



News from HHLT: April 2019

Events and Improvements at Granite Mountain Preserve



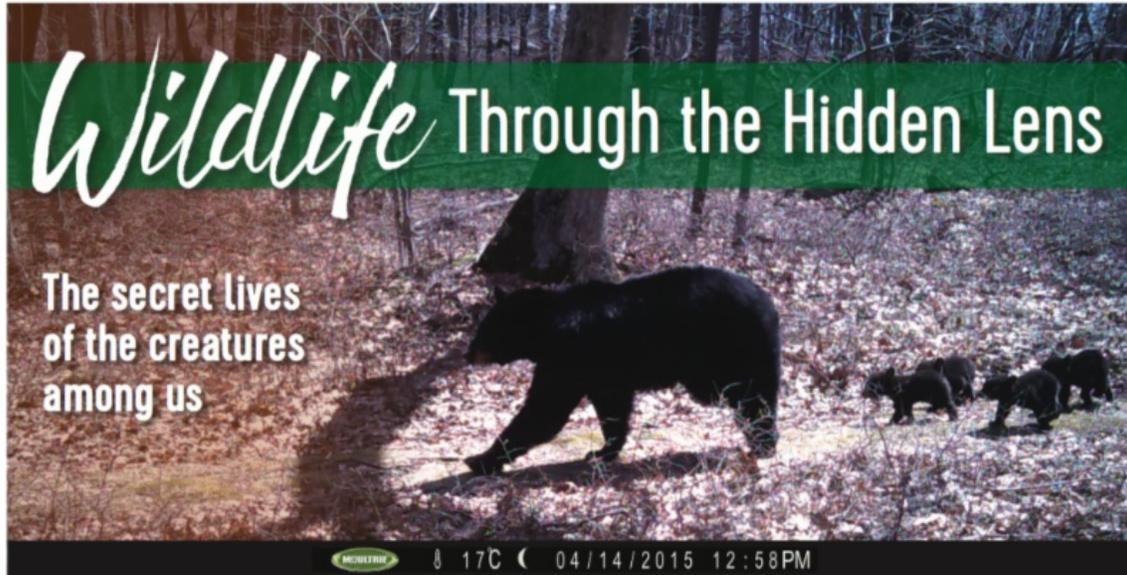
We have a few exciting developments at [Granite Mountain Preserve](#) in Putnam Valley as we work to make the Preserve more accessible to the public. Most visibly, a new sign welcoming visitors was recently installed near the main gate on Peekskill Hollow Road. Also, we would like to acknowledge Joshua Uchetel, a Scout from Putnam Valley Boy Scout Troop 41, who took on the challenge of designing an informational kiosk for the Preserve as his Eagle Scout project. Joshua, along with other Scouts from Putnam Valley BSA Troop 41, have begun constructing the kiosk near the Peekskill Hollow Road access area and parking lot. Once completed this summer, the kiosk will help guests plan their visit with trail maps and other essential information. Thank you to our Boy Scout and community volunteers for helping with both projects!

As we continue our trail improvement projects, we have planned a few guided hikes and volunteer opportunities in the coming months for residents to get to know Granite Mountain and HHLT:

- **Thursday, April 25th, 5-7pm:** After-work hike up the mountain, followed by a cleanup of the Peekskill Hollow Road parking area
- **Sunday, May 12th, 9-11am:** "BioBlitz" hike using iNaturalist mobile app to help us document the various plant and animal species in the Preserve. (We encourage people interested in this hike to also attend our [Community Forum](#) on **April 14th** to learn how to use iNaturalist.)
- **Mid-June:** Community trailwork day with [Tahawus Trails](#)

Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in joining any of these events or receiving information about future hikes and volunteer opportunities at Granite Mountain.

Last Chance to Register for This Sunday's Community Forum!



Our annual Community Forum is this **Sunday, April 14th!** The Forum, which will take place from **1 - 4pm** at the **Old VFW Hall in Cold Spring**, will focus on how scientists are using cameras and other technology to better understand our natural world. Attendees will also learn how to use technology to discover wildlife in their own backyards. Speakers include **Dr. Edwin McGowan** from [Bear Mountain State Park](#), **Dr. Scott LaPoint** from [Black Rock Forest](#) and **Dr. Brent Boscarino** from the [Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management \(PRISM\)](#).

