

**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!*

## **Usha Vas**

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

I was born and raised in Singapore and came to the US – Iowa for college. I lived and worked there for about 10 years before moving to NYC. We moved to Gardiner when my son was one year old in 2002 and have lived here ever since.

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

I'm a Trailhead Ambassador and have been doing this since 2021.

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

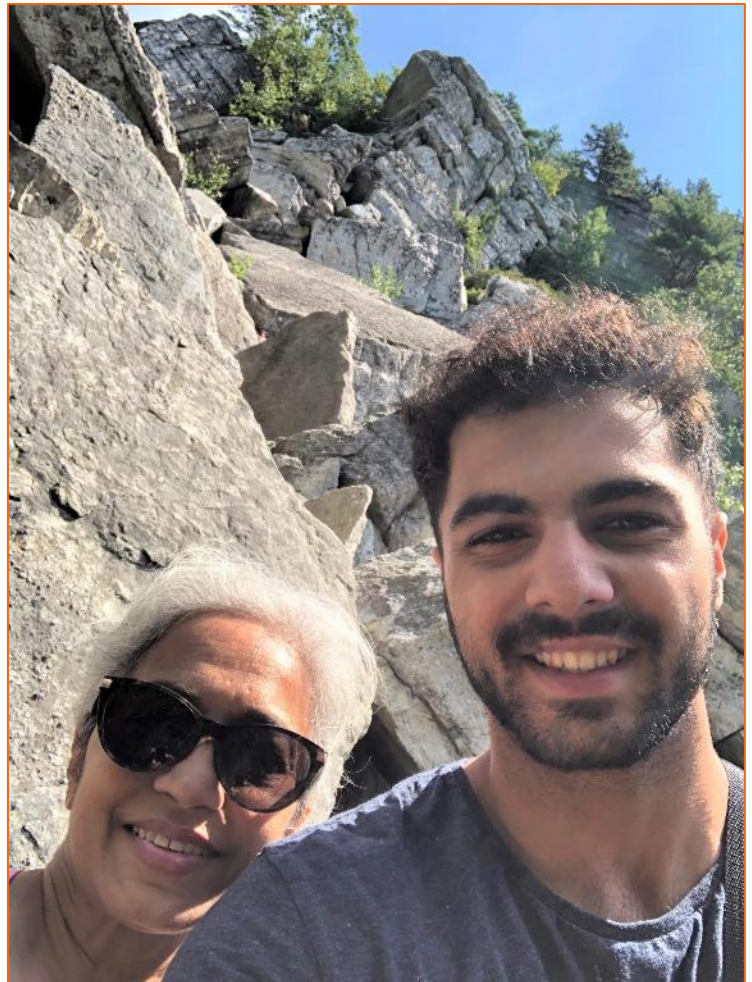
After my son started college, I decided that I wanted to give back to the community. I've always loved hiking in the area and felt this was a perfect way to share my passion with others.

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

There is not one particular accomplishment; I'm always happy to speak to visitors who are new to the area and excited to share in the beauty of the area.

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

I would have to say Millbrook Ridge is my favorite hike, though Bonticou Crag is a close second (minus the scramble). Honestly, I haven't had a bad hike here.... Each place is unique and beautiful in its own right.



*Usha Vas with her son Kiyan at the Bonticou Crag Scramble  
Photo provided by Usha Vas*