

The CATSKILL CANISTER

Volume 57 - Number 2 | April - June 2024





View from Wittenberg. Photo courtesy of Siu Samantha Yuen #2894 W1311

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The Catskill Canister

Volume 57 - No. 2 | April - June 2024

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The Catskill Canister is published quarterly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. P.O. Box 294, West Hurley, NY 12491 For more information about the club please visit www.catskill3500club.org

President's Column by Michael Bongar



Welcome to the second edition of the Catskill Canister under the capable guidance of Editor Jack Walker and Canister Committee members, Julie McGuire and Colin DeVries.

You will notice that we have another gear review column. This month Rock 'n Snow in New Paltz is participating.

I think you might notice three themes in our Canister. First is our mission and value statement and that we are more than just a hiking club. Second is about our social activities and third is about our members. Our concept of 'giving back' to the mountains offers you a terrific opportunity to volunteer in many capacities. You can volunteer as a trailhead steward, as a hike leader, for Catskill Mountain Search and Rescue (CMSAR), highway cleanup and more. I guarantee that each of these is rewarding beyond words. Or make a tax-deductible donation to fund our programming. We are supporting the Bramley Mountain Fire Tower and an academic survey of montane birds in the boreal zone.

As for our activities, please put July 27, 2024 on your calendar for our Annual Dinner at the Ashokan Center. There, you will meet old friends and new and participate in the celebration of new members.

In sum, you are going to see some articles written by and about our members. To me, our members are the key to our legacy organization. We are here to serve our membership. I am writing you from my friend's balcony in Montserrat, West Indies. I intend to hike up a ghaut (this word is derived from ghat and it means a gully running down to the sea). The Runaway Ghaut goes steeply into a rainforest in the Centre Hills and from this vantage point I hope to have excellent views of the Soufrière Hills, an active volcano which is ironically 3,440' but it could hit 3,500' on a whim and in an instant.

Enjoy the Catskill Canister!



On the cover: Van Wyck Mountain provides the backdrop to a thicket of Pinxsters in bloom on Table Mountain. Photo courtesy of Steve Aaron #3199

How You Can Support the Catskill 3500 Club



As a member of the Catskill 3500 Club, you are a “*Steward of the Catskills*” and a vital part of our hiking community. The club is managed solely by volunteers who dedicate their time and resources to doing what we all love; hiking in the mountains!

Since the very beginning, the club has engaged in stewardship and conservation efforts in the Catskills region; from our Trailhead Stewards program; to our Adopt-A-Highway clean-ups; to our Trail Maintenance; to regularly advocating for good policies and legislation affecting the region’s natural resources.

The club also hosts annual events and provides the community with educational courses on outdoor skills, Wilderness First Aid and a search and rescue team, better known as Catskill Mountain Search and Rescue (CMSAR).

Most importantly, the club offers group-led hikes almost every weekend and some weekdays throughout the year. The club encourages respect, equality and inclusion among the hiking community.

Mission Statement

The Catskill 3500 Club, founded in 1962, continues to uphold the following principles for its members:

- Foster interest in hiking;
- Provide on-going education on outdoor skills; *and*
- Engage in public service, stewardship, and responsible conservation of our region’s natural resources.

Your support means MOUNTAINS to us!
Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the club and help sustain all these important initiatives.

ONLINE DONATION

Scan the QR code to make an online donation. Payments will be processed through Paypal.



BY CHECK

Checks can be made out to: Catskill 3500 Club, Inc.
and sent by mail to:
P.O. Box 294, West Hurley, NY 12491

Does your employer offer a match for charitable donations? If so, please apply for a match through your employer, or your employer’s foundation’s, web portal.

As a 501c3 organization, all contributions to the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Value Statement

We value and celebrate those who have ascended, on foot, the 33 highest peaks on public lands in the Catskill Mountains, as well as those who have additionally hiked these mountains in winter.



58th Annual DINNER MEETING

Saturday, July 27, 2024



Please join us on Saturday, July 27, 2024 for the
58th Annual Dinner Meeting at the Ashokan Center

Event Details

Access will be open from 12-8 p.m. Your ticket includes entrance to all the trails at the Ashokan Center and a dinner buffet with vegetarian and gluten free options. Iced tea, soda and water will be provided and a cash bar will be available with beer, hard cider and wine.

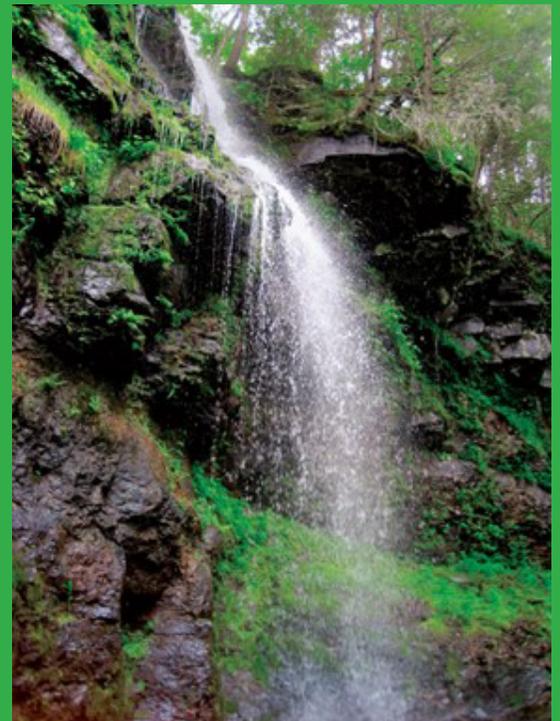
Children under 12 are welcome at no charge. Unfortunately, canine hikers are not permitted at the Ashokan Center.

Event Times

- 12 p.m.: Access to the Ashokan Center
- 1-3 p.m.: Socializing with appetizers and a cash bar
- 3-5 p.m.: Annual business meeting & awarding of certificates
- 5 p.m.: Dinner buffet
- 8 p.m.: Departure

As in the past, Club-related merchandise will be available for purchase, as well as Carol and Dave White's books. Our CMSAR Team and Trailhead Stewards will be represented.

Additionally, this meeting fulfills the requirements of our bylaws to gather membership for an annual meeting. At the meeting, members in good standing (i.e. any member up to date on their dues) will be asked to vote on the slate of Officers and Directors.



Hiking on the Ashokan property and canoe rentals are available. Hiking includes many trails along the Esopus including the 1885 covered bridge, Winchell's Falls and Cathedral Gorge.

Lodging and camping options are available.

Ashokan Center
477 Beaverkill Rd
Olivebridge, NY 12461

CATSKILL MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE IS RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS



Are you a 3500 Club Member who lives near the Catskill Mountains and would like to join the Search and Rescue team?

CMSAR teammates come from all walks of life, but we're all members of the 3500 Club, and we're all comfortable getting off trail and negotiating thick vegetation and tricky slopes. We pride ourselves on showing up in all



weather conditions and professionally executing search and rescue tasks in terrain that others are unable to search. This makes us an invaluable asset to DEC Rangers and regional law enforcement when they're looking for a missing person.

CMSAR membership requires a moderate time commitment. Candidates and mission ready members are expected to attend our monthly training drills and monthly business meetings. Additionally, candidates will need to finish online and in-person trainings to bring them up to speed on search protocol, search tactics, and wilderness medical skills. These include multi-day wilderness first aid and wilderness first responder courses that the team itself provides.

To join CMSAR, no prior professional experience is required, although we certainly welcome those who come with

medical, mental-health, navigation, technical rescue or incident management skills. Candidates will learn how to work on multiple types of searches, how to navigate using map, compass, GPS and phone apps, how to respond to wilderness medical incidents such as leg injuries, hypothermia and cardiac events, and how to build emergency shelters and fires in the woods. CMSAR teammates are expected to carry full packs that weigh at least 25 pounds. For experienced hikers and campers, most items in our packlist will already be quite familiar.

An information/orientation meeting will be held in late spring or early summer 2024. If you are interested in attending, please contact CMSAR Chair Jake Haisley at catskillsar@gmail.com



All images courtesy of CMSAR

3500 Club Trailhead Stewards

KICKING OFF THE 4TH YEAR OF THE 3500 CLUB TRAILHEAD PROGRAM



As we prepare to embark on the fourth year of the Trailhead Program, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the 3500 Board for their continued support and to all the stewards for their unwavering dedication and tireless effort to promote sustainable use. This initiative has played a pivotal role in connecting hiking communities and welcoming new visitors to our

magnificent Catskill State Park. As the program evolves, emphasizing the importance of knowledgeable stewards and promoting wilderness education, we are excited to introduce the Trailhead Steward Committee. This committee aims to strengthen relationships, collaborate with like-minded organizations, understand visitors' needs, facilitate training, express appreciation to our dedicated volunteers, and ensure the program's long-term sustainability.

Background for New Members:

The Trailhead Program was launched in 2021 under the NYSDEC's "Adopt-a-Trailhead" initiative. Its clear mission is to promote Leave No Trace principles and safe hiking practices. During the first two years, stewards focused on the Slide

Mountain trailhead. Last year, we extended the program to Woodland Valley, covering the popular Burroughs Range. Our steward team doubled in size, with 60 stewards interacting with 4,150 visitors and 260 dogs. Their efforts have been instrumental in assisting distressed hikers and preventing potential injuries or rescues.

2023 Stats

1,500

VOLUNTEER HOURS

ENGAGED WITH

4,150

VISITORS

ENGAGED WITH

260

DOGS



Looking forward to volunteering again!
-Bryan Burnham



I love being a Steward and sharing my Love of hiking and the Catskills with others. I enjoy engaging with all the hikers and speaking to them before and after their hike ...

I was once in their shoes, a newbie so I'm happy when I can help them out!

It will be my 3rd year this season!!

