

CURRENTS AND COMMUNITIES

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

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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

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

experiences along this route.

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



Membership Makes a Difference

he Northern Forest Canoe Trail is a member-based nonprofit. The beating heart of our organization is the group of individuals who choose to make an annual donation of member dues in order to support our mission. Not all non-profits are membership organizations. NFCT chose this structure from the outset because we believe that:

- Members keep us sharp. Our obligation is to articulate clearly what we value, by responding to member requests and interests and by growing and evolving so that we stay current and relevant.
- Members expand our reach. We are a small organization with a big vision. Members help share the story of NFCT's geography, mission, and programs.
- Members provide core support. Dues provide critical unrestricted operating support for our organization. NFCT provides a public benefit that is not tied to a specific fee for service structure; member donations play the crucial role of stepping in to support the public service we make available to all.
- Members convey our significance. When NFCT applies for grants or advocates for support, our total member number is an indicator to funders and supporters of the size of our constituent base. This can play an important role in our ability to secure funds or find a seat at the table on issues that matter to us.

NFCT is currently focused on increasing membership. We believe in the value that our water trail and programs represent for our region and nation.

You can help. We currently have 925 dues-



Northern Forest Explorers are each given a complimentary membership to encourage a life-long relationship with the Trail.

Member Survey

"Total adventure that has to be experienced!"
Who are NFCT members and what are they saying about us? Read the results of our online member survey inside.



How do you describe the NFCT to friends?

paying members and our goal for 2012 is 1000 members. See inside how you can join a friend and we'll provide them with a free gift.

We have great business partners, too. They provide discounts to our members, and are often key contacts for paddlers along our route. They are truly partners in making NFCT user-friendly and full of unique character.

We have some exciting opportunities for members this year. We thank our fans whose dues help ensure that public access to paddling is available now and for future generations.

Free Trip to Patagonia

In 2012, all dues paying members will automatically be entered into a raffle for a walking tour with VBT Bicycling and Walking



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sandy Tarburton, Membership &
Communications Director

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Waitsfield, VT 05673 **Phone:** 802.496.2285 **Fax:** 802.329-2239

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From the Executive Director

Dear Members, Supporters and Friends,



The arrival of paddling season 2012 can be characterized by one word: Early. Ice out on the St. John River in Maine occurred on March 21—the earliest that any locals can remember—and in May, rivers that are normally swollen with spring snow melt were already at low summer levels. As I write, a drenching "mother rain" is charging these water courses back to seasonal levels again, but we're all curious to see what is around the bend as we head into summer.

Part of the love affair that we all share with the natural world includes this sharp attention to seasonal fluctuations and an abiding curiosity about how our special places will withstand the micro and macro factors that influence them. As you'll see in this newsletter, much of the work that NFCT is doing is centered on supporting the strong relationships between people and place that keep us all attuned and aware.

You'll also see that a primary focus this year is on increasing our membership. NFCT members are the mother rain for our organization, providing us with the steady flow of support that enables us to do our work across the Northern Forest Region. We are deeply grateful to our current members, and look forward to welcoming more of you aboard in the months ahead.

Many thanks, and hope to see you out on the water this summer.

Warmly,

Kate Williams, Executive Director

Welcome to New Board Members



Alan Bennett (West Orange, New Jersey) is a retired physician. He has competed 14 times in the Adirondack Canoe Classic

"90 Miler". He is a member of the Raquette Lake Property Owners Association, where he has gained significant experience in water quality and invasive species monitoring. Bill Hill (Essex Junction, Vermont) is the CFO of Ibex Clothing. He has worked in the financial end of the outdoor industry for 20 years where he has the opportunity to meld his passion with his vocation. In his spare time he hikes

and paddles in the Green Mountains with his wife and three children.



Ned Van Woert (Shelburne, Vermont) is a management and marketing professional with 30 years' experience in strategic development, direct marketing, and new product introductions. He currently consults for Country Home Products, and is a board member of Vermont Bicycle Tours.

Ned is an avid hiker

and paddler.

Thank You 2011 Donors

Our sincerest gratitude goes out to individual contributors who helped us reach our goal to match a \$25,000 challenge in 2011! All donations support our programs and daily work.

Thank you for supporting our mission.

