



# TRAIL WALKER

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

## Advocating for Open Space: Protecting Trails by Paying It Forward



**AMBER RAY**  
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Imagine access to your favorite trail was threatened to be closed off forever. But it's not due to the irreversible damage of a superstorm. It's because no one considered the impact a casino or large development would have on adjacent recreational lands. No one, except the Trail Conference. Would you do everything in your power to protect your trail?

If so, you're an advocate for accessible public lands. And the Trail Conference needs your passion to ensure access to nature for everyone. Because every time you enjoy a hike outdoors, you owe someone your gratitude. Someone who, long ago, thought that land was worth protecting and did what they could to make sure it was. We can't pay them back for their foresight, but we can pay it forward.

The Trail Conference's legacy of advocacy has been at the heart of its mission from the very start. The organization was founded in 1920 when leaders of the fledgling Palisades Interstate Park Commission met with the hiking advocates of several New York-area walking clubs to create a trail system through the newly protected Bear Mountain-Harriman State Parks. Within years, the Trail Conference was involved in efforts to protect several areas in the region



SARATOGA ASSOCIATES



**The Trail Conference played an important role in LG Electronics USA amending the planned height of its new headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., protecting the viewshed along the Palisades. Read more on pages 4-5.**

from mining destruction, including the purchase of land north of Anthony's Nose to save it from quarrying.

Throughout our 95-year history, the Trail Conference has played an instrumental role in most of the major open-space success stories affecting parks and trails in our region. A timeline of these wins for the environment, as well as an overview of our history building, maintaining, and pro-

tecting trails, can be found on pages 6-7. If there's one lesson to be taken from studying our past, it's that we must always be vigilant in protecting our land for future generations—because the fight is ongoing.

Today, the construction of oil pipelines threatens a number of our trail corridors in New York and New Jersey—and is already severely disrupting trail systems in Westchester County. The proposed expan-



Advocacy and lobbying efforts are crucial to the Trail Conference's mission of protecting trails. Read about all the ways our volunteers and staff work to conserve our precious parklands and how you can make a difference on **pages 4-5**.

sion of Kiryas Joel in Orange County would sever the Long Path and Highlands Trail. And protecting sensitive parks and forests from illegal ATV use remains a high priority.

It is our duty as trail stewards to raise awareness of issues affecting our ability to connect with nature, whether that's by attending local town hall meetings or traveling to Albany, Trenton, and Washington, D.C., to discuss directly with elected officials the importance of access to open space. When you speak up for trails, your voice makes a difference—and as one of the 10,000-plus members of the Trail Conference, that amplified message accomplishes great things.

As the Trail Conference heads into its second century of service, together we can author the environmental success stories that inspire the next generation of conservationists. Will you join us?



AMA KOENIGSHOF

**Trails for People at Bear Mountain opens in April.**

**GRAND OPENING:**

### Trails for People Interpretive Exhibit



**AMA KOENIGSHOF**  
TRAIL BUILDER AND EDUCATOR

Celebrate the grand opening of the *Trails for People* interpretive exhibit on the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain State Park this Earth Day!

The *Trails for People* exhibit serves as a one-of-a-kind gateway to the backcountry for the millions of annual visitors to Bear Mountain State Park—an invitation to travel on the trails neighboring the Park's popular picnic areas. Its 32 educational signs and hands-on trail structures will inform novice and expert trail users alike about the history of the Park, how trails are built, and how volunteers are the lifeblood of our trail systems. Over 7,000 volunteer hours went into developing the signage content, building the exhibit, and constructing this section of the Appalachian Trail called the Demonstration Trail.



EXHIBIT HONORS LEGACY OF TRAIL VOLUNTEERS **PAGE 3**

Join the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and Trail Conference staff and volunteers in celebrating the partnerships that made this project possible. The grand opening ceremony will take place on Friday, April 22.

Join the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and Trail Conference staff and volunteers in celebrating the partnerships that made this project possible. The grand opening ceremony will take place on Friday, April 22.

see **EXHIBIT**, page 10

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**Crew News: Improving Minnewaska, Our Long Distance Trails, and More** page 8

**Fight the Spread of Invasive Species from Your Own Backyard** page 10



**The Trail Conference at 95: A Look Back** pages 6-7



## Last Chance: Richard Kirk Mills Art Exhibit

The Trail Conference's first art exhibition at our headquarters, featuring the work of environmentalist, artist, and restoration advocate Richard Kirk Mills, will be closing on Friday, April 15. Four of Mills' interpretive graphics are on display, along with nine of his lyrical landscape paintings of Catskill locations.

Mills' art serves as an example of how the Trail Conference will utilize our new space and artists' works within it to further our mission—just like trails, art has the ability to engage the public in conversation about responsible use of the natural environment.

✪ **Brendan Cunningham**



IMAGES PROVIDED BY RICHARD KIRK MILLS

### If You Go

- ▶ **What:** Richard Kirk Mills exhibit
- ▶ **When:** Open through April 15 during regular Trail Conference hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- ▶ **Where:** Trail Conference headquarters, 600 Ramapo Valley Rd., Mahwah, N.J.
- ▶ **Details:** Open to our members and the public. The paintings are for sale with 20 percent of the proceeds benefiting the Trail Conference.



Visit our Trail Store on Saturdays beginning April 23.

## Headquarters to Open Saturdays During Peak Hiking Season

The Trail Conference celebrates its first full year at our new headquarters on March 25. Throughout our inaugural year here at the restored Darlington Schoolhouse, members and the community have asked, "When will you be open on the weekends?" Well, we are excited to announce the opening of our Trail Store on Saturdays during peak hiking season. The Store will be open seasonally, April 23 through November, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Have a passion for trails? We are actively seeking volunteers to help at the reception area during our extended hours. Our front desk volunteers share knowledge about where to hike, why stewardship of trails is important, and our mission. They also take sales. It's a fun way to spend a Saturday morning or afternoon! For more information contact Jennifer Easterbrook at [jennifer@nynjtc.org](mailto:jennifer@nynjtc.org) or 201.512.9348 x824. ✪ **Jennifer Easterbrook**

### Nominations Open for Board Members, Delegates-at-Large

The Trail Conference Nominating Committee invites nominations for membership on the Board of Directors and Delegates-at-Large. The qualifications for Board of Directors are current membership in the Trail Conference and service participation in trail activities

or on a Trail Conference committee. The qualification for Delegate-at-Large is current membership in the Trail Conference. Self-nominations for Delegate-at-Large and Board of Directors are appropriate and welcome. Please email your nomination to [nominations@nynjtc.org](mailto:nominations@nynjtc.org). The deadline for receipt of nominations is April 30.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Dr. Douglas F. McBride

Dr. Douglas F. McBride, an avid hiker, cross-country skier, and conservationist, died Jan. 17 after a battle with cancer. He was 84.

A retired veterinarian and professor, the New Paltz, N.Y., resident had a life-long love of learning and teaching. Among his specialties was parasitology, and deer ticks in particular. He shared that knowledge through frequent "Tick Talks."

Doug was a Trail Conference life member and volunteer and was an active land conservationist. He served on the Orange County Land Trust, the Mill Brook Preserve, the Clean Water and Open Space Preservation Commission, the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, and the Woodland Pond Foundation Committee.

In honor of the conservation efforts of Doug and his wife, the Orange

County Land Trust created the Dr. Douglas and Nancy McBride Trail Endowment Fund at the New Paltz Community Foundation.

### Werner Hengst

Werner Hengst, an avid hiker and sailor, died at his home on Feb. 7 from complications of diabetes. He was 79.

The Somers, N.Y., resident was co-founder and administrator of Our Montessori School in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. A life member of the Trail Conference, Werner was active with the Wednesday Hikers group that hikes through Harriman State Park. Werner could often be found on his Hobie Cat on the Hudson or hiking the trails in the mountains along the river. His memoir, *From Peenemünde to Cape Canaveral, and Beyond* is due to be published and released on Amazon shortly.

## WELCOME, NEW TRAIL CONFERENCE STAFFERS

### Erica Van Auken, Executive Assistant

Erica began working at the Trail Conference in March. Prior to joining the Trail Conference, she was the outreach and education director for the New Jersey Highlands Coalition, where she worked to educate the public on the importance of the Highlands region to the state's drinking water supply. She also represented the Coalition while working with NJ Keep it Green to secure long-term funding for New Jersey's preservation programs. Erica was previously employed as an environmental educator at the Meadowlands Environment Center, teaching science-based content to students and adults with disabilities. Throughout her career, she has developed and presented numerous workshops, webinars, and lectures focusing on environmental issues. Erica grew



up in Sussex County and is a graduate of Ramapo College of New Jersey's Institute of Environmental Studies.