-Vicki Ferreira



I'll be back stewarding this year!!

-Sherri Graifman Goffman

Key Points for the Upcoming Year:

Trailhead Committee:

We are forming a dedicated committee to oversee program operations.

Program Dates:

The program will run from Friday, May 24 2024, through Indigenous Peoples' Day/ Columbus Day weekend.

Trailhead Locations:

We will continue to staff both the Slide Mountain and Woodland Valley Campground Trailheads.

LNT Live Training:

Stewards will have the option to participate in live Leave No Trace (LNT) training sessions at the Catskills Center (details forthcoming).

Camping Opportunities for volunteers at Woodland Valley Campground.

If you're interested in supporting the club mission, consider volunteering as a steward. You can commit to at least two days during the season, and your efforts will count toward the Club Service Award. Plus, you'll receive a special steward patch for your service. Families are also welcome to volunteer together, so spread the word and let's continue to care for our Catskills Park.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another successful year of promoting responsible hiking and preserving our natural resources.

For more information on training and volunteer opportunities, please reach out to the 3500 Trailhead Steward Chairs.

Sincerely,

Lourdes Sonera & Collen Hardcastle

Being a Trailhead Steward is a wonderful way to give back what I once needed. The information that we provide is invaluable to the hikers that are new to the Catskills and to the people that are just starting their hiking journey. I enjoy sharing information and stories. I am particularly fond of checking out other hiker's gear. The stories the hikers come back with get me motivated. Being out there again makes me smile. I can't wait for this season to start.

- Karen Bischoff



I definitely will be back, I love it!

- Denise Weiss

When the program first started a lot of hikers avoided coming to the table. But now everybody comes to say hi and see what information we have for the day. And we get a lot of trail conditions from hikers when they leave. Karen Bischoff and I really love this program. Looking forward to another season at Slide and Woodland Valley.

- Linda Betancourt



Mark your calendars for our upcoming Spring Trail Maintenance and Adopt-A-Highway events!

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Join us on Saturday, April 20, 2024 for the Peekamoose-Table Trail Maintenance outing.

Help us keep the trail clear and safe for everyone to enjoy. Bring your work gloves and favorite tools, or use the ones provided by the Club. After the work is done, enjoy some refreshments with us.

Sunday, May 19, 2024

On Sunday, May 19, 2024, we will be cleaning up Route 214 for Adopt-A-Highway.

All you need to bring is your good attitude and work gloves. We'll take care of the rest, including refreshments afterwards.

If you're interested in future volunteer opportunities, contact Lourdes Sonera to join our volunteer list. Let's work together to keep the Catskills beautiful!

- Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair

ATTENTION SHOPPERS!!!

There's a special item offered in Aisle Three. That is, the membership page on the Catskill 3500 Club website.

You can purchase your annual memberships and your aspirant memberships. You can purchase them for a yearly renewal or you can purchase them with automatic renewal.

Oh yes, and if you are feeling your immortality or if you are just a big shot and a swell person, you can get a lifetime membership too....

Visit: catskill3500club.org/dues

\$10 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$10 ASPIRANT MEMBERSHIP

\$200 LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Winter Weekend Recap



Russell Ley with his group on Blackhead.



A number of hike leaders in attendance.



L to R: President Michael Bongar, Past presidents: Jeff Glans, Joe Bogardus, Tom Rankin, Maria Bedo-Calhoun

Our 2024 Winter Weekend was a big success. In spite of the predicted below zero weather we had 57 attendees at our dinner that took place at the Frost Valley YMCA. Our camaraderie and friendships provided plenty of warmth. Our dinner was honoring hike leaders and we had a number of leaders who took advantage of a free meal. Can you imagine a hike leader wanting free food?

Winter Weekend Highlights

Our cocktails and the cash bar with beer from the West Kill Brewery were big hits.

- We had the honor of David and Carol White offering a table.
- Elaine Warfield offered her book- The Fenwick Lumber Company, a Marvel and a Mystery.
- And our friends at Camp Catskill offered a very popular pop-up shop.

In spite of the cold weather 13 hikes were held as planned and 90 hikers participated.

Big thank you's to our Committee:

Sharon Klein, Chair Sherrie Goffman
Colleen Furmanski Lori Herpen

The Catskill 3500 Club Gear Review Video: Outdoor Research Gaiters

This gear review is brought to you by Rock & Snow in New Paltz, NY

Looking for new gaiters or an upgrade from your old ones? Look no further than the Outdoor Research Crocodile Gaiter. Their fitted design keeps snow, rocks, and debris out of your socks and shoes while traveling through harsh environments. NYS Licensed guide Greg Kanter of Rock & Snow gives you all the details in this video plus how to put them on properly. Visit Rock & Snow in New Paltz to try out a pair.



Click the above image to watch the gear review

All Catskill 3500 Club members in good standing will receive a 10% discount at Rock & Snow.



www.rockandsnow.com

At Rock & Snow, our mission is to get you out there. For over 50 years, Rock & Snow has been home to the newest and most innovative gear and clothing for climbing and outdoor recreation. We're all climbers, hikers, and runners who live in the area, and we pride ourselves on our local knowledge

as well. We love to answer your questions! Curious about camping? Need a recommendation for a day hike? Heard about a new piece of climbing gear? Want route beta? We're here with the experience and information you need.



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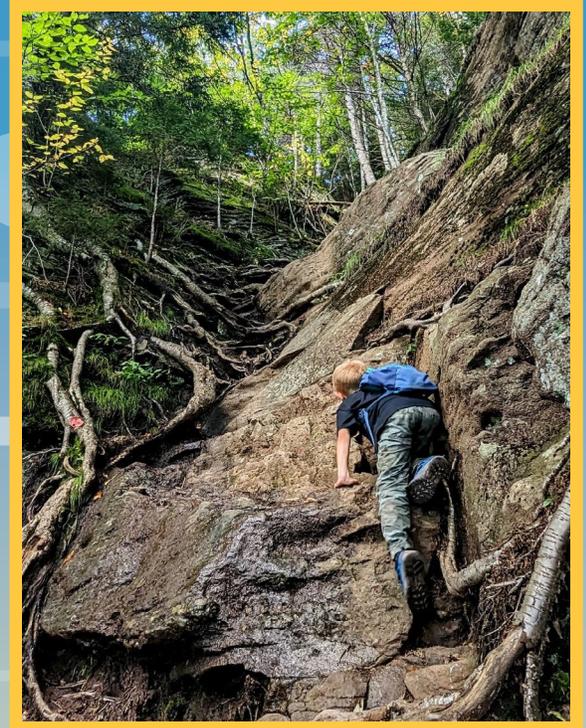


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HIKING TIPS FOR PARENTS

THE KID EXPERIENCE

At the ripe old age of seven, Nate Stoll has climbed 10 of the 3500 peaks, which includes 3 of the 4 winter peaks. From his learned experiences, Nate has compiled a list of tips for parents who share the enjoyment of hiking with their kids.



*Nate scrambling up Indian Head.
Photo by Rebekah Stoll*

- 1 A special treat at the top goes a long way.
- 2 Down is way better than up.
- 3 Make sure the trail has lots of rock scrambles and bridges.
- 4 Pick hikes that have easy parts mixed in with the hard parts.
- 5 Don't be too hard on the kids. Their legs are little, be nice to them!
- 6 Treat the kids like they want to be treated.
- 7 Keep kids safe, like not allowing them to get too close to the edge of a super big mountain.
- 8 Include them in the plans, they like to know what to expect.
- 9 Make sure you don't leave your kids behind.
- 10 Make sure you pick mountains that your kids can hike.
- 11 Play the "Floor is Lava" on the trail.
- 12 Have FUN!



Spruceton Valley from Rusk. Photo courtesy of Steve Aaron #3199



Budding Hobblebush. Photo courtesy of Steve Aaron #3199



Red Trillium. Photo courtesy of Siu Samantha Yuen #2894 W1311



Finding the Catskills

By Jodi Preuss

Our hiking started as a fun little hobby,
Short hikes every week throughout Rockland County.
My husband and I had our hiking ups and downs,
Getting lost and bickering turned our smiles to frowns.

One day we asked a friend to join us, if she'd like,
And we formed a new group for our now weekly hikes.
We tried different new places every single week,
We explored and had fun in the mountains and creeks.

We enjoyed hot summer days and autumn leaves of gold,
We didn't think it would last once the weather got cold.
We worried about winter and what we would do,
Then one of us ventured North to the Catskills, who knew?

She hiked up West Kill to see what it was like,
Before we all knew it, we got snowshoes and spikes.
We all ventured North, a 2-hour long drive,
Our food and water froze, we barely survived.

There was snow, ice, and mud... we were all freezing cold,
The more times we hiked, the more stories we told.
We loved every mountain, peak, crevice, and crack,
We fell in love with the Catskills and can't wait to go back!



Waypoints to Echo Lake

by Henry Dircks

Near the trailhead at Platte Clove Road,
Stands an eastern white pine, whose
Trunk's circumference spans decades;
A sentinel amidst autumnal slumber.

The brook beside the Devil's Kitchen,
Slaloms its erratic course,
Cascading downstream giddily,
In anticipation of the Falls.

The overlook at Codfish Point
Boasts a bluestone reliquary;
Shards of bygone toil, now
Cairns welcoming repose.

Plattekill Mountain's diminutive peak
Is wreathed in mountain laurel;
The path skirts its upward slope,
An embroidered hem each Spring.

Discarded at Echo Lake lean-to:
two fishing rods,
one sleeping bag,
a nibbled-at bag of rice.

Not far off, a naked alder,
Beavered into position
En pointe,
Awaits its fate.

4-Year-Old Joins the Club with Dad and Big Sisters

Story by Colin DeVries #3382 W1589

Photos courtesy of Jason Pelton #3013 W1211

For the Peltons, hiking the high peaks is all in the family.