Individuals

\$25,000+

Warren & Brammie Cook

\$10,000-\$24,999

Stuart A. Fraser

\$1,000-\$4,999

Ed Amidon & Louise McCarren Dr. and Mrs. Alan H. Bennett Dr. Russell J. Collett Mr. Peter & the Rev.

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Matching Gift Companies

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Corporate Donors

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150 Main Street Lodging on the Androscoggin Adirondack Lakes & Adirondack Motel

Bartlett Maine Clyde River Recreation Collinsville Canoe & Kavak 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 Regior Lake Cruises Raquette River Outfitters Skywoods Canoe Company St. Michael's College Wilderness Program St. Regis Canoe Outfitters The Boat House

Allagash Guide Service

White Wolf Inn Grants

The Jersey Paddler

The Wildflower Inn

Tranquillity Lodge

The Last Resort

Lake Champlain Basin Program Maine Association of Nonprofits Maine Community Foundation Maine Department of Conservation Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund Northern Border Regional Commission Quimby Family Foundation Sudbury Foundation **USDA Rural Business** Enterprise Grant Program —NH & VT U.S. Department of Justice

* Includes matching gifts

Making It All Happen

Chris Danemayer: NFCT Kiosk Designer

NFCT kiosks are attractive, durable, and informative thanks to exhibit design consultant Chris Danemayer. By the end of 2012, we will have outdoor displays at 24 locations all created with Chris's guidance and talent.

Chris is the principal of proun (sounds like noun and designed with a lowercase "p"), a Boston-based design



Creating NFCT signs brings together community members and Trail supporters.

firm specializing in exhibit graphics. His more than 25 years of experience enables NFCT to place high quality displays along our 740-mile route that provide information about local history, geography, flora and fauna, and the Trail.

Contacted in 2002, Chris helped develop an interpretive panel layout that would both describe a local trail corridor and blend nicely in an outdoor setting. We work with dedicated local volunteers, towns and partners for imagery and content, and Chris composes the features into visually striking signage that tell the story of an area.

In 2004, NFCT installed its first kiosks at the Trail's gateway communities in Old Forge, New York and Fort Kent, Maine. We dedicated four more kiosks to

celebrate the Trail's official opening in 2006, followed by placements each year.

In 2011, funding

from the Northern Border Regional Commission permitted us to go big, and Chris helped create 19 panels, the most ever produced in one year!

"Through this flurry of activity, Chris has continued to maintain patience in process and a deep commitment to quality that he has shown NFCT since the beginning of our 10-year relationship," says Trail Director Walter Opuszynski.

Chris's expertise and personal care make NFCT displays works-of-art and we heartily thank him.



Chris Danemayer

Work Projects Along the Trail

X

Join NFCT on the Trail!

Our Stewardship Program offers many opportunities to help maintain the Trail. For more information about trail projects, visit **Get Involved** at www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org.

Give to the NFCT Trail Fund

Your donation will go 100% to this summer's work. Give \$100 or more and receive an authentic NFCT Trail Marker!

Waterway Work Trips

Spend a weekend doing rewarding trail work. Camping is arranged near work sites and time always built-in for paddling fun. Cost: \$60 member/\$75 non-member. Register online or request a mail-in form.

- ➤ July 6-8, Raquette Falls Carry, near Saranac Lake, NY
 - Erosion control and trail corridor work.
- ➤ July 13–15, Androscoggin River, Dummer, NH
 - Clear trail corridor for portage around rapids below Pontook Dam, and replace bog bridging.

- ➤ July 20–22, Long Falls Dam Carry, Dead River Township, ME
 - Install bog bridging, stone causeway, and an NFCT sign-in box.
- ➤ August 3–5, Indian Stream Carry, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ME
 - Install bog bridging.
- ➤ August 10–12, Indian Stream Carry, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ME
 - Install bog bridging.

Adopt-A-Segment

Thanks to volunteer adopters, 26 trail segments totaling 361 miles of the NFCT are annually visited and maintained through this program. There are currently 24 segments, each 10–15 miles long, available to adopt. NFCT adopters visit their assigned segments on their own schedule and occasionally help with maintenance projects. Training, tools, canoes, and other resources can be provided.

To view available trail segments, visit our **Trail Maintainer Map** at www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org

If you are interested in becoming an Adopt-A-Segment volunteer, contact Trail Director Walter Opuszynski at (802) 496-2285 ext. 2 or Walter@ NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org.



