

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!*

Pete Hinkey

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in the Catskill Mountains in Elka Park at the top of the Platte Clove gorge. I've lived in the Hudson Valley since I finished college and get out hiking as much as possible.

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

My wife Shannon and I get out in the Preserve for Backcountry Patrolling hoping to combine our love of hiking and the outdoors with keeping the woods beautiful and accessible for the many visitors who enjoy them.

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

Shannon and I always found ourselves at the Preserve when we wanted to spend time together outdoors and it was a natural progression to want to give back and help the efforts with the volunteer team.

What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?

I'm especially proud of convincing Shannon to join the volunteer staff :) and my friends who I've recruited to help as well. I appreciate knowing that the volunteer observations directly impact the quality of the Preserve and keep it beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

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

That's an easy one - my favorite spot is definitely the high rocks south of Trapps Bridge with the view toward the East. A close second would have to be the Lost City area.



*Pete and Shannon Hinkey hiking on the Preserve with their new baby, Ashton
Photo by Pete Hinkey*