

# CURRENTS & COMMUNITIES

SPRING 2025





## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR VISION

We envision an unrivaled network of paddling opportunities across the Northern Forest that inspires people to fall in love with paddling 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  
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Anne Brewer  
Dan Brown  
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## OUR STAFF

Karrie Thomas, Executive Director  
Noah Pollock, Trail Director  
Alex Delhagen, Assistant Trail Director  
Chris Morris, Communications & Outreach Director  
Marthe Peterson, Office Manager

## CONNECT WITH US

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

*Cover: From left, Jon Zander, Iris Li and Brandon Devito paddle on Union Falls Pond in the Adirondacks. (Photo by Chris Morris.)*

## A SILVER JUBILEE

The board, staff, volunteers, and business and community partners that make up the Northern Forest Canoe Trail family are honored to celebrate our 25th anniversary with you this year.

In the 1990s, a group of paddling enthusiasts, cartographers and explorers examined historic maps of the Northeast, identifying centuries-old waterway routes used by Indigenous peoples, guides, traders and settlers. In 2000, that work culminated with the formal establishment of the NFCT, a 740-mile mapped inland water trail connecting New York, Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire and Maine. Our early focus was building campsites and access points so paddlers could complete the trail in its entirety. In 2025, the canoe trail is more connected and accessible than ever, and our focus on sustainability has helped create more resilient outdoor infrastructure.

We're proud of the community that has grown around the NFCT. Paddling is a lifelong sport, something people from all walks of life can enjoy. From coordinating paddling meet-ups and symposiums for kids and first-timers to supporting independent paddlers and hosting multi-day stage races, we're committed to helping get as many people on the water as possible, regardless of background.

To mark 25 years, the NFCT will host its biggest slate of events and activities to date. We're offering programming in all four states, from Waterway Work Trips and community paddles to races and youth trips. This newsletter outlines all the ways you can get involved this year; we hope to see you out there!

— Warren Whitney, Chair

# WORK, PLAY & GIVE BACK TO THE NFCT THIS SUMMER

Throughout our 25-year history, stewardship has always been the life blood of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. Without it, the rest of our work wouldn't be possible. This year, our team is preparing to execute another ambitious slate of projects.

For the second straight year, we'll deploy two stewardship teams: a roving crew that will work across the Northeast and a crew dedicated solely to projects

on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Our professional staff can't do it alone, however. This year we once again invite folks from across the region to join us for a Waterway Work Trip, a full weekend of volunteering on stewardship projects on the NFCT.

WWTs with the roving crew begin on Friday and end on Sunday; Allagash trips start on Thursday. The weekend features construction and maintenance of campsites, access points and portage trails, but we also factor in time for paddling adventures on nearby waters and rest and relaxation at some of the Northeast's most scenic and remote campsites. And our ace camp cooks keep you well-fed throughout. A modest registration fee helps cover the cost of food. See below for this year's slate of trips. Please note that some of these trips have already sold out, while others are filling up fast. Be sure to visit our website to sign up, learn more and find out how to get on the wait list for full trips: [bit.ly/wwt2025](https://bit.ly/wwt2025).

Questions? Email [noah@northernforestcanoetrail.org](mailto:noah@northernforestcanoetrail.org).

*June 20-22, Valcour Island, Lake Champlain, NY*

*June 27-29, Brown's Tract Carry, Inlet/Raquette Lake, NY*

*June 25-28, Boy Scout Campsite, Chamberlain Lake, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ME*

*July 3-6, High Bank Campsite, Chamberlain Lake, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ME*

*July 4-6, Lower Locks Carry, Saranac Lake, NY*

*July 8-11, Murphy's Field Campsite, Chamberlain Lake, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ME*

*July 11-13, Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal & Stewardship, Richford, VT*

