

# Boyd Loving: Have Camera, Will Hike



BOYD LOVING

**By Helen-Chantel Pike**

Hiking and bicycling enthusiast Boyd Loving of Mahwah, N.J., looks at the world of rail-trails through the lens of a camera. He estimates he's given Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) 1,500 photographs for use in everything from calendars and credit cards to the RTC Web site. A 54-year-old training and development specialist for a company that makes orthopedic implants, Loving frequently hikes with his wife, Anne, and their three spaniels, Thomas, Teddy and Jerry. The dogs make great props, says Loving, "when you can get them to look at you."

Recently we spent some time near the Henry Hudson Trail's eastern trailhead in Atlantic Highlands with Loving, learning how he has turned his passions for rail-trails and photography into an opportunity to contribute to the rail-trail mission.



Boyd, his wife, Anne, and their intrepid spaniels, Thomas, Teddy and Jerry.



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**What first caught your interest in rail-trails?**

Ten years ago I stumbled across a rail-trail near where I live, the Orange Heritage Trail in Middletown, N.Y. It was traffic-free and flat—great for a guy my age. And even in bad weather, when you can't ride a bike, you can hike there. I found the RTC Web site and started looking for other rail-trails close to home. Then my wife began planning our vacations around rail-trails we could explore.

**How many rail-trails have you visited?**

We've been on 75 trails—at least 50 within a 50-mile radius of New York City, including trails in Pennsylvania and Connecticut. That's a day-trip for us. Overnight, we've been on trails in upstate New York, Massachusetts, Florida and Bermuda. So far, we've done six in California—five in the San Diego area and one in San Francisco.

**When did you get interested in photography?**

It began in high school. Those were the days of black-and-white photos. [Years later] I watched a hiking partner upload photos from his digital camera to his laptop after we'd finished a trail. It was immediate gratification. I went right out and upgraded my camera.

**How many pictures do you snap on any hike?**

With digital, it can be anywhere between 75 and 100.

**Do you have any tips for taking trail photos?**

Just after the sun comes up and just prior to sunset, the lighting tends to be very warm. It helps give photos that warm glow. If you are going to photograph an area that has heavy foliage, do it on a day that's overcast so there are fewer shadows.

**Do you have a favorite season for taking pictures outdoors?**

Yes: winter. The skies are pretty clear. There is no humidity and no haze. If you're in an urban area, there's little wind to blow around the pollution.

**What is your best picture of a rail-trail?**

I was standing on a bridge overlooking a part of the North County Trailway [Westchester, N.Y.] where there is a curve in the path. Overhead the foliage was green. In the distance a jogger and a biker were approaching, and walking away was a couple pushing a baby stroller. It was a perfect [photographic] composition while also showing all the uses of the trail. (See photo opposite page.)

**Do you have any volunteer advice for other members?**

You can do different things to assist RTC while out enjoying a trail. These days when I'm hiking the Ramsey Bike Path in New Jersey I'm trying out my new GPS device to help RTC map trail details. All I have to do is turn on the device and press buttons. The more precise trail maps are, the more the trails will be used.

**What are the rewards from doing this kind of volunteer work for the conservancy?**

I get e-mails from members who see my photos online. They write, "Oh, I didn't see that," or they share something about their experience on that trail. It's a whole other community out there that I wouldn't get to meet otherwise.

**Helen-Chantal Pike is a writer, photographer, author and university lecturer who appreciates every opportunity to be outdoors, particularly in the Garden State.**