

CURRENTS AND COMMUNITIES

An historic 740-mile water trail through New York, Vermont, Québec, New Hampshire, and Maine

WHAT'S INSIDE

NORTHERN FOREST CANOE TRAIL

MISSION: To connect people to the Trail's natural environment, human heritage, and contemporary communities by stewarding, promoting, and providing access to canoe and kayak experiences along this route.

OUR APPROACH: In the context of partnering with local communities, honoring Native American culture, and conserving the human and natural heritage of the region, we will serve travelers and benefit neighboring communities by:

- ➤ Encouraging canoe/kayak travel and recreation
- ➤ Stimulating economic development by attracting a wide range of visitors to the region's communities
- Improving local access to regional waterways — rivers, streams and lakes
- ➤ Enabling travelers to experience the Northern Forest's full range of diverse landscapes, from working cities to towns to farms, forests and mountains
- Supporting community-based services and local arts, education and environmental programs that educate and inspire residents and visitors alike
- ➤ Enhancing quality of life by creating opportunities for people to reconnect with place





Governors and Congress Support Our Work

As NFCT rounds the bend into our second decade, we have our sights set on an exciting horizon. The power of our Trail carries us forward, and we are buoyed by extraordinary, fresh support from key partners:

(1) This summer, NFCT was selected as a multi-state demonstration project by the New England Governors' Conference. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Land Conservation 2010

Report to the Governors outlines five integrated initiatives for the region. The report's "Connect People to the Outdoors Initiative" selected NFCT to advance multistate goals of active recreation, community development, and outdoor stewardship.





Rangeley, Maine's NFCT kiosk provides educational information for these Northern Forest Explorers.

(2) We are similarly honored to have secured a multi-state federal appropriation through the Department of Justice to expand the Northern Forest Explorers Program. In summer 2011, we will run a 12-week program taking youth, aged 10-14,

on paddling trips in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. In 2012, the program will run for 15 weeks.

(3) Adding further to our momentum, this fall NFCT was awarded economic development funding through the newly created multi-state Northern Border Regional Commission. Funds will be used to construct all remaining kiosks along our route, install 28 register boxes, complete GIS mapping of the Trail, and enhance our popular online Trip Planner. The Trip Planner has proven to be a successful

economic development tool for small businesses across the rural northeast.

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We thank the senators and representatives of the Northern Forest region states for their key support, and to Governors John Baldacci (ME), Jim Douglas (VT), John Lynch (NH), and David Paterson (NY) for sharing our vision and supporting our potential.

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From the Executive Director



Dear Members, Supporters and Friends,



Kate and her husband Rob on the Trail.

I could begin this missive by saying "the party is over." That wouldn't be untrue. As our 10th anniversary year draws to a close, the remarkable celebrations of this milestone are glowing memories, generating warmth and energy that could certainly power a small country for the next decade. Read on and visit our website for details and images that will give you a sense of the wonderful events and accomplishments that have marked our 10th year.

But I tend to keep my eyes on the path ahead, so what I really want to say is that "the next adventure is just beginning!" As we move into our second decade, we have an incredible wealth of relationships, accomplishments, and experiences to draw on, and a clear vision illu-

minating our route forward. We have three outstanding programs—Waterway Stewardship, Community Economic Development, and Connecting People and Place—that we are eager to fully deliver, and we have important work to do in crafting the organizational structure that will best support us for the long term.

I look forward to sharing this next adventure with you. On par with the clear waters of the Trail itself, our members, partners, and friends (YOU!) are NFCT's greatest asset. Thank you for journeying with us and for always making us better at what we do.

Warmly,

Kale

Kate Williams, Executive Director

Welcome to NFCT!

NFCT Hires Youth Program Director

Roger Poor joins us to lead our rural youth programming, and we couldn't be luckier. Roger



comes to us with an incredible tenure in the outdoor recreation industry. With a keen interest in snow and water sports, he climbed the ranks at Eastern Mountain Sports where he helped create and manage their outdoor exploration schools. Prior to that he worked for outerwear and camping manufacturers, and at L.L. Bean he created their first canoe. His proven success in outdoor recreation development and marketing provide him with a respected reputation. Roger currently lives in Mont Vernon, New Hampshire, and serves on the board of directors of the Trade Association of Paddlesports. Welcome, Roger, to the NFCT family!