At just 4 years and 3 months old, Enya Pelton (#4380) became the latest in the Pelton family to summit all 33 high peaks, finishing her club membership with her final winter climb to Blackhead Mountain on January 6, 2024—her dad by her side.



Pelton girls at Peekamoose lookout.

“Being able to spend time with my girls on the trail and watch them complete their goals has been incredible,” says Jason Pelton, himself an accomplished hiker who goes out with his girls just about every weekend.

Enya’s sisters Luna (#3224 W1345) and Gaia (#4259) are also Catskill 3500 Club members, with Luna completing the challenge at 4 years, 11 months old and Gaia completing the hikes at 5 years old. Luna, the oldest of the Pelton sisters, completed her winter membership in winter of 2020-21, while Gaia and Enya continue to work on them with dad.

Jason says his and the girls’ appreciation of the Catskills started with visiting fire towers and lean-tos. The Catskills and Adirondacks lean-to challenges were the first big accomplishments for the girls in their young hiking careers. From there it, they were hooked.

While his daughters are certainly learning a lot along the trail and developing a deep appreciation for the natural environment, dad is learning a few things along the way, too. He told ABC News 10, “It’s been the best part of my life hiking with them. I really enjoy being out there and I’ve learned how to love them more.”



Jason Pelton with Luna and Enya between North Dome and Sherrill.



Pelton sisters at Wittenberg summit.

Board Member Spotlight: A Q&A with David White #859 W311

By Julie McGuire #3500 | Photos courtesy of David White



In this issue, we will be featuring David White, our Membership Chair. Many of you probably recognize the name from the welcome letters which you receive with your patch. While we are all excited to receive those patches as a symbol of our accomplishment,

the letters often transcend the patch in sentimentality. They are personalized recaps of our respective journeys hiking the 35s and constructed with great thoughtfulness. In addition to this, David and his wife, Carol, are ardent conservationists. We hope you enjoy learning David's story.

Q: How old were you when you first got into hiking? How did that come about?

As a parent, we would go to the Finger Lakes region or southern Adirondacks on weekends. When "empty nesters," we bought 50 Hikes in Central New York, and checked them out. One evening, arriving at our monthly bridge game, in hiking shoes, one couple asked: "How would you like to climb Mt. Marcy?" We took them up on that, and in late July 1989, hiked in to John's Brook Lodge. We were blown away by the views from Marcy and spent the next (rainy)



Carol & David White, Kaaterskill HP, south trail.

day, reading about other "High Peaks." On day three, after bidding farewell to our friends heading south, we drove north, climbed Mt. Jo, and made reservations for a stay in August. By mid-October we had 21 of the 46 and many lesser ones. Two of those had canisters, and we learned that the procedure was to write down the names of the last three to sign in. That information was sent in to Grace Hudowalski, verifying their ascents, as well as our own, though it was still an honor system. We wrote in several times, and would always get a letter back, often encouraging us to write down our experiences, so we would remember them. By the next November, we were 46ers.

Q: When did you become a 3500 Club member? What inspired you to hike the 35s?

Chatting with a couple during a hike of the Pitchoff Range in the Adirondack High Peaks, they said "there is great hiking in the Catskills. Balsam Lake Mountain would be a good one to start on, but there are other Balsams."

Lol! In June 1991, we took their advice and climbed Balsam Lake and Graham. By late August of the next year, we had finished; but there was a wrinkle – 4 winter peaks. We bought winter gear and finished on Panther. Hey, that was fun! The next winter we did the remaining 31, finishing just before spring. With those under our belt, we dared try the Adirondacks in winter, with more opportunity to see how the long-time historian did her job. In between trips to New England, to become 111ers, we returned to the Catskills and Adirondacks. I became chair of our local ADK chapter, and later the director. Attending a board meeting in Lake George, there was a note from the publications director that she would like to speak to me. She asked if Carol and I would like to write a "sampler" of Catskill hikes – including the entire Catskill Forest Preserve, not just the high peaks. Carol had just assembled her manuscript for *Women with Altitude*. We took up the offer. Over the next year, we hiked to every starred area on the NY/NJ TC maps and chose sixty hikes (20% more than the "Fifty" series.) The product was *Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons*.

Q: Describe your journey from being a member to joining the board. What made you want to take on this responsibility? What role(s) do you play on the board?

With all the trips to the Catskills, we started to lead hikes in 2000. We also led for Lark in the Park and the Hudson River Valley Ramble, introducing many folks to the Club. In the summer of 2001, Cy Whitney, only the second person to hold the position, chose to retire, and it was decided



On the bus to Sherrill.

to split his position, which was listed as “Subscriptions,” into Members and Aspirants. Though he had his own computer records, an ACCESS database was used for mailing. Judy Weiner, the first aspirant chair, and I, each submitted additions, changes, and deletions to a database administrator, then Howard Dash. Over the years, Carol and I earned our leader and service rockers, and I have served on the audit and nominating committees. Jeff Glans took over the database and eventually passed it on to me when he became president. I was able to assist the Annual Dinner chair by providing member numbers for name-tags and seating assignments.

Q: David, the letters you write to new members are so personal and thoughtful. Many other organizations would send something generic. Can you explain your process in writing them? What inspires you to take the time to really go through each person’s journey and summarize it for them? How did this process evolve?

The “inspiration” goes back to Grace, mentioned above. Though proud of our several AMC patches, we didn’t feel part of a “Club.” Our database records a person’s first and last peaks and dates. The last ones are listed in the Catskill Canister. Sometimes, I have to peruse the tally, if that is not written in the appropriate spaces (missing from the online tally entry form.) A couple of years ago, we added another column to the tally sheet: Order #. Not only does this make finding the first and last easy, it also clarifies the direction in which a range was done. That helps me recap the journey. If Thomas Cole has a lower # than Black Dome, it implies the hiker went over Camel’s



Trail work: Building the John Robb Lean-to.

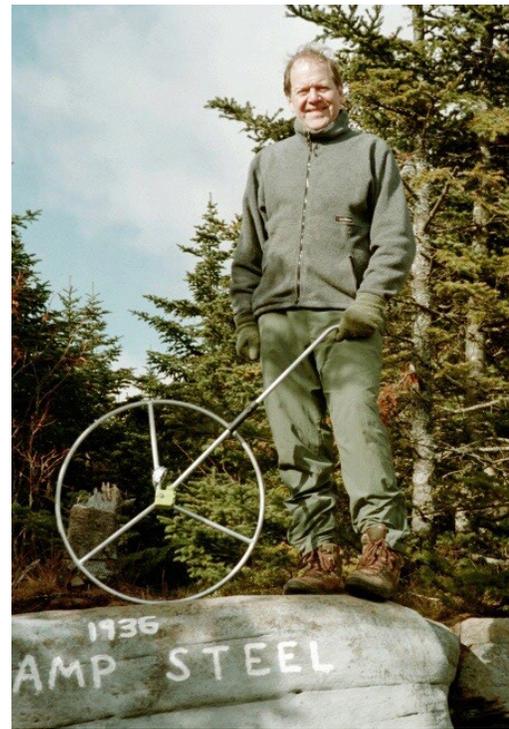
Hump, and I can comment on that. I often can make suggestions for alternate routes: Windham via Burnt Knob. If Plateau and Sugarloaf are done as a pair, chances are they missed the Daley Ridge Trail from Notch Inn Rd, and Dibble’s Quarry on the Pecoy Notch Trail.

Q: What are some things that you are most proud of when it comes to your work with the Club?

I am happy with the retention of members for many years. They must feel they are part of something worthwhile. I try to encourage members to become active in the club: leading, if they are capable, participating in trail work, becoming a trailhead steward. I am proud that we were asked to write the Club’s history by former president, Wanda Davenport, and were able to interview founder Bill Spangenberger and Franklin Clark, the Canister editor from 1968 to 1987. Carol read every Canister from its first issue in winter 1968 to 2007 to write its comprehensive history and in the process identified 100 memorable hiking stories from 3500 Club members to compile Catskill Peak Experiences. That’s part of what inspires me to spend time on members’ letters.

Q: You’ve been hiking the Catskill Mountains for decades, and even helped track trail mileage for the NYNJTC map set. You and your wife Carol are also staunch conservationists. Is there anything about the trail that you would change? Anything you have observed that has given you pause?

Earlier, I mentioned our work creating Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons, with the goal of encouraging hikers to explore lesser used trails throughout the Forest Preserve. We were then asked to update the comprehensive ADK Guide to Catskill Trails (later titled Catskill Trails.) We were given a surveying wheel to measure the length of each trail and to note points of interest and distances between junctions. We generated quizzical looks as we clattered along the trails. I would often offer the explanation: “We’ve felt that the trails are longer on the way back than they were on the way out.” Our updated measurements were incorporated into trail descriptions in New York/ New Jersey Trail Conference’s set of Catskill Trail maps, and by National Geographic for their Catskill Park map. I numbered the trails to match the chapters in our book.



Measuring all trails below Blackhead.

FIRST GROWTH FOREST ALONG THE MONGAUP-HARDENBURGH TRAIL

by Michael Kudish #147

This is the fifth article of a series about the history of forests along the Catskills' longest trails. We've already mapped the Devil's Path, Pine Hill–West Branch, Dry Brook Ridge–Mill Brook Ridge, and Wittenberg–Cornell–Slide Trails locating first growth forest, logged, barked, and burned segments.

Despite its length, the Mongaup-Hardenburgh Trail has one of the simplest histories of all Catskills trails. Both ends are in second (i.e. logged) forest, with the whole central section—6.6 miles long—in

uninterrupted first growth.

Mileage in this article is taken from New York–New Jersey Trail Conference Maps #143 and #144. Elevations are from these maps and from the United States Geological Survey's Willowemoc 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle.

