



CURRENTS AND COMMUNITIES



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

WHAT'S INSIDE

From the Executive Director	2
Making It All Happen	3
State-by-State Stewardship News	4
Hot On The Trail	5
Trail Connections	6
Supporter News	7
Happening Soon	8

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



It just doesn't get much cooler than spending time with pals on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.
Location: Long Lake, New York.

Cherish Every Fresh Air Breath

Last summer, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail connected 130 trailside youth to life-changing outdoor experiences as part of our Northern Forest Explorers Program.

Thanks to funding from the United States Department of Justice, we were able to extend this program to all interested, regardless of their capacity to pay.

Participants age 10–14 spent a week paddling and camping on the NFCT route in their local area. Six local guide services led twelve trips, each accompanied by an NFCT intern.

Youth learned outdoor skills, leadership basics, and environmental and ecological relationships. Goals were to connect participants with the natural environment, inspire them to have pride in their backyard waterways, and encourage them to become leaders within their communities.

Participants took away new and well-earned awareness. One youth wrote of what he learned: *"The ability to appreciate my surroundings...my woods, my camp, the river, the stream. Make sure to cherish every fresh air breath, and every fresh water gulp you have...never lose the ability to have fun in Nature and want to spend more time in it."*

Parent and guide assessments pointed to high levels of skill development in all areas of the curriculum, and to the cultivation of positive relationships between participants and the natural world. One parent wrote, *"She talks nonstop about the adventure of being outside all week, being on the water, strengthening her canoeing skills and making new friends."*

continued on page 3

An America's Best Trail

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail was named "Best Canoe Trail" in the July 2011 issue of Outside Magazine. Nationally there are dozens of water trails, but among these NFCT is the longest inland trail. Thank you for providing us with the feedback that has gotten us to where we are today!



How many kids can say they paddled under a hotel?
Location: Clyde River, Vermont.

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From the Executive Director



Dear Members, Supporters and Friends,



"Remember that you love this." As part of the curriculum of our Northern Forest Explorers Program, we ask the 10–14 year old Explorers to write themselves what we call the *Six Month Letter* at the end of their week-long trip. We collect these notes-to-self and then mail them back to participants the following January.

In perusing their letters, we are struck by their emphasis on remembering. They understand that incredible experiences can be fragile. It is our best hope that we can leverage the Northern Forest Canoe Trail to help these brave youngsters (and the rest of us) to stay connected with what matters most.

Places — literally touchstones — provide the source for potent memories. And relationships that radiate out from these special places give these memories staying power in our lives. It takes old-fashioned work to tie all of this together, and from installing a kiosk, to linking a paddler to services along our route, to getting rural youth out on the water, we work to bind the innumerable special places along the Trail with concentric circles of people who love and care for these places, and thus for each other and for the wider world.

Times are tough in the rural Northern Forest. When Tropical Storm Irene came to town, we were reminded yet again that unpredictable forces — from weather to economics — will always challenge our endurance. But we are resilient, and time spent enjoying and caring for recreational resources like the Northern Forest Canoe Trail reminds us to hope, to envision, and to paddle together toward a vibrant future.

Read on. We had a remarkable summer that generated energy enough to carry us through the winter and beyond. Thank you for your engagement, encouragement, and support. Onward!

Warmly,

Kate

Kate Williams, Executive Director

Enormous Thanks to Our 2011 Funders

Davis Conservation Fund

Horizon Foundation

Howard P. Colhoun Family Fund

Lake Champlain Basin Program

Maine Association of Nonprofits

Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands

Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund

Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund of the
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

Northern Border Regional Commission

Sudbury Foundation

Quimby Family Foundation

USDA Rural Business Enterprise
Grant Program — NH & VT

U.S. Department of Justice

Vermont Recreation Trails Program

Whipporwill Partners Fund



Cherish Every Fresh Air Breath... *continued*

All of the above have created memories for my daughter that will stay with her for life."

Next steps include continuing to engage participants in alumni activities and creating a sense of rural youth community and pride Trail-wide.

Special thanks to Adventure Bound, Great Glen Outfitters, Mac's Canoe Livery, Montgomery Adventures, Northwoods Stewardship Center, Siskin Ecological Adventures, and the University of Vermont Watershed Alliance for supporting us to deliver a phenomenal program.

