

CURRENTS & COMMUNITIES

SPRING 2024



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

Warren Whitney, Chair
Brandon Devito, Vice Chair
Zand Martin, Secretary
Jess Wilson, Treasurer
Anne Brewer
Dan Brown
Thomas Hark
Paul Heintz
Kristine Keeney
Danny Mongno

OUR STAFF

Karrie Thomas, Executive Director
Noah Pollock, Trail Director
Alex Delhagen, Assistant Trail Director
Chris Morris, Communications Director
Marthe Peterson, Office Manager
Jordanna Mallach, Adirondack Race Coordinator

CONNECT WITH US

Website: northernforestcanoetrail.org
Facebook: @paddlenfct
Instagram & TikTok: @northernforestcanoetrail
Phone: (802) 496-2285

Cover photo: NFCT Thru-Paddler and Board Member Zand Martin (stern) guides a writer from Paddling Magazine down rapids on Maine's Dead River. Photo by Aaron Black-Schmidt.

Behind small organizations that have great impact, you're always going to find some great people.

The NFCT has been fortunate to have had Anne Brewer as its Board Chair for the last several years. Working with Karrie and the rest of the staff, Anne helped the NFCT expand its work in her home region of the Adirondacks, especially taking the reins of the iconic 90-Miler canoe race. As I take over as Chair, we'll work just as hard to keep that momentum going. We'll also strive to increase our scope in the rest of the NFCT region, especially in Maine, my home state.

This year, we're proud to team up with the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust to premiere the Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous, part of Maine's new High Peaks PaddleFest. Elsewhere in Maine, we're pleased to partner with Teens to Trails to offer a series of trips over the next three years, and this summer our stewardship crew begins major work in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

There's a lot more happening, too, including the new Youth Paddling Symposium in Saranac Lake, film fests across the Northeast, and nine Waterway Work Trips. Read on to learn about the full slate of 2024 programs.

I'd love to hear your ideas on how we can connect more people to the NFCT: **jwarrenwhitney@gmail.com**. And if you're paddling on the trail, or anywhere in Maine, I'd love to connect with you in person for a day on the water!

— Warren Whitney, Chair



We've got some ambitious plans for our 2024 stewardship season — and we've got reinforcements.

This year, our stewardship program includes nine projects across the Northeast, including a special focus on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. To that end, we've expanded our year-round and seasonal staff to make sure we can rise to the challenge.

At the end of 2023, we welcomed Alex Delhagen to our year-round staff. As assistant trail director, Alex will help to design and implement projects, oversee the NFCT's roving trail crew and assist with community events, with a focus on the western sections of the canoe trail — New York, Vermont and Quebec. We've also doubled our team of interns from three to six; half of that team will join Alex as our roving crew, and the other half will work with our new Allagash crew leader, Ethan Israel, to implement several projects in Maine. Check out Page 7 to learn more about Alex and Ethan.

Our slate of stewardship work includes projects that improve campsites, enhance access points, fix eroding portages and much more. Project dates and locations are as follows:

June 20-23, Scofield Cove, Churchill Lake, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ME

June 21-23, Lower Locks Carry, NY

June 29 to July 1, Lake Champlain's Valcour Island Campsites, NY

July 4-7, Scofield Point, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ME

July 5-7, Five Faults Lean-to, NY

July 12-15, Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal and Upper Missisquoi Access, VT

