

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!*

Tara Siudy

Where did you grow up?

I grew up on Long Island, in Wantagh, NY. I came to SUNY New Paltz in 1996 and have been here ever since. I am so lucky to be able to access the Preserve from all the connecting trails right from town!

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

I am a volunteer photographer at the Preserve. There is so much beauty (and action) to capture at the Preserve. I do occasionally find myself assisting my trail-maintainer husband, Mike Siudy, with the upkeep of his assigned trails.

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

I enjoy nature, photography, and spending time at the Preserve. I had been a member of the Preserve for almost 20 years before I learned I could "give back" by photographing events and scenery as a volunteer. I also was looking forward to meeting other photographers and learning from their expertise.

What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?

I get excited when I can photograph athletic events at the Preserve. It is inspiring and satisfying to be able to capture event participants on their journeys. Whether it be running in a race or riding in a bike event, photographing smiles and waves as people zoom past is what I like to capture. It is AWESOME to be able to snap a photo when people cross the finish line. I am so glad to be able to provide these participants with these moments.

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

My favorite place on the preserve has got to be Bonticou Crag. It is such a great trail, and nothing beats the sunset while on the top. Oftentimes there are either crows or vultures roosting on the crag. I LOVE to watch the birds enjoying the view as much as I do.



Tara Siudy on a hike, photo by Mike Siudy