### Glenn Nelson, Program Assistant

Glenn joined the Trail Conference in February. His role is to facilitate the administrative side of our Conservation Corps program. He has previously worked in various seasonal roles with organizations like the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Green Mountain Club, and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Glenn is currently studying Environmental Science at Northampton Community College, and enjoys backpacking and canoeing in the Adirondacks and New England. Glenn is also an avid birdwatcher and volunteers at the Bake Oven Knob Autumn Hawk Watch during the fall migration.



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## TRAIL WALKER

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AMBER RAY EDITOR  
STEPHANIE HINDERER DESIGNER

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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



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**FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**
**Honoring the Legacy of  
Trails and Trail Builders**

Trails are for people, and people are for trails. That's one message many will take away from the one-of-a-kind *Trails for People* interpretive exhibit opening on Earth Day at Bear Mountain State Park. (Find details on page 1.) The exhibit is a wonderful exclamation point to the 10-plus-year reconstruction of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) and side trails within the Park, a joint project of the Trail Conference, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, National Park Service, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC). After much Googling, I'm compelled to believe that the narrative of this exhibit is unique in this country. There's certainly nothing else like it on the A.T. Through the exhibit's 32



beautiful panels and displays, you'll learn how Bear Mountain almost became the site of a prison in the early 1900s. Instead, civic-minded families and enlightened elected officials were able to protect the land, creating Bear Mountain and Harriman State Parks.

Soon, a public-private trail-building partnership between the rapidly growing PIPC and volunteers from New York City-area hiking clubs was formed, and the Trail Conference was born. The goal was to "create a marked network of trails so the public could better enjoy the recreational amenities" of parklands. These volunteers quickly built 100 miles of trails within seven years—

including the very first section of the Appalachian Trail.

In late 1922, Benton Mackaye shared his concept of the Appalachian Trail with Trail Conference volunteers as "sort of a backbone, linking wilderness areas to dwellers in urban areas along the Atlantic Seaboard." By 1923, the Trail Conference had completed the first 20 miles of the A.T. from Bear Mountain to Arden Valley Road.

The exhibit further explains how building a "walk in the woods" has evolved over the last century. Adventure, spectacular views, and challenging climbs were popular early on, and still are. Nowadays, increasing traffic, shrinking habitat, and climate change require that trails be designed and built to please and inspire while protecting the environment and users.

The exhibit goes into great detail describing how modern trails are constructed and explaining the large array of techniques used. In addition to interpretive panels, physical



**The exhibit is a wonderful exclamation point to the 10-plus-year reconstruction of the Appalachian Trail and side trails within the park.** Goodell



examples of each technique, such as puncheon and step-stile, have been constructed in the trail itself and throughout the adjoining landscape. This allows hikers to get a hands-on look at what it takes to build a sustainable trail.

The *Trails for People* exhibit will help people of all ages become aware of two things near and dear to the Trail Conference. First, it makes clear the fact that trails are not just blazed or cleared, but rather are designed and built to meet a wide array of requirements—from reducing erosion and protecting the environment, to protecting and

inspiring the user. Second, it reveals that trails are built and maintained by volunteers, just like you and me.

I'm extremely pleased by the high quality of this exhibit and its unique focus on the art and science of trail building by volunteers. But what makes me really excited is its location at the foot of Bear Mountain, where millions of everyday people gather each year.

The new and improved Appalachian Trail over Bear Mountain has already started luring tens of thousands of new hikers up the mountain; the *Trails for People* exhibit will now expose them to the legacy of these parks, the purpose of trails, and how each of them can become a trail builder and/or maintainer, too. We're looking forward to welcoming these prospective trail volunteers.

Edward Goodell  
Executive Director  
goodell@nynjtc.org

## Top Instructors Tapped for Dry Stone Wall Workshops at Trail Conference HQ



KEVIN SIMPSON  
BEAR MOUNTAIN  
FIELD MANAGER

This spring, the Trail Conference will be offering two free-standing, dry stone wall workshops at our headquarters in Mahwah, N.J. The purpose of these workshops is to construct a dry stone wall along the front of our new HQ at the historic Darlington Schoolhouse and expose the art and craft of dry stone walling to the larger Ramapo Valley community with its abundant stone walls.

These workshops will take place at Trail Conference headquarters April 15-17 and May 28-30. The first day of each course is an optional add-on to learn about worksite prep and management. Homeowners, contractors, and dry stone wall enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to participate.

Our dry stone wall workshops are a collaboration between the Trail Conference and The Stone Trust from Dummerston, Vt. The Stone Trust advocates for the preservation of existing dry stone walls and promotes using the



This simulation shows how the dry stone wall being built as a training tool at Trail Conference HQ might look.

correct structural standards for the construction and restoration of dry stone walls. The instruction for these workshops will be led by three of the top Dry Stone Walling Instructors in North America. They hold certification from the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain (DSWA-GB), and will be using the creation of a dry stone wall in front of the Schoolhouse as an unparalleled teaching tool in the New York City metro area.

Construction of a free-standing, dry stone wall is an essential requirement in the Trail Conference's restoration and renovation of the historic Dar-

lington Schoolhouse. The wall will run over 160 feet along Ramapo Valley Road and be 3.5-feet tall. It will be built to mimic historic stone fences from the time period in which the building was originally constructed, using a variety of local fieldstone and quarried stone. Neighboring Ramapo College of New Jersey has donated fieldstone, while quarried stone has been donated by Legacy Stoneworks, Inc. / The Hillburn Granite Company, Inc. Over 100 tons of stone will be used to complete the wall.

Registration is open at [thestonetrust.org](http://thestonetrust.org). Visit [nynjtc.org](http://nynjtc.org) for more information.

experience. The second will fund a Trail Conference Conservation Corps crew to do a complete inventory and assessment of the New Jersey Highlands Trail, then tackle identified priority projects at the direction of volunteer leaders. Peter Dolan

Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in February. The first grant will fund a map and signage initiative at key trailheads on New Jersey State Park and Forest land, providing direction and guidance to improve the public's hiking

### Trail Conference Awarded NJ Recreational Trails Grants

The Trail Conference was awarded two Recreational Trails Grants by the New

### PEOPLE FOR TRAILS

## MARY DOOMAN

WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ

Sometimes the Trail Conference finds volunteers in response to a challenge or opportunity, and sometimes we find challenges or opportunities in response to volunteers' willingness to help. Mary Dooman fits the latter category and is a perfect example of how a person with skills and work ethic can have a huge impact.

Mary approached me just six months ago, saying that she would like to work on important projects. Her résumé, featuring an electrical engineering degree, 20 years of project management at Verizon and Intel, and another eight years on the boards of local non-profits, demonstrated her skills and experience. But little did I imagine that Mary would soon have a major role in creating and serving on four new committees (chairing two) that are managing our new headquarters, undertaking a major redesign of our website and database, overseeing our reorganization, and developing new and needed policies.

#### What is your favorite trail experience?

That would be hiking with my husband and his trail crew friends. It is the equivalent of sightseeing with a private guide. Walking up stone steps at a natural pace, seeing the difference in the hiking experience after a trail is rebuilt and how a new trail is planned given nature's canvas, gives me a new appreciation for the



You have a good chance of spotting Mary on her favorite trail, the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain.

importance of this work for all outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy for years to come.

#### Why did you choose to volunteer at the Trail Conference?

I was searching for an opportunity to volunteer for an organization that aligns with my values and interests. The Trail Conference makes it easy to get started with on- or off-trail opportunities.

#### Now that you're on the inside, has your view of the organization changed?

Absolutely! I have a new appreciation for how challenging and how important the work of the Trail Conference is. The Trail Conference is a vast organization led by a passionate group of volunteers and staff with deep knowledge about the organization, the region, and all things trails. I am challenged every day and I am thrilled to contribute my part. Ed Goodell



## NEW YORK

# Defending Open Space, Creating Opportunity



**SONA MASON**  
WEST HUDSON  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Last fall, the Trail Conference officially opened the Doris Duke Trail loop at Sterling Forest State Park—one of many new trails set to make these woodlands more accessible. Though the on-the-ground work took roughly two years to complete, the opening of this trail was more than 20 years in the making.

Throughout the 1990s, the Trail Conference was a leader in the movement to protect Sterling Forest from development. In 1998, New York State took over the first 14,500 acres, with more than 18,000 acres added over the next five years.

The tireless Trail Conference volunteers who took a stand to make Sterling Forest State Park a reality truly knew that advocacy, essentially, means “protecting what you love.” The people who show up for the causes they believe in tend to be ordinary folks, the “grassroots” difference-makers. These are the people who care passionately enough about a mountain or a trail network to attend critical town meetings and call elected officials. Advocacy has the greatest return for effort given—it brings important matters to the attention of decision-makers who can create solutions with far-reaching impact.

