



# Currents & Communities

*Northern Forest Canoe Trail  
Fall 2019*

## Planning the future of a nonprofit isn't all that different from navigating a river.

That's been a key takeaway for the board and staff of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail as we work toward completing our 2020 strategic plan. When you plan a trip downstream, you set targets for when you arrive at a destination, you make note of the rapids, obstacles, and portages — you set goals, list the tasks you need to accomplish to prepare for your trip, and set ambitious but realistic measures to hold yourself accountable.

NFCT has four big focuses in the coming years: **to build organizational strength, leverage our relationships, educate and engage our community, and facilitate waterway stewardship.** Each of these goals will have a direct impact on the way paddlers, outfitters, communities, and other NFCT partners enjoy and use the 740-mile canoe trail that connects New York, Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire, and Maine.

As we look to implement the new strategic plan, we also want to hear from you. What are we doing well? What can we be doing better? We can't follow through on our goals without you — the members, volunteers, corporate and business partners, and other supporters who make our work possible. We need you to hold us accountable so we can continue promoting and taking care of this incredible natural resource we all hold so dear. Thank you.

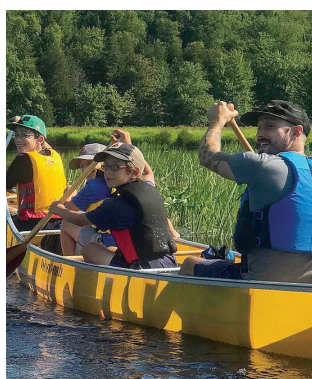
— Karrie Thomas, Executive Director, NFCT

## Don't miss your chance to get involved with the 2019 NFCT auction!

This fall, NFCT will auction off a number of fun, unique items to raise money for our organization; the more items we have, the more we can raise to support programs, stewardship, youth activities, and more.

Donated items can include anything from canoes and guided trips to antique paddles and art. The auction will take place between Nov. 14 and Dec. 1.

To enter, visit [bit.ly/NFCTAuction2019](https://bit.ly/NFCTAuction2019) and click the "Donate Items" link in the upper righthand corner. If you have questions, call (802) 496-2285 or email [marthe@northernforestcanoetrail.org](mailto:marthe@northernforestcanoetrail.org).



## Welcome aboard, Chris!

This summer, Chris Morris joined our team as communications director. With a background in nonprofits and a love of paddling and skiing, he fits right in with our staff. He'd love to hear from you: [chris@northernforestcanoetrail.org](mailto:chris@northernforestcanoetrail.org)



# Celebrating an inspiring season of stewardship

Physics tells us that work is “a measure of energy transfer that occurs when an object is moved over a distance by an external force.” By that definition, the accomplishments of our stewardship crew and our cadre of volunteers this year were impressive.

Among our summer projects was the revamp of the Nulhegan River Stone Dam portage. Thanks to the work of our crew as well as the Silvio O. Conte Refuge and the NorthWoods Stewardship Center, paddlers are now greeted by an incredible set of stone steps. This project highlighted what we do best: challenging projects at the interface of water and land.

It was heartening to hear from the Conte Refuge’s manager, Steven Angius, about how this access has transformed what was formerly just a roadside parking area serving as a dumping ground for garbage to an access used not only by thru-paddlers but day paddlers now able to explore the beautiful waters upstream.

*“The very concept behind the trail’s maintenance is about community; these places are worthwhile and need to be cared for so that others may enjoy them too. I think back to the numerous conversations the crew had as we designed and built projects, keeping in mind how we could best serve not just thru-paddlers portaging up the stairs but also the grandfather and grandson walking down hand-in-hand to go fishing.”*

— Josie Bourne, NFCT Stewardship Intern

The overhaul of the Highgate Falls portage trail was another big accomplishment this summer. In one week, our crew replaced over 50 rotten steps. In late August and September, we returned with a crew from the NorthWoods Stewardship Center to tackle additional stormwater and erosion control projects along the corridor.

Our work along the Androscoggin River has been equally gratifying. Over two years, we’ve transformed two of the most popular river access points in the North Country with long lasting, durable systems designed to meet the needs of anglers, paddlers, and rafters alike.

This stewardship work would not have been possible without the myriad volunteers, landowners, and donors that make up the NFCT community. We thank the 28 volunteers who joined us during our work trips — especially William Kenyon and Michael Mowry, who pitched in on multiple projects. We also had a stellar crew of three interns — Laszlo Reed, Josie Bourne, and Jackson Happ — led by crew leader Brian Kohr, who took up the cause with stride and good cheer.

We’re already planning out projects for next year, and we’re always open to suggestions for potential projects. If you have ideas on projects worth tackling, reach out to NFCT Stewardship Director Noah Pollock at [noah@northernforestcanoetrail.org](mailto:noah@northernforestcanoetrail.org). Visit our website to learn more about our 2019 stewardship work: [www.northernforestcanoetrail.org](http://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org).