River clean-ups promote healthy water quality as well as a rewarding day paddling. Location: Upper Ammonoosuc, NH.



NFCT leadership and tools empower volunteers to make hefty contributions. Location: Deerland Carry, NY.



Thanks to private landowners, there are campsites located within a day's paddle along much of the Trail. Location: Cemetery Watch campsite, Saranac River, NY.

State-by-State Stewardship News

NEW YORK

- Cemetery Watch campsite will get new bog bridging, an outhouse, and a roof on the lean-to.
- ➤ McCasland Bridge will have an interpretive sign installed and stone staircase built to help paddlers get around the bridge when the water is too high to allow enough clearance.
- ➤ A new kiosk will be installed in Saranac and sign-in boxes mounted in Saranac and Plattsburgh.

QUÉBEC

➤ A kiosk and sign-in box will be placed in Mansonville.

VERMONT

- ➤ Thanks to the Lake Champlain Basin Program, new aquatic invasive spread prevention signage will be installed within the Lake Champlain Basin.
- ➤ Sign-in boxes will go up in North Hero, Enosburg Falls, Swanton, and Newport.
- ➤ A kiosk will be installed in Swanton.
- ➤ An interpretive sign will be placed along the Clyde River.
- ➤ A new portage will reduce the carry between Island Pond and the Nulhegan River.
- ➤ The privy at the Samuel Benton Campsite will be relocated.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Kiosks have been installed in Stark and Colebrook.
- ➤ Sign-in boxes will be mounted in Stark, Errol, and Groveton.

MAINE

- ➤ Holeb Carry will get 40 feet of bog bridging.
- ➤ A kiosk was installed at Rockwood.
- ➤ An interpretive panel will be installed on the Long Falls Dam Carry.
- ➤ Interpretive signs will be installed at Lobster Stream and the Chamberlain Ranger Station.
- ➤ Sign-in boxes will be mounted at Lobster Stream, Long Falls Dam Carry, Rangeley, and Rockwood.





Hot On The Trail





Paddler-specific signs will be installed along the NFCT in the Lake Champlain Basin.

New Approaches Benefit Paddlers

Last winter, NFCT created resources that will help paddlers contribute to thriving watersheds and access emergency services more easily.

With funding from the

Lake Champlain Basin

Program, NFCT partnered with Landslide Natural

Resource Planning to develop aquatic invasive spread prevention signs designed for paddlers. The process included a nation-wide survey and a work group made up of paddlers, aquatic invasive experts, and land and river managers.

A big "thanks" to the work group and all who took the survey. Their feedback helped develop signs with steps paddlers can follow to prevent the spread of aquatic invasives. These are the first signs of their kind in the nation!

Thanks to a grant from REI, we are enriching our Adopt-A-Segment Program by creating an NFCT Trail Maintainer Manual and by purchasing tools for volunteers to use.

A grant from the Maine
Outdoor Heritage Fund
enabled us to create an
Emergency Preparedness
Plan for the Maine portion of the NFCT
— a model that we hope to roll out in each
Trail state. The plan includes detailed
geographical information and will aid
emergency personnel and law enforcement in responding to emergencies that
may occur along the 347 miles in Maine.

All of these resources were created thanks to collaborative work between individual volunteers, committees, and NFCT partners, and position NFCT as an emerging leader in these areas.

Top 12 in 2012

With 740 miles of paddling, and a wealth of places and experiences, it's hard to narrow down a "best of" list for the Trail. So, we asked our fans to tell us what the quintessential Northern Forest Canoe Trail experiences are and they responded with an impressive list. Consider these "bests" as you plan your summer and visit our many community partners.

