@nynjtc.org or 201.512.9348 x813.

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.

My future gift:

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

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

Trail Angels Society:

- Please list me in the Trail Angels Society as _____
- I prefer to remain anonymous.

Kindly return this completed form to: Development Director, Planned Giving, NY-NJ Trail Conference, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07043
Please contact us with any questions: 201.512.9348 x813, dweise@nynjtc.org

THE MAJOR WILLIAM A. WELCH AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARTNER

Honors partners who have been strong advocates for and provided significant assistance to Trail Conference volunteers.

Terrence Nolan

Terrence Nolan, senior vice president for conservation transactions at the Open Space Institute, has been a valued partner for many of the land preservation initiatives for long-distance trails at the Trail Conference. He brings key people and partnerships together to achieve successes such as creating greenways and new parks for the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail.



DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

Honors long-time, dedicated volunteers who have demonstrated exemplary service to the trails and natural areas that surround them.

Jill Arbuckle

Maintainer: New Jersey Appalachian Trail
Jill has dedicated herself to the Appalachian Trail since 1991. Over the decades she's held a variety of positions with the Trail Conference including trail maintainer, trail vice chair, Board secretary, and club trail chair.

Paul Kienker

Maintainer: West Hudson—Long Path South
Each year Paul spends an inordinate number of hours keeping his section of the Long Path at Sam's Point in Minnewaska State Park Preserve in pristine condition. This is no easy feat; but since 2011 he's been successfully battling the mile-long blueberry field that tries to take over the trail.



Richard Lynch

Crew Member: West Hudson
Richard has been a member of the West Hudson South Trail Crew for over 15 years and has become a reliable and key member of the group. His consistent efforts have enabled him to learn the ins and outs of trail work, whether as one of the crew or giving instruction to a group. Richard always shows up with a smile and is great at making a new person feel welcome.

RPH Cabin Volunteers, represented by Tim Messerich

Maintainers: East Hudson Appalachian Trail
The RPH Cabin Volunteers have been a force of nature since 2007. In addition to all the trail projects they tackle, each year they organize a work weekend focused on improving the Appalachian Trail RPH Shelter in Dutchess County—an event that attracts upwards of 100 volunteers annually. There are



2019 TRAIL CONFERENCE AWARDS

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS

Trail Conference volunteers make incredible commitments to the trails and lands they love. Our success as an organization comes from the hard work, dedication, and support of the many volunteers who selflessly share their time. On March 16 at Ramapo College of New Jersey we held our annual Volunteer Appreciation event, where we recognized a number of outstanding individuals and organizations that exemplify the Trail Conference mission. This year we introduced a new awards structure and updated categories that reflect our organization's values and programs. We also honored those volunteers who responded quickly and courageously after last spring's storms to ensure trails could once again be passable and safe. Congratulations to all honorees—and thank you!



Dedicated Service Award honorees

many dedicated club members who volunteer throughout the year. The driving force behind their many accomplishments is Tim Messerich, who is the past president and current crew leader.

Jerry Ruocco

Corridor Monitor: West Hudson Appalachian Trail
Jerry recently retired from his 7-year tenure as an Appalachian Trail corridor monitor. Throughout those years, Jerry was uncompromising in protecting his boundary on Bellvale Mountain, which traverses steep cliffs and difficult terrain.

Elaine Silverstein & Bruce Thaler

Elaine: Invasive Plant Surveyor; Appalachian Trail Natural Heritage Monitor; Crew Member. Bruce: Invasive Plant Surveyor; Appalachian Trail Natural Heritage Monitor; Maintainer: New Jersey—Ramapo Mountain State Forest
For nearly a decade, Elaine and Bruce have dedicated themselves to natural lands. They have been Invasives Strike Force surveyors since 2011 and A.T. rare and endangered plant monitors since 2013. Additionally, Elaine has been a key member and leader of the Habitat Helpers Crew;



the knowledge and kindness that she passes onto fellow volunteers strengthens the crew. Bruce is also a dedicated trail maintainer in Ramapo Mountain State Forest.



Fred Smith

Maintainer: New Jersey—Palisades Interstate Park
Fred has been a steady, dependable, and conscientious trail maintainer who's maintained the Englewood Cliffs section of the Shore Trail since 2000. He's also reliably assisted his trail supervisor in clearing blowdowns and making trail tread repairs.

Robert Ward

Supervisor: East Hudson—Rockaways
Since 1950 Bob has served the Trail Conference in a variety of roles, including: delegate, club liaison, life member, trail supervisor, and trail chair. In particular, Bob has served as the Queens Trails Council Chair for many years. Through that position he has played a key role in connecting urban dwellers with walking, trails, and the outdoors.



Roy Williams

Maintainer: New Jersey—High

Point State Park

Roy has been a trail maintainer at High Point State Park for 18 years and looks after five trails. He is the "go-to guy" in High Point who is always lending a hand and stepping up to help. For instance, without being asked, Roy added 120 blazes to a 4.2-mile-long trail when he discovered a fellow maintainer was unable to mark the path.



THE NEXT GENERATION AWARD

Honors volunteers under 25 years of age who have enthusiastically and passionately made contributions serving the Trail Conference's mission.

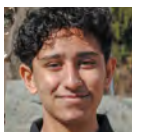
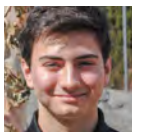
Forrest Becker

Crew Volunteer: New Jersey—Ramapo Valley County Reservation
Forrest was among the 2018 Ramapo Crew's most consistent—not to mention youngest—volunteers. During his high school summer break he prioritized volunteering with the crew

to build a new trail. Even after he returned to school, he often came out to work on his weekends. Forrest is an enthusiastic, engaged, and hard-working volunteer who also knows the value of a safe work environment.