In matters that affect the Trail Conference, advocacy often goes hand-in-hand with land conservation. Whenever an inappropriate development threatens a green space, watershed, or viewshed—and therefore the trail experience in that vicinity—it becomes a chal-



**The people who show up for the causes they believe in tend to be ordinary folks, the ‘grassroots’ difference-makers.**

Sona Mason



lenge that the Trail Conference must stand up to resolve. Otherwise, our trails are at risk of being cut off or blighted—the exact threat that the proposed expansion of the Village of Kiryas Joel poses to the Long Path and Highlands Trail in Orange County. But these advocacy efforts don’t only benefit trails. Land conservation allows open spaces and wildlife corridors to be protected, property values to increase, and visitors seeking the respite of the outdoors to be drawn to the area, creating a positive economic impact.

Take, for instance, the most recent threat to Sterling Forest: a casino. A number of private individuals and organizations such as the Trail Conference got together and discussed how to push back against such

inappropriate development in the middle of a state park—the very state park we had fought so hard to protect just two decades prior! Ideas were shared, individuals carried out research into the environmental, social, and economic impact of such a development, and that data was used to write letters to politicians and to speak at public hearings. Thanks in part to these efforts, no casino licenses were given to any prospective developers in Orange County.

Today, many of those same volunteers involved in the casino pushback are now working to turn the economic sights of Tuxedo, Sloatsburg, and Suffern toward the value in the natural resources that surround them—namely Sterling Forest and Harriman State Parks. These grassroots efforts to create a “trail town corridor” are helping to increase visitor numbers and add hiker-friendly features such as kiosks.

The trails you enjoy are the fruits of the labor of your predecessors—those who fought and worked to preserve our treasured park lands. Join us today in making a difference for future generations!



**You can make a difference! Say “no” to pipelines that create a severe negative impact on local trails.**

## Current Issues

### New York

- ▶ Pass the governor’s 2016 Environmental Protection Fund budget
- ▶ Increase New York State Parks’ budget for maintenance
- ▶ Create a \$4M line item in the EPF for the Catskill Park

and Forest Preserve

- ▶ Stop annexation by the Village of Kiryas Joel of lands adjacent to Long Path and Highlands Trail in Orange County
- ▶ Stop Pilgrim and other pipelines in our region from damaging parks and trails

### New Jersey

- ▶ Pass Bill S969, which would implement the open space funding approved by voters in November 2014
- ▶ Increase N.J. DEP-Parks & Forestry budget to sustainable levels
- ▶ Enforce penalties for using

ATVs and ORVs in N.J. parks and conservation lands

- ▶ See the agreement with LG Electronics for a headquarters height below treeline implemented by the Borough of Englewood Cliffs
- ▶ Stop Pilgrim and other pipelines in our region from damaging parks and trails

# How Lobbying Works for the Catskills

Have you ever wondered how lobbying really works? Perhaps, while reading a call to action from the Trail Conference, you’ve questioned whether politicians even pay attention to environmental groups. Will my senator really read my email? Does my voice even matter?

As this edition of *Trail Walker* was heading to print, news broke that New York State Senate democrats had included our request for a \$4 million line for the Catskills in the Environmental Protection Fund in their budget priority letters to the Senate majority leader. One day later, the State Assembly put its full support behind



**Fire towers and other unique Catskills hiking experiences would benefit from the \$4M.**

the \$4 million Catskills budget. This was a monumental step towards securing the 2016 funds needed to start building a modern Catskill Park. (NYS budget negotiations were ongoing at press time. Visit [nynjtc.org](http://nynjtc.org) for updates.)

But these endorsements weren’t the result of well-funded special interest groups influencing, or buying, politicians. You made this possible.

You responded to our emails and Facebook posts urging everyone with a love for the Catskills to join the effort. You made the phone calls and sent the emails to your local representatives. You traveled to Al-

## Catskill Park Awareness Day

On Feb. 9, Trail Conference volunteers and staff joined organizations and individuals from around the Catskills in Albany to speak with elected officials for Catskill Park Awareness Day. Created to help secure funding for Catskill Park, the day is organized by the Catskill Park Coalition (CPC). The Trail Conference is a founding member of the Coalition and sits on its steering committee to decide the group’s priorities for each year. Read a full recap of the day at [bit.ly/TC-A-1d16](http://bit.ly/TC-A-1d16).

bany with us for Catskill Park Awareness Day, meeting with officials to share your passion for the region (see sidebar). And they listened.

The system may not be per-

fect, but it’s not completely broken. When the Trail Conference calls on you to stand up for trails, remember: Your voice really does matter.

Doug Senterman



## NEW JERSEY

# Advocacy, Lobbying, and a Call to Action



**ADAM PAGE TAYLOR**  
TRAIL CONFERENCE  
VOLUNTEER

On Jan. 11, my volunteer work for the Trail Conference led me to the State House in Trenton. Despite having been involved with the organization for months, this way of supporting trails was new to me.

Last fall, I was volunteering at Trail Conference Headquarters, assisting the Invasives Strike Force with GIS mapping. One afternoon in mid-December I began talking to Peter Dolan, New Jersey Program Coordinator, about the Pilgrim Pipeline and its potential impact on trail sections overseen by the Trail Conference. The proposed project involves two parallel pipelines sending Bakken shale oil and refined products such as kerosene between Albany and Linden, N.J. It quickly became clear that there was plenty of advocacy work to be done, and a need for volunteers to assist with this critical endeavor.

A few days into 2016, I received an e-mail from Peter introducing me to New Jersey Assembly Bill A4197, which would authorize spending of the open space funding N.J. voters approved in November 2014. The State Senate had voted unanimously to approve the bill, and State Assembly approval would be a critical step in obtaining the promised funding, which would benefit groups that support open space preservation efforts through-

out New Jersey—groups like the Trail Conference.

Two days later I was participating in a discussion with members of the NJ Keep It Green Coalition about how best to mobilize our supporters and help secure passage of the bill. With a call to action in place, we assembled in Trenton on that brisk day, encouraging members of the Assembly to pass the bill as they entered the State House floor. The bill was passed by the Assembly, but Governor Chris Christie pocket-vetoed it the following week. As Bill S969, the open space funding implementation legislation will be revisited in the coming months. The Trail Conference's work on the issue will continue until these voter-mandated funds have been distributed.

It was a trails advocacy issue—the Pilgrim Pipeline—that sparked my interest in helping the Trail Conference's conservation efforts, and within a month I found myself lobbying at the state capital on behalf of the organization. It's more important than ever that we ensure that the interests of the organization and its members are represented on both a local and state level. When done with righteous intention, both advocacy and lobbying efforts are about speaking up for what you believe in. Call yourself an advocate, call yourself a lobbyist, call yourself someone who believes in something so deeply that you take action. *Read Adam's full essay: [bit.ly/TC-A-nj](http://bit.ly/TC-A-nj).*

## GET INVOLVED, MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- ▶ Learn more about the issues affecting our trails: [bit.ly/TC-advocacy](http://bit.ly/TC-advocacy)
- ▶ Stay informed about critical meetings and events. Sign up at [nynjtc.org/subscribe](http://nynjtc.org/subscribe)
- ▶ Share your passion—volunteer for trails! Email [volunteers@nynjtc.org](mailto:volunteers@nynjtc.org) for more info.



## READ MORE ONLINE

### Our Trail Builder Goes to Washington

In February, Trail Builder and Educator Ama Koenigshof went to Washington, D.C., for the Corps Network National Conference, where she gave a talk

on our unique model of mobilizing volunteers. She also took part in Hike the Hill, an initiative to give environment-minded groups access to members of Congress and agency officials to advocate for trails. Read more about Ama's time in D.C. on our blog.

...  
[bit.ly/TC-A-dc16](http://bit.ly/TC-A-dc16)

# 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.

**NYC Outward Bound Center**  
[www.nycoutwardbound.org](http://www.nycoutwardbound.org)

**ADK Mid-Hudson Chapter**  
[www.midhudsonadk.org](http://www.midhudsonadk.org)

**Hunterdon Hiking Club**  
[www.hunterdonhikingclub.org](http://www.hunterdonhikingclub.org)

**Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference**  
[www.ligreenbelt.org](http://www.ligreenbelt.org)

**Thendara Mountain Club**  
[www.thendaramountainclub.org](http://www.thendaramountainclub.org)

**Flat Rock Brook Nature Association**  
[www.flatrockbrook.org](http://www.flatrockbrook.org)

**ADK Long Island**  
[www.adkli.org](http://www.adkli.org)

**Interstate Hiking Club**  
[www.interstatehikingclub.org](http://www.interstatehikingclub.org)

**University Outing Club**  
[www.universityoutingclub.org](http://www.universityoutingclub.org)

**ADK Mohican Chapter**  
[www.adkmohican.org](http://www.adkmohican.org)

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

**Mohonk Preserve**  
[www.mohonkpreserve.org](http://www.mohonkpreserve.org)

**Valley Stream Hiking Club**  
[www.meetup.com/vshclub](http://www.meetup.com/vshclub)

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

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

**ADK New York Chapter**  
[www.adkny.org](http://www.adkny.org)

**Rock Lodge Club**  
[www.rocklodge.com](http://www.rocklodge.com)

**Nelsonville Greenway Committee**  
[VillageofNelsonville.org](http://VillageofNelsonville.org)

**Long Path North Hiking Club**  
[www.schoharie-conservation.org](http://www.schoharie-conservation.org)

**Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group**  
[www.newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson](http://www.newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson)

