



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 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



NFCT Contributes to National Report

Last year, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and more than 10,000 Americans joined a national dialogue about conservation.

The America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative engaged people to develop a detailed and dynamic picture of our ideas, hopes, and concerns for the landscapes—from federal wildlife refuges to urban pocket parks—that represent our national outdoor legacy.

In February, the Obama Administration released a report summarizing ten key recommendations and associated goals that emerged from the process.

From AGO Vision Statement:

Americans envision a future in which...

Our natural areas and waterways, whether publicly or privately owned, are reconnected, healthy, and resilient and support both human needs and the wildlife that depend on them.

NFCT participated in several listening sessions, and we found both the process and the final report to be affirming of our mission and approach, and heartening in terms of the articulated vision that emerged. The alignment with our own path forward is quite remarkable. Here's what we are excited about:

- Several of the recommendations focus specifically on recreation access, on trails, and on waters. We have projects and partners lined up at local, regional, and national levels to generate greater results in the context of this AGO boost. (See articles on pages 4-5 about our Stewardship Program and partners.)



Summer interns supply the muscle that accomplishes stewardship projects across the NFCT.

- The report notes that it found consensus on the contribution of accessible outdoor spaces to the economy. We remain committed to demonstrating how our Trail and others can have a meaningful impact on the typically rural economies they traverse. (See article on page 6 about our upcoming Trails and Economic Development Report.)
- The AGO process and report did a terrific job of engaging young people. In refreshingly simple terms, the report charges us to engage youth in the outdoors and in the work of conserving and shaping the outdoor legacy for future generations. (See article on page 6 about the expansion of our Northern Forest Explorers Program.)

In many ways, the AGO initiative is just beginning, as partners across the country and in our own backyards work to implement the recommendations. The full report can be read at AmericasGreatOutdoors.gov.



New York Trail volunteers share their expertise to help connect paddlers to NFCT's slice of America's great outdoors.

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From the Executive Director



Dear Members, Supporters and Friends,



This year, Burlington, Vermont had its wettest April ever recorded. Water seems to be coursing through just about every channel it can find, creating new streams and waterfalls through the woods, flowing with urgency beneath still melting patches of dirty snow. The roar of spring is amplified as the winter's huge snows have now been matched by equally huge rains. Gotta flow, gotta grow, gotta mate, gotta hatch: The song of the woods and fields, hills and valleys is so loud it's sometimes hard to sleep at night.

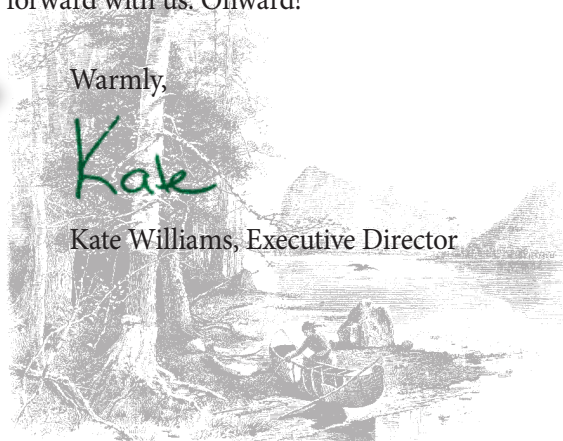
As if keeping pace with this particularly potent spring, NFCT is full of activity as we head into the paddling season. In all of our program areas, new growth is adding reach and freshness, and such national initiatives as America's Great Outdoors are providing exciting new opportunities to connect our work to broader trends. As always, we find ourselves energized by the smarts and commitment of our many partners with whom we share in the big work of building a vibrant future for the Northern Forest region and its inhabitants and communities.

As we head into our second decade on these strong vernal currents, we are grateful, always, to all of you who continue to paddle forward with us. Onward!

Warmly,

Kate

Kate Williams, Executive Director



Give to the NFCT Trail Fund

Your donation goes 100% toward this summer's work.

All gifts made by June 30 will be entered into a drawing for a Gregory backpack, courtesy of the White Wolf Inn in Stratton, Maine.

Give \$75 and receive an NFCT 24 oz metal water bottle!



NFCT Hires New Director

Kevin Mack joins us as our Director of Partnerships and Marketing. This new position is focused on cultivating NFCT's corporate and business partnerships, and overall coordinating our outreach and publicity. Kevin most recently worked for The Wilderness Society in Washington D.C. as the National Landscape Conservation System Campaign Director, managing communications and other outreach strategies aimed at adoption of improved conservation policies on public lands in the Western United States. Kevin's



past experiences include serving as Vice President of Conservation at the Potomac Conservancy, co-founding the nonprofit Nevada Wilderness Project, editing *Atlas of the*

Breeding Birds of Nevada, and serving on the Patagonia, Inc. team. We are thrilled that Kevin's professional path leads him straight to us. Welcome Kevin!