Lucas Petruzzo and Nikhil Singh

Crew Member: East Hudson—Yorktown
Lucas Petruzzo and Nikhil Singh spent a portion of their summer off from high school helping to build a boardwalk that's part of the Mohansic Trailway project. They were a fantastic team whose skill and confidence grew exponentially over the months—from waiting to be given instruction to becoming proactive and knowing how and where to pitch in.



HIT THE GROUND RUNNING AWARD

Honors volunteers who have "hit the ground running" and

2018 Storm Disaster Response: A Herculean Effort

When trails are threatened, the Trail Conference responds. Last year we saw unprecedented storm damage as March and May weather events swept across our region. Extensive sections of trail were buried beneath uprooted trees. The Appalachian Trail was especially hard-hit at a time

when thru-hiking activity was starting to peak. Trails were not only impassable but also incredibly difficult to find, even by those who know them well.

Volunteer chain sawyers and swampers responded with heroic efforts in a remarkably short amount of time to restore trails damaged by these spring storms. They selflessly gave days at a time to clear blowdowns and make sure affected trails were once again passable and safe.



Hit the Ground Running Award honorees

made a strong impact within their first two years of service.

Mike Bousquet and Tara Spear

Mike: West Hudson Appalachian Trail Corridor Manager, Supervisor, and Maintainer. Tara: West Hudson Appalachian Trail Corridor Manager and Maintainer
Tara and Mike first attended an Introduction to Trail Maintenance workshop, and their involvement with the Trail Conference exploded shortly afterwards. They are avid hikers (and an A.T. thru-hiker, in Tara's case) who care deeply about trails and stewardship. In addition to taking on several formal volunteer roles, they're always ready to jump in and help when a need presents itself.



Jenny Carel

Invasives Strike Force Surveyor and Crew Member; Data Volunteer
Jenny wowed us in her first year as a Trail Conference volunteer. In just one season she took two invasive species surveying workshops; completed Invasives Strike Force trail surveys for Granite Hills and Rockefeller State Park; helped remove invasives on three work days; and organized and inputted data at the office to provide statistics for critical reporting deadlines.

Laurie and Frank Galdun

Supervisors and Maintainers: New Jersey—Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area
Laurie and Frank became supervisors at Pyramid Mountain in the beginning of 2018 and made an immediate impression as grateful, experienced, and committed fellow maintainers. Early on they clearly communicated their love for the park, as well as a sense of community—particularly that we are all taking care of this mountain together.



CommSAR, represented by Stephen (Yaakov) Geis

Supervisor and Maintainers for COMMSAR: West Hudson—Bear Mountain State Park
CommSAR is a true friend to the trails. They perform education, training, search and rescue services, and maintain 8 miles of trails. They have completely rehabilitated their miles of trail and redirected major blowdowns. As the trails supervisor for the club, Yaakov is dedicated, tireless, and effective. He can frequently be found caring for the trails

three or more days a week; has recruited maintainers; gone out of his way to remove litter; and surveyed new county trails for maintenance.

Philip Heidelberger

Maintainer: East Hudson—Fahnestock State Park; Policy Council Member; Action Team Member
Phil first became a trail maintainer in 2017 and was soon co-teaching Trail Maintenance 101 workshops. He joined the Policy Council, where he led an extensive revision of the Trail Maintenance Manual, and has become an active member of a task force to design the hour and accomplishment reporting for *nynjtc.org*.



Sam Lee

Trail Volunteer: East Hudson—Highlands Trail East
It's Sam's initiative that is driving the entire East Fahnestock Mountain Bike Trail Network project. After becoming oriented to trail building and rehabilitation strategies, Sam scouted the extensive woods road network, identified desirable routes, and led very productive work trips. Sam is a motivated achiever working hard and getting results.

Jim LeMaire

Supervisor and Maintainer: New Jersey—Southern Wyanokies; Policy Council Member
Jim started off as a trail maintainer. When the opportunity to become a trail supervisor presented itself, he enthusiastically took on the new role. He has made a significant effort to improve the trails in Norvin Green State Forest by working closely with maintainers, training new volunteers, and identifying blowdowns in a timely manner. In addition, he joined the Policy Council where he's been working on several important organization-wide projects.



Chuck Mattes

Maintainer: West Hudson—Sterling Forest
Chuck is a self-starter with bottomless energy, a terrific work ethic, and pride in keeping "his trail"—the McKeags Meadow Loop—in first-rate condition. In 2018, Chuck accelerated his efforts, tripling his trail assignment mileage and putting in more hours (115.5) than any other individual Sterling Forest maintainer. His is a cheery personality who is always asking how he can help and what

more he can do.

Kaitlin and Patrick Messmer

Kaitlin: Supervisor: New Jersey—Pequannock Watershed. Pat: Supervisor and Maintainer: New Jersey—Pequannock Watershed
As trail supervisors of the Pequannock Watershed, Kait and Pat have fostered a fun and positive experience for their maintainers (such as hosting coffee and doughnut work trips) while simultaneously ensuring their trails stay safe and enjoyable for all by regularly scouting and resolving trail issues.



David Miller

Maintainer: West Hudson—Southern Shawangunks
David is a great example of how working on a trail is one way that people can find their passion in nature and make a contribution to the community. David dove into his new trail maintainer position in the southern Gunks, logging 112 hours over 17 trips. Not only has he taken one of the more difficult sections of trail on the Long Path (with abundant fire-damaged trees letting in lots of light), but he's also transformed it into a picture-perfect example of the Trail Conference standard.



Andre Nizzari

Maintainer: West Hudson and Catskills; Corridor Monitor—East Hudson Appalachian Trail; Trail Steward
Andre joined the Trail Conference as a member in January of 2018. Since then, he's become an Appalachian Trail corridor monitor, a trail maintainer for five different trails in three parks throughout the region, and one of our first volunteer Trail Stewards at Breakneck Ridge. Andre's passion for the outdoors and excitement for the organization is contagious, which makes him a perfect role model for getting outside and giving back.