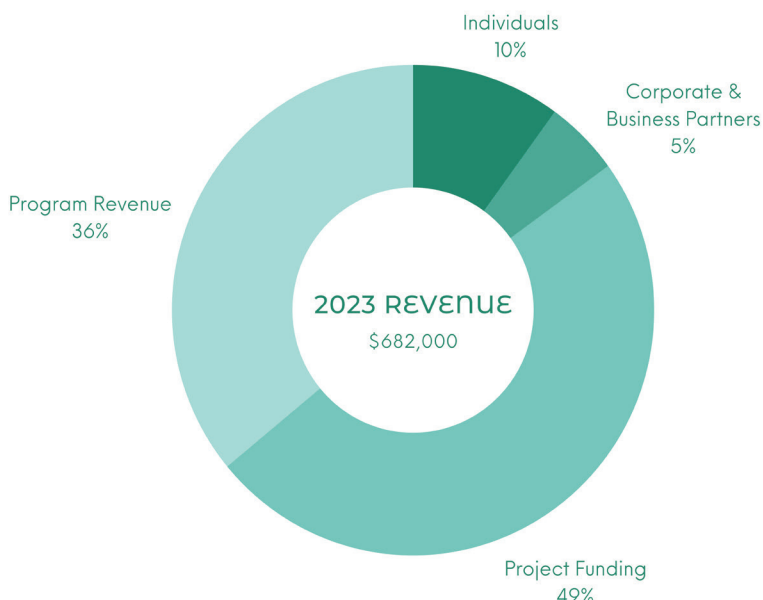
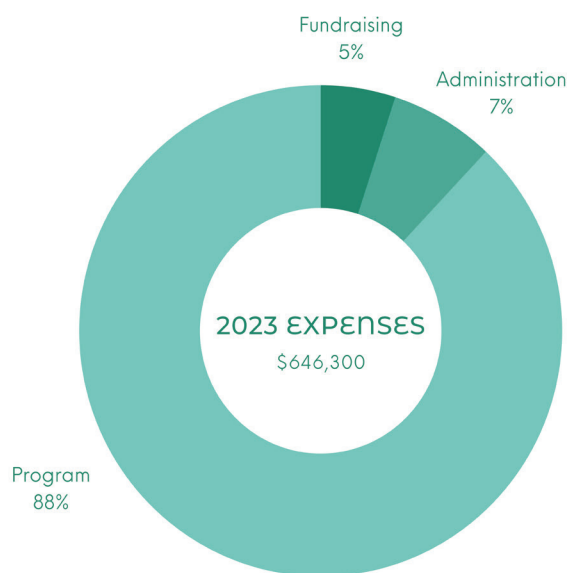
July 18-21, Jaws Campsite, Churchill Lake, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ME

July 19-21, Cedar Stump Campsite and the Rapid River Carry, ME

July 26-28, Moosehead Lake "Little W" Campsites, ME

The NFCT's Waterway Work Trips, which align with the stewardship crew's work schedule, offer individuals a chance to join the team for a weekend, including meals, paddling and exploration. Each trip begins on Friday evening — Thursday for the Allagash trips — and finishes on Sunday afternoon. Space is limited for each trip. To learn more or sign up, visit bit.ly/wwt2024.

2023 BY THE NUMBERS: REVENUE, EXPENSES & FUNDERS



Project Funders

Adirondack Foundation:
 Uihlein-Ironman Sports Fund
 The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
 Athletic Brewing Company:
 Two for the Trails Fund
 Davis Conservation Foundation
 Explore Adirondack Frontier
 The Leonard C. and Mildred F.
 Ferguson Foundation
 Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands
 New England Interstate Water
 Pollution Control Commission
 New Hampshire Charitable
 Foundation: Neil & Louise
 Tillotson Fund
 New Hampshire Charitable
 Foundation: Upper Connecticut
 Mitigation and Enhancement Fund
 New York Sea Grant
 Quimby Family Foundation
 Vermont Fish & Wildlife
 Vermont River Conservancy

Corporate Partners

Class V (\$10,000 +)

Esquif
 NRS

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

L.L.Bean
 Northstar Canoes

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

Exped
 Hornbeck Boats
 ORU Kayak

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

Kokatat
 Placid Boatworks
 Peerless Handcuff
 Werner Paddles

Supporter (\$500-\$999)

Brant & Cochran
 Iowa Boots
 Mystery Ranch

Business Partners

Class V (\$1,000+)

Adirondack Experience
 Adirondack Hotel
 Adirondack Lakes & Trails Outfitters
 Adirondack Watershed Institute
 Central Adirondack Association
 Hotel Saranac
 Hyde Fuel
 Lake Placid Pub & Brewery
 Long Lake Association
 Long Lake Lions Club
 Long Lake Marina
 Long Lake/Raquette Lake
 Madawaska Kanu Centre
 Polar Seltzer
 ROOST
 Town of Webb

White Rose Canoe

Class IV (\$500-\$999)

Adirondack Bank
 Adirondack Health
 Adirondack Guideboat
 Ampersand Bay Resort
 The Birches Resort
 Blue Mountain Lake
 Community National Bank
 Town of Harrietstown
 Hotel Saranac
 Town of Inlet
 Jackson's Lodge
 Kittery Trading Post
 Krapf Coaches
 Mac's Canoe Livery
 Mahoosuc Guide Service
 Rangeley Adventure Co.
 Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust
 North Country Federal Credit Union
 Northeast Kingdom Outfitters &
 Guide Service
 Northwestern Medical Center
 Onion River Outdoors
 Packraft Maine
 St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center
 Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
 Saranac Lake Marina
 Southern Tier Canoes
 Stewart's Shops
 Vert Outdoors

— Continued on next page

Class III (\$250-\$499)