Welcome to New Board Members

Warren Cook (Kingfield, ME) joins us with a strong passion for western Maine in particular and the



Northern Forest in general, and also for building the capacity of organizations that support these areas. He has experience in the ski industry, and various management roles in for-profit and not-for-profit arenas.



Kristina Pisanelli (Washington, DC) is an attorney specializing on a broad range of public policy issues. She is a former Legislative Assistant for U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and Policy

Analyst for Governor Howard Dean. She is originally from Vermont, and joins us with a commitment to sharing her considerable skills with our organization.

Thank You 2009 Donors

We offer tremendous thanks to our donors who gave generously in support of our mission, our programs, and our day-to-day operations. We are fortunate and grateful for your support!

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Tranquillity Lodge

White Wolf Inn

Vermont Recreation Trails Program

Making It All Happen

A Tribute to Rivers & **Trails Conservation Assistance**

When I joined NFCT in 2004, my job came with the best mentors: Steve Golden, Julie Isbill, Lisa Lyons, Lelia Mellen, and Jennifer Waite, all staff members with the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program.

NFCT's early years were shaped by the challenge of our multi-state geography. RTCA staff were able to represent NFCT in our shared region. They provided immeasurable value in helping us to build a community model for

creating our Trail by introducing us to local volunteers, and guiding us in articulating our

Trail's relationship to communities.

Steve, Julie, Lisa, Lelia, and Jennifer made a difference, and not just because they were geographically useful but because they were—and are—really good at what they do.

As NFCT steps into a new decade, we stand on the foundation this team was instrumental in building, and we celebrate these five amazing individuals and the RTCA program that loaned them to us. — Kate Williams

Rangeley Logging Museum's Ron Haines

This summer our trail crew opened a corridor between Maine's Haley Pond and the Rangeley Lakes Region Logging Museum. One of the first people on the scene was Ron Haines. Ron currently serves as the museum's president, and he



Ron Haines is a jack-of-all-trades at the logging

went above and beyond to accommodate us. This guy has more energy than a red squirrel nibbling on a pound of chocolate-covered espresso beans!

Thanks to Ron's enthusiasm and humorous wit, we established the portage trail in record time. NFCT looks forward to future projects with Ron and the museum.

— Walter Opuszynski

Work Projects Along the Trail

ur Stewardship Program thanks many for making 2010 our most productive season yet. Member donations, volunteer support, and gifts in-kind enabled us to make trail improvements that will last for decades.

NEW YORK

- ➤ **Eighth Lake Take-out:** In partnership with the Adirondack Watershed Alliance and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), we built a 40-foot stone and earth retainer wall with erosion control ditches.
- ➤ Buttermilk Falls and Deerland Carries: Working with the NYSDEC, we built a unique 6-step stone staircase, rerouted the carry, removed a log ladder, and installed a 20-foot bog bridge.
- ➤ Franklin Falls: Two seasons in the making, a 42-step stone staircase is complete.
- ➤ Adopt-A-Segment: All trail segments in New York have volunteer trail maintainers, and Raquette River Outfitters is our first HUB.

VERMONT/QUÉBEC

- ➤ **Highgate Falls Portage:** Volunteers and interns installed a 12-foot log ladder, a new privy, and a register box.
- ➤ **Masonville:** A Canadian kiosk is in the planning stages.



Crosscut saw in action, Deerland Carry, New York.



NFCT interns have a pretty sweet commute.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

➤ Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge: Worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to mitigate erosion at several access points and campsites.

MAINE

- ➤ Gull Pond Stream Portage: Cleared ¼ mile of trail corridor, connecting Haley Pond to the Rangeley Lakes Region Logging Museum (shortens the Dallas Carry).
- ➤ **Spencer Rips:** Volunteers and interns installed two 12-foot log ladders, a 7-step stone staircase, and two retainer walls.



New ladder at Spencer Rips, Maine.



Thank you Waterway Work Trip participants!



