

# CURRENTS & COMMUNITIES

SPRING 2023



## OUR MISSION

We promote and steward our water trail and support communities, waterways and paddling across the Northern Forest.

## OUR VISION

An unrivaled network of paddling opportunities across the Northern Forest will inspire ongoing experiences and stories, enticing people to fall in love with the region. Their passion and commitment will contribute to the health of our communities, landscapes and waterways.

## OUR BOARD

Anne Brewer, Chair  
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## OUR STAFF

Karrie Thomas, Executive Director  
Noah Pollock, Stewardship Director  
Chris Morris, Communications Director  
Marthe Peterson, Office Manager  
Jordanna Mallach, Adirondack Race Coordinator

## CONNECT WITH US

Website: [northernforestcanoetrail.org](http://northernforestcanoetrail.org)  
Facebook: @paddlenfct  
Instagram: @northernforestcanoetrail  
Twitter: @nfct  
Phone: (802) 496-2285

*Cover photo provided by Cole Grosner & Ashley Hyatt*

## We're gonna need a bigger boat.

Don't worry, as far as we know there are no massive great white sharks lurking in the waters of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. We need a bigger boat because our NFCT community is growing.

Last year, we had more volunteers than ever show up to help with stewardship projects and events. The number of people seeking out our support to plan paddling trips on and near the canoe trail is growing exponentially. We expect more of the same in 2023.

Throughout our 20-plus year history as an organization, we've always prioritized taking care of the canoe trail. Stewardship is the heartbeat of our work. We also work hard to make sure paddlers have the best information possible to plan accordingly, whether it's a day trip on Lake Champlain or a backcountry overnight in the Allagash. But as we continue to grow and evolve, we also want to prioritize building our community. Paddling is a life-long activity, one that can be enjoyed by young adventure seekers, families with children, older adults and everyone in between — including, as you'll read about in this newsletter, rescue dogs who communicate with American Sign Language.

As paddling season approaches, we hope you'll join us for a community paddle, a race, a work weekend or a film festival. We'll gladly find a bigger boat and welcome you aboard.

*— Anne Brewer, NFCT Board Chair*

## We've got work to do.

Our team is getting ready. Our partners are standing by. Our plan is set. Our work truck is ... well, it's fine. Don't worry about it.

The NFCT has another ambitious stewardship season ahead, with at least seven weeks of work scheduled in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. These Waterway Work Trips bring together our professional stewardship crew and volunteers to enhance and maintain the waterways and portages that make up our 740-mile paddling trail.

Here's what's on the docket for 2023:

**June 23-25, Lake Champlain's Valcour Island Campsites, NY:** Critical maintenance at a series of campsites.

**June 30 to July 2, Indian Carry and Upper Saranac Lake, NY:** Rehabilitate the historic "Indian Carry" portage connecting the Raquette and Saranac Rivers in the heart of the Adirondack Park; crews will also complete stewardship work at campsites on Upper Saranac Lake.

**July 7-9, Passumpsic River Community Access, VT:** Install stone steps at an emerging community park near the historic Sanford covered bridge.

**July 14-16, Missisquoi Paddle Pedal and Upper Missisquoi Access, VT:** Develop a new access to the Missisquoi River near the Canadian border.