Appalachian Mountain Club
 Blue Moon Cafe
 Blue Mountain Lake Diner
 Chewonki Foundation
 The Crew Stop
 Fathom Recruitment
 Fountain Square Outfitters
 Guide ADK
 Maine Outdoor Film Festival
 Matt Burnett Guiding
 New York Paddlesports
 Racing Association
 Nori's Village Market
 NOLS
 Northern Power & Light
 Northern Waters Outfitters
 Old Forge Hardware
 Placid Waters Kayaking
 Portage Tap House
 Rangeley Inn & Tavern
 Raquette River Brewing
 Raquette River Outfitters
 St. Regis Canoe Outfitters
 Tait Canoe
 Three Mountain Associates
 Water's Edge Inn
 The Wild Center
 Woods & Waters Gear Exchange

Supporter (Up to \$249)

Adirondack Explorer
 Allagash Wilderness

Waterway Foundation
 Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens
 Down East Magazine
 Great Glen Trails & Outfitters
 High Peaks Distributing
 Kurtz Photography
 L.L. Cote
 Maine Audubon
 Maine Island Trail Association
 Moose River Lodge & Tavern
 Nick Leadley Photography
 Northwood Cabins
 Paint-N-Paddle Studio
 Portland Paddle
 Rapid Media
 Recreation Publishing/Paddling Life
 Shaheen's Adirondack Inn
 Umiak Outdoor Outfitters
 Upper Saranac Foundation
 Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports
 Vermont River Conservancy
 Vermont Ski & Snowboard Museum
 Winona Camps

Major Donors**\$3,000 +**

Grant Faller
 Chris & Patty Gill
 Adam Pearsall
 Ethan & Anne Winter

\$1,000 to \$2,999

Mary Jean Bland
 Nancie Battaglia
 Brian Castler &
 Katherine Duffendack
 Hamill Family Foundation
 Paul Heintz
 Kay Henry & Rob Center
 Neil and Suzanne McGinn
 MSB Charitable Fund
 The Pill Maharam Family Fund
 Sarah Quaintance
 Cornelis Rijnbrand
 Alan Stearns & Austin Brown
 Sukey Wagner
 Warren Whitney

\$500

Mark Blackwood
 Kristian Carr & Jo D.Saffair
 Paul Egbert & Jean Townes
 Brian Frankie
 Joel Frantzman
 Stephen Garanin
 Karen Herold & Mark Isaacson
 Dale Krapf
 John Schweizer & Jennifer Lucas
 Widgeon Point Charitable

We strive to present an accurate list of all our donors. Please excuse any errors or omissions. Send corrections to Chris Morris at chris@northernforestcanoetrail.org.

Congratulations to Our 2023 Thru-Paddlers

We congratulate the individuals who successfully thru-paddled the canoe trail last year:

Julie Birkle****Jerred Higbie******Stephen Higbie******Katrina Luff*****Robert Luff*****Cain Missenden-Jones*****Roseanne Missenden-Jones*****Bobby Nolan*****Rob Ricard******JC Ridge****Thomas Salvini******Trevor Schumacher******Jeff Snyder******James Thomas******Mack Truax****Allen Wikstrom******Lily Woodward***

If you would like to be recognized for your accomplishment as an NFCT Thru-Paddler or Section-Paddler, or wish to view the entire list of thru-paddlers through the years, visit bit.ly/thrupaddlers.

***Thru-Paddler: Those who complete the trail self-propelled, west to east.*

**Integrated: Those who complete the trail with shuttles.*

(No asterisk indicates Integrated Downstream: those who complete the trail paddling river sections downstream.)



2024 FOCUS: INVESTING IN MAINE

With a small team covering a *lot* of ground (and water), it's sometimes necessary to narrow our focus to specific regions of the canoe trail. In recent years, that focus was on the Adirondacks, as we took over management of the Adirondack Race Series, the Adirondack Paddling Symposium and continued our involvement in Celebrate Paddling ADK. Now, the time has come to invest in the Maine sections of the NFCT and in the paddling community.

Our biggest announcement is the inaugural Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous (ROAR), part of Maine's new High Peaks PaddleFest. This event is a two-day, 40-mile paddling stage race featuring a paddle through the incredible lands and waters of the Rangeley Lakes, showcasing the best of the area. This race will premiere June 29-30. Plan to join us: paddle the whole thing or put together a relay team. The route will take you from Rangeley to Richardson Lake on Day 1 and back again on Day 2. Bookmark bit.ly/rangeleyrendezvous to register and learn more about the High Peaks PaddleFest.