Thanks also to local organizers and their participating communities including Long Lake, Old Forge, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake in New York;

Charleston/Newport and Enosburg/Montgomery in Vermont; Berlin/Errol, Colebrook/Stratford, and Groveton in New Hampshire; and Eustis/Stratton, Greenville/Rockwood, and Jackman in Maine.



Paddling and navigation skills provide local youth on the Connecticut River with self-reliance and smiles.



Spray skirts and helmets become the new fashion for guys and gals on the Androscoggin River this summer.

Making It All Happen

Co-Founder Rob Center: On Board!

For more than a decade, Rob Center has worn many hats at the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. This year, he stepped out of his role as Special Projects Consultant, and now focuses his energy on NFCT's Board of Directors.



As a consultant, Rob nurtured key partnerships with paddlesport industry businesses, travel and tourism partners, and regional media outlets. He attended numerous paddlesport shows each year tirelessly promoting the Trail, and obtained significant product donations for stewardship projects and our annual auction. Rob outdid himself coordinating our tenth anniversary in 2010 including a magnificent celebratory weekend in Maine.

Whether meeting one-on-one with a local guide, making an NFCT presentation and taking questions from the audience, or leading corporate executives on a paddle trip, Rob makes everyone feel empowered to embrace the Trail. The collaborations and friendships he continues to forge provide a legacy of connections for NFCT. Thanks Rob!

Trail Angels Soar Trail-wide

We had a successful field season this year in large part due to the volunteer efforts of state groups and individuals, and we thank them all.

During intern training, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's **Julie Foley, Rebecca Pfeiffer, and Leslie Matthews** shared their expertise on wetlands, floodplains, and aquatic invasive species. Vermont Canoe's **Rob Scharges** taught fast water paddling techniques, and Aquatic Ecology graduate student **Russ Ford** talked about phosphorus levels in the Missisquoi River. To our great surprise, member **Tim Hille** delivered a modified canoe trailer that he built with his sons and donated to our Stewardship Program!



Volunteer professionals share their knowledge with NFCT's intern program.



Waterway Work Trip participants spend a weekend on the Trail.

During the summer, **Zach Brock** designed our custom sign-in boxes, while **Rockne Locey** and **Bruce and Mary Sloat** offered space in their workshops for our interns to construct the boxes. Chamberlain Lake Park Rangers **Rick Palmer** and **Chris Silsbee** treated our Allagash interns like family.

Thanks to all **Waterway Work Trip volunteers** and to **Trail Segment Adopters** for giving their time, energy, and TLC to the Trail.



NFCT's Trail Segment Adopter Program welcomes its newest HUB, a place to store tools and canoes for volunteers to use.



State-by-State Stewardship News



Our Stewardship Program had a productive season thanks to our membership, the NFCT Trail Fund, the Davis Conservation Fund, the Northern Border Regional Commission, and our ever supportive paddling community. Thank you!

NEW YORK

- **LaDuke Property:** Thanks to this private landowner's generosity, we installed a privy and began constructing a lean-to, which adds a strategic campsite for this part of the Trail.
- **Deerland Carry:** Thanks to interns and volunteers, we constructed and installed 24 feet of bog bridging and an 11-step stone staircase.



Field Coordinator Noah Pollock pauses after the 100th bog bridge is installed at Holeb Carry!

VERMONT/QUÉBEC

- **East Berkshire:** NFCT's Roving Trail Crew installed a 12-step stone staircase and removed a large patch of Japanese Knotweed.
- **Richford:** With intern and volunteer support, we established a 150-foot stone causeway, and constructed a new campsite with a privy and picnic table. We also installed an interpretive kiosk.



NFCT interns perform much of the trail work accomplished each field season.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- **West Milan:** We constructed and installed two log ladders, a sign-in box, and a kiosk, and removed 35 tires from the Upper Ammonoosuc River.
- **Lake Umbagog:** Volunteers and interns cleared a trail corridor, installed wood chips on 500 feet of access trail, and rehabbed a site where three old cabins had been removed.

