

Volunteer Vibes - *Volunteers play many crucial roles at the Preserve. They maintain trails, welcome visitors, conduct research, educate youth groups, support special events, beautify our gardens, capture breathtaking photography, and much more, contributing their time, talents, and thousands of volunteer hours annually. We will be regularly featuring our volunteers in Talus Talk so that we can all learn who they are and why they do what they do for the Preserve. Let's meet our volunteers!*

Artie Hidalgo-Espinosa

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Cuba on a farm. I emigrated to the US when I was 10 in 1961. In NYC, I lived in Hell's Kitchen, attending school in Harlem. After retirement as Assistant General Manager of MTA buses, I came to the Hudson Valley where I co-founded the Jolly Rovers Trail Crew, a nonprofit, specializing in stonework for trails.

What is your volunteer role(s) here at Mohonk Preserve?

I began as a Trail Keeper. A year later, I trained the newly formed Trail Builders to do trail stonework and continue to serve as the volunteer coordinator of the group. I also enjoyed teaching middle schoolers from the Sam Miguel Academy of Newburgh trail-building skills prior to the pandemic.

Why did you decide to volunteer your time and talents at Mohonk Preserve?

My partner, Linda, got me started at Mohonk so I would stay closer to home. Since retiring, I have always been involved in trail work up and down the east coast.

What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?

I am most proud of my involvement teaching stonework skills all over the Eastern seaboard, including at Mohonk Preserve. It means a lot to me to have these opportunities to teach stonework skills to others.

Where is your favorite place/trail on the Preserve and why is it your favorite?

Giant's Workshop is one of my favorite trails. It was where I started as a Trail Keeper. It's a very beautiful trail with scrambles and steep ascents as well as wonderful rock formations.



*Artie Hidalgo-Espinosa at a trail building project site
Photo by Kent Stivers*