Attendees are encouraged to download the free [iNaturalist mobile app](#) ahead of the event. We will have a Citizen Science Corner set up with various plant samples for attendees to practice using the app, and they can later upload their findings to contribute to citizen science.

The Forum is **FREE**, but we suggest a donation of \$10, which can be made [online](#) or at the door. The event is nearly at capacity, so advance registration through [Eventbrite](#) is strongly encouraged, although walk-ins will be welcome if space allows. Coffee and snacks will be provided, but please bring your own drink vessel. Please also plan to walk or carpool to the Old VFW Hall as parking is limited.

The full agenda can be found in the [event program](#) and additional event details can be found in this [press release](#).

Please Join HHLT and the Local Girl Scouts at Nelsonville Preserve on April 27th

We are partnering with the Hudson Highlands Girl Scouts to host an invasive species removal day at the **Nelsonville Preserve** on **Saturday, April 27th**, from **10am to 2pm** as their annual Earth Day community service event. Other event partners include the **Village of Nelsonville**, the **Nelsonville Trails Committee**, the [New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's "Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management"](#) and the [Open Space Institute](#). Community volunteers of all ages are invited to join the Girl Scouts to learn the importance of good land stewardship and invasive species management at this Village treasure.

A check-in station at the Nelsonville trailhead on North Pearl Street will be set up throughout the event. Participants are encouraged to walk to the event, but if you need to drive, parking is available on Secor and North Pearl Streets. Lunch will be generously provided by **Cold Spring Pizza**.

Additional event details, including the full schedule of activities, are available in this [press release](#) or [flyer](#). Please RSVP on the [Village of Nelsonville's Facebook page](#).



Meet Our Newest Board Member, Michael Clarke

We are delighted to announce that Michael Clarke has joined our Board of Directors. Michael is the Director of the [Sharpe Reservation at The Fresh Air Fund](#), a 2,000+ acre property in Fishkill where thousands of young people enjoy summer programs every year. Over the past few years, we have been developing a partnership with The Fresh Air Fund to bring environmental career opportunities to a wider audience (stay tuned for more news on this). We were also delighted that our Executive Director, Michelle Smith, was invited to participate as a judge at the recent Maple Syrup contest on March 23rd at the Sharpe Reservation where The Fresh Air Fund's own maple syrup came second in the contest!



HHLT Continues Partnership with NY-NJ Trail Conference on Breakneck Ridge Stewardship for 2019



We are proud to partner again with the on their Breakneck Ridge for the 2019 season. HHLT will again help educate and train the Trail Stewards on the precious natural resources of the Hudson Highlands and how hikers can help protect them. We are also pleased to assist with the funding of this wonderful program. We would especially like to thank the John and Frank Sparacio Foundation for their generous support of our partnership in this program.

We are excited to support the [New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's](#) Breakneck Ridge [Trail Steward Program](#) for the 2019 season. This season will include expanded coverage across weekdays, in addition to weekends. Nicole Wooten, our Manager of Natural Resources, will again help educate and train the Trail Stewards on the precious natural resources of the Hudson Highlands and how hikers can help protect them. We are also pleased to assist with the funding of this wonderful program. We would especially like to thank the John and Frank Sparacio Foundation for their generous support of this program

Appalachian Trail Experience Highlighted in Photo Exhibit



Earlier this month, we were lucky to attend Stan Goldblatt's stunning photo exhibit at the Highland Falls Library entitled "The Appalachian Trail - Fort Montgomery Project: Portraits of Thru Hikers on the Appalachian Trail." Our conservation work focuses on protecting lands that surround the Appalachian Trail, and we thank Stan Goldblatt and the Highland Falls Library for illuminating the Appalachian Trail experience. Additional hiker portraits can be found on [Mr. Goldblatt's photography website](#).

Please consider supporting our work.
HHLT is the only organization that focuses exclusively on protecting the Hudson Highlands.
Your contribution protects this iconic region for our future generations.
Thank you!

DONATE NOW



The Hudson Highlands Land Trust protects and preserves the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands.

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