Best Bed & Shower: Northern Door Inn in Fort Kent, ME—eastern terminus of the Trail, and finish line for NFCT through paddlers. MAP 13

Best Birding Experience: Paddling with a Belted Kingfisher along the Clyde River, VT. MAP 6

Best Campsite: Watch the sun go down and otters frolic at Doe Campsite on the Missisquoi River, VT. MAP 4

Best Day Trip: Upper Ammonoosuc River, from West Milan to the covered bridge at Stark, NH. MAP 7

Best Family Vacation: Paddle Flagstaff Lake and enjoy meals and lodging at the Maine Huts and Trails' Flagstaff Hut, ME, MAP 9

Best Lunch: A tie between the Gingerbread House Restaurant and the Oquossoc Grocery on the Carry Road, ME. MAP 8

Best Pizza: By the slice—Little Italy in Saranac Lake, NY. MAP 2

Best Portage (no, really): Between Eighth Lake and Brown's Tract Inlet and Raquette Lake, NY. MAP 1

Best Sandwiches: Joey's Junction Bakery & Cafe above the Missisquoi River in Highgate Center, VT. MAP 4

Best Skinny Dipping: We don't promote public nudity on any of the Saranac Lakes, NY. MAP 2

Best Weekend Trip: Stellar river paddling and campsites—Connecticut River, NH. MAP 7

Best Wildlife Viewing: Bear, moose, otter and more along the Allagash River, ME. MAPS 12 & 13



NFCT interns agree that the Joey's Junction maple custard is simply divine.



Win a Trip to Patagonia

Renewing and new members who pay their 2012 dues will be entered into a drawing to win a FREE trip to Patagonia courtesy of VBT, a world leader in active vacations. This is a walking tour of Patagonia with a \$4,000 value.

The trip for one to Patagonia includes:

- Roundtrip international airfare from New York City
- 7 nights in fine hotels and inns

- 13 meals—7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners
- Transfers, full vehicle support, and the service of two bilingual VBT Trip Leaders

Visit www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org for more details. Pay dues online or use the reverse side to mail-in your payment. Buena suerte!

Trail Connections

Northern Forest Explorers: Trading Paddles for Snowshoes

Who says the Northern Forest Canoe Trail is just for paddling? Last February, twenty-three participants, ages 10–14, joined the Northern Forest Explorers Program for winter weekend outings.

Kids from trailside communities along Vermont's Missisquoi and Clyde rivers discovered just how cool (no pun intended) camping can be in February. A week later, an overnight near Maine's West Branch of the Penobscot Rivier drew kids from Rumford to Fort Kent. Skills learned included snowshoeing, ice fishing, winter survival, and wildlife tracking. They were also treated to Youth Program Director Roger Poor reciting *The Cremation of Sam Magee*.

Thanks to the NorthWoods Stewardship Center and Appalachian Mountain Club's Shannon LeRoy for helping to organize and lead these trips.

Summer 2012 Participating Communities

NEW YORK: Old Forge/Long Lake, Tupper Lake/Saranac Lake, Plattsburgh

VERMONT: Richford/Enosburg, West Charleston/Island Pond, Newport

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Errol/Dummer/Berlin, Colebrook/Stratford, Groveton

MAINE: Eustis/Stratton, Jackman, Rockwood/Greenville, Fort Kent/Allagash



A by-product of teaching outdoor recreation skills is increased kid confidence.

Federal Funds Serve Local Youth

This summer, NFCT's Northern Forest Explorers Program is offering 18 week-long paddling trips for youth ages 10–14. The program is for kids who live in communities near the NFCT route in New York, Vermont, Québec, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Participants learn basic paddling and outdoor skills, environmental and ecological relationships, and leadership and self-development fundamentals. All trips are guided by local outfitters and a specially trained Northern Forest Explorers intern.

Thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, we are able to offer these trips for a fee that is 15% of the actual cost per person, making the program accessible to all families and income levels.

For more information and a registration form, visit our online **Get Involved**, or contact Youth Program Director Roger Poor at (603) 801-9597, Roger@NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org.

MEMBER PROFILE

▲ Male (74%) ▲▲ Median age: 60 ▲

▲ Own multiple canoes & kayaks ▲ Reason for being a member:

Support the mission (63%)

"I like to support your work!"

This spring, we asked our members to take an online survey, and 269 or 36% responded. We loved the adjectives—great, jewel, amazing resource, frontier like, dream trip—and are encouraged by the results.

Not surprisingly, members are avid paddlers who tend to paddle with family and friends, but 50% also enjoy paddling alone.

New York and Maine are the most popular destination states, and paddle trip types in the past year were split evenly between single day and overnight trips. Of those who overnighted, 95% camped out at least one night.

