

Steps & Scree

E-news from the Trail Crew
Association

July 2019

Good news!

The early-bird discount for the Centennial Reunion Aug 24 has been extended to July 17. We can handle credit card information securely so you don't even have to write a check. Just send us your card information. Act now and save yourself \$100. [Centennial Reunion registration details](#)

New home for crew has long views, deep history



Construction is under way at Camp Dodge. The new Hutton Lodge is on right, with staff bathhouse, back and to the left.



Another view of new Hutton

Doesn't that view just grab you? I visited Camp Dodge for the first time in 2016, being curious to see for myself the place where AMC was planning to build a new Hutton Lodge. I was instantly smitten. It's a great feeling to know the vistas will be shared by generations of crew to come. Camp Dodge has more to commend itself to crew than just a view, though. It has a history already intertwined with trail building. Who better to introduce us to that history than AMC archivist Becky Fullerton. Becky is preparing a slide show for the Aug 24

reunion of the Camp Dodge story, including chapters as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, a detention center for World War II war resisters, an arctic research center, and more recently as a base of operations for AMC volunteers. She's unearthed quite a story. Don't miss it. -- Lee Burnett

Do you enjoy reading about the lives of your crew friends? Tell us about your life. [Write a few short sentences here](#). And don't forget to send a photo too. Below are the latest dispatches.

Name: Eric White
Current hometown: Williamstown, Mass
Years on crew: One half a season 1960
Career: Retired physician



Eric White

How did crew affect your career choice/approach to work? NA
How do you use trails in your life today? Still hiking locally.
How often do you get together with crew friends and what do you do? NA
Most vivid crew memory? Job Action - The Boston Brahmins said we looked too grubby while clearing the White Mountain trails, so we left. I went climbing in the Wind Rivers of Wyoming
What life lessons did you learn from crew? I'm still hiking. Completed the Triple Crown in 2011

Name: Zoe (Kaplan) Presley
Current Hometown: Portland, OR
Years on crew: 1994 TFC; 1994-1997 FCT
Career: Eco-therapist, Forest Therapy Guide

Zoe (Kaplan) Presley continued ...

As a caretaker, I spent a lot of time just talking with people (thru-hikers and weekend warriors) while doing trail work and around the campfire. It astounded me how transparent people were with the intimate details of their lives while in the wilderness, in a way which felt very different than front-country conversation. I have always known that being outside is intrinsically healing, and in my early 20s when I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, my relationship with nature became even more important. As my health thankfully improved over the course of my adult life, I became curious about blending nature-oriented experiences with traditional psychotherapy and other healing modalities. I studied and ultimately bridged those interests with a private practice of nature-based psychotherapy and forest therapy.

How do you use trails in your life today? I hike and trail-run for pleasure and for work, and take my clients outdoors for counseling and forest therapy.

How often do you get together with crew friends and what do you do? Not often enough! Over the years, I have seen Terra Leven and Kevin Moynihan (FCT) and we hike/backpack in Oregon and California
Most vivid crew memory?

I was hired for TFC job via phone, so nobody realized that I was 5' 2" and 100 lbs. I remember collapsing on the trail underneath the weight of my packboard my first week with TFC. I wanted to give up, but TM Young Jim got me back on my feet and hiked behind me for the four-plus miles to our camp. He

taught me to not feel sorry for/give up on myself.

What life lessons did you learn from crew?

You are stronger than you think/believe. Friendship grows through surviving adversity and learning how to work together. Smallness is only an idea. Our



Zoe (Kaplan) Presley

How did crew affect your career choice/approach to work?

relationship with the natural world is necessary for the survival of our species. People are more honest in the wilderness. Composting human feces can be fun. Never ever ever ever ever give up.

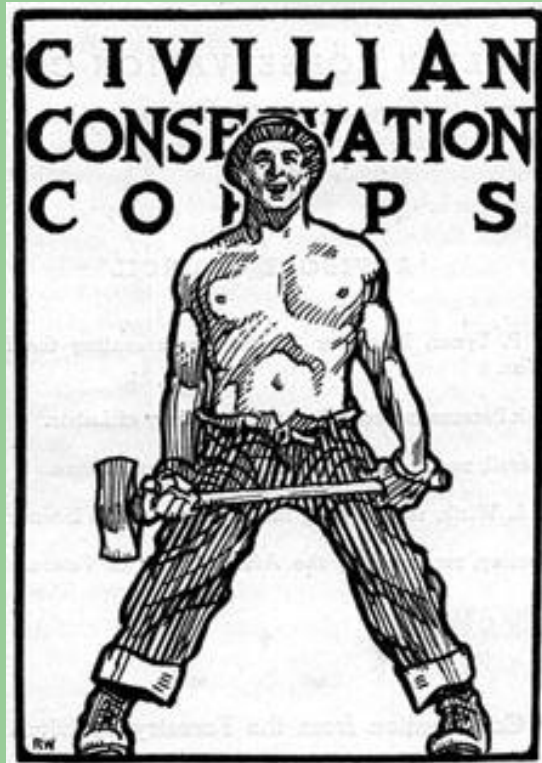
An influx of city boys opens up the White Mountains

For a brief span during the Depression, the White Mountains were swarming with young men chopping, shoveling, sawing and hammering. The Civilian Conservation Corps was a New Deal program that put unemployed single men to work on conservation and infrastructure projects in rural areas. Mostly unskilled city boys, the CCC lads quickly became renowned for their productivity and high morale. Trail building was a small part part of their work, yet they left a legacy of stone earthwork and wood timber architecture, reverently called CCC work.

(The text and photos below are drawn from the White Mountain trail building history exhibit to be permanently installed at Camp Dodge. A mock up of the exhibit will be ready for display at Centennial Reunion Aug 24.)



The stone staircase and trail down down to Glen Ellis Falls is one of the signature CCC projects. In this photo, they're jack hammering ledge.



Enrollees learned axe skills in part from *Woodsmanship for the Civilian Conservation Corps*, an instructional pamphlet illustrated by Rudolph Wedelin.

How are your tech skills? Are you handy with editing, web development or data base management? Apply here for a top-tier volunteer role.

And meanwhile, stay connected--If your address or email changes...

please email leeburnett_maine@hotmail.com