Adrienne Popko

Lower Hudson PRISM Volunteer
Adrienne has consistently been the top Invasives Strike Force Blockbuster volunteer in the number of surveys she has completed. In three seasons, she has done 67 surveys over 111 hours, almost single-handedly filling in large swaths of data gaps in Dutchess County.

Cindy Wagner

Maintainer: West Hudson—Southern Shawangunks
Cindy maintains one of the most challenging pieces of the Long Path in the southern Gunks and does the job with an infectious positivity. Whether it's whacking scrub oak on scorching hot days, coming out in the winter to assist a chain sawyer, or completing the challenging Shawangunk Trail Run half marathon, she doesn't quit.



Valerie Wargo

Trail Volunteer: West Hudson Appalachian Trail; New Jersey
Valerie is a 2017 Appalachian Trail thru-hiker who moved to the area after completing the Trail in order to give back to the A.T. as much as possible. She provided trail magic at trailheads, hosted 30 hikers last year alone, helped build steps on Bear Mountain on numerous occasions, assisted with boundary work on multiple days, and helped get trails in Wawayanda State Park passable on long, hot summer work trips. She loves the trail, loves the woods, and is completely devoted to volunteer work.

RISING LEADER AWARD

Honors volunteers who have taken on additional responsibilities with great enthusiasm over the last two years and demonstrate leadership qualities. It is given to those who selflessly keep dedicating more time and effort and show no signs of slowing down.

Lou Baldanza

Trail Supervisor: West Hudson—Neversink River Unique Area
Lou has truly embodied the "hit the ground running" principle ever since taking up the mantle of trail supervisor at the Neversink River Unique Area a couple of years ago. A champion and ardent advocate for the beautiful Neversink Gorge, he immediately took account of the needs in that remote location, began recruiting new volunteers, and organized group work trips to take care of unmaintained trails.



David DeShazer

Local Trail Committee Chair, Supervisor, and Crew Leader: NJ—Lenape Trail
In addition to filling every vacancy on the long-underserved Lenape Trail, David has maintained a list of ad-hoc volunteers to serve as the basis for a Lenape Trail Crew, which he organizes and leads monthly, providing guidance (and doughnuts) for volunteers. Between his overhaul of the region as a supervisor, his engagement of local volunteers as a crew leader, and his close communication with staff in working with land managers on trail approvals and projects, we look forward to

seeing where David goes in the years to come!

Roger Dubin

Supervisor and Maintainer: West Hudson—Harriman State Park
Roger took the role of trail supervisor for southwest Harriman in 2018. He's on the trails a couple of times a week, helping volunteers and recruiting new ones. He is always cheerful and has constructive suggestions and useful advice, making him a great resource and leader.



THE ELIZABETH LEVERS AWARD FOR ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSIVITY

Honors volunteers who go above and beyond to bring people into the Trail Conference family. It celebrates those who have been strong advocates for ensuring our trails and natural areas are an inclusive environment offering everyone the opportunity to connect with nature. It is given to those who embody our value that the joys of nature belong to everyone.

Rose Bonanno

Local Trail Committee Chair: East Hudson—Westchester; Supervisor: East Hudson—Lewisboro; Crew Member—Trail Tramps
Rose is the model LTC Chair. Not only does she empower all Westchester trail supervisors to achieve their best, she also improves everyone's performance by encouraging frequent and relevant communication. Her ability to work with youth, design custom curriculum, and put it all together in a successful package is unparalleled.

THE JOAN EHRENFELD AWARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

Honors volunteers who have dedicated significant time and effort to the conscientious stewardship of protected natural areas or environmentally responsible trail construction and education. It is given to those who embody our value that the right path is always a responsible one.

Cliff Berchtold

Trail Maintainer: West Hudson—Sterling Forest; Crew Member; Invasive Plant Surveyor, Volunteer Committee Member; At-Large Delegate
Cliff has been a maintainer for more than 20 years and an Invasives Strike Force volunteer for the last six. He has served on several committees, participated in advocacy efforts, helped fundraise, and overall has acted as an exemplary ambassador for the organization. With each role he has stepped into, both on and off the trail, Cliff has approached his duties with balanced judgment and a growing understanding of the importance of being a responsible steward of protected lands.



THE JAKOB FRANKE AWARD FOR CONSERVATION

Honors volunteers who have advocated for and dedicated significant time and effort to land preservation and trail protection in the face of encroaching development. It is given to those who embody our value that conservation is a shared duty and that we must preserve the integrity of our natural world.

Glenn Oleksak

Local Trail Committee Chair and Trail Supervisor: West Hudson and New Jersey Highlands Trail; Maintainer: New Jersey—Pyramid Mountain and Southern Wyanokies
Glenn has almost single-handedly been the driving force for the New Jersey Highlands Trail since 2005. He has spent countless hours working with the Land Conservancy of New Jersey in identifying parcels for acquisition and, in the field, relocating the Trail off roads or impacted areas onto preserved woodland. All of his accomplishments continue to move the Highlands Trail towards becoming a model long-distance trail.



Win Perry

Conservation Committee
Win has been active in the preservation and protection of the Long Path since the 1960s, when real estate development in Rockland County, N.Y., became booming and the trail faced significant threats. He was involved in several major land purchases and easements that have ensured the Long Path retains a safe, enjoyable route to connect people with nature.



THE PAUL LEIKEN AWARD FOR GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Honors volunteers who have recently “gone the extra mile” and made a significant, noteworthy contribution in the last 12 to 18 months.