Thank You 2010 Donors



Our sincere appreciation goes to our contributors who generously give in support of our programs and daily operations. Thank you for supporting our mission!

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Northern Door Inn
Northern Outdoors
Raquette River Outfitters LLC
Skywoods Canoe Company
St. Regis Canoe Outfitters
The Coach House
Tranquillity Lodge
White Wolf Inn

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Davis Conservation Foundation
Horizon Foundation
Maine Association of Nonprofits
Maine Community Foundation
Maine Department of Conservation
Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund
Northern Border Regional Commission
Oliver B. Merlyn Foundation
Sudbury Foundation
USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program — NH, ME, & VT
U.S. Department of Justice
Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

* includes matching gifts

Making It All Happen

Jason Smith: NFCT Film Fest Hero

NFCT's annual film festivals happen thanks to the volunteer efforts of Jason Smith. The fundraiser was Jason's brainchild in 2007 when we held our first event in Saranac Lake, New York.

The festival has grown to include multiple locations, larger venues, and a growing audience of film-goers who return each spring. Jason continues to select the film line-up, always providing a classic array of movies—from high adrenaline hot shots to expedition narratives in environs far and wide—that capture the current voices in the paddling world. He also

creates the artwork and ample buzz to market the events.

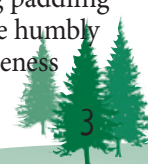
"Jason is an upbeat positive guy who has many talents," says NFCT board member Lisa Dyslin.

Jason manages Adirondack Lakes and Trails Outfitters in the summer and Dewey Mountain Ski and Snowshoe Center in the winter. During the paddling months, he organizes local school paddling programs, and helps coordinate the annual Saranac River Clean Up. An ACA certified instructor, Jason teaches an annual community white water program and provides private lessons. He and his wife Zoe love to spend their time paddling, skiing, and camping with their kids Griffin and Ruby.



Volunteer Jason Smith selects films and designs posters for NFCT film festivals.

NFCT is grateful for Jason's continued guidance and leadership in making the film festival a successful and anticipated annual event. We also think he rocks for promoting paddling in his community. Mostly, we humbly applaud him for raising awareness for NFCT. Thanks Jason!



Work Projects Along the Trail



Get Wet, Dirty, and Happy!

NFCT has a variety of ways you can give back to the Trail while being outside and on the water. For more detailed information about stewardship projects, visit our online **Get Involved**, or contact Trail Director Walter Opuszynski at (802) 496-2285 ext 2, Walter@NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org.



Waterway Work Trips

Join us on a weekend outing of rewarding work and camaraderie. Camping is arranged near work sites, and paddling opportunities are always built-in. Cost: \$60 member/\$75 non-member to cover the cost of food. Register online or request a mail-in form.

- **July 15–17, Deerland Carry, Long Lake, NY**
 - Install a stone staircase and build bog bridging.
- **July 15–17, Tramway Carry, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ME**
 - Phase 1: Build a stone causeway.

- **July 22–24, Tramway Carry, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ME**
 - Phase 2: Continue work on stone causeway.
- **July 22–24, Davis Park River Access, Richford, VT**
 - Install a 200-foot trail to connect river access with the parking area, campsite, and kiosk.
- **July 29–31, Gull Pond Stream Portage Trail, Rangeley, ME**
 - Install 150 feet of bog bridging.
- **August 12–14, Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, NH**
 - Rehabilitate site where cabins once stood along the Magalloway River and lay down wood chips on the Magalloway Trail.

Adopt-A-Segment

If looking after a stretch of the NFCT appeals to you, consider becoming an adopter. Volunteers visit their assigned segments on their own schedule and help with maintenance projects. Training, tools, boats, and other resources can be provided. This year, our goal is to



Interns and volunteers get the job done on New York's Deerland Carry.

sign-up adopters for Vermont and New Hampshire. Contact us to learn more.

We welcome the following new maintainers to the program: The Montgomery Area Community Alliance (northern Missisquoi River), John Cary (Flagstaff area), and Scott Higgins (Moosehead area). We also thank Gord's Corner Store in Milan, New Hampshire for becoming a program HUB where NFCT can store tools and a canoe for local maintainers to access.

State-by-State Stewardship News

NEW YORK

- We will rehabilitate campsites on Franklin Pond.