New staircase at Franklin Falls, New York.

Special thanks to these supporters of our 2010 stewardship season!

Cache Lake Camping Food
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L.L. Bean • Malone Auto Racks
NRS • Old Town Canoes & Kayaks







10th Anniversary Celebration

Paddlers Rendezvous Celebrates Trail

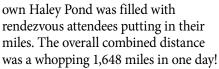
We commemorated NFCT's 10th anniversary by having a party! On July 24-25, we were in Rangeley, Maine, sharing the weekend with the Rangeley Lakes Region Logging Museum's 30th anniversary celebration. On Saturday, event-goers were treated to Trail-related exhibitors and seminars, canoe and kayak demos, and a lovely dinner at Saddleback Maine with a silent auction. music, and accolades for NFCT.

Our trail crew spent the day at the logging museum demonstrating bog bridge building, and participating in the woodsmen's competition. They even built a float and won "Most Creative" in the logging festival parade!

On the same day, NFCT's trail-wide 740-mile challenge took place. We encouraged paddlers to canoe or kayak anywhere on the Trail, and report their distances to us by day's end. Rangeley's

> Maine canoe as a vouth.





On Sunday, participants enjoyed guided paddles, workshops, and the spectacular scenery.

We had a blast spending time with our members, NFCT paddlers, and new friends, and basking in the terrific enthusiasm for our Trail.

Thank You to our 10th **Anniversary Event Sponsors!**

American Canoe Association Bartlett Maine Estate Winery The Chewonki Foundation **Ecopelagicon Nature Store** Kennebec River Brewery L.L. Bean

Maine Tourism Association

Nancy Marshall Communications Rangeley Lakes Chamber of Commerce Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust Rangeley Lakes Region **Logging Museum** Saddleback Maine



Contributing to the 740-mile challenge.



Through paddlers and interns in the logging festival parade.



Through paddler Gil Whitney (white T-shirt) receives a new kayak.

Kayak Donations Offer Surprises

As part of our Rangeley event, Old Town Canoes & Kayaks donated two kayaks. One was for a fundraising raffle, and the other was specially presented in the morning to NFCT through paddler Gil Whitney. Gil's own boat burned in a fire in 2009 shortly after he became the first person to solo kayak the Trail end-to-end.

Later that evening at the raffle ticket drawing, the winner was...Gil! His wife Kathy had bought a single ticket as a ruse prior to the earlier kayak presentation. Gil gave one kayak to his grandson who first inspired grandpa to through paddle the NFCT. Thanks, Old Town, for making this new duo possible.



More than 120 members and friends enjoy the dinner at Saddleback.



Exhibitor Butch Phillips, tribal elder of the Penobscot Indian Nation, shares his knowledge.

Trail Connections

Growing Stronger with Community

Ten years ago, NFCT's on-the-trail efforts involved a handful of volunteers. Today our Stewardship Program tackles major trail projects and provides advice to other organizations. A fundamental thread continues to be volunteer and donor support.

This year, Trail Fund donations and grant funding enabled us to expand our field crew and host five Waterway Work Trips. The 2010 field season was also marked by a humbling sense of community. Volunteers, interns, project hosts... everyone was a piece to the puzzle.

They say it is the little things that matter. We agree. Walking arm in arm with the big accomplishments for this field season (see page 4) are all of the small gems. Tim Hille of Stowe, Massachusetts changed his vacation plans to share his backcountry chef skills (oh, the wonders of quinoa) as part of our intern training. Alan and Susan Bennett hosted a BBQ because our team was working nearby in the Adirondacks. Interns sampled 6 miles in a war canoe with Brian and Grace McDonnell of Mac's Canoe Livery.

Wherever we worked along the Trail, there were friendly faces excited about what we were doing. We are very fortunate to be a part of this unique community stretching from Old Forge, New York to Fort Kent, Maine. We thank you all!

NFCT Maps Revised

Two newly updated NFCT maps are available: Québec/Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, Lake Memphremagog to Connecticut River (Map 6) and New Hampshire's Great North Woods, Connecticut River to Umbagog Lake (Map 7).

Revisions include locations for portages, dams, and new campsites.

