

**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!*

## **Siu S. Yuen**

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

I grew up in the city on the Lower East side of Manhattan. I came up to the Hudson Valley to attend college at SUNY New Paltz. Thirty-plus years later, I still reside in the Hudson Valley area as I do enjoy nature and the fresh air.

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

I led hikes for the Preserve from Nov. 2018 – Dec. 2019. The Preserve recently resumed the program in Sept. 2022. I led two hikes and plan to continue leading more. I'm an avid hiker and have been hiking since 2007. In addition to leading hikes for the Preserve, I've been a Volunteer Photographer since 2017 and I also volunteer my time during Special Events.

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

I was told by friends for years that I take very nice pictures, which encouraged me to join the photography group six years ago to share my images with the public.

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

When my hikers praise me as a very good leader and that they enjoy my hikes. I personally love longer hikes with beautiful views. The Preserve's land sure provides that and a lot more.

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

One of my favorite places/trails is hiking up the East Trapps Connector (the Stairmaster!) to the Millbrook Ridge Trail and Millbrook Mountain. After Millbrook Mountain, one goes on to Gertrude's Nose at neighboring Minnewaska State Park for a 12-mile outstanding lollipop hike. The hike is long and strenuous, but it offers a variety of terrain, carriageways, and rocky trails along part of the Shawangunk Ridge in addition to great views!



*Siu S. Yuen leading a private winter hike  
Photo by Tonda Highley*