Lori Baumann, Janelle Heise, David Holtzman, Christine Jackson, and Sharon Wolf

Lori: Darlington Schoolhouse Front Desk. Janelle: Darlington Schoolhouse Front Desk; Maintainer: New Jersey Appalachian Trail; Appalachian Trail Natural Heritage Monitor. David: Darlington Schoolhouse Front Desk; Maintainer: West Hudson—Southern Shawangunks. Christine: Darlington Schoolhouse Front Desk; Invasive Plant Surveyor. Sharon: Darlington Schoolhouse Front Desk

These five volunteers share the duty of being the welcoming face at the front desk at the Trail Conference. Every day a member of this team welcomes people from diverse backgrounds and helps to educate



The Paul Leiken Award for Going the Extra Mile honorees

them on the trails, natural lands, and our mission—often turning someone into a volunteer or member. In addition, Lori, Janelle, David, Christine, and Sharon help keep the front of the house running. They provide a calm to the often hectic, fast-paced front office by contributing their various skills and interests to managing data, inventory, store transactions, retail partners, and marketing. No job is too big or small for this team.



been an ambassador for good trail stewardship, enhancing relationships at all levels and rallying people to contribute toward a trail project's success.

Bob McCormick

Maintainer: West Hudson—Black Rock Forest

In addition to being a long-time maintainer, Bob has always been willing to jump in to help move a project along—and things were no different when it came to the Duggan Trail restoration project. He dedicated his time to eight work sessions to rehabilitate one of the most hiked trails in Black Rock Forest.

Bryan Blackburn

Maintainer: East Hudson Appalachian Trail Corridor Manager and Monitor; Chain Sawyer

Bryan is dedicated to the trails as a trail maintainer, trail supervisor, corridor monitor, and chain sawyer. He had just received his B sawyer certification when the devastating May 2018 storms hit—and he quickly put those skills to use. He was the sole sawyer on seven work trips, recruited six volunteers from his day job to help, and to date has spent over 60 hours opening trails in the Castle Rock area.



Ed DiSalvo

Maintainer: New Jersey Highlands Trail and Northern Wyanokies; Crew Member; Club Delegate; Chain Sawyer

Ed has provided consistent sawyer service for Sterling Forest State Park since the fall of 2017. After struggling to get B sawyers to attend to blowdowns each time the need arose, Ed was referred to the local trail chair and has carried the ball ever since. In 2018 he individually cut 76 blowdowns and submitted 165.3 hours of sawyer and swamper services.

Brian Lanius

Maintainer: West Hudson—Sterling Forest

Since the beginning of the multiuse trail project in Sterling Forest State Park, Brian has jumped in to help build and maintain multiple trails. Rain or shine—and last year, mostly rain—one could find Brian working with AmeriCorps crews, raising funds for bridges, coordinating volunteer efforts of Boy Scouts, and maintaining trail. In addition, he has



Mario Medici

Maintainer: New Jersey—Ringwood State Park and West Hudson—Sterling Forest

Mario is a cheery and dedicated trail maintainer in both Sterling Forest and Ringwood state parks. In addition, Mario plans and leads hikes to introduce novices to the art of hiking safely and responsibly and to educate the public on the Trail Conference. His efforts help create an inclusive community by reaching out to diverse members of the public and introducing them to the great outdoors.



Chester Morris

Sawyer: New Jersey

Chet is the Paul Bunyan of chain sawyers for the Northwest New Jersey Local Trail Committee. Over the last year and a half he was instrumental in clearing trees in Stokes State Forest, sometimes averaging 25 to 30 trees a day. He is a tireless worker and truly dedicated volunteer. State park managers have expressed great appreciation for his sawyer work.



The West Jersey Crew

Led by David and Monica Day, the West Jersey Crew has been improving trails since 1999. During the last two years they were front and center on several large projects, including the ongoing Pochuck Boardwalk replacement project along the Appalachian Trail; elevating a large chunk of the Cedar Swamp Trail; and organizing a large sawyer response to an overwhelming amount of downfall after the 2018 winter and spring storms. If you've ever hiked in

the northern part of New Jersey, the West Jersey Crew has likely had a hand in improving your trail experience.

THE WILLIAM HOEFERLIN AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP

Honors volunteers who have contributed long-time exemplary service in a leadership capacity by supporting other volunteers and/or spearheading a major project. It is given to those who embody our value of celebrating volunteers and recognizing that they make the trails and protection of the lands we love possible.

Alan Abramowitz, Nick McKenna, and Keith Scherer

The supervisor team of Alan, Nick, and Keith care for some 34,000 acres of parkland that contains over 60 miles of mixed-use trails. Their attention to challenges and skill in finding solutions make them invaluable to the region. They are the eyes and ears for New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection-Wawayanda State Park.

Alan Abramowitz

Supervisor and Maintainer: New Jersey—Wawayanda West

Alan has been a maintainer since 1999 and became supervisor of Wawayanda West in 2010. He has walked every mile of trail in his region and worked with and/or trained all his maintainers. Alan monitors trail conditions and participates as a swamper and trail crew member. He plays an integral role in creating cooperation and trust between the park and the Trail Conference.



Nick McKenna

Supervisor and Maintainer: New Jersey—Wawayanda East

Nick has been a trail maintainer since 2005 and became supervisor of Wawayanda East in 2013. He has created and worked with ad hoc trail crews to refurbish some of the lesser maintained trails in the Terrace Pond area. He performs this role with eagerness year-round, which bolsters good relations with maintainers and park staff.



Keith Scherer

Supervisor and Maintainer: New Jersey—Wawayanda East; Regional Trails Council Policy

Council Representative

Keith has been a trail maintainer since July 2003 and became supervisor of Wawayanda East in August 2009. He is dedicated to the trails in Abram Hewitt State Forest and the Terrace Pond Area, working hard alongside trail crews, serving as swamper to chain sawyers, recruiting and training volunteers, and keeping positive relationships with maintainers and park staff.



Christopher Connolly

Regional Trails Council Chair: New Jersey; Local Trail Committee Chair: North Jersey and Northeast Jersey; Sawyer Policy Council; Former Board Chair and Member

Chris' on-the-ground leadership, first as supervisor, and now as trail chair, has been outstanding. His insight and action in what needs to be done for the job is obvious and on-point, resulting in numerous success stories. He is respected by fellow volunteers, staff, and partners. Chris' tireless work in improving the trail experience in New Jersey has benefited the countless people he has enabled to connect with nature.