**The Outdoor Club, Inc.**  
[www.outdoorsclub.info](http://www.outdoorsclub.info)

**Shorewalkers Inc.**  
[www.shorewalkers.org](http://www.shorewalkers.org)

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

**Adventures for Women**  
[www.AdventuresforWomen.org](http://www.AdventuresforWomen.org)

**Morris County Park Commission**  
[www.morrisparks.net](http://www.morrisparks.net)

**Catskill 3500 Club**  
[www.catskill-3500-club.org](http://www.catskill-3500-club.org)

**Boy Scout Troop 8, Brooklyn**

**Boy Scouts of America-Northern NJ Council**  
[www.nnjbsa.org](http://www.nnjbsa.org)

**New York Ramblers**  
[www.nyramblers.org](http://www.nyramblers.org)

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

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

**Urban Trail Conference, Inc.**  
[www.urbantrail.org](http://www.urbantrail.org)

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

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

**New Haven Hiking Club**  
[www.NHHC.info](http://www.NHHC.info)

**East Hampton Trails Preservation Society**  
[www.ehtps.org](http://www.ehtps.org)

**Hudson Highlands Gateway Task Force**  
[www.TownofCortlandt.com](http://www.TownofCortlandt.com)

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

**Boy Scout Troop 50 Mahwah**  
[MAHWAHtroop50.scoutlander.com](http://MAHWAHtroop50.scoutlander.com)

**The Highlands Natural Pool**  
[www.highlandsnaturalpool.org](http://www.highlandsnaturalpool.org)

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

**Catskill Mountain Club**  
[www.catskillmountainclub.org](http://www.catskillmountainclub.org)

**Tenafly Nature Center Association**  
[www.tenaflynaturecenter.org](http://www.tenaflynaturecenter.org)

**SUNY Oneonta Outdoor Adventure Club**  
[www.oneonta.edu/outdoors](http://www.oneonta.edu/outdoors)

**Hudson River Valley Greenway**  
[www.hudsonrivervalley.com](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com)

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

**Boy Scout Troop 121-Hudson Valley Council**

**Storm King Adventure Tours**  
[www.stormkingadventures.com](http://www.stormkingadventures.com)

**Friends Of Garret Mountain**  
<http://friendsofgarretmountain.blogspot.com/>

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

**East Coast Greenway Alliance**  
[www.greenwaynj.org](http://www.greenwaynj.org)

**RPHC Volunteers**  
[rphcabin.org](http://rphcabin.org)

**ADK North Jersey Ramapo Chapter**  
[www.hudsonhikers.org](http://www.hudsonhikers.org)

**Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization**  
[www.mahwahevo.org](http://www.mahwahevo.org)

**New York City Audubon Society, Inc.**  
[www.nycaudubon.org](http://www.nycaudubon.org)

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

**Closter Nature Center Association**  
[www.closternaturecenter.org](http://www.closternaturecenter.org)

**Little Stony Point Citizens Association**  
[www.littlestonypoint.org](http://www.littlestonypoint.org)

**Salt Shakers Trail Running Club**  
[www.saltshakersrun.com](http://www.saltshakersrun.com)

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

**Town of Lewisboro**  
<http://www.lewisborogov.com/parksrec>

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

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

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

**Jolly Rovers**  
<http://jollyrovers.org/>

**Boy Scouts of America, Troop 21**

**Greenburgh Nature Center**  
<http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org>

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

**Palisades MTB**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/palisadesmtb](http://www.facebook.com/groups/palisadesmtb)

**HDR Mahwah Green Team**  
<http://www.hdrinc.com/>

**Queens Parks Trails Club**



## 2011

Darlington Schoolhouse



**March:** A groundbreaking ceremony for the restoration of the historic Darlington Schoolhouse as the Trail Conference's future headquarters is held.

**March:** The Professional Trailbuilders Association names the Bear Mountain Trails Project "Project of the Year."

**Spring:** The Jolly Rovers Trail Crew, an offshoot of the Bear Mountain Trails Project, is formed as the Trail Conference's first roving crew of stoneworkers.

**Spring:** The first Jersey Highlands map set is published.

**Spring:** The Catskills Program Coordinator staff position is created and filled.

**Spring:** The West Jersey Trail Crew completes its six-year project building a new, nearly 7-mile-long trail within Jenny Jump

State Forest in Warren County.

**June:** In a milestone for the Bear Mountain Trails Project, the All-Persons Trail—the first mountain-top section of the A.T. that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines—opens on Bear Mountain.

**Summer:** Trail Conference volunteers are quick to respond to storm damage both on and off-trail in the aftermath of tropical storms Irene and Lee.

**Fall:** The newly formed Long Distance Trails Crew completes a long-awaited relocation of an Appalachian Trail section on West Mountain in Harriman State Park.

**2011:** The Invasives Strike Force trains over 100 volunteers to identify a set of 14 common, widespread invasive plants. In its first season, volunteers of the ISF survey more than 132 miles of trails.

**2011:** Through land purchases, transfers, and partnerships, the Trail Conference's conservation efforts are instrumental in ensuring hundreds of acres along the Shawangunk Ridge receive permanent protection.

All-Persons Trail



## NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

# CELEBRATING 95 YEARS OF SERVICE

The legacy set in place by the Trail Conference's founders in October 1920 is being carried out today by more than 1,740 volunteers and over 10,000 members. Our mission to build, maintain, and protect trails is perhaps more important than ever; take a look at the incredible work we're accomplishing every day to Connect People with Nature.

## 2012

**Spring:** Phase 1 rehabilitation and restoration of Darlington Schoolhouse is completed.

**Spring:** Trail Conference maps go digital, becoming downloadable via the PDF Maps app.

**June:** The Appalachian Trail Conservancy celebrates the Town of Warwick, N.Y., as an Appalachian Trail Community. The town is the first in the region to be granted this designation.

**Summer:** The Trail Conference and partners protect an additional 435 forested acres on the southern Shawangunk Ridge.

**July:** A 1,600-foot-long boardwalk and 34-foot bridge for the Appalachian Trail are

Popolopen Gorge



built over the Swamp River and wetlands in Pawling, N.Y.

**October:** Hurricane Sandy transforms many parks and trails and disrupts the lives of millions of people. Volunteers turn out in force to assess the trail damage and clear blowdowns.

**October:** The NYS DEC chooses the Trail Conference to coordinate its Lower Hudson Valley Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) program beginning in 2013.

**November:** The 62-foot-long trail bridge in the Popolopen Gorge in Bear Mountain State Park is rebuilt and re-opened after being destroyed by Hurricane Irene.

**Fall:** The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, Scenic Hudson, the Trail Conference, and two Trail Conference members bring a lawsuit against the Borough of Englewood Cliffs, N.J., after the borough amended its zoning code to permit construction of buildings 150 feet in height in an area along the Palisades Interstate Park. Any building at that height would mar the surrounding viewshed. The change was prompted by a proposal to build a new, 143-foot-tall headquarters for LG Electronics USA.

## The Trail Conference at a Glance: 1920-2010

### 1920s

**1920:** Major William Welch, William Bell, Raymond Torrey, and J. Ashton Allis meet informally to plan a system of trails in Harriman State Park



**1920:** NYC-area hiking clubs join together to form the Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference

**1921:** First trail, 24-mile-long Tuxedo-Jones Point Trail (now Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail), completed through Harriman

**1921:** Benton MacKaye propos-

es Appalachian Trail  
**1922:** Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference is reorganized as the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

**1923:** First section of A.T., 20 miles through Bear Mountain-Harriman State Parks, opens

**1923:** First edition of the *New York Walk Book*, by Torrey, Frank Place, and Robert L. Dickinson, published

**1925:** Appalachian Trail Conference formed

**1927:** Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail blazed

### 1930s

**1930:** NY-NJ Trail Conference's section of the A.T. (160 miles) complete and in use

**1930:** Vincent Schaefer proposes Long Path

**1931:** Trail Conference is "re-

invented" to unite hiking clubs and end "trail wars"



**1934:** Bill Hoeflerlin starts "Hikers Region Maps" series

**1937:** Appalachian Trail route completed from Maine to Georgia

**1939:** Trail Conference contributes to purchase of land north of Anthony's Nose to protect it from quarrying

### 1940s

**1941:** World War II brings drastic decrease in trail activities and closing of Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain Bridge

**1942:** Trail Conference adopts constitution and sets up permanent committees

### 1950s

**1950:** NY-NJ trail network achieves 422 miles

**1958:** Incorporation of NY-NJ Trail Conference

**1958:** Leo Rothschild, conservation chair, completes New York metropolitan area land preservation study; recommends saving Sterling Forest

### 1960s

**1960:** Robert Jessen revitalizes interest in the Long Path

**1963:** NY-NJ Trail Conference and the Nature Conservancy cofound the Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference



**1964:** Long Path reaches 130 miles from George Washington Bridge to Catskills

**1965:** United States Circuit Court of Appeals landmark decision blocks Con Edison's Storm King plans

**1968:** U.S. Congress passes National Trails System Act, proposing the protection of entire Appalachian Trail

**1969:** Trail Conference membership is opened to individuals

### 1970s



**1970:** Map committee formed; Trail Conference begins publishing trail maps (previously published by Bill Hoeflerlin)

**1970:** Trail Conference opens first permanent office, in NYC

**1975:** Trail Conference hires



## 2013

**Spring:** Dover and Pawling in Dutchess County, N.Y., are designated jointly as an Appalachian Trail Community by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Trail Conference. They become known as the Harlem Valley A.T. Community, the 30th A.T. Community to enter into the partnership, and the second in New York.