**July 21-23, Androscoggin River, NH:** Install a dock and stone steps, and clearing a new access trail.

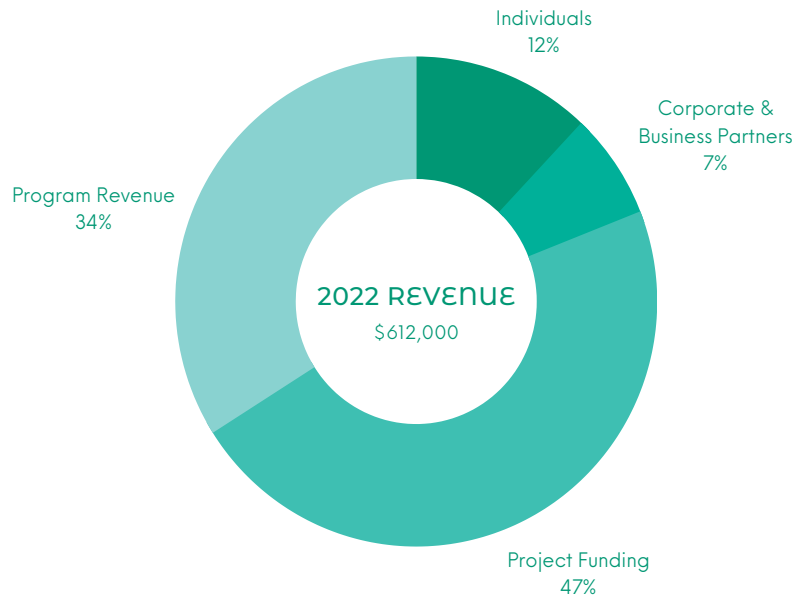
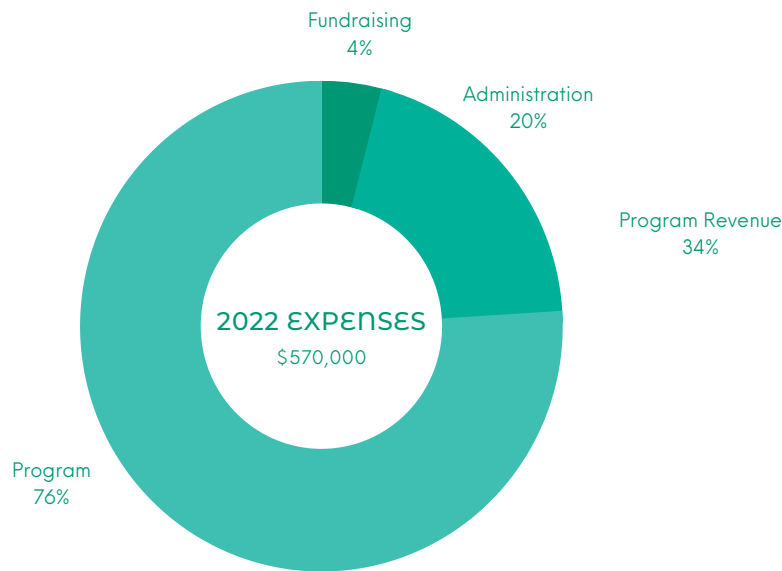
**July 28-30, Rapid River Carry, ME:** Important maintenance along this historic carry.

**Aug. 4-6, Moosehead Lake West Shore Campsites, ME:** Create two new campsites.

We invite you to register for any of these Waterway Work Trips, but please note that attendance for each is capped. Visit our website to learn more and check on availability: [bit.ly/wwt2023](https://bit.ly/wwt2023). Specific questions should be directed to NFCT Stewardship Director Noah Pollock at [noah@northernforestcanoetrail.org](mailto:noah@northernforestcanoetrail.org) or (802) 496-2285 ext. 3.



# 2022 BY THE NUMBERS: REVENUE, EXPENSES & FUNDERS



## Project Funders

Adirondack Frontier  
 Agnes M. Lindsay Trust  
 Betterment Fund  
 Brookfield Renewable U.S.  
 Cloudsplitter Foundation  
 Clyde Pond Holdings  
 Colebrook Economic  
   Development Council  
 Connecticut River Watershed Council  
 Elmina B. Sewall Foundation  
 Town of Enosburgh  
 Town of Johnson  
 Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands  
 Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund  
 New England Interstate Water  
   Pollution Control Commission  
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
   Upper CT Mitigation &  
   Enhancement Fund  
 Onion Foundation  
 Tillotson Fund of the New  
   Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
 UMATR Wild & Scenic Committee  
 USDA Rural Business Development  
 Vermont Community Foundation  
 Vermont Fish & Wildlife  
 Vermont River Conservancy

## Corporate Partners

### **Class IV (\$10,000 +)**

Esquif  
 NRS

### **Class IV (\$5,000-\$9,999)**

L.L.Bean  
 REI (Williston)

