

Currents & Communities

Fall 2022



2022 Event Series Builds Community, Celebrates Paddling

The 2022 paddling season is in the books, and what a season it was. From New York to Maine, paddlers came together to celebrate all things paddling — from races and classes to community paddles and river clean-ups.

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail hosted six events in New York and Vermont this year: the 'Round the Mountain Canoe & Kayak Race, the Adirondack Paddling Symposium, the Celebrate Paddling Invitational, the Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal, the Adirondack Canoe Classic and the Long Lake Long Boat Regatta. Over 1,000 paddlers participated in these events joined by thousands more volunteers, pit crew and fans. While many of these gatherings are in the name of competition and sportsmanship, they also build community — and community sustains the canoe trail and inspires people to get on the water.

Proceeds from these events also keep us in business: maintaining and enhancing the trail, updating navigational resources and supporting paddlers in planning their adventures. The inside pages of our fall newsletter highlight some of the amazing work our stewardship crew accomplished this year. Thank you all for your continued support of the NFCT; we'll see you on the water next year!

Save the Dates for 2023

'Round the Mountain
May 13, Saranac Lake, NY

Adirondack Paddling Symposium
June 16-19, Saranac Lake, NY

Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal
July 15, Richford, Vt.

Adirondack Canoe Classic
Sept. 8-10, Adirondacks, NY

Long Lake Long Boat Regatta
Sept. 28, Long Lake, NY



Clockwise from top left: 90-Miler racers all smiles after finishing Day 1; young cyclists bask in the sun after completing the Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal; eager paddlers line up for the start of the 'Round the Mountain Canoe & Kayak Race.

A Summer of Stewardship

By Noah Pollock, NFCT Stewardship Director

The NFCT's stewardship team had a great season, completing over a dozen stewardship projects. I am so grateful for our field coordinator, Will Lockwood, and our stewardship interns — Liam Ryan-O'Flaherty, Alex Cassu and Kyle Halstater. This was the first trail crew experience for each of them, and it was great to see them grow into a capable and enthusiastic team. Fifty volunteers joined us on seven Waterway Work Trips! We're excited to share a recap of what we accomplished together.

We transformed the Troy River Access along the Missisquoi River from a challenging riprap slope to a user-friendly and attractive hand carry launch with a wide landing and 12 stone steps.

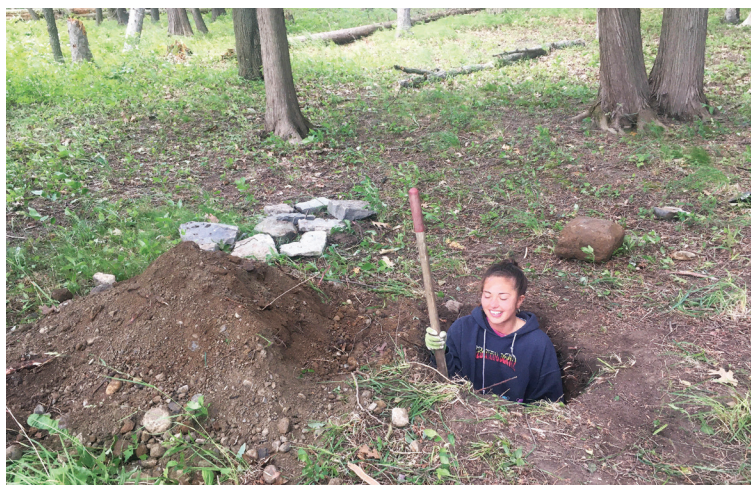
We gave the McCuin Island campsite along the Lamoille River a makeover, with timber steps, a box privy, signage and tenting areas, and battled against invasive Japanese Knotweed. Downstream, we rebuilt a set of timber steps providing river access in a town park.

We refurbished 10 campsites on Lake Champlain's Valcour Island with new privies, reconstructed fire pits and removed dangerous old docks.

Along the Saranac River, we established a new campsite on Union Falls Pond's quiet south end and installed 10 timber-cribbed steps at the Franklin



The Colebrook Bridge River Access got a new 20-foot bridge this summer, improving access to the Connecticut River.



NFCT Stewardship Intern Alex Cassu gets creative digging a new privy pit at a campsite on Lake Champlain's Valcour Island.