MAINE

- **Rangeley:** Finishing up work begun last summer, our Roving Trail Crew worked on the Gull Pond Stream Trail. We added blazes, improved the access sites, and constructed and installed 11 bog bridges.
- **Holeb Carry:** In partnership with the Maine Bureau of Public Lands and the Maine National Guard, materials were brought in by helicopter for the construction and installation of more than 100 bog bridges.
- **Allagash Wilderness Waterway:** Our Allagash Trail Crew and Waterway Work Trip participants constructed 1,000 feet of stone causeway on the Tramway Carry, and constructed a 12-step stone staircase on Umsaskis Lake.

Field Season 2011 Supporters

Adirondack Watershed Alliance • Delorme • ESRI • Goodrich Lumber • Gord's Corner Store • Grey Gables Mansion • Hancock Lumber • Joey's Junction Bakery & Cafe • Maine Bureau of Public Lands • New York Department of Environmental Conservation • Rangeley Lakes Regional Logging Museum • The Birches Resort • Town of Richford • Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge • Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Thanks!



Allagash interns and WWT volunteers pose next to their favorite trail infrastructure at the Lock Dam Ranger Cabin.



View the "NFCT Gull Pond Stream Waterway Work Trip" video on YouTube.

NFCT Sign-in Boxes Connect the Dots

Paddlers will find new register boxes in strategic locations along the Trail. Please take the time to sign in. Data will help us record usage, manage the route, and obtain grant funding. Signing in can also provide critical information if there is a need to find paddlers during a search and rescue.

Our GIS interns made each one unique. See if you can notice the differences as you work your way across the Trail!



Hot On The Trail

2011 Through Paddlers

Through Paddler reports are each unique, but have the common themes of challenges overcome, friendly people that lend a helping hand or meal, and details of communing with nature.



Sherry and Arden Olsen of Cumming, Georgia updated a blog during their through paddle last spring.

The season started when Team Black Cat paddled the NFCT on spring melt in 22 days. (They went on to paddle the St. John River and hike the Appalachian Trail north to south.) The Rough Water Gypsies followed, and their blog was so well read that it was the top referral site to NFCT's home page for the month of June. Team Moxie amused us on Facebook with their adventures as their 4 lb Yorkshire terrier become the first dog to complete the Trail. Wisconsin-based Katina Daanen followed in their wake, and Mike Lynch, reporter for the Adirondack Express, filmed his through paddle with plans of unveiling a documentary as part of NFCT's film festival next year.

We greatly value feedback we get from Through Paddlers. They often



Through paddler Mike Lynch passes a rusty relic from the logging era on the Tramway Carry.



have precious insight about the Trail and work to be done. If you are a Through or Section Paddler, keep the feedback coming and send in your recognition application that can be found on our website at www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org.

Summer Interns, We Salute you

Eleven interns dedicated their summer to the Northern Forest Canoe Trail this year. We are grateful for their energy and hard work.

Led by returning Field Coordinator Noah Pollock, our roving crew — Anna Cady, James Blakely, and James Naughton — built bridges and ladders, rehabilitated campsites and portage paths, and led volunteers in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Doing similar work, Nicole Grohoski and Peter Gerard were posted on Maine's Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

GIS interns Brendan Jackson and Max Reis visited and verified all priority campsites, access points, and major infrastructure across the Trail. They also constructed and installed sign-in boxes.

Office intern Kate Desrochers developed interactive maps for use in the Stewardship Program, developed an online forum for paddlers and trail maintainers, and assisted with office duties.

Youth Program interns Eli Powell and Allison Waring took Northern Forest Explorers on overnight adventures,



Our 2011 intern crew stands with section paddler Tim Hille (third from right) with his donation of a boat trailer.



The Rough Water Gypsies put their St. Lawrence University Outing Club skills to the test during their through paddle last summer.

teaching outdoor skills to a future generation of interns.

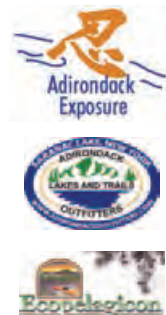
We give a big thanks to all our interns, and wish them good luck in their endeavors.

740 Miles in One Day

The 2nd Annual 740 Miles in One Day event was held last July 30 with more than 170 paddlers in four states paddling 1,100 miles. We are excited to report that paddler participation tripled from the previous year!