### **Class III (\$2,500-\$4,999)**

Current Designs  
 Exped  
 Kokatat  
 Northstar Canoes

### **Class II (\$1,000-\$2,499)**

Dak Bar  
 Hornbeck Boats  
 Peerless Handcuff Company  
 Placid Boatworks  
 Wenonah Canoe  
 Werner Paddles

### **Supporter (\$500-\$999)**

Brant & Cochran  
 Concept2  
 Kittery Trading Post  
 Iowa Boots  
 Mountaineers Books  
 Mystery Ranch  
 ORU Kayak  
 Tait Canoe

## Business Partners

### **Class V (\$1,000+)**

Adirondack Experience  
 Adirondack Lakes & Trails Outfitters  
 Adirondack Watershed Institute  
 Ampersand Bay Resort  
 Central Adirondack Association

Hotel Saranac  
 Long Lake Lions Club  
 Long Lake Recreation  
 Mac's Canoe Livery  
 Old Forge/Town of Webb  
 ROOST  
 White Rose Canoe

### **Class IV (\$500-\$999)**

Adirondack Bank  
 Adirondack Explorer  
 Adirondack Hotel on Long Lake  
 Adventure Bound  
 The Birches Resort  
 Blue Mountain Lake  
 Community National Bank  
 Contoocook River Canoe Company  
 Town of Inlet  
 Jackson's Lodge  
 LOCALadk  
 Mountainman Outdoor Supply Company  
 Northern Tier Center for Health  
 Paul Smith's College  
 Raquette River Outfitters  
 Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Water's Edge Inn

### **Class III (\$250-\$499)**

Adirondack Health  
 Appalachian Mountain Club  
 Ecopelagicon Nature Store  
 Fountain Square Outfitters  
 Goal Zero

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Hohmeyer's Lake Clear Lodge  
 Maine Outdoor Film Festival  
 New York Paddlesports  
 Racing Association  
 Northeast Whitewater  
 Lodge & Guide Service  
 Northeastern Minnesotans for  
 Wilderness  
 Northwestern Medical Center  
 Northwoods Outfitters  
 North Country Rivers  
 Northern Door Inn  
 Northern Waters Outfitters  
 Placid Waters Kayaking  
 Outdoor Gear Exchange  
 Portland Paddle  
 Raquette River Brewing  
 Stewart's Shops  
 Three Mountain Associates  
 VERT Outdoors  
 The Wild Center  
 Zone 3 Landscape Nursery

#### **Class II (\$100-\$249)**

Adirondack Life  
 Canoeist  
 Chewonki Foundation  
 Clearwater Sports  
 Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens  
 Down East Magazine  
 Great Glen Trails/Great Glen Outfitters  
 Green Mountain Club  
 The Jay Cloud Cyclery  
 L.L. Cote  
 Maine Audubon

Maine Magazine  
 Moose River Lodge & Tavern  
 Onion River Outdoors  
 Paddle Boston  
 Recreation Publishing/Paddling Life  
 River and Craft  
 Shaheen's Adirondack Inn  
 Shamrock Motel & Cottages  
 Southern Tier Canoes  
 Umiak Outdoor Outfitters  
 Vermont Ski & Snowboard Museum  
 Winona Camps  
 Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions  
 Woods & Waters Gear Exchange

#### **Supporter**

Adirondack Mountain Club  
 BioDiversity Research Institute  
 Blueberry Hill Inn and Outdoor Center  
 Butternut Mountain Farm  
 Jackson Ski Touring Foundation  
 Kingdom Trails  
 Maine Island Trail Association  
 Maine Kayak  
 New England Ski Museum  
 Ole's Cross Country Center  
 Origin Coffee Co.  
 Rangeley Lakes Trails Center  
 Rapid Media  
 Sherman Hollow Organic Farm

#### **Major Donors**

##### **\$5,000**

Hamill Family Foundation  
 Adam Pearsall

Ethan & Anne Winter

##### **\$1,000 to \$2,500**

Brian Castler & Katherine Duffendack  
 Chris & Patty Gill  
 Paul Heintz  
 Kay Henry & Rob Center  
 Henry & Alicia Heyburn Jr.  
 George MacNaughton  
 Kevin McCabe  
 Neil & Suzanne McGinn  
 MSB Charitable Fund  
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 The Pill Maharam Family Fund  
 Cornelis Rijnbrand  
 Alan Stearns & Austin Brown  
 Sukey Wagner  
 Warren Whitney & Betsy Ham  
 Widgeon Point Charitable

