

The Appalachian Trail – An Urban Escape

Did you know that the Appalachian Trail is a national park? Not only is it a national park site, but it's one of the largest in the Eastern United States preserving some of the most significant and rare remaining ecosystems on the East Coast. The protected corridor (about 1,000 feet wide) provides pristine habitat and clean drinking water for residents and wildlife. The trail offers millions of people of all ages a chance to discover the outdoors in solitude or with friends and family.

As we celebrate the 2016 Centennial of the National Park Service, NPCA's Northeast office took the Find Your Voice program on the road to one of the most iconic national park sites east of the Mississippi River—the **Appalachian National Scenic Trail**. NPCA is connecting people to parks and parks to communities that need an escape from urban life. We acted as an easy on-ramp to the Appalachian Trail by hosting three Find Your Voice events in 2016 with local trail communities, diverse NYC youth groups, service organizations and veterans.

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Centennial Victories for America and the Northeast!

NPCA's Northeast region is thrilled to announce President Obama's designation of two new national monuments:



**Katahdin Woods & Waters
National Monument, Maine**

With our nation celebrating the 100th birthday of the National Park Service, it was fitting that the Obama administration create two new parks to preserve our wild places and celebrate our shared history as Americans as we move forward into the national parks' second century. Though these two new parks could not be any more different—in size, history, nature, and location- together they show how diverse our national parks can be and how the national parks of the future continue to take different forms and serve our diverse country.



**Stonewall National Monument,
New York**

For both campaigns, NPCA played a strong role in organizing supporters, managing stakeholders, and working with elected officials at every level. Of course, each effort was not without its challenges, but NPCA's deep determination and skilled expertise at managing such complicated projects ultimately proved to be successful.

After years of hard work, the help of numerous community groups and partner organizations, and strong support from

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FIELD REPORT

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Meet Molly Galvin: NPCA's Newest Fundraiser!



What is your role at NPCA? I am the Regional Director of Development for NPCA's Northeast region. I like to think of it as the best job at NPCA because I get to visit and talk with our members directly—all of whom are deeply passionate about enjoying and protecting national parks!

How did you become interested in national parks? I come from a big family filled with history buffs so I especially love the cultural and historic national park sites. I grew up in view of Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial [in Ohio.] Right now, the site I most want to visit is the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York.

Do you have a favorite national park? I do! I will never get enough of the Statue of Liberty.

I understand that you just returned from Acadia National Park (in Maine)—can you share any highlights from your trip? Wow, what a treasure. This was my first time visiting Acadia. Not only did I get a chance to hike and enjoy the beautiful views, I also got to see a few of the walking/biking connector trails that NPCA volunteers help to build. It made me very proud to be a part of this terrific organization and see some of the park improvements made possible by our wonderful members.

What can our Northeast NPCA members look forward to in coming months, especially as we wrap up the National Park Services Centennial year? Well, we are putting together more and more opportunities for members to get together here in the Northeast. I hope people in the New York area will join us at the Schomburg Center on October 18th for our "Memory, History, Race, and America's National Parks" event. I also hope Northeast members will consider traveling with NPCA this year. It's a great way to see parks in our region, across the country, and even around the world while connecting with other NPCA members and meeting NPCA staff working in the field. Members can learn more at npca.org/trips.

Above: Molly Galvin ©NPCA **Below:** Lowell National Historical Park ©Wangkun Jia | Dreamstime.com



JOIN NPCA!

Join NPCA today to help
protect our national parks for
future generations!

Contact our membership department at npca@npca.org or join online at npca.org/give/join. To join NPCA by phone, call us at 1.800.NAT.PARK (1.800.628.7275) between the hours of 9AM and 5PM (ET), Monday through Friday.



Centennial Victories for America and the Northeast!

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President Obama and his administration, we are glad to announce that Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument and Stonewall National Monument have joined the illustrious list of National Park Service sites, preserved in perpetuity for generations to come.

Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument

On August 28, in Millinocket, Maine, U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell arrived (by canoe!) to the designation ceremony for Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument, the 413th site within the National Park Service. This new park, consisting of approximately 87,500-acres in northern Maine, is rich in biodiversity (with bears and moose especially plentiful) and known for its outstanding recreational opportunities. Located adjacent to popular Baxter State Park, Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument will further enhance existing protected lands. Elliottsville Plantation, Inc., donated the land to the federal government along with a \$40 million maintenance endowment for its upkeep.

The White House noted in a statement, “this designation will permanently protect significant natural, scientific, and historic and cultural resources, wildlife habitat, and one of the most pristine watersheds in the northeast, ensuring that present and future generations are able to enjoy these lands.”

Beginning in September, the new park began to hold listening sessions for local residents in an effort to ensure the park’s management plan takes the residents’ needs and opportunities for input into serious consideration. NPCA is continuing to play a role and expects to assist in this ongoing public process.

Stonewall National Monument

In New York, the designation of Stonewall National Monument capped off NPCA’s multi-year efforts to create a site honoring the history of America’s LGBT civil rights movement. Located in Greenwich Village, the 7.7-acre site consists of beautiful Christopher Park and several streets surrounding the storied Stonewall Inn, a bar where LGBT patrons fought back against their oppressors in 1969 and sparked a turning point in the fight for LGBT equality.

