<u>Volunteer Vibes</u> - 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!

Geraldine Moloney

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Jackson Heights, Queens NY. I have dual citizenship (Ireland and US) as both my parents were emigrants from Ireland and were sponsored to come over in their 20s. We came up to Accord to visit during the summers in the 1970s and then moved here permanently in 1980. I attended Rondout Schools.

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

Backcountry Patrol and the Invasive Species Program are my volunteer roles as well as volunteering for Healthy Ulster.

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

It was something I always wanted to do. Now that I am retired and have the time I can volunteer. I was also able to heal faster from an injury through nature. I feel it is my way of giving back and it is important to keep teaching society how important nature is. It is so good for the soul.

What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?

I am proud of getting up and being part of a volunteer family and meeting awesome like-minded people with a love of nature.

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

I have been up here for nearly 50 years, yet I am new to the Preserve. Right now, the Slingerland Pavilion and the surrounding area are divine. I hope to master trailhead knowledge within the next few years.



Geraldine Moloney; photo by Andy Reynolds