##### **\$500 to \$999**

Kristian Carr  
 Paul & Jean Egbert  
 Brian Frankie  
 Stephen Garanin  
 Karen Herold  
 Dale Krapf  
 Alexander Martin  
 Roseanne Missenden-Jones  
 Viloya Schweiker  
 John Schweizer & Jennifer Lucas  
 Eric Toburen

*Want to support our work?*

Visit **[bit.ly/givenfct](http://bit.ly/givenfct)**

## **Congratulations to Our 2022 Thru-Paddlers**

The NFCT congratulates the following individuals who successfully thru-paddled the canoe trail last year:

**Brian Wolford • Tom Wolford • Nora Darcher • Tim Fry • Micah Fay  
 Benjamin Jankowski • Phoebe Gelbard • Kimberly Pierson • Joel Ford  
 Ashley Hyatt • Cole Grosner • Bunji the Blue Dog**

We also congratulate **Aaren, Chris & Rewan Harris** on completing their four-year Section Paddle.

If you would like to be recognized for your accomplishment as an NFCT Thru-Paddler or Section-Paddler, the recognition forms can be found at  
**[northernforestcanoetrail.org](http://northernforestcanoetrail.org).**



## THE ADVENTURES OF BUNJI THE BLUE DOG

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail brings together paddlers of all backgrounds and experience — including dogs.

In 2022, a deaf Australian Cattle Dog named Bunji the Blue Dog completed her 740-mile thru-paddle of the NFCT, with help from her companions Ashley Hyatt and Cole Grosner. This small but mighty pup paddled and pawed her way from Old Forge, NY, to Fort Kent, Maine, finding sticks, meeting wildlife and sleeping peacefully even as Ashley and Cole navigated rapids.

*Bunji photos provided by Cole Grosner and Ashley Hyatt.*

But it wasn't easy. Being deaf meant that

Ashley and Cole had to learn to communicate with Bunji using American Sign Language. And as a dog rescued from ranch land in Texas, Bunji also had to work through her fears and anxiety to learn how to sleep in tents and trust strangers.

"Over the first week of our trip, Ashley and I had quickly figured out that traveling with a dog — at least our dog — closely resembled traveling with a child," Cole recalled. "We packed toys, took frequent breaks and cut back on our miles if she hadn't napped or was unusually restless or cranky."

When it came to the paddling, though, Bunji was a natural.

"She absolutely loved open water," Ashley said. "She chose a perch in the front of the boat for most of her waking hours."

Bunji's adventure is one of our favorites from 2022, but there are plenty more to check out, from a family of three finishing a section paddle years in the making to a particularly lively thru-paddler who found a way to incorporate bicycling into his trip.

For all of our stories, news and updates, visit [bit.ly/nfctstories](https://bit.ly/nfctstories). To share your adventure, email [chris@northernforestcanoetrail.org](mailto:chris@northernforestcanoetrail.org).



## PREPPING FOR PADDLING SEASON? WE CAN HELP

A prepared paddler is a happy paddler, and the team at the NFCT is here to make sure you've got all the information you need, whether you're day-tripping on the Nulhegan or planning a 740-mile thru-paddle.

The most comprehensive tool you have at your disposal is the **NFCT Trip Planner**. This interactive map lets you view dozens of trail features and trailside services, including lodging, dining, campsites, put-ins, take-outs and much more. You can load any map section and zoom in to find what you need. Please note, however, that the Trip Planner should complement your wayfinding once on the water: it is not intended to serve as the sole source of navigational information. To learn more and try out our Trip Planner, visit [northernforestcanoetrail.org/trip-planner](http://northernforestcanoetrail.org/trip-planner).