This past June, U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, NPS Director Jon Jarvis,



Right: Moose in Katahdin, Maine
©georgesanker.com | Alamy Stock Photo



White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett, and a host of federal, state, and local officials were present in front of the Stonewall Inn to formally designate the site along with NPCA President & CEO Theresa Pierno. Pierno noted, “Today’s historic designation reaffirms the administration’s commitment to preserving special places that define who we are as a nation and that better reflect our diverse and evolving population. Adding underrepresented stories like Stonewall’s within the National Park System is critical. [This] designation will forever honor the events at Stonewall that have come to mean so much for so many people, and will continue to inspire many for years to come.”



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— Theresa Pierno
NPCA President & CEO

As the site continues to develop over the next several years, NPCA’s northeast office will take an active role in the process- including working with the Park Service on public comment sessions, enlisting volunteers to greet visitors to the new national monument, and facilitating meetings for potential Friends Group members and donors. To learn more visit: www.npca.org/parks/stonewall-national-monument.

Above: Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument ©Zachary Frank | Alamy Stock Photo
Top Right and Middle: Stonewall National Monument ©NPCA **Right:** NYC Pride March ©Ian Douglas Photography





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Urban youth discover the Appalachian Trail for the first time

NPCA organized a trip for 100 youth, young adults and senior citizens to visit the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain State Park. This was the first time many of them traveled outside New York City. We hiked a stone staircase re-route of the Appalachian Trail, demonstrated Leave No Trace principles and visited the Bear Mountain Zoo, a place to discover local wildlife.

NPCA establishes a self-sustaining program on the Appalachian Trail

NPCA helped a Brooklyn-based summer camp organize their own field trip to the Appalachian Trail. This was the second time NPCA worked with the Brooklyn group, Millennium Development, on the Appalachian Trail. Millennium Development staff are looking forward to a return trip in Spring 2017.

Veterans work with NPCA to protect the Appalachian Trail

NPCA hosted the 3rd Annual Trail Day in Harlem Valley, NY with the Harlem Valley Appalachian Trail Community (HVATC). NPCA brought together local trail stewards and United States veterans with Mission Continues to work on trail projects that preserve unique natural and cultural resources along this stretch of the Appalachian Trail.

Top (Left): Group shot of the entire Millennium Development team at Hessian Lake in Bear Mountain State Park. This was their first field trip to the Appalachian Trail and they are thrilled to be coming back in a few short months. ©Max Seigle **Top (Right):** Young advocates discover what critters live in Hessian Lake at Bear Mountain State Park in upstate NY. ©Whitney Browne **Below:** Members of the Harlem Valley Appalachian Trail Community and Warrior Expeditions rest atop Cat Rocks on the Appalachian Trail overlooking the breathtaking panoramic view of Litchfield County, CT. ©Chris Hansen Photography



SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!

We are always looking for beautiful pictures of our northeast parks and for park stories from our NPCA members! Send your photos and stories to northeast@npca.org!

A Hot Bike Ride for Gateway – A Sizzling Success!



The 8th annual Epic Ride, a 30 to 45-mile bike ride from Greenpoint, Brooklyn to Riis Park Beach in Gateway National Recreation Area, took place on Saturday, July 23, 2016. Thank you to all of NPCA's hardworking volunteers who made the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative's 2016 Epic Ride After Party at Riis Park in Gateway National Recreation Area a sizzling success! Despite the 95° heat, our staff, volunteers and partners worked incredibly hard to make sure the Epic Ride cyclists had a great time and stayed safely hydrated.

As part of our **Find Your Voice** initiative to educate, engage and empower new national park advocates, National Parks Conservation

Association (NPCA) teamed up with the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, Riis Park Beach Bazaar and the National Park Service to co-host the Epic Ride After Party on the boardwalk at Riis Park Beach. After crossing the finish line, over 800 cyclists and party-goers enjoyed local food and drinks, live music, games and a well-deserved dip into the Atlantic Ocean, all while learning more about Gateway National Recreation Area and the benefits that this urban national park provides to the region.

To see more pictures from the event, visit the Epic Ride 2016 photo album on NPCA's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalParks/>



Above: Bike photos by Ian Douglas Photography **Below:** Statue of Liberty ©Stephen Troell | Dreamstime.com



Memory, History, Race, and America's National Parks

Tuesday, October 18 • 6pm–8pm

A conversation with earth scientist, writer, photographer, and pilot Lauret Savoy at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture's Langston Hughes Auditorium (515 Malcolm X Boulevard, NY, NY)

Join **Alan Spears, NPCA's Director of Cultural Resources**, for a conversation with **Lauret Savoy, NPCA Trustee**, about her journeys across the American Landscape and the oft forgotten stories of the places we cherish and call our national parks. She will challenge you to redefine current concepts regarding the meaning of public lands and their place in our shared history.

In her newest work, **Trace: Memory, History, Race, and the American Landscape**, Savoy explores how the country's still unfolding history, and ideas of "race", have marked her and the land. In distinctive and illuminating prose, she weaves together human stories of migration, silence, and displacement, as epic as the continent they survey, with uplifted mountains, braided streams, and eroded canyons. *Trace* is ground-breaking, significant, and a must-read for anyone interested in the future of America's national parks.

Online registration available at: www.npca.org/speakerNYC