*July 18-20, Umbagog Lake Accessible Campsite, Upton, NH*

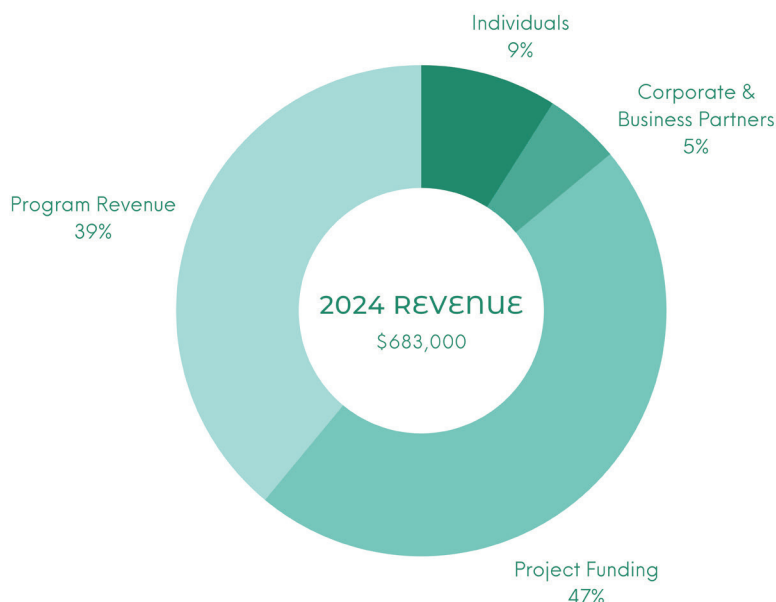
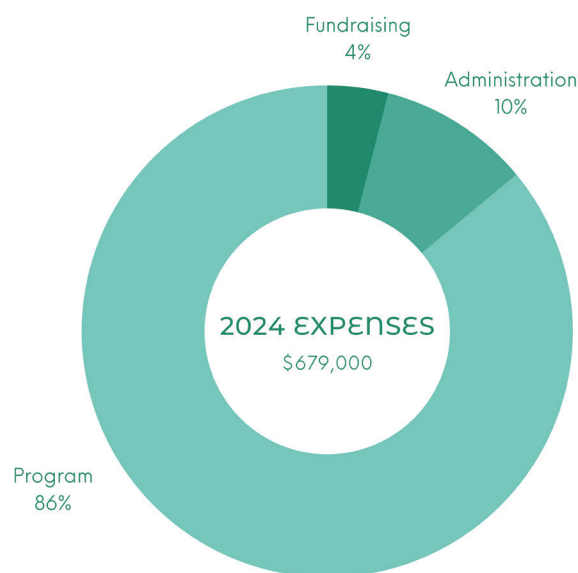
*July 19-22, Gravel Beach Campsite, Chamberlain Lake, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ME*

*July 25-27, Haley Pond/South Branch Dead Carries, Rangeley, ME*



*Volunteers with the NFCT's stewardship program construct a privy at the Cedar Stump campsite in Maine in July 2024.*

# 2024 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  
 Betterment Fund  
 Cloudsplitter Foundation  
 Connecticut River Conservancy  
 Hamill Family Foundation  
 Lake Champlain Basin Program  
 The Leonard C. and Mildred F.  
 Ferguson Foundation  
 Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands  
 Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund  
 Missisquoi River Basin Association  
 New England Interstate Water  
 Pollution Control Commission  
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation:  
 Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund  
 Northern Forest Center  
 Onion Foundation  
 Pearsall Foundation  
 Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust  
 Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers  
 Wild & Scenic Committee  
 Vermont Community Foundation  
 Vermont Fish & Wildlife  
 Vermont Outdoor Recreation  
 Community Grant Program  
 Vermont River Conservancy  
 Vermont Trails and Greenways Council

## Corporate Partners

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

NRS

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

L.L.Bean

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

Esquif  
 Northstar Canoes  
 Peerless Handcuff  
 Placid Boatworks

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

Hornbeck  
 Oru Kayak  
 Wenonah Canoe

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

Werner Paddles

## Business Partners

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

Adirondack Experience  
 Adirondack Lakes & Trails Outfitters  
 Adirondack Watershed Institute  
 Black Feather  
 Central Adirondack Association  
 Elevate ADK  
 Franklin County Local Development Corp  
 Goal Zero  
 Hyde Fuel  
 Mountainman Outdoor Supply Company  
 Packraft Maine  
 Paul Smith's College  
 Town of Inlet  
 Town of Long Lake