**Spring:** The Trail Conference welcomes its first class of AmeriCorps members in the inaugural season of the organization's Conservation Corps. Members are assigned to three separate projects: invasives monitoring and

removal throughout the region, and trail building at Bear Mountain and Sterling Forest.

**Spring:** In an effort to keep hikers safe, a Trail Steward program is launched at Breakneck Ridge.



Breakneck Ridge

**June:** Volunteers build a new 30-foot trail bridge over Plattekill Creek in the Platte Clove Preserve, an important link in the Long Path.

**June:** The first phase of the Kaaterskill Rail Trail project opens on National Trails Day.

**Fall:** The first edition of *Hike of the Week*, by hike writer and editor Daniel Chazin, is published.

**November:** Ground is broken for the final stage of restoration and expansion of the Darlington Schoolhouse as the Trail Conference's new and permanent headquarters.

## 2015



HQ Grand Opening

**March:** The Trail Conference officially opens the doors to the public at its permanent headquarters at the historic Darlington Schoolhouse, 600 Ramapo Valley Road in Mahwah, N.J. Festivities throughout the year include a ribbon-cutting, the inaugural Mahwah Regional Chamber of Commerce/New York-New Jersey Trail Conference 5K Race & 1.5 Mile Walk, and a grand opening honoring the organization's 95th year.

**Spring:** The Trail Conference receives two awards acknowledging the outstanding restoration and repurposing of the 124-year-old Darlington Schoolhouse: the Bergen County Historic Preservation Award for adaptive use and one of 10 prestigious New Jersey Historic Preservation awards.

**Spring:** *Circuit Hikes in Harriman*, the first guide to loop hikes in Harriman State Park, is published.

**Spring:** The Trail Conference and the Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization (MEVO) team up to create the Ramapo Earth Crew, a partnership that combines the Trail Conference's trail-building experience and resources with MEVO's strong youth volunteer presence.

**June:** A Summit Stewards program on Slide Mountain in the Catskills is launched to aid and educate hikers.

**June:** LG Electronics USA announces a redesign of its proposed new headquarters overlooking the Palisades in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., reducing the height of the tallest building from 143 feet to the tree line, at 70 feet. The settlement is an amicable ending to a three-year battle in which the Trail Conference played an early and leading role within a coalition of environmental and civic groups and thousands of private citizens opposed to the high-rise development.

**July:** After decades of planning, the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center (CIC) opens.

**August:** Two years in the making, the 5-mile South Taconic Trail extension in Dutchess County is completed.

**September:** The 4-mile Doris Duke Trail loop at Sterling Forest State Park officially opens.

**September:** Trail University hits its milestone 1,000th workshop.

**2015:** In just its fifth year, the Trail Conference's Invasives Strike Force reaches more than 1,000 miles of trails surveyed.

## 2014

**February:** New Jersey's Green Acres Program protects 305 acres around Cowboy Creek in Sussex County. Subsequently, the Trail Conference is able to construct the largest Highlands Trail reroute ever, taking the path off several busy roads.

**Spring:** The NYS DEC asks the Trail Conference to take the lead role in the Catskill Conservation Corps, managing all volunteer activities in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

**Spring:** The Trail Conference achieves Charity Navigator's highest ranking, the coveted 4-star rating, for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

**June:** After decades of planning and close to 10,000 hours of trail building by more than 100 volunteers, the new, 9-mile stretch of the Long Path in the Slide Mountain Wilderness Area of the Catskills opens.

**Fall:** The Trail Conference is named winner of the 2014 New Jersey Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in the Environmental Education (adult-led) category for its Trail University program.

**December:** A 400-acre parcel that abuts the southern portion of Goose Pond Mountain is protected, thanks in part to the Trail Conference. This acquisition

is an important step in creating an uninterrupted greenway connection between Goose Pond Mountain State Park and Sterling Forest State Park.

**December:** By donating 93,214 hours of their time for trails, 1,740 volunteers help break a Trail Conference service record.

**2014:** The Trail Conference fights two proposed casino resorts—one in Sterling Forest State Park, the other adjacent to Harriman State Park. Neither receives a license from New York State.

**2014:** The Trail Conference hits 2,000 miles of trails maintained.

New Section of the Long Path



first full-time executive director, James Robinson

▶ **1979:** Marriott Corporation proposes massive development in Shawangunks; Trail Conference organizes to fight the project

### 1980s

▶ **1982:** New Jersey becomes first state to purchase its section of A.T. corridor

▶ **1985:** Trail Conference begins fight to save Sterling Forest

▶ **1985:** Marriott Corporation gives up plans for development in the Shawangunks

▶ **1988:** Trail Conference and Appalachian Mountain Club co-found Sterling Forest Coalition

▶ **1988:** Long Path "missing link" in Catskills completed, opening the way to the north



### 1990s

▶ **1990:** Trail Conference begins adopting trails in the Catskills

▶ **1991:** Trail Conference reaches the 1,000-mile mark for trails maintained

▶ **1992:** Trail Conference establishes Sterling Forest Defense Fund



▶ **1993:** Dedication of 36-mile Shawangunk Ridge Trail

▶ **1993:** Launch of the 150-mile, Hudson to Delaware River Highlands Trail

▶ **1996:** Fanny Highlands trail network begun

▶ **1997:** Undercliff Trail on Breakneck Mountain completed

▶ **1998:** Sterling Forest State Park



becomes a reality when New York State takes title to the first 14,500 acres. More than 7,000 additional acres would be added over the next five years.

### 2000s

▶ **2000:** The first Sterling Forest trails map—the Trail Conference's first all-digitally-produced map—is published

▶ **2000:** Highlands Trail celebrated as New Jersey's Millennium Legacy Trail

▶ **2001:** Trail Conference offices relocate to Mahwah, N.J.

▶ **2001:** Schunemunk Mountain becomes a New York State Park



▶ **2002:** Pochuck bridge and boardwalk on the A.T. dedicated

▶ **2002:** Trail Conference initiates formation of Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, which joins efforts to stop development

▶ **2004:** Trail Conference initiates trail work in New York City with the adoption of trails in Alley Pond Park and Forest Park, both in Queens

▶ **2006:** Work begins on the Bear Mountain Trails Project, including the reconstruction of the A.T. on Bear Mountain

▶ **2006:** Trail University inaugurated

▶ **2006:** Sterling Forest "doughnut hole" protected

▶ **2006:** Invasive plant tracking project begun in conjunction with Rutgers University

▶ **2007:** Darlington Schoolhouse purchased to become new Trail Conference Headquarters

▶ **2007:** Trail Conference hosts ATC Biennial Conference at Ramapo College of New Jersey with the help of 387 volunteers

▶ **2009:** Highlands Trail in New Jersey extended to and across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania

▶ **2009:** *Walkable Westchester* published

▶ **2009:** Off-road vehicle legislation enacted in New Jersey after a 10-year fight

▶ **2010:** Long Path is "gapless" for the first time in decades



▶ **2010:** Opening of 700-plus rock steps on relocated section of the Appalachian Trail celebrated at Bear Mountain



## PEOPLE FOR TRAILS TRAILS FOR PEOPLE

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

# Hudson Nor'westers Crew: Improving Trails in Some of NY's Most Beautiful Parks



**SONJA MASON**  
WEST HUDSON  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

While trail work has built-in satisfaction—immediate visible results, working alongside like-minded people under green canopies—it's safe to say that the Hudson Nor'westers Trail Crew has a particular advantage: a pretty spectacular region. They take care of trails within the striking Storm King State Park, the lush Black Rock Forest, the splendid pink-and-purple Schunnemunk Mountain, and Minnewaska State Park Preserve, perched on the shining white cliffs of the high northeastern Shawangunk Ridge. When surrounded by so much splendor, working with this crew tends to feel a little like a mini volunteer vacation.