Business support for the event was tremendous, with Adirondack Exposure, Adirondack Lakes and Trails Outfitters, and Ecopelagicon sponsoring the event. The weather cooperated and helped outfitters like Clyde River Recreation in West Charleston, Vermont report a busy day. Thanks to everyone who came out, supported your local outfitter or paddle shop, and reported your miles to us.

Mark your calendar! The 3rd Annual 740 Miles in One Day will be on Saturday, July 28, 2012.



Trail Connections

Report Highlights Trails' Boost

Last summer, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail released its *Trails and Economic Development Report*, detailing benefits recreational trails generate for the communities they connect.

For several years, NFCT has worked to foster economic development in the forty communities through which the trail passes. The report summarizes key lessons learned through this effort, supplemented with additional case studies to build a broader understanding of how area trail networks are creating economic benefits.

Trails create community economic benefits by:

- Serving as community amenities that act as both destinations for visitors and attractions for new residents and businesses, particularly retirees seeking regions rich in recreational opportunities.

- Encouraging local entrepreneurship by creating new opportunities for area businesses seeking to diversify their offerings.

- Fostering regional destination tourism by providing long-term strategic planning and management necessary to create broad visitor

appeal and ensure careful stewardship.

- Catalyzing collaboration across rural and widely dispersed populations, increasing a region's ability to work collectively to develop and market a region's tourism assets.

- Generating new visitor spending that benefits local economies, helping stabilize economic conditions in communities previously reliant on single industries.



Top notch recreational infrastructure makes even an uphill climb a pleasant experience (you just can't see the smiles in this photo).

- Building community sense of pride and well-being by providing opportunities for residents to enjoy and preserve their local natural resources.

The report includes detailed analysis, case studies, and supporting graphs and visuals. View the report on our website at www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org (About NFCT>Media Room>Research).

Tying it All Together

This summer, we worked on two trail projects that highlight the way NFCT ties communities together and helps spur rural economic growth.

In West Milan, New Hampshire, we focused on the eastern part of the Upper Ammonoosuc River. We wanted to find a better access point to replace one that had a steep river bank and limited parking.

In stepped Gord's Corner Store, that rents canoes for trips on the Upper Ammonoosuc. (Gord and Janet Roberge also offer a shuttle service.) We designed a project that would not only create a safer and more adequate parking area at the store (NFCT members, \$5 per day) but would provide a sustainable and low impact, river access. Our Roving Intern



Northern New Hampshire mom-and-pop store becomes segment adopter, business partner, and ideal boat launch.

Crew installed an NFCT-designed ladder that allows the apparatus to float in place during high water.

In northern Vermont, we put the finishing touches on work started last year in Richford, partially funded by the Vermont Recreation Trails Program. In 2010, the NorthWoods Stewardship Center installed a 14-step stone staircase at Davis Park. This summer, in concert with the Town of Richford, we completed trail work, and installed a campsite and kiosk, which are also across the street from the Grey Gables Mansion Bed and Breakfast.

Just downstream in East Berkshire, we installed an 11-step stone staircase at Dick and Pam's Market. The work connects the two towns by river access, giving paddlers overnight options and a great place to restock supplies within a day's paddle. In addition, this stretch parallels the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail offering an opportunity for a fun paddle-and-pedal experience.

Both state projects exemplify the rich collaboration that takes place when communities become involved in trail stewardship. Thank you to the towns, businesses, and individual volunteers who made these new access locations possible.

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!

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE: JOIN RENEW GIFT

☐ \$500 Champion ☐ \$250 Sponsor ☐ \$100 Benefactor ☐ \$75 Patron ☐ \$50 Household ☐ \$35 Member

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **Northern Forest Canoe Trail**

Donations are tax deductible.

THIS MEMBERSHIP IS A GIFT FOR:

NAME _____

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A new stone staircase installed in East Berkshire, Vermont provides town access to the Missisquoi River.



Supporter News

REI Supports Trail Volunteers

NFCT was awarded a \$10,000 grant from REI, one of the nation's largest retailers of outdoor products. REI grants support outdoor recreation access and stewardship. NFCT will use funds to establish thirteen Trail hubs where volunteer trail maintainers can access equipment, tools and canoes to perform stewardship work.



All Terrain Gets Your Vote

Thanks to 37,567 online votes, we won a \$1,000 grant from All Terrain Inc., a Sunapee, New Hampshire-based manufacturer of natural personal care products that help people live healthier more active lives. Their "All Terrain Cares" campaign awards grants to programs that get youth active. Thanks to everyone who voted for Northern Forest Explorers!