VERMONT/QUÉBEC

- We will develop a river access project in East Berkshire.
- Thanks to the Lake Champlain Basin Program, we will create paddler-targeted signage to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasives, and install signs throughout the basin.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- River access improvements will be made on the Upper Ammonoosuc River.



NFCT's sign-in boxes will be stylin'!

New Kiosks & Register Boxes

Thanks to the Northern Border Regional Commission (a federal grant program) we will install nine kiosks and twenty-six sign-in boxes trail-wide. We are fortunate to be able to brush this broad stroke of infrastructure and resources across the entire NFCT!

MAINE

- Trail work will occur on the Rangeley River Carry.
- We will start developing a stone staircase project at the Demo Carry take-out.
- Thanks to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, we will create an Emergency Preparedness Plan for the state of Maine.



Hot On The Trail



Intern Rocket Fuel Coming Soon!

This summer, we'll have ten interns working on the Trail, in the office, and with rural youth, giving it their all we have no doubt across the NFCT.

A three-person roving stewardship crew will work under the guidance of returning Field Coordinator Noah Pollock to do trail maintenance and run our Waterway Work Trips. We offer our thanks to the Adirondack Watershed Alliance and the Davis Conservation Fund for funding this crew.

We are excited to have two interns devoted to maintenance along the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Thanks to the Maine Bureau of Public Lands for securing a Maine Recreational Trails Program grant to make this happen. Efforts will focus on the Tramway Carry with small projects throughout the route.

Meanwhile, two GIS interns will collect spatial data and install sign-in boxes across the Trail, and a Program intern will help manage the collected GIS data and prepare it for future use. Thanks to the Northern Border Regional Commission for funding these positions.

If all of this activity leaves you breathless...there's still more! With twelve Northern Forest Explorers trips planned for this summer, two interns will assist in making sure trip participants have excellent learning experiences while on the Trail. Thanks to the U.S. Department of Justice for funding youth intern support.



Intern Sam Brakeley sports a smile as he paddles to work. Photo by Allison Waring.

A Fitting Legacy for Legendary Maine Guide

The High Peaks Alliance is planning a new 35-mile trail in western Maine: The Fly Rod Crosby Heritage Trail. Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby (1854-1946) was Maine's first registered guide, and an ardent marketer for the state as an outdoor recreation destination.

The proposed trail touches points of Crosby's life, from Strong where she is buried, passing through Phillips where she lived, and on to Rangeley where she guided. The western terminus is

along the NFCT: A paddle across Lake Rangeley to Oquossoc ends at Our Lady of the Lakes Chapel which Fly Rod helped build.

The heritage trail not only relates the unique rural character of the western Maine landscape, but also carries on Crosby's passion of sharing and celebrating the region with others. For more information, visit <http://highpeaksalliance.wordpress.com>.

Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby. Photo courtesy of the Maine State Museum.

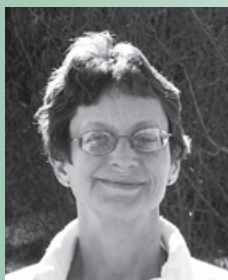


Fly Rod Crosby overlooks the catch with President Theodore Roosevelt on the far right. Photo courtesy of a private collection, High Peaks Alliance.

Paddling Against Childhood Cancer

This summer, NFCT member Laurie Chandler plans to paddle the 347 miles of Trail in Maine and raise \$10,000 for the Maine Children's Cancer Program. Her campaign "Paddle For Hope" will raise awareness about childhood cancer and provide support for local diagnosed children and their families. Her

journey will take her from Lake Umbagog in New Hampshire to Fort Kent, Maine on the St. John River. We wish her the best of luck. You can make a contribution online at www.mmc.org/paddleforhope.



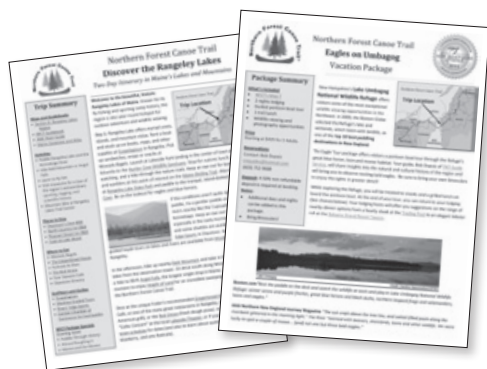
Trail Connections

The Value of Trails

Did you know that communities with access to outdoor recreation have lower poverty rates, are healthier, and are more highly educated?

Did you know that trails often facilitate people's first step or paddle stroke into outdoor recreation?