Headed by Crew Chief Sandy Cascio and Crew Leader (and technical expert) Dave Webber, the Nor'westers accomplished a number of notable trail im-



The Nor'westers built a new stepping stone crossing on the Scenic Trail at Black Rock Forest.

provements last year. One highlight is a substantial stepping stone crossing of Mineral Spring on the western end of Black Rock Forest—a feature that would look equally at home gracing a manor garden.

Perhaps most impressive in 2015, however, was the Nor'westers' work on the Mossy Glen Trail alongside Peters Kill in Minnewaska. In this area of the Gunks,

the longevity of almost every foot trail is tested—the thin skin of soil covering largely tilted bedrock over time causes most trails to develop wet tread issues. But add an event like 2011's Hurricane Irene, and trails like the Mossy Glen aren't just damaged—they're demolished.

During the storm, the Peters Kill dammed up and blew out a tall bridge connecting the carriage road.

Enormous chunks of concrete and culverts were washed downstream, along with a small forest of trees and debris. They scoured out the little gully along which the Peters Kill babbled, and turned the streamside path into a soggy and slippery, "galoshes ready" trail.

In partnership with the staff at Minnewaska, the Nor'westers got to work building stretches of boardwalk along side-slopes of bedrock and raising the tread in-between with stone turnpikes, steps, stepping stones, and culverts. Although the damage was so extensive that the crew could be employed for a few more years repairing sections of the Mossy Glen Trail, the path is now largely a pleasure to follow, with playful and pleasing features to step on or over, sandwiched between beautiful, artful new bridges recently built by our friends at Tahawus Trails.

For more info on the Hudson Nor'westers, visit [bit.ly/TC-hnwtc](http://bit.ly/TC-hnwtc).

### Building and Rehabbing Even More Trails in 2016

Pending permits, the Hudson Nor'westers will be teaming up with the Long Distance Trails Crew to reroute two trails on the southern side of Schunnemunk Mountain through two very large culverts under the train tracks in this area.

Also on the agenda is defining a path to the lower Stony Kill Falls in Minnewaska, as well as repairing the Verkeerderkill Falls Trail, a once-backcountry trail that has become extremely popular and eroded at Sam's Point.

The Verkeerderkill Falls Trail project is very large—1.7 miles of tread and drainage repair needs to be done—so the crews are inviting everyone with an interest in building and improving trails to join in. No experience is necessary! Find details about these upcoming crew outings and more at [bit.ly/TC-tco](http://bit.ly/TC-tco).

## Catskill Conservation Corps 2016 Workshops and Projects

The Catskill Conservation Corps (CCC) has been steadily growing for the last two years, and we're looking forward to 2016 being our biggest yet. The goal of the CCC is to manage and train volunteers throughout the Catskills region in partnership with other organizations through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Already this year we have held HikeSafe workshops and plan to offer more educational courses as well, including Leave No Trace awareness, map and compass instruction, cross-cut saw training, and more.

In addition to education, the CCC will be working on numerous trail improvement projects with the DEC. These include:

- ▶ Building and replacing two lean-tos (German Hol-

low and Batavia Kill)

- ▶ Building a new trail to a picnic area at the Catskill interpretive Center
- ▶ Staining and repairing many lean-tos throughout the region
- ▶ Holding a stone stair workshop, followed by stone stair building in various locations
- ▶ Litter pick-ups at the Blue Hole, Katterskill Falls, and Colgate Lake
- ▶ Trail reconstruction at Kaaterskill Falls
- ▶ Working with Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) on identifying, mapping, and removing invasive species
- ▶ Building bog bridging in multiple locations
- ▶ And many more!

For more information on the CCC and how to get involved, visit [catskillconservationcorps.org](http://catskillconservationcorps.org).

◀ Doug Senterman

### 2015 In Review



Help improve trails: Join the LDTC!

### Long Distance Trails Crew

In 2015, the Long Distance Trails Crew completed seven projects requiring over 70 crew outings totaling 4,850 hours. Projects included:

- ▶ 0.2-mile relocation of the Appalachian Trail on Bear Mountain
- ▶ 0.1-mile relocation of the Appalachian Trail at Greenwood Mine in Harriman State Park
- ▶ 13-foot Beechy Bottom Bridge rebuilt on the Appalachian Trail in Harriman State Park
- ▶ Seven iron-rung steps,

with hand hold, on the Appalachian Trail at Indian Park, N.Y.

- ▶ 16-foot High Mountain Brook Bridge rebuilt in Ramapo Mountain State Forest, with 30 feet of cribbed treadway constructed and improved
- ▶ Replaced four stepping stones across an inlet to Lake Skannatati on the Long Path in Harriman State Park
- ▶ Repaired upper stream crossing steps and 140 feet of side-hilled trail on the Appalachian Trail in Fitzgerald Falls, N.Y.

Check [blog-tw.nynjtc.org](http://blog-tw.nynjtc.org) for more details on the crew's work and how to join them this season.

◀ Long Distance Trails Crew

### ISF and Lower Hudson PRISM

In 2015, the Trail Conference's Invasives Strike Force (ISF) celebrated its

fifth year, while we completed our third successful year hosting the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM). Find the full 2015 report at [bit.ly/TC-ISF-15](http://bit.ly/TC-ISF-15).

### INVASIVES STRIKE FORCE

In 2015:

- ▶ 51,626 invasive plants removed
  - ▶ \$95,590 equivalent of volunteer hours given
- Since 2011:
- ▶ 401 volunteers trained
  - ▶ 63,300 observations collected
  - ▶ 101 parks surveyed
  - ▶ 1,042 miles of trail surveyed
  - ▶ 12,630 acres surveyed

### LOWER HUDSON PRISM

In 2015:

- ▶ 42 partners
  - ▶ 5 partner meetings
  - ▶ 400+ attendees at the Lower Hudson PRISM Summit
- ◀ Linda Rohleder



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*In memory of Fr. Rich Broderick who loved the outdoors & taught environmental awareness*  
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*For my Dad, Torleif Meloe, the Ultimate Trail Walker!*  
Erica A. Meloe

*In honor of Pete Zuroff, Trail Maintainer and son*  
Leslie Wilding

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### ASK A TRAIL BUILDER



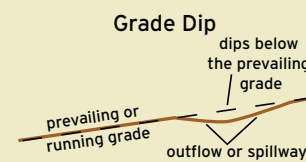
ERIK MICKELSON  
FIELD MANAGER

**The trail I maintain has issues with water channeling down the tread. What can be done to fix this?**

It sounds like your trail has a lack of grade reversals. In one word, a grade reversal is all about drainage. The point is to get water off a trail before it has enough energy to displace the soil. A grade reversal literally refers to a reversing, or changing, of the grade of a trail—going downhill to uphill, and then back downhill again (or vice-versa).

Ideally, when you lay out a trail, grade reversals are built in. But there are post-construction grade reversals that can also solve the problem: grade dips and rolling grade dips. The idea of both reversals is to shed water off the trail before a rill (a shallow channel cut into the soil by erosion) becomes a gully and the trail becomes a stream.

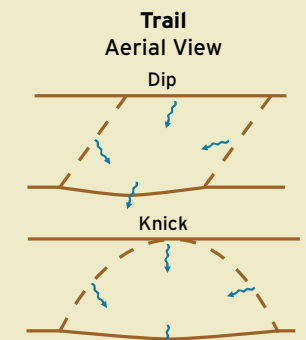
A grade dip is the construction of a depression in the prevailing, or running, grade.



A rolling grade dip involves a grade dip as well as a "speed bump" of soil piled up on the downhill side of the dip. Ramp heights should be kept close to dip depths.



Grade dips with a half-circle shape are called "knicks."



Rather than abrupt channels, grade reversals should be smooth undulations that are almost unnoticeable while walking through them. Of course, achieving this is often easier said than done here in the rocky Northeast, where dips may be more practical than rolling grade dips. Find out more at [bit.ly/TC-AaT-gr](http://bit.ly/TC-AaT-gr).



# Combating Invasives with Native Gardening

Many of the invasive plant species that have spread aggressively throughout the United States originated as garden plants. Invasives such as Japanese barberry may look beautiful, but they have hazardous effects on the local ecology. They grow fast, rapidly reproduce, and quickly spread when birds and other animals pick up and deposit seeds all over a region. Invasive plants lower native plant diversity by competing for resources and can alter soil conditions, resulting in a change of habitat for the native plants and animals. One Cornell University study has found that the approximately



Purple loosestrife, left, is an invasive that can be replaced by the native blazing star, right, in gardens.