Town of Webb

White Rose Canoe

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

Adirondack Bank  
 Adirondack Guide Boat  
 Casella  
 Community National Bank  
 Hostel of Maine  
 Hotel Adirondack  
 Hotel Saranac  
 Krapf Coaches  
 Lake Placid Pub & Brewery  
 Iowa Boots  
 Northern Tier Center for Health  
 Northwestern Medical Center  
 St. Regis Canoe Outfitters  
 Saranac Lake Marina  
 Rangeley Adventure Co  
 The Rangeley Inn  
 Raquette River Outfitters  
 Town of Harrietstown

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

Blue Mountain Lake  
 Branches  
 Brant & Cochran  
 Curry's Cottages  
 Fountain Square Outfitters  
 Guide ADK  
 Krapf Coaches  
 New York Paddlesports Racing Association  
 North Country Rivers  
 Onion River Outdoors  
 Paddler's Rest  
 REI  
 St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center  
 Southern Tier Canoes

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

Adirondack Explorer  
Adirondack Health  
Adirondack Life  
Ampersand Bay Resort  
Civilian Conservation Corps  
Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens  
Crazy Creek  
Down East Magazine  
Fox Worx Paddles  
Good To-Go  
Grandy Organics  
Hüga Heat  
Maine Outdoor Film Festival  
Mark Kurtz Photography  
Matt Burnett Guiding  
Northwood Cabins  
Polar Seltzer  
Raquette River Brewing  
Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce  
Shaw & Tenney  
Stewart's Shops  
Tekto  
The Wild Center  
Winona Camps  
The Woods Inn  
Woods & Waters Gear Exchange

## **Supporter (Up to \$99)**

Adirondack Council  
Adirondack Hamlets to Huts

Flowfold  
Hostel of Maine  
Lakeside Convenience & Marina  
Mac's Canoe Livery  
Morton & Furbish Agency  
Pine Tree Frosty  
Portland Paddle  
Rangeley Friends of the Arts  
Rangeley Region Sport Shop  
The Black Bear Trading Post  
The Crew Stop

## **Major Donors**

### **\$3,000 +**

Grant Faller  
Adam Pearsall  
Warren Whitney  
Ethan & Anne Winter

### **\$1,000 to \$2,999**

Mark Blackwood  
Brian Castler  
Mark & Pat Fromm  
Worth Gretter  
Hamill Family Foundation  
Paul Heintz  
Kay Henry & Rob Center  
Nancy Mathiasen  
Kevin McCabe  
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John Schweizer  
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Susan Wagner  
Winona Community Foundation:  
Mike & Linda Cichanowski Fund  
Brad & Sue Wyman

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

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Stephen Garanin  
Joe Geronimo  
Todd Green  
Karen Herold  
Frederick Klauser  
George MacNaughton  
Franklin Meyer  
Kathleen Millspaugh  
Matt Pistner  
Cornelis Rijnbrand  
Schweiker-Feemster Fund  
James Sherwood  
Eric Toburen  
Jacob Traverso

*We strive to present an accurate list of all our donors. Please excuse any errors or omissions.*

*Send corrections to Chris Morris at*

***chris@northernforestcanoeatrail.org***

# **INTRODUCING THE 2024 THRU-PADDLER ROSTER**

We congratulate the individuals who successfully thru-paddled the canoe trail last year. This is a significant accomplishment and we invite the entire NFCT community to celebrate this year's roster with us.

**Monty Fuss\*\***

**Eli Idec\*\***

**Adin Jacobs-Johnson\*\***

**Syd Levy\***

**Duncan Lumia\*\***

**Cade Marshall-Bowman\***

**Fiona Morrison\*\***

**Jan Ptacek\*\***

**Jake Sexton\*\***

**Mack Truax\***

The NFCT family extends a special shoutout to Mack Truax, one of our best ambassadors and an all-around great person. In 2024, Mack completed his section paddle of the canoe trail and his final — of many — integrated downstream paddle. We know there's plenty more paddling ahead for you, Mack, and the trail will always be here if you change your mind.

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



## TEAMING UP TO EXPAND ACCESSIBILITY

Last year, the NFCT began ramping up its efforts to enhance accessibility to the woods and waters of the Northern Forest region. That work continues to pick up steam, and in winter 2025 we were proud to participate in the first ever Vermont Trail Accessibility Hub (TAH) Summit.