Jane Daniels

Regional Trails Council Chair: East Hudson; Trail Supervisor: East Hudson—Yorktown; Trail Crew Leader/Member—East Hudson; Volunteer Committee Member; Publications Committee Member; Author; Workshop Leader; Former Board Chair and Member

Jane is a well-known leader in the local, regional, and state trails community for more than three decades. A winner of the Raymond H. Torrey Award—the Trail Conference's highest award—in 2011, Jane continues to enter every project with boundless energy and enthusiasm. She works tirelessly to recruit, encourage, mentor, and reward volunteers of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels who express interest in the care and protection of trails and parks.



Richard Jobsky

Regional Trails Council Chair: West Hudson; Trail Supervisor: West Hudson—Sterling Forest

Rich took the position of supervisor at Sterling Forest State Park shortly after he retired; it seems he transferred the energy and enthusiasm from his professional life to this new volunteer management role. Rich always tries for the “personal touch” in introducing new volunteers to the group of more than 30 Sterling Forest maintainers and spends quality time showing them how to maintain a trail correctly. He values communication, regularly holding meetings for his maintainers to update everyone on “anything new” and is very detail-oriented, a trait that helps the volunteers—and ultimately, the trails—that he supports.



Invasive Species Program Expands

The Lower Hudson PRISM (our local Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) is a group of more than 50 organizations and concerned individuals who work together with funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to prevent or minimize the harm caused by invasive species. The Lower Hudson PRISM is managed by the Trail Conference. As part of the Lower Hudson PRISM's mission to protect the rich biodiversity of the region, the Trail Conference is excited to announce some additions to the invasive species programming in 2019.

Terrestrial Invasives and Citizen Science

The Trail Conference and Lower Hudson PRISM have announced a new citizen science opportunity to trail users and the general public: a fun, monthly scavenger hunt-style challenge to help document invasive species in our region's natural areas. The EcoQuest scavenger hunt employs an easy-to-use mobile app, iNaturalist, to photograph a target invasive species (and native counterpart) in our local parks and trails over the course of a month. The data are then used by scientists to track the spread of the invasive in our region and help decide best management practices. In April, the theme is "Hello Yellow!", and users are challenged to hunt for two bright yellow spring bloomers: invasive lesser celandine and a native "look-alike," marsh marigold. To learn more about the project and get involved



Trail users and the general public have a new opportunity to learn about and help document invasive species in our region with the EcoQuest scavenger hunt.



Invasive Species Citizen Science Coordinator Brent Boscarino discusses how invasive species impact our trails and native habitats at the Eaglefest event held at Croton Point Park in New York. Visitors learned how they can help track invasives through the use of the mobile app, iNaturalist.

in the fun, please visit the LHPRISM EcoQuest webpage at bit.ly/tc-prismeq or email Invasive Species Citizen Science Coordinator Brent Boscarino (brent@nynjtc.org) for more information.

Aquatics Program Updates

Following a strong pilot year in 2018 with Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program, run through the Lower Hudson PRISM, has now moved to Teatown Lake Reservation. At Teatown, new Aquatic Programs Coordinator Lindsay Yoder will help design early detection surveys and implement rapid response protocols to manage AIS in the region, in addition to leading outreach and edu-

cation initiatives and running hands-on volunteer trainings. Lindsay will also oversee the Watercraft Inspection Steward Program for the PRISM, which provides direct mitigation of one of the primary pathways for aquatic invasive species: hitchhikers on boats. Lindsay will select, train, and deploy an AmeriCorps seasonal captain and crew to perform watercraft inspections, surveys, and assist in outreach to recreational users of Hudson Valley waterways. The five crew members are a part of the Trail Conference Conservation Corps as the Aquatic Invasives Strike Force (AISF) Crew.

"We are glad to welcome Lindsay onto the Teatown team and to partner with the LHPRISM to assist in combating this escalating threat," said



The invasive lesser celandine is the focal invasive species of April's iNaturalist EcoQuest challenge. For more information on how to participate, email Brent at brent@nynjtc.org.

Kevin Carter, Executive Director of Teatown Lake Reservation. "As Teatown's mission is to inspire our community to lifelong environmental stewardship, we recognize that combating invasive species will always be a community-based effort—and Lindsay will help people learn what they can do." Brent Boscarino

Appreciation Hikes and Community Outings

To thank Trail Conference supporters for making our work possible, we invite everyone to join our monthly Appreciation Hikes and Community Outings. Come meet your fellow members and see examples of our recent work or trails we are targeting for improvements.



- Day, Mahwah, NJ
- ▶ **June 14:** Breakneck Bypass and Undercliff Trails, Cold Spring, NY
- ▶ **July 13:** Forest Bathing in Neversink Gorge, Forestburgh, NY
- ▶ **July 18:** Full Moon A.T. Hike, Warwick, NY
- ▶ **Aug 9:** Dunnfield Creek/A.T. Loop, Columbia, NJ
- ▶ **Sept 20:** Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain, Stony Point, NY
- ▶ **Oct 4:** Wyanokie High Point, Ringwood, NJ
- ▶ **Nov 29:** #OptOutside Clean-up
- ▶ **Dec 13:** Project Tour, Mahwah, NJ

- UPCOMING DATES:**
- ▶ **April 19:** Pochuck Boardwalk, Vernon, NJ
 - ▶ **April 27:** Leave No Trace Hike, Mahwah, NJ
 - ▶ **May 3:** Welch Trail Education Center, Harriman, NY
 - ▶ **May 11:** Gobblers Knob State Forest, Otisville, NY
 - ▶ **May 19:** How to Run Trails Clinic, Mahwah, NJ
 - ▶ **June 1:** National Trails

Check nynjtc.com/events for more details. Not a member yet? Join now at nynjtc.org/membership.