LEFT: NORMAN REES; RIGHT: J.S. PETERSON

### Which Plants Are Native?

Two searchable databases of beautiful native plant alternatives to common non-natives can be found at [suny.wcc.edu/about/npc/plants](http://suny.wcc.edu/about/npc/plants) and [plantnative.org/rpl-nypanj.htm](http://plantnative.org/rpl-nypanj.htm).

### Dangerous Invasives

Invasive species cause harm to the environment, economy, and human health. For example, when combined with sun and moisture, the sap of giant hogweed can burn skin.

50,000 nonindigenous species in the U.S. cause major environmental damage and losses totaling approximately \$137 billion per year.

Gardeners can do their part in conserving the natural lands around them by planting native species. Not only are many native plants similar in appearance to their popular invasive counterparts, they also provide song birds and butterflies with the habitat and food sources they need to thrive.

Another plus: When native plants are grown in proper soils, the plants are generally low maintenance, requiring little care and less water.

The Trail Conference's Invasives Strike Force holds workshops on how to identify and remove invasive species, with the intention of "stopping the spread" through our parklands. Visit [nynjtc.org/invasives](http://nynjtc.org/invasives) for more info, including volunteer opportunities and a calendar of events. [Matt Simonelli](#)

## People for Trails



CONTRIBUTED BY ZACHARY KUNOW

### Improving the Long Swamp Trail, One Hike at a Time

Congrats to Trail Conference volunteer Zachary Kunow, an Eagle Scout who was just awarded the prestigious Hornaday Bronze Medal for his conservation efforts in Sterling Forest State Park! Zack's work on a recycling project, his Eagle project—building a 60-foot bridge over a stream on the Long Swamp Trail—and a third project constructing wood duck boxes positioned in key areas of Sterling Forest have earned him both the Hornaday Badge and Bronze Medal. Zack is now hoping to achieve the Hornaday Gold Medal through his work to combat invasive species along the Long Swamp Trail. Read his personal account of the work he's done to improve trail experiences in Sterling Forest on our blog: [bit.ly/TC-zk-isf](http://bit.ly/TC-zk-isf).

## Where, When to Find the Rare Bloodroot

Quickly after the last of the winter snow has dissipated and a flattened, tawny earth emerges to greet the first rays of the spring sun, certain stream-sides and other moist areas throughout our region find themselves covered once more with a dense layer of white—this time, from the uncommon spring ephemeral bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*).

As the name implies, these plants do indeed possess crimson roots. Moreover, this spe-

cies bleeds the same as any injured animal. A broken leaf or stem will cause the plant to exude a fluid alarmingly similar to blood. It stains anything it touches, and has been used in years past as a dye by both Native Americans and colonists.

Additionally, root extracts have historically been used to treat a wide variety of ailments ranging from cancer to lung disease to sore throats. And up until recently, bloodroot was even employed as an ingredi-

ent in Viadent toothpaste to combat gum disease. Today, the efficacy of bloodroot on anything health related is dubious at best. Numerous sources relate that the root is toxic, and even coming in contact with its juices can cause dermatitis, similarly to poison ivy.

When it comes to habitat, these plants prefer moist, rich soils, having an inclination to grow along gently sloping banks. More often than not, they will be found along some type of water body, be it a river, lake, or even a temporary rivulet born of snowmelt. Typical bloom dates are from mid-April to early May, but plants produce only a single blossom each spring, so trying to locate an intact specimen requires razor-sharp precision, time-wise. [Mike Adamovic](#)

*Mike Adamovic works at One Nature, LLC and also manages his photography business, Adamovic Nature Photography.*



MIKE ADAMOVIC

Bloodroot features ivory petals and a golden center. It's one of the earliest wildflowers awakened each spring.

**TAKE A HIKE!**

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### EXHIBIT, from page 1

Thanks to The Corps Network AmeriCorps EAP, Palisades Parks Conservancy, Legacy Stoneworks, Inc./The Hillburn Granite Company, Inc., Marlboro Mountain Construction, Tilcon, Susan R. Bauer, Fossil Industries, The Begin Family, and New York State EPF Grants for making completion of the *Trails for People* interpretive exhibit possible.

Find more details about the day at [nynjtc.org/TFPGrandOpening](http://nynjtc.org/TFPGrandOpening).



A panel in the exhibit

### READ MORE ONLINE

#### Mahwah's Historic Preservation Commission Honors Trail Conference with Heritage Award

At the Mahwah council meeting on Jan. 21, the Trail Conference was honored for our work in restoring the Darlington Schoolhouse and repurposing the historic building as our new headquarters. Find a recap of the night on our blog.

[bit.ly/TC-DSH-mhpc](http://bit.ly/TC-DSH-mhpc)

#### Annual Christmas Bird Count at Closter Nature Center

On what may have been one the coldest days of the winter, a small group of birding enthusiasts gathered at the Closter Nature Center to take part in the Bergen County Audubon Society's Annual Christmas Bird Count. A highlight of the morning was getting a rare opportunity to view a screech owl. Read a full report on our blog.

[bit.ly/TC-cnc-bc](http://bit.ly/TC-cnc-bc)

#### A Closer Look at Snow Fleas

On a bright winter day, have you ever noticed what look like specks of dark soot in the snow, especially at the base of trees? Those minuscule, lively creatures are a type of springtail, *Hypogastrura spp.*, commonly known as snow fleas. They're actually with us all year long, and in huge abundance. Find out more about these curious creatures on our blog.

[bit.ly/TC-S-sf](http://bit.ly/TC-S-sf)



# Jersey Highlands Map Set Updated for 2016



**JEREMY APGAR**  
CARTOGRAPHER

Arriving this spring with several significant trail changes, the revised, second edition of Jersey Highlands Trails: Central North Region is a long-awaited update to this popular two-map set. This set highlights trails throughout the central north region of the New Jersey Highlands and adjacent areas, including portions of Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren counties.

Our Jersey Highlands Trails maps feature more than 230 miles of marked trails within more than 30 parks, including more than 45 miles of the Highlands Trail, the 20-mile-long Four Birds Trail, and portions of the Morris Canal Greenway. Major park areas covered by these maps include Pyramid Mountain, High Mountain Park Preserve, Allamuchy Mountain State Park, Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, and the Fanny Highlands.

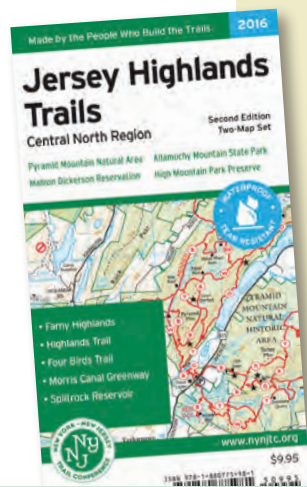
This new edition includes several updates to trails, including relocations and revised blaze colors and trail alignments in most of the parks covered by the map set. Several newly protected parklands have been added, including some that feature new trails as well. Many additional minor corrections and changes have also been made, making this revised edition of the Jersey Highlands Trails: Central North Region map set even more accurate than before. At only \$9.95 (\$7.46 for Trail Conference members), this map set is an essential resource for exploring the many parks and trails throughout this region of the New Jersey Highlands.

## Thank You!

► Special thanks to all the volunteers and park partners who helped with both of these map revisions.

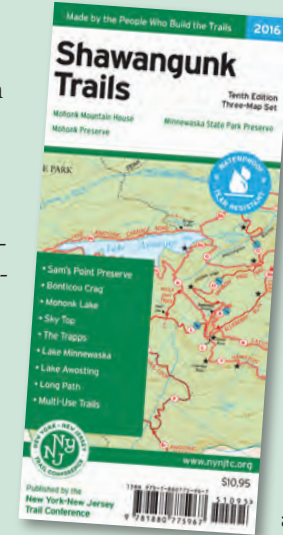
## How to Get Your Maps

Both new map sets will be available in print format in vibrant color on waterproof, tear-resistant Tyvek (shop online at [nynjtc.org](http://nynjtc.org) or visit Trail Conference HQ), and in digital format on Apple and Android devices through the PDF Maps app (learn about our GPS-enhanced maps at [nynjtc.org/pdfmaps](http://nynjtc.org/pdfmaps)).



## Expanded Coverage Area for Shawangunk Map Set 10th Edition

The 10th edition of the Shawangunk Trails map set will be available this spring with several substantial improvements. This three-map set includes more than 200 miles of maintained trails and carriage roads in the northern Shawangunk Mountains, including Minnewaska State Park Preserve and Mohonk Preserve. Major features of this set include a new map covering parklands south of Minnewaska down to the Village of Wurtsboro, the trail network in the area of Mohonk Mountain House shown on a large-scale map, and the area around Lake Minnewaska now shown as an inset map.