Most of you reading this newsletter probably have some affection for and affiliation with recreational trails. From local footpaths to regional connectors, recreational trails of all sorts (paddling, hiking, biking) are valuable in numerous ways.



Community Outreach consultants Phoebe Backler and Noah Pollock create vacation packages to cross-promote destinations along the Trail.

NFCT is in the final stages of creating a Trails and Economic Development Report, which reveals the value of trails, through the lens of our own water trail route and experiences, and draws on information about other trails and trail systems.

Stay tuned as we finalize the report, thanks to funding from USDA Rural Development and as part of our collaborative Community Economic Development Program. Our goal in this program is to leverage NFCT in coordination with local and regional partners to catalyze the full suite of benefits linked to trails and the recreation they support.

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

Youth Program Goes Trail-wide



Who said science wasn't fun?

Twelve communities will have young paddlers dipping their blades into the NFCT this summer. Three trips in each state are scheduled, and promise to impart upon participants a real sense of appreciation for and pride in where they live.

The Northern Forest Explorers Program is for youth ages 10–14 that live in communities near the NFCT in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Participants will experience a 5-day paddling trip that supports healthy lifestyles and connects them to the natural world, to their communities, and to the North Country region as a whole.

Program curriculum will teach basic outdoor, leadership, and teamwork skills, and a practical understanding of the natural environment.

This winter, Youth Program Director Roger Poor visited communities and local outfitters to

Summer 2011 Participating Communities

NEW YORK: Old Forge, Long Lake, Saranac Lake

VERMONT: Enosburg/Montgomery, and Newport/Charleston (2 trips)

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

MAINE: Eustis/Stratton, Jackman, Rockwood/Greenville

determine interest and recruit participants. "Groups who took part in our pilot programs welcomed us back enthusiastically," says Roger. Working with local schools and recreation departments, it was not difficult to line up the twelve weeks of programming.

Trips will be guided and canoes provided by local outfitters, making the experience even more community oriented. Two NFCT interns will assist the outfitters in teaching paddling and camping skills, and sharing their enthusiasm and expertise in environmental education.

We are grateful for a federal appropriation from the U.S. Department of Justice that allows NFCT to fund our Northern Forest Explorers Program. We look forward to sharing the Trail with the next generation of stewards, and reporting on their successes next fall!



Still clean and green, these Explorers are about to embark on a life changing experience.

Membership Matters!

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE: JOIN RENEW GIFT

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Supporter News

Members Get Free Subscription

A partnership with Canoe & Kayak® Magazine offers our members a free 6-issue subscription. Join or renew your membership and take advantage of this sweet deal. Offer good through 2011.



CANOE & KAYAK

Jackson Kayak Makes Early Donation

NFCT's 7th Annual Online Auction will run November 2–December 1, 2011, and we thank Jackson Kayak for already donating a kayak to the event! Last year's auction raised more than \$35,000 and we are grateful to all donors and bidders for their tremendous support. We look forward to putting the kayak and hundreds of paddlesport items up for bid next winter.



Vermont Canoe Responds to Request

Last winter, Trail Director Walter Opuszynski blogged about NFCT's planned register boxes and requested old paddles to use for the design. Within days Rob Scharges of Vermont Canoe brought us an armful of wooden canoe paddles. Thanks Rob! Be on the lookout this summer for these aptly designed boxes at NFCT campsites and put-ins.



What happened to NFCT's stewardship canoe?



Find out online ➡

Thank You Film Fest Partners

Nearly 350 people attended our simultaneous Film Festivals last April in Lake Placid, New York and Portland, Maine. We thank our partners Adirondack Lakes and Trails Outfitters and the Maine Island Trail Association for co-hosting. We look forward to a third showing at Collinsville Canoe & Kayak in Collinsville, Connecticut on May 21.

Special thanks to L.L. Bean for their contribution towards our Film Festival in Portland, Maine. Their funding helped us share an inspiring array of paddlesports films.



L.L.Bean

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The Coach House
The Last Resort
Tranquillity Lodge
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Happening Soon

2nd Annual 740 Miles in One Day Challenge

Saturday, July 30, 2011

Paddle any distance on the NFCT – 1 mile,
10 miles, or more — and we'll combine everyone's
total at the end of the day.

WHY: NFCT connects special places and communities. This event
celebrates the Trail's many features and the paddlers who use it.

WHERE: Anyplace on the NFCT! We aim for a compiled
740 miles paddled anywhere along our route.

HOW: Register on our website

DETAILS: www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org

QUESTIONS: info@NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org