Welcome, Brent!

Brent Boscarino joined the Trail Conference in January as our invasive species citizen science program coordinator. He spent the previous 10 years as a high school science teacher and environmental outreach coordinator at the Poughkeepsie Day School in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and previously the Harvey School in Katonah, N.Y. In his other role as Senior Research Associate at Poughkeepsie Day, Brent



ran multiple invasives-based research projects in collaboration with Hobart and William Smith, Ithaca, and

Bard colleges. Brent received his undergraduate degree from Middlebury College in 2001 and his Ph.D. in Natural Resources from Cornell University in 2009. He is a nature enthusiast to the core who strives to foster an authentic "sense of wonder" about the natural world. Brent is an avid runner and former soccer coach who enjoys hiking, fishing, swimming and other forms of outdoor recreation with his wife Jessica and sons Wynn and Ryder.

Long Path End-to-Enders

The Trail Conference offers a certificate and an end-to-end patch "rocker" to anyone who hikes the entire length of the Long Path. The trip can be completed in one continuous trip or in a number of hikes over many years. The following people became

end-to-enders in 2018 and were acknowledged at the Volunteer Recognition event.

- ▶ **#155 Will Fortin** finished on 06/09/2018
- ▶ **#156 Dustin Smith** finished on 06/09/2018
- ▶ **#157 Mark Moroge** finished on 08/17/2018
- ▶ **#158 Jim Cowen** finished on 10/11/2018

- ▶ **#159 Steve Welgoss** finished on 11/04/2018
- ▶ **#160 Elizabeth McDonald** finished on 11/17/2018
- ▶ **#161 Johnny Witter** finished on 12/09/2018
- ▶ **#162 Brian Bacher** finished on 12/29/2018
- ▶ **#163 Andrew Ferguson** finished on 12/29/2018
- ▶ **#164 Brian Lubbert** finished on 12/29/2018

News in Brief

Save the Date: Voting Members Meeting

Our Spring Voting Members meeting will be held on Sunday, June 9, at the Welch Trail Education Center Main Hall in Harriman State Park from 10 to 11:30 a.m. A light breakfast will be available at 9:30 a.m. A hike in Harriman will follow the meeting. At press time, the agenda had not yet been set. If you have agenda items to suggest, please email them to nkrause@nynjtc.org. Meeting information and materials will be provided in advance.

Orentreich Family Foundation Supports Detection Dog

Our gratitude to the Orentreich Family Foundation for their \$25,000 gift to the Conservation Detection Dog Invasive Species Pilot

Program. Dia, our detection dog, will increase both the quality and quantity of our Invasives Strike Force surveys. Dia will start the 2019 season by searching for the invasive scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). We are still seeking donations to fully fund this program and support native ecosystems. Gifts of any size help and may be made at bit.ly/tc-cddfund.

Breakneck Ridge: Everything You Need to Know

Join the Trail Conference, Hudson Highlands Land Trust, and REI for a jam-packed info session on Breakneck Ridge, the iconic hiking destination just north of NYC. Whether you've visited 10 times or are just curious about the buzz, this event is for you. Learn the how-to's for a brief or advanced day trip from

experts who will also share the mountain's incredible conservation story. Please bring questions and stories to share! After the presentation and a Q&A, you'll have a chance to talk one-on-one with the presenters. Presentations will take place July 17 and Oct. 9 at REI SoHo in Manhattan. Find more info and register at nynjtc.org/events.

Ramsey Outdoor Helps Hikers Gear Up for a Cause

Thanks to Ramsey Outdoor for supporting the Trail Conference with over \$850 in raffle prizes at the 2019 Banff Film Festival. Ramsey Outdoor has advocated for the Trail Conference and generously supported not only our fundraisers at Banff, but also our other initiatives in a multitude of ways for many years.

In Memoriam

Robert Marshall and Gertrude Schneider

The West Hudson South Crew is saddened to announce the passing of two of its longtime members last year. Robert (Bob) Marshall died on Dec. 14 at the age of 82 after a short battle with Parkinson's disease. Bob was a lifelong resident of Peekskill, N.Y., and spent many years hiking in Harriman-Bear Mountain state parks. He began trail work in the 1980s and became the West Hudson South Crew Chief upon its formation in the '90s. He continued to run occasional work trips after unofficially retiring from the role, and was a longtime Appalachian Trail maintainer. Bob was a mentor to many, winning the Hoeflerlin Award in



1991; he received an honorary lifetime Trail Conference membership in 2006. He also earned a 25-year award for service on the A.T. from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Those who knew Bob were deeply saddened to hear of the death of his longtime companion, Gertrude (Trudy) Schneider on Dec. 29 at 96 years young. After meeting Bob on a Mid-Hudson ADK hike, she became a cornerstone member of the West Hudson South Crew. She supplied many a member with homemade brownies and was assistant crew chief before her retirement; she won the Hoeflerlin Award in 2000. She also served as a delegate-at-large for the Trail Conference. Before ill health prevented them from hiking, Bob and Trudy enjoyed each other's company walking the trails of Peekskill. Chris Ezzo, West Hudson South Crew Chief