This trail begins in the Mongaup Pond State Campground, next to campsites #144 and #147, elevation 2160 feet. The Campground lands were acquired in 1960. Before that, the area had been logged, but I have



The author excavating 10300-year-old peat out of Bog #331 north of Mongaup Pond on August 19, 1999. The hemlock-yellow birch forest has not changed in all this time. Photo by Justin Perry.

no detail by whom; there are many old logging roads in the area.

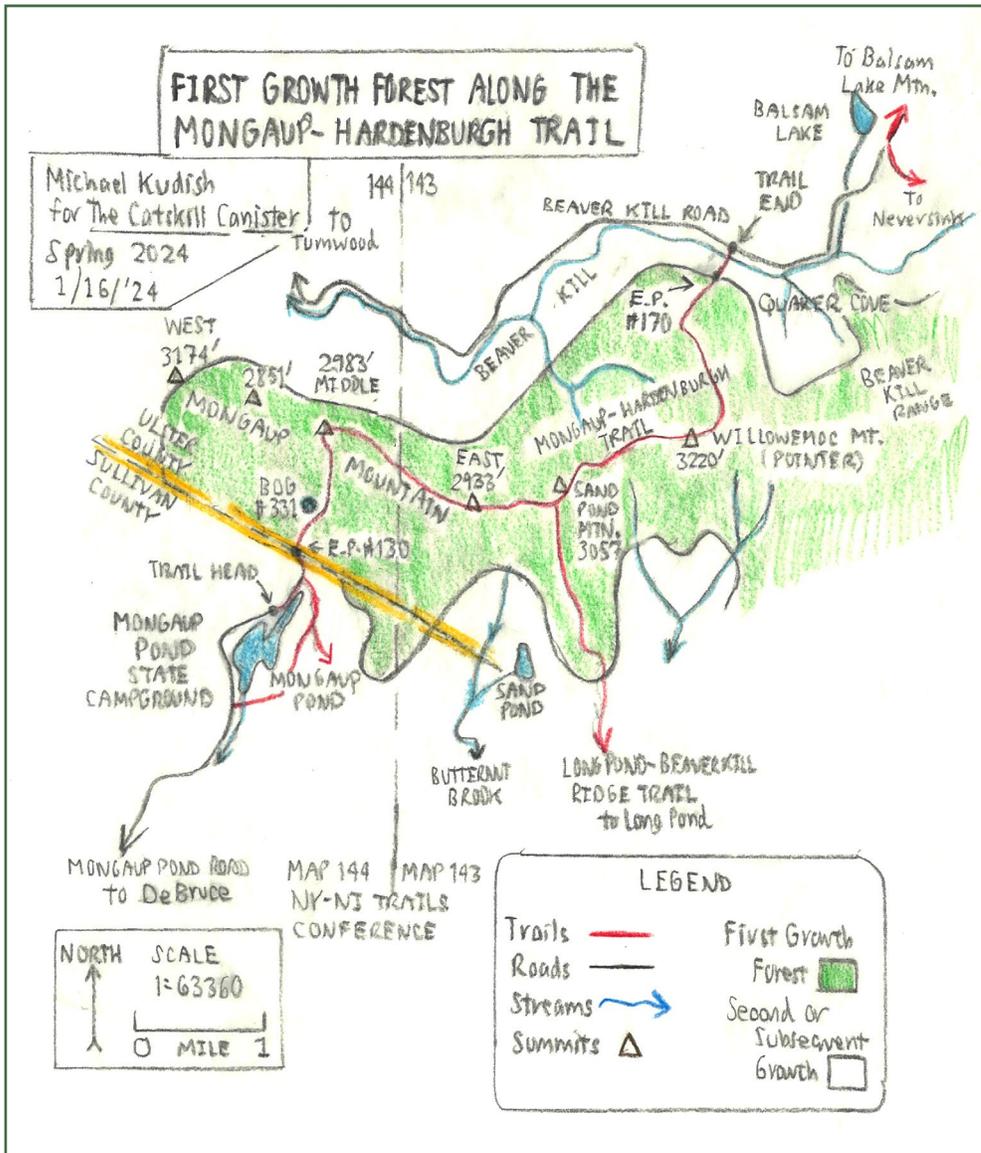
At 0.3 mile, elevation 2150, just past the north end of Mongaup Pond, the hiking trail joins a snowmobile trail coming in from the east side of the pond.

At 0.5 mile, elevation 2260, it crosses from Sullivan County into Ulster County. Although the county line is not marked, one can tell that one has crossed it because the forest changes from second growth to first growth. This is entry point #130 (my catalog number). The first growth is continuous for 6.6 miles - all the way to 7.1 miles, almost at the Hardenburgh end of the trail.

At 1.0 mile, the trail passes Bog #331 (my catalog number) which has the distinction of having the only radiocarbon date of over 10000 years for a bog with an elevation this high: 2390 feet. In other words, no bog higher up has peat at the bottom that is older. Fossils in this bog tell us that the hemlock-yellow birch forest has not changed here in 10000 years.

At 1.8 miles, the trail turns abruptly from north to east on what the NY–NJ Trail Conference Map #144 calls the Middle Peak of Mongaup Mountain, elevation 2983. It then follows the ridge over the East Peak at 3.0 miles (elevation 2933), and on to a junction with the Long Pond–Beaverkill Ridge Trail at 3.65 miles, elevation about 3000 feet.

Just beyond the junction, the trail





The author examining the blowdown north of Mongaup Pond on August 19, 1999. The blowdown had occurred in June of 1998 and is difficult to see now. Photo by Justin Perry.

passes under the summit of Sand Pond Mountain, 3057 feet. Then on to Mount Willowemoc, the highest point (3220 feet), 5.2 miles, along the trail, but not the highest point along the Beaverkill Range which occurs farther east and is trailless. Mount



The author in a cinnamon fern swale atop Mount Willowemoc (Pointer), October 1, 1990.

Willowemoc I've been told is also known by local folks as Pointer. Here, the trail turns north and starts its long descent to the Beaverkill.

Hikers on this trail must have noticed by this time that the forest all along is northern hardwoods—sugar and

red maples, beech, yellow birch, and black cherry, with local stands of hemlock. There is no red spruce and no balsam fir. Only studies of tree fossils in the bogs can tell us why: these conifers never migrated through the western Catskills postglacially in the first place. In other words, they were never here. Spruce and fir marched north AROUND these western peaks, having passed through the eastern High Peaks and the FAR western Catskills leaving the populations behind that we see today.

I seldom make editorials in my articles, but in this case I feel that I need to. The maps divide the single range between the Beaverkill and the Willowemoc streams into three sections: Mongaup Mountain on the west, the Beaverkill Ridge in the middle, and the Beaverkill range on the east. All these summits are really part of the same range so that the range should have a single name: Beaverkill Range.

The trail follows gently down the long north spur of Mount Willowemoc until 6.4 miles, elevation 2930, where it turns northeast and heads more steeply down to the Beaverkill. At 7.1 miles, elevation 2310, we see that old stumps begin. Here is entry point #130. We finally

leave first growth and hike the last 0.2 mile down to the Beaverkill, crossing it on a footbridge, and up to the trail's end on the Beaverkill Road.

This last 0.2 mile has a somewhat complex history and involves three players: the Balsam Lake Club, the Catskill Center, and the State of New York. In 1976, the Balsam Lake Club sold this narrow band of land bordering the Beaverkill stream to The Catskill Center. In 1979, the Catskill Center, in turn, sold the tract to the State. Exactly when the trail was put in, I am not sure. I suspect sometime around that time: 1976 and 1979. I first hiked it in 1985.

Michael Kudish's Ph.D. thesis was on the vegetational history of the Catskill High Peaks (SUNY E.S.F. 1971). This thesis initiated a life-long study on the forests from the end of the Ice Age to the present. He became member #147 on Panther Mountain on March 12, 1973 (with Ed West #45), and around that time wrote several articles for The Catskill Canister. Professor Mike taught in the Forestry Division of Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks for 34 years, retiring in 2005, and moved to the Catskills to continue studying the forest full time.

Correction: Burroughs Range Article, Vol 57, No. 1, photo caption on page 21

"After some careful consideration, I realized that the photo on page 21, not taken by this writer but by another 3500 Club member, was not from the top of the landslide on Slide Mountain. A more likely site is the spring at the 3900 foot level on the east shoulder of Slide. There are three reasons:

- 1. The forest is not right for the top of the landslide; it should be mainly fir while the trees in the photo look mainly like birches.*
- 2. The view looking down the landslide should be to the northeast, towards Woodland Valley and on toward Phoenicia. This photo looks east-northeast directly to Wittenberg and Cornell.*
- 3. The photo seems to be at the same elevation as Wittenberg and Cornell summits, while a view from the top of the landslide would be from over 200 feet above them."*

How I Became A Hike Leader

By Sharon Klein #3364

and Why



Ever since I was a kid, I dreamed of exploring. My childhood room had maps of the solar system on the walls. I had a globe and a world atlas I obsessed over and memorized. I knew the location of every country. For my 10th birthday I received a subscription to Nat Geo. From the age of about 7, I spent every Summer in the Catskills, either

“overnights” under the stars. We slept out in the open on bare ground with just our sleeping bags. One of our hikes took us up to Skytop, in Mohonk, through the labyrinth and up the “Lemon Squeeze.” It was 1968 or sometime thereabouts. There was a ranger up there who gave us kids a card that said, “I climbed Skytop.” It was my first “patch”! As I got older, the exploration bug hit me even harder, and brought me traveling to almost 40 countries, where I still perused maps obsessively as soon as I’d arrive. Fast forward several decades later to my life in the Hudson Valley, where I

made my home in 2002. I felt back home and in my childhood space, living at the foothills of Mohonk Mountain; with the Catskills in view from many spots. I tell people I live in the Gunkskills. The Roundout Valley has the Catskills on one side of route 209 and The Gunks on the other. I brought my horse up here from my former home on the East End of Long Island.