The new map showcases the Long Path and Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT) along a scenic stretch of the Shawangunk Mountains where the Trail Conference has actively helped protect mountaintop habitat through conservation efforts with our partners. Throughout all of these maps, the contour elevation lines have been greatly improved using higher-resolution data than was previously available. Both carriage roads—many of which are open to bikes and horses—as well as foot trails, including the Long Path and SRT, are shown. Several new park parcels have been added, many recent trail relocations are included, and other updates have been made to make these maps more accurate and easy to use. This essential map set will soon be available for \$10.95 (\$8.21 for Trail Conference members).

## How to Support Trails with Charitable Lead Annuity Trusts

Charitable lead annuity trusts (CLATs) are a great way to donate to your favorite charity while creating benefits for yourself and your beneficiaries.

CLATs allow the donor to provide a gift to a charity while naming himself or someone else (such as family members) as the remainder beneficiary. Charitable lead annuity trusts are not tax-exempt, but can be an effective way to preserve the contributed assets for future generations.

### How It Works

The donor creates an irrevocable charitable lead annuity trust (CLAT) which provides that a payment (i.e. the lead interest) is made at least annually to the designated charity or charities for a specified term. There is no minimum or maximum percentage that must be distributed annually.

The payment period may be for a specific term of years or for the life or lives of an individual or individuals who are living and known on the date of the transfer. At the expiration of the charitable payment period, the remainder interest is paid to either the donor or other non-charitable beneficiaries.

### Income Tax Consequences

A CLAT can be designed as either a grantor trust or a non-grantor trust. All trusts have a grantor, the person who creates the trust. All trusts also involve trustees, beneficiaries, and remaindermen. The relationship of the grantor to the other individuals involved in the trust determines whether a trust is a grantor trust or a non-grantor trust.

If the CLAT is a grantor trust, the donor receives

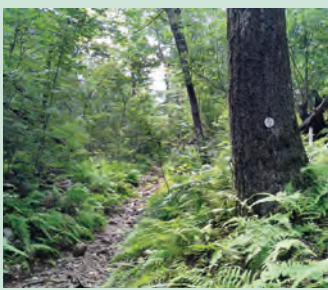
an income tax charitable deduction equal to the value of the charitable lead interest upon the creation of the trust. The donor is taxed on all income as it is earned by the trust under the grantor trust rules.

If the CLAT is a non-grantor trust, the donor does not receive an income tax charitable deduction upon the creation of the trust. As a separate tax-paying entity, the CLAT is taxed on all net income as it is earned by the trust. The CLAT is allowed a charitable income tax deduction for amounts paid to charity each year.

*For additional information on CLATs and other charitable giving options, contact Financial Advisor James Cantela: [jim.cantela@nm.com](mailto:jim.cantela@nm.com), 201.639.0642; or Wealth Management Advisor Paul F. Hoerrner Jr., CFP: [paul.hoerrner@nm.com](mailto:paul.hoerrner@nm.com), 201.639.0636.*

## When was the last time you thought about your legacy?

By including a bequest to the Trail Conference in your will, you will help us continue the legacy of trails and connecting people with nature for generations to come. For information, contact Don Weise: [dweise@nynjtc.org](mailto:dweise@nynjtc.org), 201.512.9348 x813.



## PEOPLE FOR TRAILS

### PETER MORRIS

Stony Point, NY

Peter Morris volunteers with the Trail Conference at our headquarters as a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. He has helped with special projects such as security and events. Peter is a New York State CPA and worked at the firm now known as EY. In addition to being a member of the Trail Conference, he is a member of the New York State Society of CPAs and the American Institute of CPAs.



out at the new headquarters. I have equally enjoyed meeting the staff there.


### First encounters with the Trail Conference...

I found out about the Trail Conference on the web and then met [staffers] Kevin Simpson and Ama Koenigshof on hikes. I was very impressed with their ability to accomplish the grueling work of trail building while always keeping a positive frame of mind and spirit of friendship with their co-workers and passing the hikers. This is what led me to volunteer at the Trail Conference.

### Why I choose volunteering at Trail Conference HQ...

I am totally incompetent when it comes to working with my hands, but I thought I could use my business experience to help

### When I'm not volunteering...

My favorite trail is the Major Welch/Appalachian Trail loop at Bear Mountain. I do this loop about 400 to 500 times a year, in all weather—hot, cold, rain, snow, ice, sun. I enjoy the challenge of the Major Welch and try to improve my pace constantly. The health benefits of hiking are amazing. I am the same weight as I was in college, and in better shape. I actually enjoy going for my annual checkup and hearing that my blood pressure, cholesterol, heart, weight, and everything else is great, without being on any medications!  **Mary Perro**



# History and Views in the Jersey Highlands

## FEATURED HIKE

### Details

- ▶ **Hike:** Split Rock Loop/Four Birds Trail Short Loop
- ▶ **Park:** Fanny State Park, Morris County, N.J.
- ▶ **Time:** 3 hours
- ▶ **Difficulty:** Moderate
- ▶ **Length:** 4 miles
- ▶ **Route Type:** Circuit
- ▶ **Dogs:** Allowed on leash
- ▶ **Features:** Views, Historic Feature

Some of our area's most undiscovered and easiest to reach trails are featured in the Trail Conference's new, completely revised Jersey Highlands Trails map set, released in March. (Find out how to get your copy on page 11.) The second edition of this set includes significant trail changes, including a reroute on the Split Rock Loop Trail over a new footbridge that replaces one washed out many years ago. Built by Trail Conference volunteers, the new bridge is about 0.15 mile north of the location of the previous stream crossing, making the trail about 0.3 mile longer. The former stream crossing over rocks could be very difficult, and this new bridge makes it possible to cross the stream without any concerns under all water conditions.

This trail is part of an excellent loop hike in Fanny State

Park in Morris County, N.J., that winds through rugged terrain south of the Split Rock Reservoir, passing several viewpoints and crossing the cascading Split Rock Brook. Following the blue-blazed Split Rock Loop Trail and later the white-blazed Four Birds Trail, this is a 4-mile hike of moderate difficulty.

Beyond fantastic views, features of this circuit include a huge glacial erratic—aptly named The Rock—that marks the highest point on the hike (elevation 980 feet), and a boulder field called The Maze, where the trail has been routed through narrow passages between large rocks. Also of interest are the remnants of the Righter Mine, where you'll find drill marks in the rock walls around the mine shaft and a pile of tailings just below. (Use caution around this point of interest, and do not step into the leaf-covered mine shaft.) At the end of the hike, you'll see the 32-foot-high charcoal-fired Split Rock Furnace, built of stone in 1862 to smelt magnetite ore into the iron needed for the Civil War. The furnace operated for only about 10 years, and was abandoned in the 1870s.

*by Daniel Chazin, author of Hike of the Week*



The Split Rock Loop provides plenty of interesting features, like this narrow passage between boulders.

FULL HIKE DESCRIPTION AT [bit.ly/TC-srl-fbt](http://bit.ly/TC-srl-fbt)



Explore the Jersey Highlands with views over the Split Rock Reservoir on this hike through Fanny State Park.

## HIKERS' MARKETPLACE

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VISIT [nynjtc.org/panel/goshopping](http://nynjtc.org/panel/goshopping) OR CALL 201.512.9348

Find all our publications and select trail guides from others on our website, and get your 25% member discount!

## Support Trails, Parks, and Open Space in the New York-New Jersey Region by Joining the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

# NY-NJ 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 additional benefits: Go to [nynjtc.org/membership](http://nynjtc.org/membership).

**25% Discount** on Trail Conference maps, books, and other products. Visit [nynjtc.org/panel/goshopping](http://nynjtc.org/panel/goshopping).

**Great Discounts** at supporting outdoor retailers and other businesses. See our partners at [nynjtc.org/content/retail-partners](http://nynjtc.org/content/retail-partners).

**Tuition-Free Enrollment** in our Trail University introductory courses.

**Workshops and Seminars** on trail maintenance and construction, leadership training, wilderness first aid, chainsaw operation, environmental monitoring, and GPS operation. Learn more about Trail U at [nynjtc.org/trailu](http://nynjtc.org/trailu).

**Access** to a wide range of volunteer opportunities on-trail and off-trail. Visit [nynjtc.org/volunteer](http://nynjtc.org/volunteer).

Find links to all these and more at [nynjtc.org](http://nynjtc.org).

## Join/Renew NY-NJ Trail Conference Membership

We maintain more than 2,100 miles of trails. Your membership helps us expand our horizons.

**Included with membership:** *Trail Walker*, 10% discount on purchases at many outdoor stores, and 25% discount on all Trail Conference maps and books purchased directly from the Trail Conference. Save time and a tree by joining or renewing online at [nynjtc.org](http://nynjtc.org). Just click on the Join/Renew Now button.

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	Individual	Joint/Family
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*A joint membership is for two adults residing at the same address.*

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Trail Conference Cap OR  Harriman-Bear Mountain Map Set

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Make check or money order payable to the NY-NJ Trail Conference, and mail to: 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ, 07430.

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