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	Closter Nature Center Association www.closternaturecenter.org	Long Path North Hiking Club www.schoharie-conservation.org	RPH Cabin Volunteers rphcabin.org
ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter http://www.midhudsonadk.org	Community Search and Rescue http://www.commsar.org	Mohonk Preserve http://www.mohonkpreserve.org	SAJ - Society for the Advancement of Judaism http://www.thesaj.org/
ADK Mohican Chapter http://www.adkmohican.org	Dyke Hikes https://www.meetup.com/Dyke-Hikes/	Morris County Park Commission http://www.morrisparks.net	Salt Shakers Trail Running Club http://www.saltshakersrun.com
ADK New York Chapter www.adkny.org	East Hampton Trails Preservation Society www.ehtps.org	Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy http://mmc.nynjtc.org	Sassquad Trail Running www.sassquadtrailrunning.com/
ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter www.hudsonhikers.org	Finger Lakes Trail Conference www.fingerlakestrail.org	Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club www.nassauhiking.org	Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group sierraclub.org/atlantic/mid-hudson
Adventures for Women http://www.adventuresforwomen.org	Flat Rock Brook Nature Association www.flatrockbrook.org	The Nature Place Day Camp http://thenatureplace.com/	South Mountain Conservancy Inc. www.somocon.org
Alley Pond Environmental Center http://www.alleypond.com/	Friends of Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park	Nelsonville Greenway Committee VillageofNelsonville.org	St. Benedicts Prep Backpacking Project http://www.sbp.org
AMC Delaware Valley Chapter http://www.amcdv.org	Friends Of Garret Mountain http://friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com/	New Haven Hiking Club http://www.NHHC.info	The Storm King School http://www.sks.org
AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter http://www.amcmohawkudson.org/	Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway in Teaneck http://www.teaneckgreenway.org/	New Jersey Forty Plus Hiking Club meetup.com/NJ-Forty-Plus-Hiking-Club	SUNY Oneonta Outdoor Adventure Club www.oneonta.edu/outdoors
Black Rock Forest Consortium Inc. http://www.blackrockforest.org/	Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Inc. http://aquaduct.org/	New Jersey Highlands Coalition http://www.njhighlandscoalition.org/	Teatown Lake Reservation http://www.teatown.org
Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council - Rockland District	Friends Of The Shawangunks http://shawangunks.org/	New York Alpine Club	Tenafly Nature Center Association www.tenaflynaturecenter.org
Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn	Frost Valley YMCA https://www.frostvalley.org	New York City Audubon Society, Inc. www.nycaudubon.org	Thendara Mountain Club www.thendaramountainclub.org
Boy Scouts of America-Northern NJ Council http://www.nnjbsa.org	Hike The World https://www.hiketheworld.com	New York Ramblers http://www.nyramblers.org	Town of Lewisboro www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec
BSA Troop 21 - Hudson Valley Council http://www.suffern21.mytroop.us/	Hilltop Conservancy, Inc. http://www.hilltopconservancy.org	Outdoor Promise https://outdoorpromise.org/	Town of Woodstock
Canal Society of New Jersey http://www.canalsocietynj.org/	Hunterdon Hiking Club www.hunterdonhikingclub.org	The Outdoors Club, Inc. www.outdoorsclub.info	TriState Ramblers http://www.tristateramblers.org
Catskill 3500 Club http://www.catskill-3500-club.org	Interstate Hiking Club www.interstatehikingclub.org	Proactive - Adventure, Health & Wellness Http://www.proactiveahw.com	University Outing Club http://www.universityoutingclub.org
Catskill Mountain Club www.catskillmountainclub.org	Jolly Rovers Trail Crew Inc. http://jollyrovers.org/	Protect Our Wetlands, Water & Woods box292.bluehost.com/~powwworg	Urban Trail Conference, Inc. www.urbantrail.org
Chinese Mountain Club of New York www.cmcny.org	Little Stony Point Citizens Association www.littlestonypoint.org	Ramapough Conservancy, Inc.	Valley Stream Hiking Club www.meetup.com/vshclub
Church Communities Foundation - Platte Cove Community http://www.bruderhof.com/		Rip Van Winkle Hikers http://newyorkheritage.com/rvw	Wappingers Greenway Trail Committee
		Rock Lodge Club http://www.rocklodge.com	Westchester Trails Association http://www.westhike.org

A Bold View of the Hudson Valley



GLENDHA HAAS
ART SELECTION
COMMITTEE CHAIR

“The Balance,” featuring the vibrant work of Victor Coreas, is on display at the Trail Conference Gallery through May 1. Victor takes inspiration from the world around him and strives to present this vision in a contemporary way with a vintage feel. Sketches are scanned to become digital art, sometimes embellished with custom-designed fonts utilizing brush lettering, calligraphy, and wooden, hand-painted signs. The exhibition features color-

Upcoming Shows

- Mahwah Schools Gifted and Talented Showcase**
May 2 through June 5
- Plein Air Group Show**
June 6 through Aug. 14
- Jamie Cassaboon**
Aug. 14 through Oct. 23

ful depictions of beloved outdoor destinations well-known to trail wanderers throughout the Hudson Valley.

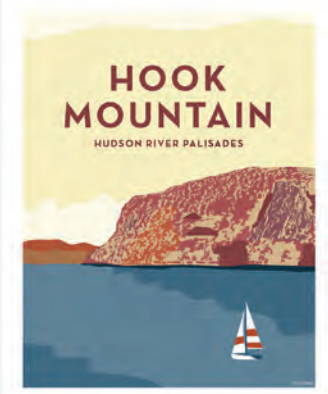
Victor is an art director and graphic designer who has founded his own company, Bold Version, selling silkscreen prints based on

his personal drawings and hand-lettered artwork. His website (boldversion.com) also features clothing and brightly colored posters portraying regional locations.

Victor grew up on Long Island and attended SUNY Farmingdale, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in visual communications and graphic design and an Associate Degree in fine art. He readily admits to being “a big kid,” evidenced by his passions for skateboarding, snowboarding, soccer, video games, and music. Victor now lives with his wife and son in the Hudson Valley.

If You Go

- ▶ **What:** “The Balance” by Victor Coreas
- ▶ **When:** Now through May 1
- ▶ **Where:** Trail Conference Headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, N.J. Headquarters is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ▶ **Details:** Find more at nynjtc.org



New Maps and Books on the Way



JEREMY APGAR
CARTOGRAPHER

For nearly 50 years, the Trail Conference has been leading the charge in making sure up-to-date trail maps are available in the region. Several titles, including one new and several revised maps, are expected to be available in the coming months. In addition, our volunteers are excitedly working on guidebooks that may be available by early 2020.



three maps: Rockefeller State Park Preserve (the largest state park in Westchester County), Ward Pound Ridge Reservation (the largest Westchester County Park), and Teatown (the largest privately owned preserve in the county). See the map above covering Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Old Croton Aqueduct, North County Trailway, and more.