I was unable to hike for many years due to chronic and unbearable pain in my right foot, so I did all



Happy to be alive after getting caught in a flash flood and mud slide while hiking in the Jordan Valley.

my “hiking” on horseback. Finally, when I found a solution to my foot problem, my long dormant hiking obsession was once again unleashed. I found Meetup and went onto every hike I could find, slowly building my



stamina and trail knowledge. The Meetup group I was on board with needed someone to take it over, and I jumped at the chance. I started leading hikes, mostly by the seat of my pants, however, it gave me a tremendous opportunity to learn a new skill, learn the maps, trails etc., and most importantly a path to spending as much time in the forest as I could. Most of all, I started



View of the Catskills from Gertrude’s Nose, Minnewaska.

with family at a Borscht Belt resort or at summer camp, where we hiked in the woods and participated in

For me hiking is not a competitive sport. The journey and how we experience it is more important than the destination.



Soaked to the bone on Big Indian.

making hiker friends, many of whom were far more experienced than I and whom I learned from and continue to learn from. I was mostly leading in Mohonk and Minnewaska and got to know those trails so well that I started leading hikes for Mohonk Preserve, and soon after that for the mid-Hudson chapter of ADK, where I now serve as education chair. Every time I'd put up a hike offering, the demand would be over the top, often with 25-30 hikers wanting to join. I had hit the mother load! My explorer side kicked in and I was in my glory. I now had a reason to sit night after night into the wee hours with maps spread across my bed, planning routes, mileage, elevation, parking areas, directions, and everything else that goes into planning a hike. I fell in love with finding new places and routes which I'd vet with friends, then share those routes with my eager groups. This was especially helpful during Covid, when Mohonk was closed and many of the main trailheads had throngs of people. I

focused on finding new routes and out of the way trail heads. Hiking and leading hikes became a serious passion. In Fall of 2018 I started working on my 3500 patch after

I fell in love with finding new places and routes which I'd vet with friends, then share those routes with my eager groups.

meeting Dave and Carol White on a hike sponsored by Catskill Mountain Club Lark in the Park. In 2020 at the height of Covid I finished my peaks on Blackhead, with several close

hiking friends in support. By then my hike repertoire and community had expanded exponentially. The friends I have met along the way have become lifelong friends.

Every hike leader has their own style and reason for leading. One of my favorite things to do on a hike is to ask the group to hike in periods of silence. It allows us to deeply experience the forest and take into our every pore the true nature of our existence. I call it "forest gawking." For me hiking is not a competitive sport. The journey and how we experience it is more important than the destination. But it sure does feel good when we hit a summit or canister while we are at it. Having that club membership and the coveted patch was a huge motivator for me that I am very grateful for. I can say that I probably would not have done half those hikes were it not for wanting to be a member of this Club. I had no idea at that time that the Patch and Club membership would come with so much more than a patch and a number. I am grateful for hiking, the community it has brought me and the incredible opportunities it has given me to give back. Nothing but nothing beats the satisfaction I get from helping new hikers and sharing the trails and knowledge I have acquired. It has truly changed my life. I am happy to be forever known as #3364. (One of these days I'll finish my winters. I'll get there when I get there).

All photos courtesy of Sharon Klein

CAMPFIRES

IN THE CATSKILLS

GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS

By Jim Bouton #1539 W614

As of March 16, the annual NYSDEC ban on outdoor burning will be in effect until May 15. Since 2009, the DEC has issued this statewide ban, resulting in a 40% reduction of grass, brush and forest fires in NYS. There are few exceptions to this, one being campfires are allowed if no more than 3' high and 4' wide, which is extremely large for a back country campfire. Small cooking fires are also allowed. A fire can never be left unattended and must be extinguished before leaving.

For most of us hiking the back country, having a campfire is not something we usually do on a day hike. Campers and backpackers share these areas, so we do see fires. There are a few basic suggestions, guidelines and regulations we have for fires, especially those in the Boreal, or Spruce/Fir forests



Duff fire on Table. Example of an illegal fire built on organic soils at the summit of Table. Photo by Rich Bergsma

which are extremely fragile and susceptible to fire damage. These areas are found mostly above 3500' in the Catskills, but can extend down in elevation to as low as 2700' according to some scientists.

Camping is prohibited by regulation above 3500' in the Catskills except for the period between

December 21 and March 21. It is allowed then because the ground has been traditionally frozen and snow covered at that time, and not prone to damage. Fires are never allowed above 3500', except in extreme emergencies. This is because the areas above 3500' are considered unique, the soils are thinner and composed of mainly organic material, which burns. It is also to prevent people from breaking off or cutting trees and branches for fuel, creating the (summit clearing) barn yard like open areas so familiar on some peaks. These areas are also home to many rare or endangered species of plants and animals that are not found at lower elevations. Camping and fires can put an extra strain on these species, and with increasing usage and the warming climate change, they may not recover. The soils on these peaks



This clearing on Indian Head was a small area in front of the tree until a fire killed all the roots and then the trees.

have been building since the last ice age, a fire can destroy that in an instant.

A prime example of this damage can be found on Rocky Mountain, elevation 3487'. Rocky is part of the largest remaining continuous Boreal, Spruce/Balsam



Illegal Fire on Rocky built directly on organic soil and burning into the ground to bedrock, killing roots and trees.

Forest in the Catskills, found along the ridge and peaks from Slide Mountain to Table and Peakamoose. The summit is predominantly Spruce/Fir, with thin organic soils and rocky outcroppings on the south and east sides. It is also the breeding and fledgling home of the Club's unofficial mascot, the Bicknell's Thrush, an indicator species of climate change. In mid-June 2022, a campfire on the ledge a short distance from the summit, became out of control. It appeared the campers attempted to kick the fire over the edge, which ignited dead and dried materials (from Hurricane Sandy) and then burned back up ledge. The fire also burned underground, towards the summit, killing the roots and eventually several large trees, which later were blown over, creating a fire load between the ledge and summit canister. As the ledge keeps absorbing the sun's energy, getting hotter, and growing in area, more trees die, creating an ever-increasing danger zone. Another out of control campfire

will be diastorous for the summit. We are watching the creation of a bald peak as the mountain top deteriorates, the death of a mountain. The Wittenberg, Indian Head, Cornell are other examples of this trend.

The best prevention is not to camp or have fires in these fragile areas whether above or below 3500', as Rocky is. Limit your fires to designated fire pits at lean-tos or marked camping spots. Always build a fire on hard, inorganic soils or rock. You need at least 5 gallons of water to safely and effectively put a camp fire out, more if built on the duff of the higher peaks, where water is not available in that quantity. Don't burn in windy or dry weather. Better yet use and carry a stove.

If you discover an unattended campfire, there are several things you can and should do. Ignoring it is not a responsible option. Use whatever liquids available to try and extinguish or reduce the fire in size. Use your imagination. Sometimes this means using up your water and having to cut your hike short. If there is a water source nearby, get more water, even if it takes time. On a busy trail, ask other hikers for water or any spare liquids they can share. It then becomes a group effort. If you can remove hot spots like pieces of wood or coals to a safe place, do so, but if not, don't spread the fire. Stir the ashes or coals with a stick or your pole while adding water,



Result of illegal, out of control fire off the side of Rocky.

Article continues on page 25

THE CATSKILLS: READ ALL ABOUT IT!

By Stash Rusin #2829



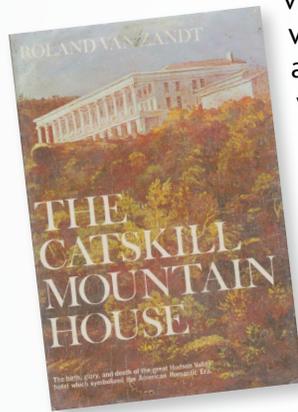
So when did you get your first taste of Catskill history? Was it the first time you went up Overlook and saw the hotel ruins? Or was it that time when you walked along that railbed of the Kaaterskill Rail Trail? It suddenly bites you and now you're in that deep hole in how, why and when did this all happen? Next thing you know, you're purchasing books and going down the rabbit holes on the internet, trying to find out all the information that you can about that one place you saw while on the hike.

My first bite of Catskill history came when I was walking along the Escarpment Trail and I saw the plane crash that sits right in the middle of the trail. I was so blown away that something like this would be sitting right there, almost untouched and intact. What I didn't know is that the Escarpment Trail is rich with history. The Native Americans used it for travel to scout



for land to build their crops as well as for hunting purposes. But the plane crash had caught my attention and sooner than you know it, I was down that rabbit hole of how, when and why that plane crash was still there. I eventually went on to read different reports and events where other planes had crashed as well. This turned into an obsession...

I'm sure that most of the people that read the Canister know about the great Catskills hotel that once stood on the edge of the Escarpment Trail. This massive hotel, called the Catskill Mountain House, was the grandest in the world, during the mid-1800's to the early 1900's. Anyone famous or important at that time would

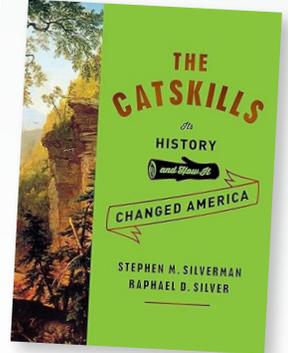


visit the hotel. The view was advertised as the greatest view in the world and after seeing pictures in books and in person, I would agree. When I had done the Escarpment for the first time, I had no clue why that massive open

area that sits right on the edge even existed. I thought it was there just for visitors from the camping area and for tourists. But I saw that information plaque near the entrance of the trail and read that this was once a place where the greatest hotel in the world once stood. After that, I was hooked. I purchased "*The Catskill Mountain House*" by Roland Van Zandt and found out so much amazing information about one of the grandest places that existed in the Catskills.