Of course, we also have maps — 13 to be exact — and a variety of guidebooks, produced both by NFCT and our friends. Our waterproof maps are the most reliable tool for navigating on the water and include locations of campsites, portages, rapids and important contact info. The Official NFCT Guidebook and the *Through-Paddler's Companion* by Katina Daanen add useful details and interesting regional information. Maps and guidebooks are available individually, for a region or as a set. To learn more, visit our online store: [bit.ly/shopnfct](http://bit.ly/shopnfct).

Finally, one of the newest tools for NFCT paddlers is the **FarOut Mobile App**. Developed in partnership with FarOut guides, this GPS-enabled guide features over 1,400 waypoints, site photos and several base maps, which work online and can be downloaded for offline use — especially handy for remote, out-of-range adventures.

The FarOut app is available for purchase as a guide for the entire 740-mile canoe trail, or for individual sections. To purchase the app, users can download the FarOut Guides app on their smartphone and search for the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, or visit [bit.ly/faroutnfct](http://bit.ly/faroutnfct). Still have questions? Email [info@northernforestcanoetrail.org](mailto:info@northernforestcanoetrail.org).

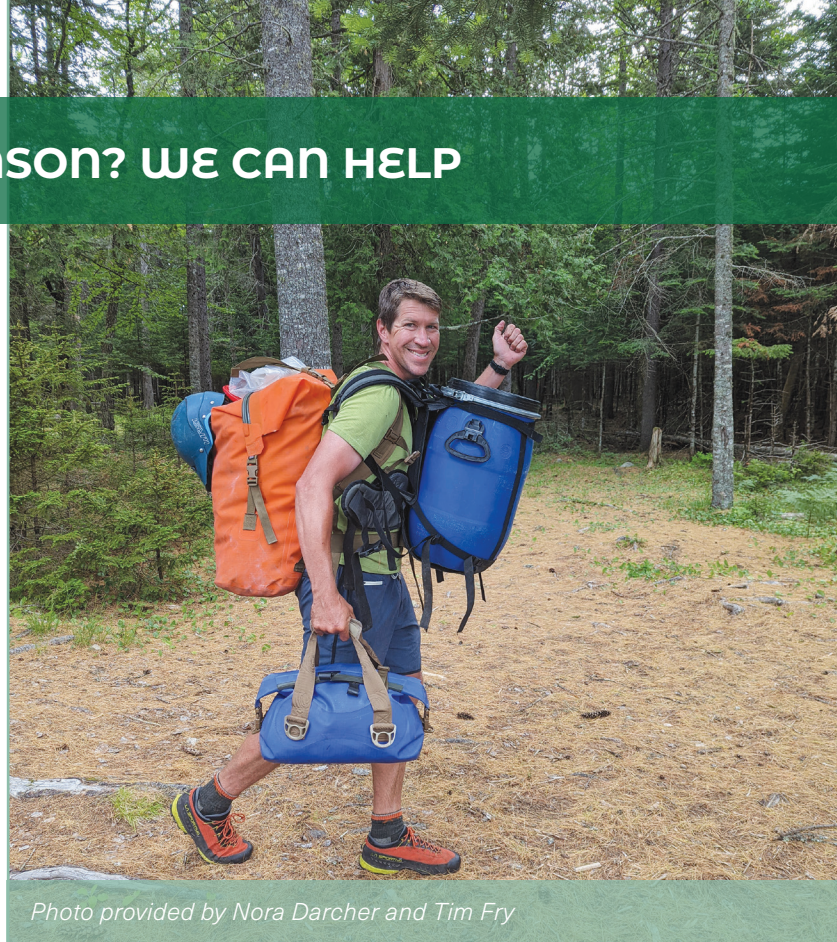


Photo provided by Nora Darcher and Tim Fry





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## SAVE THE DATES FOR 2023 EVENTS

We have a full slate of events set for this year. For details & more information, visit [bit.ly/nfctevents](https://bit.ly/nfctevents) or scan the QR code.

World Tour Paddling Film Festival (see website for dates & locations)

Community Paddles (see website for dates & locations)

Boat Raffles (see website for details)

'Round the Mountain Canoe & Kayak Race — May 13, Saranac Lake, NY

Celebrate Paddling ADK — June 2023, Tri-Lakes, 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. 23, Long Lake, NY