Purchase maps from NFCT's website or your local retailer.





We're grateful for these Farm & Wilderness campers who happily did NFCT trail work along the Androscoggin River in New Hampshire last summer.

Kate Williams basking in the glow of eleven NFCT through paddlers who attended the Paddlers Rendezvous.

Surveys Strengthen Our Programs

Last spring, we received valuable feedback from three Trail audiences: business partners, members and trail users, and section and through paddlers.

The first two surveys were administered by The Carsey Institute. The Business Partner survey had 47 respondents (48% business, 35% non-profit, and 15% government agency) who gave NFCT high marks for our staff communications, website, and overall work. One respondent wrote, "...it is important for us to be able to say that we are a stop on the NFCT."

The Trail User survey had 219 respondents who rated NFCT high for its paddling resources and its work to draw visitors to the region. When

planning a trip within the previous 12 months, 31% had referred to our online trip itineraries, and used an average of 3 itineraries.

The third survey was completed by our section and through paddlers who provided details about trail conditions and suggestions for NFCT map revisions. Responses resulted in creating a committee to oversee section and through paddling guidelines.

Thanks to survey data, next steps include exploring a "chapter" structure to build up local volunteer involvement, provide more trip itineraries, create an online message board, and continue to connect NFCT travelers with small businesses along the Trail. Thank you to all who participated!

Did You Know

You Can Give... gifts-in-kind, matching gifts, bequests, annuities, and gifts of stock all to support NFCT's mission?

Contact Kate at 802.496.2285

Membership	Matters!
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Hot on the Trail!

NFCT Paddlers of 2010

Legends were created on the NFCT this year.

For Catherine and Ryan Thompson, paddling end-to-end was only part of their goal. Last spring they paddled the Trail in a record 25 days. Then they hiked 100 miles to Baxter State Park to begin their 2,175-mile through hike of the Appalachian Trail, which they finished in September.

Mid-summer, Pat Maloney and Shawn McCarty through paddled at a more relaxed pace and get kudos for volunteering multiple times during their trip. In July, they stashed their canoe in



Through paddlers Pat and Shawn compete in the Rangeley Lakes Region Logging Museum festival.

NFCT Section and Through Paddlers:

We have something for you! Download a Paddler Recognition Application from our website and send completed to NFCT. We will return to you a certificate and add your name to the NFCT List.

Highgate, Vermont and hitched a ride to Rangeley, Maine for NFCT's anniversary event. There they helped our stewardship crew clear a new portage. Back on the Trail, Shawn and Pat lunched with the crew in New Hampshire, and again in Maine where they put in a full day moving heavy rock at Spencer Rips.

Cathy Mumford celebrated her 50th birthday while paddling her end-toend, and became the first female to solo through paddle the Trail in a kayak. Her SPOT satellite transponder allowed friends to keep track of her in real time while on the Trail.

The Hille Family (and guests) section paddled Jackman to Rockwood in



Mumford at the end of her solo through kayak in Fort Kent, Maine.

Maine. Tim Hille writes, "We paddled all kinds of waters - quiet wandering rivers, weedy marshes, windy lakes with whitecaps and swells as much as a foot high, and of course the rapids... 3 years running, and we have not found a bad section of the NFCT."

Congratulations to all of this year's section and through paddlers who keep alive the grand adventure of a long distance journey.



Section paddler Tim Hille (blue T-shirt) with family and friends on their 2010 trip.

Thanks to Our Business Members & Corporate Supporters

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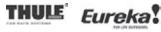






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Donations can be made online or by mail. give in honor of our 10th Anniversary. Your support makes it happen. This year, paddlers, communities, and the region. 740-mile recreational resource serving The Northern Forest Canoe Trail is a

gift today— thank you! Μακε your end-of-year

NFCT's 6th Annual Online Auction

moitousliddingForGood.com/thecanoetrailauction

All proceeds benefit NFCT mission programs. Item donations welcome. Bidding highly encouraged! shoppers. Visit online to see boats, gear, clothes, and more. Our auction is this season's go-to event for paddlers and holiday

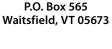
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QUESTIONS? Kate@NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org

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