Books about Catskill history bring me so much information and joy, I must own over 50 books on the subject.

One of the best is "*The Catskills: Its History and how It Changed America*" by Stephen Siverman. It breaks down the history of the Catskills from the Ice Age, all the way to the modern day, the reservoirs, and current days of hiking. It has so many pictures as well as breakdowns of when certain historical events began, and what brought them to their demise.

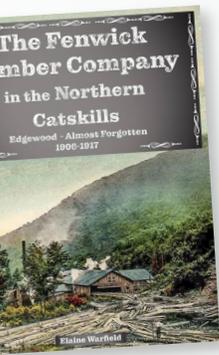
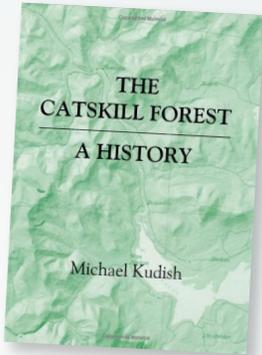


Another great event that I had no clue about until I started reading books about Catskill history, was the tanneries. This industry nearly wiped out the forests of the Catskills. Almost every hemlock tree that was accessible was taken down and its bark was used to make leather. Their bark contained tannins which were used in the chemical process of tanning raw animal hides to make leather. This time in history was a huge economic boom in American history, but it also left a devastating impact on the environment. Not only were billions and billions of trees cut down to do this process, the sludge from the chemical process of creating leather was also poured into the stream. Because of the removal of the trees and the roots, the streams and creeks of the Catskills saw major impacts of erosion and the waters were filled with dirty water, the opposite of what we see today.

One last piece of Catskills history that I find truly incredible is the Fenwick Lumber Company. Dr Kudish's book "*The Catskill Forest: Its History*" and "*The Fenwick Lumber Company in the Northern Catskills:*

continued from page 23

Edgewood - Almost Forgotten: 1906-1917 by ***Elaine Warfield*** are amazing books to learn about this time in the Catskills. If you're not aware, this company was built in the early 1900s and existed on the western side of Hunter Mountain and Southwest Hunter Mountain. What makes this interesting is that the entire western side of Hunter and Southwest Hunter was stripped of its trees when the company was in business. If you visit Devil's Acre lean-to that is placed in the col of Hunter and SW Hunter, there was a huge summit camp with cabins and different buildings where the workers stayed. There was also a railway on each side of the mountain. One line going up from Spruceton Road and one going up from Rt 214 along Myrtle Brook. It's crazy to believe that this existed because if you



know what you are looking for, you can spot old remnants of this once thriving lumber company. But if you didn't know it existed, then you would just see another hiking trail in the Catskills.

Check out Stash and more Catskill history on "Inside the Line - The Catskill Mountains Podcast" on any streaming platform like Apple or Spotify as well as YouTube. You can also follow "Inside the Line - The Catskill Mountains Podcast" on Facebook and Instagram. Contact Stash Rusin at itcatskillspodcast@gmail.com if you have questions about the podcast or need some information!

this helps the water last and go farther. You can also use your poles to create a fire line, digging a couple inches into the soil to create a thermal break. Your best tool is your phone. As soon as possible, call the number for Forest Ranger dispatch, 833-697-7264 or 911 and request to speak to a Forest Ranger, as most 911 centers will not dispatch a local fire department to a "campfire" in the back country. Even if you think it is out, call. Fires can burn underground undetected and smolder for days, popping up far from the original fire. Describe what you saw and share pictures. This way the ranger can make a better decision on how to proceed.



Rapidly growing clearing on Rocky as a result of fire.

If you find a cold and abandoned fire ring in an area it shouldn't be, take the time to dismantle it and restore the area. By doing this, you not only clean up a mess, but also removing the temptation for others to have a fire there, preventing a future incident. Do this with care, make



*River Dog oversees the clean up on Table.
Photo by Rich Bergsma (and clean up)*

sure the ground is cold to the touch. Stones need to be carried away from the area, otherwise they can be used again. Dispose of the ashes and burnt material by removing the larger pieces. You can then stir the remaining ash into the soil and cover with leaves, sticks and other downed and dead material. Don't use soil if it requires digging a borrow pit, this only creates a hole, which can then erode, and create other problems.

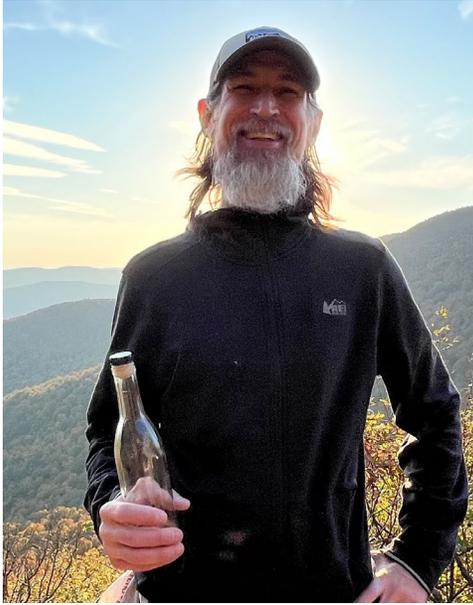
If you see someone with an illegal or unsafe fire, call, don't confront. Take pictures if possible. Don't put yourself in a tricky situation by arguing with the subjects. The rangers are there for that.

Fire can be dangerous and destructive. It needs addressing, immediately. We all have a responsibility to the mountains we hike.

Jim Bouton is not a scientist but has been observing the summits for many years, especially the canistered peaks while maintaining the canisters. He is also a volunteer firefighter of over 40 years, fighting many wildfires in the mountains of the Western Catskills.

SOLO HIKER: A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE ON BLACKHEAD MOUNTAIN

By Joe Frederick #3753 W1495



March 14, 2021. 4 a.m. I drink my coffee, gather up my gear that had been packed the night before, and head out into the dark, cold morning. I punch in the coordinates for Blackhead Mountain, my last winter peak to hike, unaware this would become one of the most important hikes during my 3500 challenge.

Driving north on I-87, I'm racing past cars as if they were sitting still. Everything is a blur. Then the orchards that mark my favorite part of the drive line the highway. The trees' jagged limbs are black and bare during these cold winter months. They also let me know that in a few miles the massive ridgeline



of the Eastern Devil's Path will fill my windshield. All the while, my anxiety is getting the better of me.

Up until these winter hikes, I had a hiking partner. We had only done three Catskill peaks together in early December 2020. Shortly after, he got Covid with lasting effects that kept him away from the mountains. We talked about solo hiking and if I would feel comfortable doing any alone in the winter. Being that I had only hiked a few mountains up to this point, Blackhead was the one that put fear into me. This was not a peak to be taken lightly with its steep, icy sections. I had done some reading and found out that it had taken a life. "Could you do it alone?" My response: "I would hike most of the peaks on my own, but not Blackhead." But with the winter season coming to an end and my other three required winter peaks completed, I decide I'm going to go after Blackhead solo.

It's now just after 7 a.m. My silver Ford Focus idles at the Big Hollow trailhead. I reluctantly step out of the car and crunch down on the snow that covers the ground. "It's time to go Joe." (Yes, I talk to myself.)

I walk the quarter mile to the actual trailhead. There is too much snow to drive all the way in, at least with my little Ford. I pass the ice-covered parking lot on the right, walk into the forest, and *begin a day that will help make me the adventurer I've become.*

I follow the bubbling streams, pass the giant uprooted tree, hop over the stream, and continue along the hard packed trail. I wear my beaten up, nubbed down micro spikes and so far, they work just fine. Standing

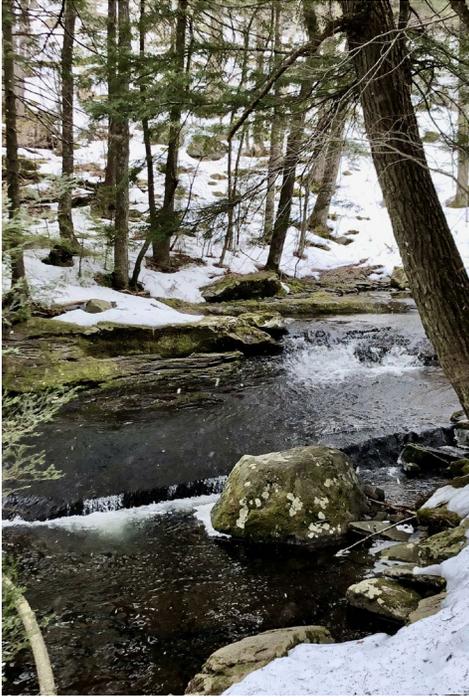
at the junction is like Morpheus with the pills in hand: "Do you choose the yellow or red?" Knowing the red trail is the safer way, I decided to take the yellow path and head up Batavia Kill with fright and excitement gripping me tightly.

The hike is amazing so far. I am falling in love with this mountain with every step and labored breath (These early hikes were hell on me.) While I'm stopped, I marvel at the dense forest that engulfs me. It's breathtaking. I pass the Batavia Kill shelter on my right, make that left, and really start to climb.

I pass the ice-covered parking lot on the right, walk into the forest, and begin a day that will help make me the adventurer I've become.

Now my spikes start to slip as I gain elevation, but still they're doing a good enough job. The hike is getting harder and harder the farther up I go. On my left is a look out. I once again stop for a long pause and take in the northeast view of flatland and lack of mountains. Standing there, I take my phone from my pocket, look at my navigation app, and see how close I am to the summit. I have no idea just how steep and difficult the hike is about to get.

