

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 Volunteer Vibes so that we can all learn who they are and why they do what they do for the Preserve. Let's meet our volunteers!*

Matt Logan

Where did you grow up?

I'm a fourth-generation New Paltz native, although from college until about ten-or-so years ago I lived all over the place, from some years in Sweden to almost two decades in Los Angeles, from whence I returned here over ten years ago. And let me tell you, the Mid-Hudson Valley is more vibrant than ever!

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

I'm the Volunteer Trailkeepers Coordinator, one of the more traditionally individualistic volunteer groups at the Preserve. As climate change creates increased challenges of washed-out trails and downed trees that can be more for one trailkeeper to manage, we're looking to gather our folks together for coordinated group projects.

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

Growing up in New Paltz I spent countless days with friends hiking, biking, and exploring the ridge from Skytop on down, so it seems only natural to want to stay involved and give back. Trailkeeping (and trail building, where I also volunteer), is super fun and rewarding in the way it lets one "curate" the best possible experience of a trail for hikers.

What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?

I've worked to improve and maintain a good number of trails over the years. Getting to shape and groom the new Lost City Escarpment Trail is definitely the most rewarding, especially as a rock climber who often works with the Preserve as a board member of the Gunks Climbing Coalition. If you haven't checked this trail out, I guarantee you'll find it to be one of the prettiest in the Gunks!

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

I have two favorite places: Bonticou Crag, where the white rock, pitch pines, and mountain laurel make for a unique landscape as beautiful as anywhere in the world; and the Coxing area where we climb in Lost City on sultry days then take a dip at Split Rock to round it off. I guess I better also mention the Spring Farm pavilion, where a few years back friends and family gathered to celebrate the wedding of me and my wonderful wife, Jannette Pazer, who is also a devoted Gunks volunteer!



*Matt Logan hiking on the Preserve
Photo by Jannette Pazer*