Over 50 leaders from Vermont's outdoor recreation community attended the summit, including representatives from over 30 organizations. The focus was on improving access to outdoor recreation for everyone, especially those with physical disabilities and mobility challenges.



"The NFCT and its partners are conducting dozens of trail assessments to identify opportunities for increasing access to trails, whether it's on land or in the water," said NFCT Executive Director Karrie Thomas. "We're also developing resources for trail design and management, highlighting existing accessible recreation and offering technical support."

"We've already performed site assessments and an accessibility survey," Thomas added, "and this year, we'll be building a new accessible campsite on Umbagog Lake in New Hampshire. It's important to our organization — and to the future of paddling and outdoor recreation — to ensure that everyone has the ability to take to the water and enjoy the natural world."

To learn more about the NFCT's accessibility work, contact Assistant Trail Director Alex Delhagen at [alex@northernforestcanoetrail.org](mailto:alex@northernforestcanoetrail.org).

## INSPIRATION, PLANNING + RESOURCES



*Syd Levy, who thru-paddled the NFCT in 2024 with Cade Marshall-Bowman, pulls a canoe up Spencer Stream. (Photo by Cade Marshall-Bowman.)*

It's time to start planning for the paddling season, and the NFCT is here to help. We encourage you to use the following resources to prep for your adventures!

Trip Planner: [bit.ly/nfcttripplanner](https://bit.ly/nfcttripplanner)

Itineraries: [bit.ly/nfctitineraries](https://bit.ly/nfctitineraries)

News & Updates: [bit.ly/voicesfromthetrail](https://bit.ly/voicesfromthetrail)

Maps and guidebooks: [bit.ly/shopnfct](https://bit.ly/shopnfct)



## CRAZY CREEK DEAL, SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY HORNBECK & MORE

To help the NFCT community celebrate its 25th anniversary, our partners at Crazy Creek are offering a special promotion from March 1 to March 30. For a limited time, paddlers can purchase a new Canoe IV Crazy Creek chair and receive a 25% discount. Even better, with each purchase, Crazy Creek will donate 25% of the proceeds to the NFCT — a win-win!



Scan the QR code or visit **bit.ly/crazycreeknfct** to purchase your Canoe IV. You must enter NFCT2025 at checkout to receive your discount.

We're grateful to the folks at Crazy Creek for celebrating this milestone with us and supporting our work. Don't miss your chance at a great deal for a good cause!

Stay tuned for our boat raffles, including a one-of-a-kind 25th anniversary pack boat donated by our friends at Hornbeck. We will also raffle boats donated by Esquif and Northstar! Bookmark **bit.ly/nfctboatraffles** for updates.



## 2025 EVENTS LINEUP

The NFCT has a full schedule of events planned for its 25th anniversary. These activities represent an opportunity to connect with fellow paddlers, explore new waters and celebrate with our team. We encourage you to visit **bit.ly/nfctevents** or scan the QR code to register and learn more!



*May 10 — 'Round the Mountain Canoe & Kayak Race, Saranac Lake, NY*

*June 13-16 — Adirondack Paddling Symposium, Saranac Lake, NY*

*June 20-22 — Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous, Rangeley, ME*

*July 12 — Missisquoi Paddle-Pedal, Richford, VT*

*Sept. 5-7 — Adirondack Canoe Classic AKA the 90-Miler, Adirondacks, NY*

*Sept. 20 — Long Lake Long Boat Regatta, Long Lake, NY*

In addition to these events, the NFCT teams up with local guides, outfitters and community partners to host the Adirondack Youth Paddling Symposium, Northern Forest Explorers, Teens to NFCT and community paddles. Youth programs have limited space, and information about community paddles is posted throughout the summer. To learn more, email our communications and outreach director at **chris@northernforestcanoetrail.org**.



Celebrating 25 Years

PO Box 565  
Waitsfield, VT  
05673



COME GET YOUR  
**PADDLE ON!**  
2-DAY, 40-MILE  
PADDLING STAGE RACE

Join us June 20-22 for the  
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Rendezvous and High Peaks  
PaddleFest. Learn more:  
[northernforestcanoetrail.org](http://northernforestcanoetrail.org)

