

**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!*

## **Ralph Durham**

### ***Where did you grow up?***

I grew up on Long Island and graduated from Alfred University with a B.S. in Business Administration and a Minor in Environmental Studies. I married Ann in 1994 and moved up to West Hurley in 1995 and am now retired.

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

I began volunteering with the Community Science Programs starting with Phenology (I am now in my ninth year) and then explored Climate Tracking, Stream Watch, and Invasive Species. I also volunteer for a variety of special events throughout the year.

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

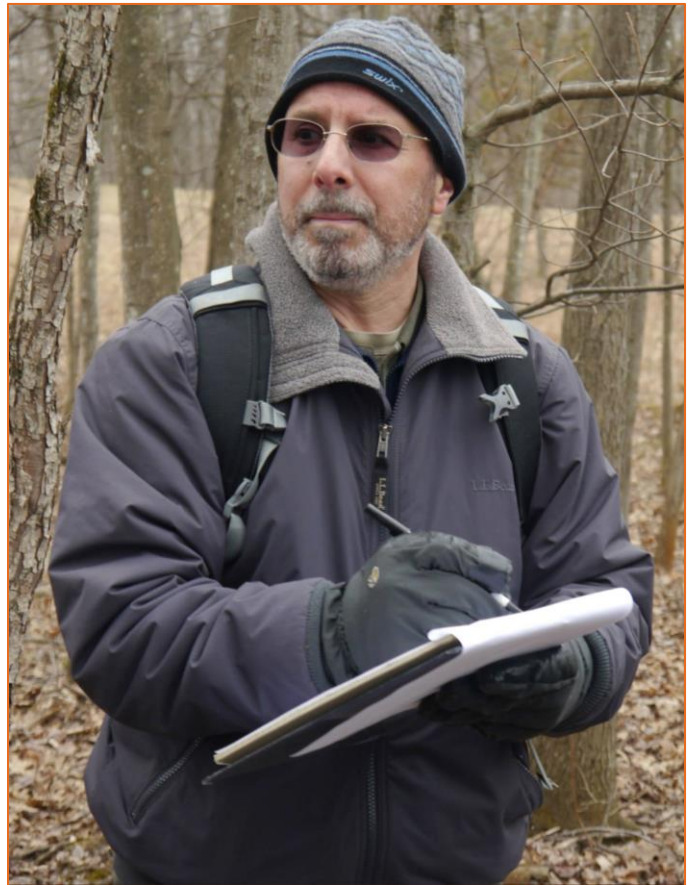
I was looking for volunteer opportunities and found Environmental Science volunteer projects on the Preserve's website. Being that I had a minor in Environmental Science, it seemed to be the perfect match.

### ***What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?***

I am most proud to be participating in the continuing data collection for one of the largest Phenological databases in the country.

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

My favorite place to go is the Daniel Smiley Research Center where I was able to complete and record the data I collected. My favorite trail is the Millbrook Ridge Trail which connects to the Gertrude's Nose Trail.



*Ralph Durham recording Phenology observations  
Photo provided by Ralph Durham*