Falls hand carry access.

We rebuilt two sets of steps at the Nulhegan River's Belknap Campsite and established a new campsite — the Walter Campsite — in a beautiful stand of white pines near the river's headwaters.

We installed a durable set of 12 steps, boat slide and a bench at the Brownway River Access along the Missisquoi in Enosburg.

We rebuilt the Colebrook Bridge River Access with steps, a 20-foot bridge and a gravel footpath providing access to the Connecticut River. We also built privies at four riverside campsites and rehabilitated two NFCT kiosks in the region.

We reestablished two campsites on Long Pond along the Moose River in Maine with stone steps, tent pads, box privies and signage.

We installed a two-bin moldering privy at Moosehead Lake's Hardscrabble Point, completed an extensive clean-up at Farm Island and refurbished infrastructure at the NFCT Brassua Island and Baker Brook campsites.

Behind the scenes, we had dozens of volunteer Waterway Stewards working to keep the corridor in good shape for all. Thanks to everyone who helped out this season! You make this trail and this community exceptional.

Stewarding the Next Generation of Paddlers



Led by experienced guides and organizations, the Northern Forest Explorers program gets kids outside and out of their comfort zone. Tailored for kids age 9-15, these trips are four-to-six day excursions into the wild, where the kids meet new friends, discover new talents and fall in love with the natural wonders of the Adirondack Park in New York, northern Vermont, New Hampshire's North Country and Maine's North Woods.

This year, we supported kids in the Adirondacks, and on the Missisquoi and Connecticut rivers. Our friend and Adirondack guide Matt Burnett led a week-long trip from Upper Saranac Lake, down Stoney Creek and the Raquette River, and ending in Tupper Lake. The youngsters ranged in age and experience, but all came away with new skills and a new appreciation for adventuring in the wild.

"I am so proud of everyone for coming together on this dynamic, challenging week," Burnett said. "I hope it holds a strong place in their memories, as it does in ours."

The NFCT supports the Northern Forest Explorers program through scholarships that ensure kids from all backgrounds have a chance to experience backcountry paddling trips. To learn more, visit our website: northernforestcanoetrail.org/discover/northern-forest-explorers.

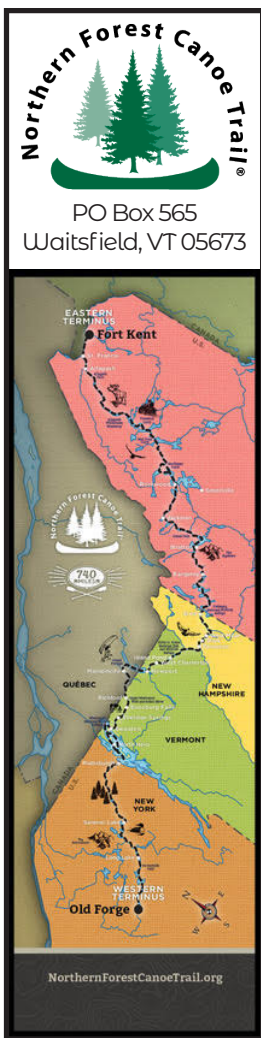
The NFCT's stewardship work is made possible by generous organizations and individuals who contribute time and money to help us preserve and enhance your canoe trail. We thank you all for your unwavering support.

Project Partners

Maine AMC • Brookfield Power • Lake Champlain Basin Program • UMATR Wild and Scenic Committee
Town of Enosburg • Vermont River Conservancy • Maine Bureau of Public Lands • New York State DEC
Davis Foundation • Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund • Colebrook Economic Development Corporation
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

Waterway Work Trip Volunteers

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The Northern Forest Canoe Trail's 2022 Online Auction runs from Nov. 15-30 and features incredible outdoor gear and experiences, donated by our generous partners and supporters.

Over the years, donations have included everything from canoes to canoe trips, wooden bird sculptures to wooden paddles. People, companies, nonprofits and local businesses all support NFCT through the auction by either purchasing or donating an item or service so we can maintain and provide access to the 740-mile Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

To inquire, contact Marthe Peterson at marthe@northernforestcanoetrail.org.

Donate or bid: bit.ly/nfctauction22

