

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 Volunteer Vibes so that we can all learn who they are and why they do what they do for the Preserve. Let's meet our volunteers!

John Connolly

Where did you grow up?

I was born in the Bronx. My family moved to Rockland County when I was a teenager. In 1976, I moved to Ulster County to transfer to a new job.

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

I am a Hike Leader for the Bob Babb Wednesday Walks and Weekend Hikes. In the past, I served as a Trail Keeper, Photographer, and Volunteer Coordinator for the Singles and Sociables Hiking Group.



Photo: John Connolly

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

I first started hiking the Gunks in the early 1970s and fell in love with the beauty of the area. In the late 1990s, I joined the Singles and Sociables Hiking Group and decided I wanted to lead hikes.

What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?

In 2003 I became the Volunteer Coordinator for the Singles and Sociables Hiking Group. I am proud that our group introduced scores of people to the beauty of the Shawangunk Ridge and the Mohonk Preserve.

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

My favorite is Lost City. I love to introduce newcomers to the joys of hiking there, and the fantastic views along the trail. In the past year, I brought my son and granddaughter there. They loved it.