Westchester Trails map set This brand new map set will feature more than 160 miles of trails in New York’s Westchester County. We are in the final stages of production, so keep your eyes open for a release date! The set includes

Shawangunk Trails map set An 11th edition revision is expected to be available in the summer with several updates to the trails and parklands covered in the northern Shawangunks, including changes in Minnewaska State Park Preserve and Mohonk Preserve.

West Hudson Trails map set An eighth edition revision is expected to be available by the fall, with updates to Storm King State Park, Black Rock Forest, and Schunemunk Mountain State Park.

Sterling Forest Trails map An eighth edition is expected to be available by the fall. This revision will include various trail updates, including several miles of recently opened multi-use trails in the

southeastern part of Sterling Forest State Park.

Walkable Westchester book Authors Jane and Walt Daniels have been hard at work on a third edition to this popular guide to parks in Westchester County. Look for this significant update in 2020.

Afoot in Morris book This brand new book by a team of dedicated volunteers will explore the many parks throughout Morris County, N.J. This new title is expected to be produced sometime in 2020.

To receive notices when these titles become available, make sure you’re signed up for our e-newsletter. Get on the list at bit.ly/tc-news.

Thanks to Our Supporters!

Our appreciation goes to the following partners and foundations for supporting the work of the Trail Conference in 2019.

Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley

- ▶ **Community Grants Fund of Putnam County**
A \$2,000 grant supports the Steward Program at Breakneck Ridge.
- ▶ **John T. Sloper Community Fund**
A \$2,500 grant trains Stewards and restocks the program’s medical supply kits at Breakneck Ridge.

Open Space Institute: Malcolm Gordon Charitable Fund

A \$15,000 grant allows the Trail Conference to create a plan that will produce high-quality, sustainable trail solutions to accommodate visitors at Breakneck Ridge.

The Hyde and Watson Foundation

For the completion of a 1,200-foot long, 6-foot-wide pedestrian pathway along Ramapo Valley Road, the Trail Conference was awarded \$5,000. The path connects Ramapo Valley County Reservation to the Trail Conference’s historic headquarters, the Township of Mahwah Continental Soldiers Field, and Ramapo College of New Jersey.

New York State Environmental Protection Fund: Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The Trail Conference has been awarded \$126,026 to repair and renovate the Welch Trail Education Center group camp in Harriman State Park.

JOLLY ROVERS

trail crew



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Free workshops this spring.

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Learn to See Through the Eyes of a Trail Builder



PETER DOLAN
NEW JERSEY
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Trail Conference is excited to kick off a new series of guided hikes in 2019 called Eyes of a Trail Builder. Each hike will feature a loop trail that is planned for improvement by our volunteer trail crews. Along the hike you'll learn from an experienced trail builder how to spot the trail issues that crew leaders are expected to tackle—as well as learn solutions to those problems. Whether you're a casual hiker or a long-time volunteer, these hikes are designed to change

If You Go

Upcoming Eyes of a Trail Builder Events

- ▶ **April 14** Watchung Reservation Hike
- ▶ **May 19** Watchung Reservation Project
- ▶ **June 15** Ramapo Reservation Hike
- ▶ **June 22** Ramapo Reservation Project
- ▶ **July 7** Manaticut Point Hike
- ▶ **July 14** Manaticut Point Project
- ▶ **Sept. 14** Manaticut Point "Capstone" Project Planning

the way you view trails forever.

In addition, for those who "catch the bug" and want to learn more about trail work, each Eyes of a Trail Builder hike will be followed shortly after by a project geared towards beginning trail builders. You'll return to one of the problem spots identified along the hike and work alongside a trail crew to remedy the problem, learning that being a trail builder (and even crew leader!) doesn't have to be intimidating.

Finally, attendees to any Eyes of a Trail Builder event will be invited to the unique opportunity to help plan a trail project for 2020. They'll work alongside professionals to mark reroutes with flagging tape, measure grade with clinometers, drop pin flags at specific work projects, and estimate what timeline and budget would make sense for each component.

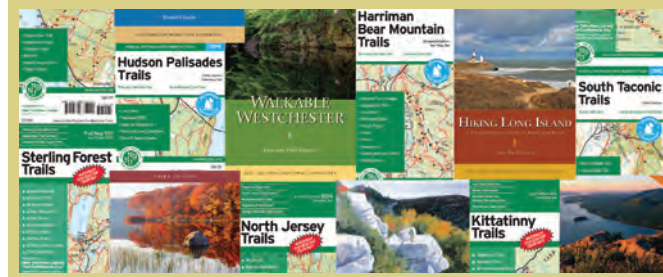
We hope that this series of hikes and workshops provides a fun, easy way for anybody to learn more about the wide world of trail building. To sign up, go to nynjtc.org/events and search "eyes" in the title search bar or email pdolan@nynjtc.org. We hope to see you there!



Learn how to use a clinometer and other tools of the trade at our Eyes of a Trail Builder events.

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!

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.

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Select one: Join Renew Membership # if available _____

	Individual	Joint
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90
Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
Senior (65+)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40

A joint membership is for two adults residing at the same address.

For my membership of \$60 or more, send me a:
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To purchase a gift membership, call 201-512-9348, ext. 828.

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Tax deductible. Dues are not refundable.

Trail Conference BENEFITS

The Trail Conference maintains more than 2,100 miles of trails, advocates for parks, protects open space, and provides volunteer service opportunities in the great outdoors.

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

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

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

Free Enrollment in our Trail University introductory courses.

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

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

Join now at nynjtc.org/membership.