On the stewardship side, a multi-year partnership between the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands, local landowners, environmental groups and the NFCT is enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities statewide. In the last two years alone, we've completed major campsite renovations on Long Pond and Moosehead Lake; critical maintenance on the historic Rapid River Carry, which connects Umbagog Lake and Richardson Lake; and rehabilitation of the Northeast Carry, connecting Moosehead Lake to the West Branch of the Penobscot River. This year, our Maine stewardship work zeros in on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, with a dedicated crew overseeing three major projects on Churchill Lake. We'll also return to Moosehead Lake and the Rapid River Carry.

"Maine comprises half of the 740-mile canoe trail. We're incredibly fortunate to have strong partners like Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands and dozens of landowners to help us make sure outdoor enthusiasts from all walks of life can paddle, fish, hunt and enjoy these lands forever."

— Noah Pollock, NFCT Trail Director

Finally, in 2024, our three-year partnership with Maine Teens to Trails gains momentum. Over the next two years, we'll send eight trips full of Maine Outing Club members across the entire Maine section of the NFCT, in anticipation of our 25th anniversary. Trips include the Moose River Bow Loop to Grand Falls via Spencer Stream, the Moose River to the Northwest Carry on Moosehead Lake and the West Branch of the Penobscot River — Lobster Stream to Chesuncook Dam. Folks interested in participating should contact Samantha Andrews at Teens to Trails by emailing samantha@teenstotrails.org. To learn more about our partners at Teens to Trails, visit teenstotrails.org. For a complete list of Northern Forest Explorers trips, visit our website: bit.ly/northernforestexplorers.



WELCOMING NEW FACES

The NFCT family is excited to welcome Assistant Trail Director Alex Delhagen and Allagash Crew Leader Ethan Israel.

Alex (pictured on the top right) is Vermont born and raised, and comes to us by way of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania and Rocky Mountain Field Institute; he also volunteered for a number of conservation groups in South America.

Ethan (pictured on the bottom right) re-joins the NFCT's stewardship team just months after completing his internship in 2023. Originally from Randolph, NJ, he is a student at the University of Vermont and is an avid biker, paddler, backpacker and boat builder.

"Our work is only as strong as the people who make it happen," said Trail Director Noah Pollock. "We're fortunate to have two dedicated and dynamic individuals join our team."



TOOLS & RESOURCES FOR YOUR UPCOMING ADVENTURES

January and February are for dreaming; March and April are for planning. This is the time to start mapping out your paddling season, whether you're prepping for a thru-paddle, continuing a section paddle or just looking for shorter overnight or day trips. Whatever you're planning, the NFCT is here to help with tools, resources and expertise.

The newest — and ever-evolving — tool for paddlers is the FarOut app, a GPS-enabled guide with hundreds of waypoints, site photos, base maps and more. The NFCT partnered with FarOut in 2022, and since then users have turned the app into a dynamic resource of real-time, up-to-date data. The app works online but can also be downloaded for offline use in remote, out-of-service areas. To learn more, visit bit.ly/faroutnfct.



The Trip Planner Tool is an interactive web-based mapping platform that allows users to view access points, lodging options, restaurants, grocery stores, public and private campsites, and guides and outfitters. Our Trip Planner also features nearby paddling trails, including the Lamoille River Paddlers' Trail, the Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail and the Penobscot River Paddling Trail. Check out the Trip Planner at northernforestcanoetrail.org/trip-planner.

The best way to prepare and stay on course, however, is still the old fashioned way, as maps and guidebooks don't glitch out. Visit our store to check out our selection: bit.ly/shopnfct.



PO Box 565
Waitsfield, VT
05673



2024 EVENTS SCHEDULE: SAVE THE DATES!

Mark your calendars, plan ahead and join us for one of our many events this year. For more information, visit bit.ly/nfcteevents or scan the QR code.

Boat Raffles — Esquif, Northstar & Placid Boatworks, see website for details

Freshet Film Festivals — Various dates & locations, see website for details

Community Paddles — Various dates & locations, see website for details

'Round the Mountain Canoe & Kayak Race — May 11, Saranac Lake, NY

Celebrate Paddling ADK — Entire month of June, Tri-Lakes, Adirondacks, NY

Adirondack Paddling Symposium — June 14-17, Saranac Lake, NY

Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous — June 29-30, Rangeley, ME

Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal — July 13, Richford, VT

Youth Paddling Symposium — July 15-18, Paul Smiths, NY

Adirondack Canoe Classic — Sept. 6-8, Adirondacks, NY

Long Lake Long Boat Regatta — Sept. 21, Long Lake, NY