A healthy 98% are aware of our waterway stewardship efforts, and 1 in 4 members said they would likely sponsor a child for \$100 to participate in our Northern Forest Explorers Program.

Answers to what additional benefits would be of value to members include more local gatherings and NFCT-organized paddle trips, real-time water level monitoring, and more recent reports on trail conditions.

Congratulations to member Bill Kemp of Lunenburg, MA for winning the survey raffle prize, an NFCT camp chair, and thanks to all who took the survey!



Visit our new online forum to connect with other paddlers. Ask questions, find a paddle partner, learn about trail conditions, and more.

Pay '	Your	Dues	and	Give	a Gift	t Men	nbers	hip

DID YOU KNOW THAT 31% OF CURRENT MEMBERS FIRST HEARD ABOUT THE NFCT THROUGH A FRIEND?

Join a pal today, and they, too, will be entered into a drawing to win a FREE trip to Patagonia (see reverse side for details).

Your Membership Please check one: □\$35 Member	☐ \$50 Household ☐ Already Renewed	Gift Member Friend's Dues:	•	☐ \$50 Household
YOUR NAME		FRIEND'S NAME		
ADDRESS		ADDRESS		
EMAIL	PHONE	EMAIL		PHONE
CREDIT CARD#	EXP. DATE	Send a complimentary gi	ft? NFCT Map#_	with \$35
Total Payment: \$	Make checks navable to: No	rthorn Forest Ca	noe Trail Do	nations are tax deductible

Supporter News

Film Fest Partners Rock

This year we teamed up with Reel Paddling Film Festival World Tour 2012

to host a record six film festivals in the Northeast, Thanks to our local co-hosts who help us with promotion, site logistics, and sharing the spirit of paddling adventures: Adirondack Lakes and Trails Outfitters, Collinsville Canoe & Kayak, Maine Island Trails Association and Raquette River Outfitters.













VBT offers Patagonia Tour

A partnership with VBT Bicycling and Walking Vacations provides our member recruitment efforts with an added incentive this year. All new and renewing members will be entered into a raffle for an all-expense paid walking tour in Patagonia. Offer good for dues received in 2012.

Member Benefits Expand

Did you know that showing your NFCT member card can get you lodging discounts, free drinks and more? Thanks to Trailside businesses in Vermont and New Hampshire, our list of benefits is growing. Visit our **Member Benefits** at www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org. Stay tuned for offerings in New York and Maine.

DY Kids Fund Supports Youth Program

For the past two years, Colden Canoe of western New York has donated funds to the DY Kids Fund, in honor of canoe and kayak designer David Yost. This represents seed funding we hope others will help grow to support our Northern Forest Explorers Program.

Donations to this fund will directly support youth participation in this program.





Look for NFCT Business Partner decals displayed at participating trailside businesses.

Thanks to Our Business Members & Corporate Supporters

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Class V: \$1,000+



















Member: \$100-\$249

150 Main Street Lodging on the Androscoggin Adirondack Lakes & Trails Outfitters Adirondack Watershed Allagash Guide Service Attean Lake Lodge Canoe & Co.

Clyde River Recreation

Collinsville Canoe & Kayak

Cry of the Loon Outdoor Adventures Frisky Otter Tours Gord's Corner Store Kittery Trading Post L.L. Cote Lago Trattoria & Catering Mac's Canoe Livery

Northern Door Inn Rangeley Region Lake Cruises & Loon's Nest

Raquette River Outfitters LLC St. Regis Canoe Outfitters The Jersey Paddler The Last Resort Cabins & Campground 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









OutdoorRetailer



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





Member: \$500-\$999

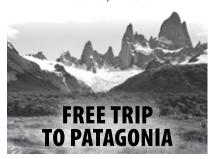








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Pay your 2012 dues today!

www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org

Happening Soon

3rd Annual 740 Miles in One Day Challenge

Saturday, July 28, 2012

Join us as we collectively paddle 740 miles on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail in a single day.

Paddle any distance, anywhere on the NFCT — 1 mile, 10 miles, or more — and report your distance to **740@NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org**. Get your friends and family to paddle and report their miles too!

Join us at The Wild Center, Tupper Lake, NY for a paddler film festival on July 27.

See inside for details.

Questions:

Kevin@NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org

Registration & Details:

www. Northern Forest Canoe Trail.org