New Business Partner Program Launched

NFCT's business supporters have helped make the Northern Forest a world-class recreational destination. As we continue to leverage the 740-mile water route as a means for economic gain in Trailside communities, we understand that the partnership we have with businesses is critical if we are to succeed.

We now offer an enhanced Business Partner Program as part of our effort to meet the needs of both our business supporters and the recreating public. Whether it is our state-of-the-art online Trip Planning Tool or our itineraries and vacation packages, we seek to provide resources to visitors so they can connect with those businesses that meet their needs. By actively managing these tools we create tremendous opportunities for real economic and community benefits for all.

Coming in 2012, an NFCT travel app will provide yet another means for informing visitors to the region's

NFCT Partner Exposure	Business Partner Benefits				
	\$10 to \$99 Trail Supporters	\$100 to \$249 Trail Advocate	\$250 to \$499 Class III	\$500 to \$999 Class IV	\$1,000+ Class V
Business Partner Listing*	Name, Contact Information, URL, Plus logo/photo	Name, Contact Information, URL, Plus logo/photo	Name, Contact Information, URL, Plus logo/photo	Name, Contact Information, URL, Plus logo/photo	Name, Contact Information, URL, Plus logo/photo
Trip Planner Listing - "Services Along the Trail" & Map Link*	Name, Contact Information	Name, Contact Information, URL, Plus logo/photo	Plus description	Plus description	Plus description
Complimentary NFCT Map	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Facebook/Twitter/Media Post*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
e-Bulletin Business Partner Listing*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Newletter Listing (2/yr)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recognition in Annual Report	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trip Planner Banner Listing*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
e-Bulletin Feature*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Two complimentary individual memberships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Use of NFCT Logo (subject to approval)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Listing on NFCT's Travel Display	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complimentary copy of the official NFCT guidebook	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Business Profile Press Release	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Newletter Profile	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Two complimentary "Waterway Week Trip" (WWT) opportunities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

services. If you would like your business to be included, learn about our Business Partner benefits by contacting Director of Partnerships and Marketing Kevin Mack at Kevin@NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org.

Thanks to Our Business Members & Corporate Supporters

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Class V: \$1,000+

L.L.Bean

Class IV: \$500-\$999

Outdoor Sports Center

Class III: \$250-\$499



Member: \$100-\$249

150 Main Street Lodging on the Androscoggin
Adirondack Lakes & Trails Outfitters
Adirondack Motel
Allagash Guide Service
Bartlett Maine Estate Winery
Clyde River Recreation
Collinsville Canoe & Kayak

Ecopelagicon Nature Store
Frisky Otter Tours
Kittery Trading Post
L.L. Cote
Mac's Canoe Livery
Maine Path & Paddle Guides
Northern Door Inn
Northern Outdoors
Northern Waters Outfitters
Rangeley Region Lake Cruises

Raquette River Outfitters
Skywoods Canoe Company
St. Michael's College Wilderness Program
St. Regis Canoe Outfitters
The Boat House
The Jersey Paddler
The Last Resort
The Wildflower Inn
Tranquillity Lodge
White Wolf Inn

Thanks to all businesses who have made contributions beyond regular NFCT Business Member dues!

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

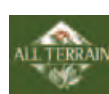
Champion: \$10,000+



Patron: \$2,500-\$4,999



Supporter: \$1,000-\$2,499



Member: \$500-\$999



Member: \$250-\$499



Gifts for your paddler

Trip mementos and motivators at
www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org



www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org



Donor Challenge 2011
We were named "America's Best Canoe Trail" by Outside Magazine. Your support made it happen!
Today, we ask your help to meet a challenge. An NFCT supporter will donate \$25,000 if we are able to raise \$50,000. We are more than halfway there — make your contribution today to help us reach our goal!
Donations can be made by phone, mail, or online.

7th Annual Online Auction

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail's

www.BiddingForGood.com/thecanoeauction

Our annual auction is a season favorite! Go online to bid on boats, paddle gear, kayak lessons, and more. Item donations always welcome. Proceeds benefit NFCT programs.

November 2 – December 1, 2011



Happening Soon...