

**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!*

## **Abby Jameson**

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

I grew up in a rural part of Ohio, then spent 10 years in NYC before moving to New Paltz about five years ago.

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

I volunteer in the Invasive Species Program, both with Beetle Busters and Forest Guardians. I check beetle traps and help to manually remove invasive species from the Preserve.

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

I enjoy learning more about the Preserve and being able to contribute and be in nature at the same time. The interconnectedness of nature fascinates me. I really appreciate the firsthand knowledge I gain through volunteering.

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

Removing invasive knotweed is especially rewarding to me. I feel I am making a tangible difference and it feels great to see an area once filled with invasive plants start to make room for native plants to grow.

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

The Millbrook Ridge is my favorite. It was one of my first hikes at the Preserve. I love the little rock scramble, walking along the ridge top, and seeing the views.



*Abby is posing alongside an Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) trap at Testimonial Gateway  
Photo by Sadie Kipping*