Standing at the bottom of one of the last sections, my jaw is on the ground. All I see is ice and lots of it. It reminds me of lava only it's blue and white, melting

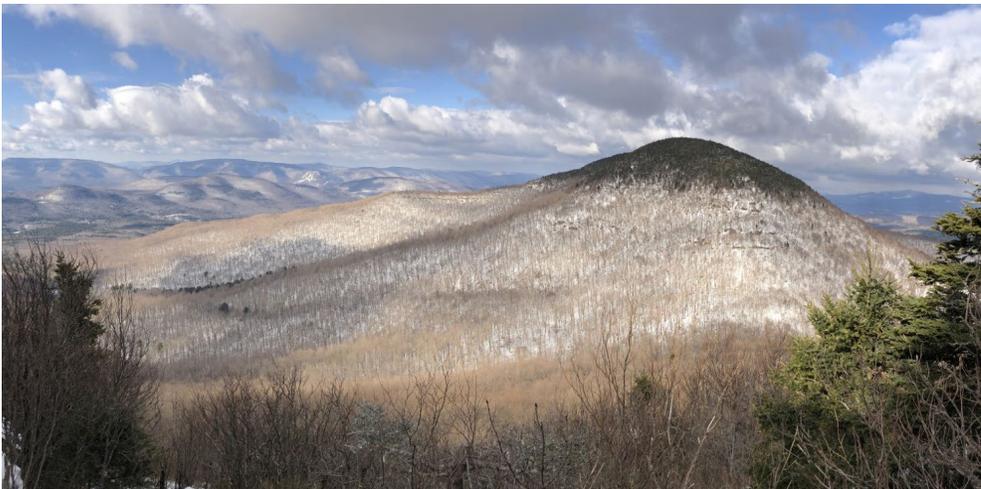


slipping. Covered in sweat and consumed with the thought that I've bitten off more than I can chew, I decide I'm going to hop off trail. I'll try to go up through the snow, instead of fighting the ice. Bad decision.

Off trail, the snow is deep due to the incline of the mountain. It goes in my boots, down the back of my pants, and up my jacket – all over my lower back. It's so cold! Realizing quickly that this cannot be done, I scurry back to the trail. Now either I fight the ice up to the summit or tuck my tail between my legs and head down. Always up for a challenge, I get back onto the ice, kick my spikes, force my fingertips into whatever I can, and start pulling myself up this mountain that does not want me to climb it today.

Terrified at the thought of really slipping and sliding all the way back down, my mind races. *How bad would I get hurt? Who would find me? Will anyone actually be brave enough to come up this way? Cause no one would be crazy enough to travel down it.* These ideas rip through my head, but before I know it I'm pulling myself over the rocks to the right. I have cleared this insane section. I can't believe it. I let out a roar of victory and look down at what I've just done. Enough celebration Joe. Now there's more to do.

down and over the rocky trail. The trees seem to be growing at an angle. It's extremely steep and a quick look over the shoulder has a dizzying effect. This is the only way to the summit at this point in the hike. Without much thought, I'm moving forward and up. The micro spikes that have worked well enough up 'til this point start to fail me. My feet slip from under me every other step. I'm trying to smash my spikes into the hard, cold ice for some sort of traction. I don't have trekking poles or an ice ax, and again I'm



Turning my back to a segment I will hike up many, many times in the years to come, my journey to the summit of the mighty Blackhead continues. After a short walk I finally arrived at my destination. This is my first time up here. I'm a bit disappointed by the true summit. I don't even bother with pictures. Relieved that the hike isn't an out & back, I wander down the twisting path. As the trees start to clear, Black Dome comes into focus. The black top of the western mountain sticks out of its snowy covered sides. The clouds are racing towards me, and they fill up the baby blue sky. I'm ecstatic with the magnificent view. This moment was worth every heavy breath, frozen fingers, toes, and the fear that gripped me tightly. Out comes my little stove and pot. It's time to make a cup of Egyptian licorice tea. As I sit on this cold March day, the racing clouds bring a little gift. It starts to snow. It pelts my face as I finish my tea and the final winter peak needed for the 3500 patch. I pack up my gear and begin the hike down.

At the start of this hike, I was a scared noob who swore this would not be done solo. But as I walked back to my car, I can't help but feel that I am leaving that noob somewhere on Blackhead Mountain.

I have hiked, ran, and climbed up all of the Catskill high peaks solo many times now. Some have called it crazy or said, "Isn't it boring doing that every weekend by yourself?" These people will never understand. I'll continue to hike these peaks in all the fantastical ways I can dream up. Now, it's not for a patch, nor notoriety or bragging rights. Instead, I'll do it for health, passion, and love.

NIMA WAS HERE

All photos courtesy of Joe Frederick

CANISTER ← BACKTRACK →

Reprinted from the
July-September 1994 issue
of the Catskill Canister

WALTER MITTY STICKS HIS NECK OUT

By Bob McElroy #797

One afternoon on Southwest Hunter, a young man astonished me with his description of an impossible sounding hike. On the year's longest day, he and two friends climbed nine 3500 footers: Slide, Cornell, Wittenberg, Cornell again, Friday, Balsam Cap, Rocky, Lone, Peekamoose and Table. They used two cars and exited at Denning.

Other club members told me the feat was done occasionally by stalwarts. In my middle sixties, plagued with old injuries and other problems, I could only dream of such an adventure. But I couldn't stop playing with the idea that, "If I could gain time by finessing the five bushwhacks, then maybe" A friend and I hiked the route in May. It took us

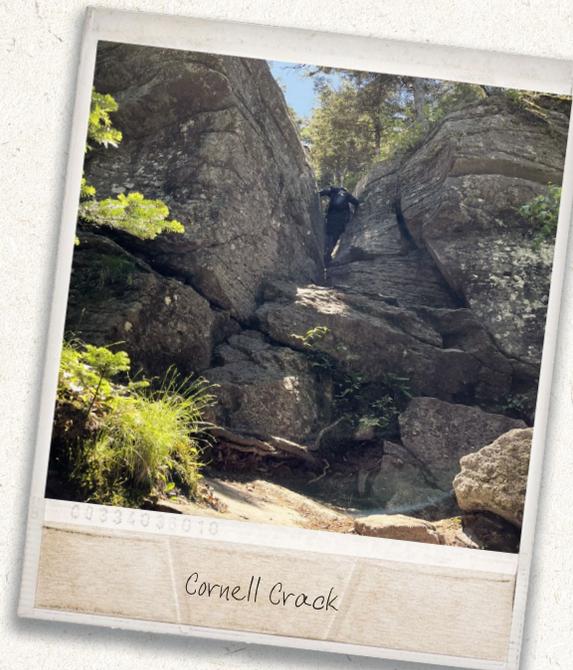
two days. Still I speculated, "With an early start, a car shuttle and carrying almost nothing"

It was now late August. I'd lost an hour and a half of daylight. The springs had been dry for months at those elevations. I would have to carry six quarts of water weighing almost 14 pounds. It seemed crazy but I decided to go for it.

The night before, Ranger Pat Rudge discussed my plans with me at the Slide trailhead. She told me she would look for my car Monday morning and if it was still there set up a search. I fell asleep with misgivings. How could I do a two-day hike in one? I would be walking in the dark at both ends. I prayed I would be back onto a trail by dusk and my stamina would hold out.

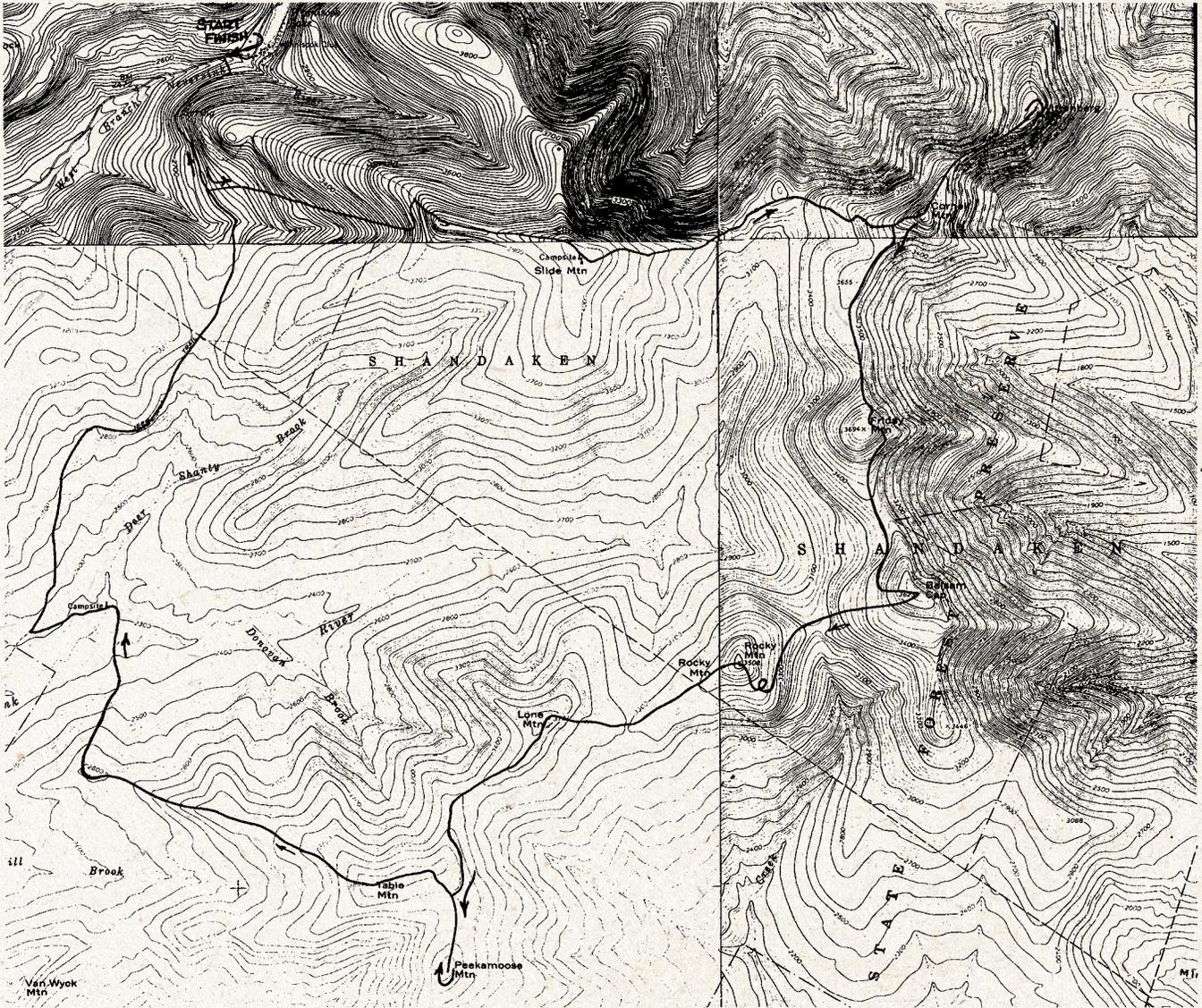
At 3:47 a.m. on Sunday, August 22, 1993, I started the adventure. Negotiating the rocky trail by headlamp was difficult, but I carried a moosewood staff which helped. It was still dark when I reached Slide's summit plateau. The eastern horizon glowed red, and I was surprised by the many lights visible in the valleys. I switched off the lamp as I descended into the Slide-Cornell col. It was 5:15 a.m.

