

Volunteer Vibes - *Volunteers play many crucial roles at the Preserve. They maintain trails, welcome visitors, conduct research, educate youth groups, support special events, beautify our gardens, capture breathtaking photography, and much more, contributing their time, talents, and thousands of volunteer hours annually. We will be regularly featuring our volunteers in Talus Talk so that we can all learn who they are and why they do what they do for the Preserve. Let's meet our volunteers!*

Robert Ferri

Where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Greenwich Village. I went to sea with the U.S. Navy for a few years, but New York pulled me back for a geology degree and a career with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 2000, the EPA let employees work from home and I took that opportunity to escape from New York and live in New Paltz.

What is your volunteer role(s) here at Mohonk Preserve?

Now that I'm retired, I'm currently enjoying volunteering with Backcountry Patrol, StreamWatch, and Phenology.

Why did you decide to volunteer your time and talents at Mohonk Preserve?

When I was in college, I was an Urban Park Ranger in New York City. I had such a good time as a Ranger that the Preserve's programs seemed like a great match for me.

What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?

My StreamWatch partner is an avid birder and she inspired me to get involved with the John Borroughs Natural History Society birding walks.

Where is your favorite place/trail on the Preserve and why is it your favorite?

My favorite trail is the Chapel Trail where you can have lunch with a beautiful view.



*Robert Ferri collecting a water sample at his StreamWatch assignment
Photo by Tom Weiner*