## 2019 STEWARDSHIP BY THE NUMBERS



**INSTALLED  
80 TIMBER STEPS,  
65 STONE STEPS**

**POURED  
18,000 POUNDS  
OF CONCRETE**



**CONSTRUCTED 30  
FEET OF BOG  
BRIDGING**

**BUILT 7  
PICNIC TABLES**



**REHABBED OVER  
8,400 FEET OF  
PORTAGE TRAILS**

*Check out all of the numbers  
from our 2019 stewardship work:  
[bit.ly/NFCTStewardship2019](http://bit.ly/NFCTStewardship2019)*

# Best. Job. Ever.

This summer, three lucky college students — Josie Myer, Emma Henderson and Ben Abramson — spent their time paddling the waterways of western Maine, collecting data to make maps and assess stewardship needs for potential future projects.

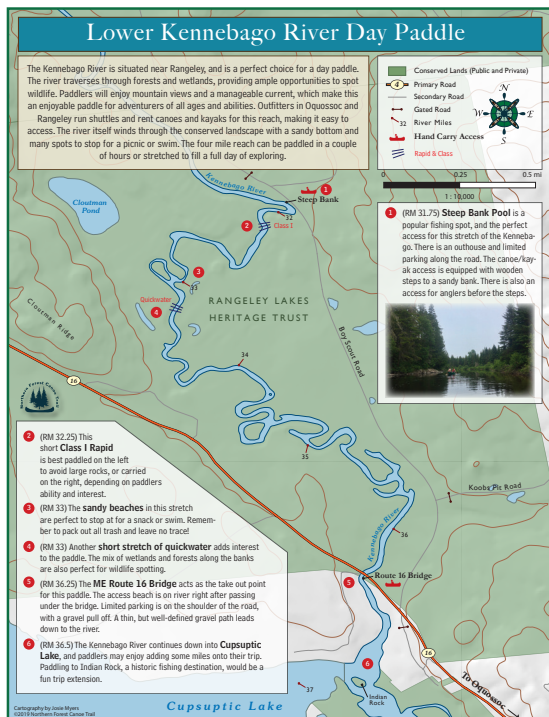
They created maps of 20 different short paddling trips: mostly day trips, with a handful of overnights mixed in.

*“There is something sacred about paddling across a silent pond in the early morning, watching the fog rise off the water or canoeing rapids for the first time and truly appreciating the incredible power of water. I wanted to help remove barriers to accessing these experiences, and I hope that the work we completed this summer will do that.”*

— Josie Myers, 2019 GIS Intern

They explored the Magalloway River, Kennebago River and Kennebago Lakes, North and South Dead Rivers, Carrabassett River, Sandy River, and several stretches of the Androscoggin River including the Little Andro and Round Pond.

We look forward to sharing downloadable maps, like the one pictured below, later this winter. Visit our website to learn more: [www.northernforestcanoetrail.org](http://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org).



Sending thanks to our

## 2019 STEWARDSHIP FUNDERS

L.L. Bean ACA Club Fostered Stewardship Grant

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NRS

Patagonia

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Davis Conservation Fund

Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund

Saranac Lake 46ers

Vermont Recreational Trails Program

Lake Champlain Basin Program

Vermont River Conservancy

Upper Missisquoi & Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee

NFCT Waterway Work Trips



NFCT's 2019 stewardship crew taking a much needed break.

From left: Brian Kohr, Laszlo Reed, Jackson Happ, and Josie Bourne.



Volunteers Tim Hille and Eric Hansen working on steps for the Holbrook Point campsite on the Connecticut River.





To donate, plan a trip, become a member, volunteer, join as a business or corporate partner, or learn more, visit [www.northernforestcanoetrail.org](http://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org) or call (802) 496-2285.

**Thank you to all of our 2019 supporters!**

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**L.L.Bean**

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***When you give to the Northern Forest Canoe Trail's Mission Fund, you give paddlers from all walks of life the experience of a lifetime.***

Our Mission Fund has two goals: to take the best possible care of the 740-mile canoe trail and to enable paddlers to discover the waters and communities of the Northern Forest

When you give to our Mission Fund, you help us ensure that the Northern Forest Canoe Trail remains one of the best paddling routes, today and in the future.

This fall, we've teamed up with our partners at EXPED to offer a special incentive to our Mission Fund donors: the first 15 generous people who give \$300 or more will be eligible to receive an EXPED MegaMat Lite 12 LXW. This super-portable air mattress will make your adventures along the Northern Forest Canoe Trail exciting and comfortable.

To give today, visit: [bit.ly/NFCTMissionFund](http://bit.ly/NFCTMissionFund).