An unseen camper chopped wood south of the trail as I started up Cornell. Dropping my pack at the start of the bushwhack route to Friday, I continued over Cornell to



Wittenberg. Returning to my pack, I headed off into the brush. This leg is notoriously difficult and as a result is seldom done. Some hikers drop directly off the top of Cornell to traverse the steep slope below the escarpment. However, if done correctly, my route is easy. That morning, I could not seem to get it right, regardless of how I adjusted my course. Not a promising start. Instead of gaining the canister by traversing the final pitch up and left, I found myself angling in from the east. I had botched this leg and wasted precious time.





Bob McElroy's Catskill 9 Route

Heading on to Balsam Cap, I found myself on the west side of the Cap and had to turn 90 degrees and climb the west facing slope, arriving on top almost opposite the canister. I usually leave Balsam Cap northward on the herd path to where it doubles back to the south below the brush. That day, I did not have time for such luxury and headed directly toward Rocky. The gamble worked and, after a brief struggle, I found an open route.

I had always walked directly to Rocky's canister, even in rain and fog. That day

I could not find it until I realized I was on a large level area below and south-east of the peak. When I finally reached the canister, it was 12:23 p.m. In spite of inept route finding, I was ahead of my most optimistic estimate and dared to envision a daylight finish. From Rocky to Lone, I took a shorter route than usual, which worked beautifully. From Lone to Table, the route was straightforward along the fairly open ridge. I left my pack near the Peekamoose/Table trail, and climbed Peekamoose, before going over Table to catch the Phoenicia-East Branch Trail North. My inability to arrange a car

shuttle provided a final bonus: a four-mile, nine hundred foot climb up past the Curtis monument to the Slide parking area. I signed out at 6:53 p.m.

My trip covered twenty-two miles, six thousand vertical feet and nine mountains and had yielded an unusually satisfying Catskill adventure.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB MEMBERS - 2024 / 2Q

NUMBER	NAME	DATE	LAST PEAK
4343	Todd Bold	11/24/23	Big Indian
4344	Jacquelin Scanlon	11/25/23	Balsam
4345	Nicole M Romano	10/27/23	Slide
4346	Paul Romano	10/27/23	Slide
4347	Charlie Pensabene	12/03/23	Kaaterskill
4348	Victoria Lawrence	10/13/23	Wittenberg
4349	Malabika Das	12/03/23	Kaaterskill
4350	Joanna Driscoll Hanson	11/11/23	Lone
4351	William Hanson	11/11/23	Lone
4352	Daniel Viani	01/23/22	Halcott
4353	Leanne Hughes	12/16/23	Big Indian
4354	Ian Henry	12/23/23	Panther
4355	Hyejeong Choi	12/23/23	Blackhead
4356	Zehra Sura	12/23/23	Balsam Lake
4357	Joseph Teutonico	12/23/23	Slide
4358	Sean Christie	12/24/23	Blackhead
4359	Paul Potochniak	12/25/23	Slide
4360	Donna Morgan	12/25/23	Slide
4361	Katie Courtney Taffe	12/26/23	Slide
4362	Aaron Mosier	12/26/23	Slide
4363	Megan Wang	12/29/23	Blackhead
4364	Matthew Busse	12/30/23	Panther
4365	Shawn T Beresford	12/29/23	Balsam
4366	Laura Churchill	08/19/23	Peekamoose
4367	Darin White	12/31/23	Blackhead
4368	Alexander White	12/31/23	Blackhead
4369	Kent Everding	12/29/23	Slide
4370	Aliehtys Reyes Montoya	12/29/23	Slide
4371	Karl Heinzelmann	12/30/23	Blackhead
4372	Mark Stapylton	12/30/23	Blackhead
4373	Brynita Haas	01/01/24	Balsam Lake
4374	Ryan C Jones	12/22/23	Slide
4375	Joseph Chernek	12/30/23	Eagle
4376	Sean Dahaghi	12/31/23	Balsam
4377	Sean M Byrne	01/02/24	Slide
4378	Laurie Husted	12/21/23	Panther
4379	Kevin Balie	01/06/24	Blackhead

NUMBER	NAME	DATE	LAST PEAK
4380	Enya Pelton	01/06/24	Blackhead
4381	Isabel Yannatos	01/08/24	Panther
4382	Sarah Gregory	01/08/24	Panther
4383	Carlos Banks	01/12/24	Panther
4384	Stephen Monthony	01/13/24	Panther
4385	Steven DeNichilo	01/14/24	Balsam
4386	Matthew Benintendo	12/23/23	Blackhead
4387	Shyam Upadhyay	01/14/24	Panther
4388	Vaughan Clewis	01/20/24	West Kill
4389	Mikhail Sharonov	12/31/23	Blackhead
4390	Colleen Furmanski	12/31/23	Blackhead
4391	Joseph Pagendarm	01/20/24	Panther
4392	Rosette Hlinka	01/22/24	Balsam
4393	Carlos Vasquez	02/03/24	Balsam
4394	Dylan Gagler	02/04/24	Balsam
4395	Artem Feldman	02/05/24	Slide
4396	Ilker Donmez	02/05/24	Blackhead
4397	Kami Morgenthaler	02/03/24	Panther
4398	Joshua Kingsbury	02/04/24	Blackhead
4399	Dennis Dempsey	04/23/23	West Kill
4400	Thomas Gibney	01/01/24	Panther
4401	Mandy Eifler	01/01/24	Panther
4402	Rebecca Quackenbush	02/04/24	Slide
4403	Michelle Gottfried	01/31/24	Balsam
4404	Bill Houmiel	02/03/24	Balsam
4405	Denise Sohl	02/03/24	Panther
4406	Joanne Ouchterloney	02/03/24	Panther
4407	Zachary Porter	02/10/24	Panther
4408	Daniel B McCue	02/17/24	Slide
4409	Stephen Dexter	02/22/24	Friday
4410	Gary J Gonyar	02/22/24	Friday
4411	Nicholas Hamilton	02/11/24	Blackhead
4412	Lisa Morales	02/11/24	Blackhead
4413	Thomas Hoos	02/25/24	Kaaterskill
4414	John Kennedy	02/24/24	Balsam
4415	Daniel Abbazio	02/03/24	Panther

LIFE MEMBERS

2796	Matt Harris
3813	Richard Scarponi
3914	Steve Weber
4197	Robert Gianotti
4337	Peter Stewart

4356	Zehra Sura
4358	Sean Christie
0047	David Hoffman
1949	Deanna Felicetta
2078	Mary Ellen Bloniarz

2563	John A Shatzel
3190	Edward Pelton
3264	David Lemmo
3365	Barbara Jones
3481	David O'Brien

3670	James Ryan Halbert
3825	Jesse Roy
3936	Izzy Miranda
4002	Glenn Gross
4212	Tom Richardson

LIFE MEMBERS

4378	Laurie Husted	4397	Kami Morgenthaler	4411	Nocholas Hamilton	Asp	Robert Walljasper
4385	Steven DeNichilo	4403	Michelle Gottfried	4412	Lisa Morales	Asp	Meichen Hsieh
4390	Colleen Furmanski						

NEW WINTER MEMBERS

NUMBER	NAME	REGULAR #	DATE	LAST PEAK
1602	Rena Brink	3387	03/20/23	Eagle
1603	Songui Yi	3574	12/21/23	Rocky
1604	Josh Massicot	3541	12/31/23	Plateau
1605	Liz Ristow	3540	12/31/23	Plateau
1606	Negar Aliabadi	3473	01/13/24	Kaaterskill
1607	Douglas Kroll	3179	01/27/24	West Kill
1608	Edwin Michalowski	3417	01/27/24	Sugarloaf
1609	Caleb Medders	3907	02/07/24	Big Indian
1610	John Broekema	2270	01/01/24	Bearpen
1611	Tom Richardson	4212	02/12/24	Balsam Cap
1612	Mitzie Balingit	3940	02/12/24	SW Hunter
1613	Ryan Malcom	3566	01/13/24	Thomas Cole
1614	Michael Dougherty	3912	02/06/24	Twin
1615	Daniel Abbazzio	4415	02/03/24	Panther
1616	Joanne Ouchterloney	4406	02/03/24	Panther
1617	Zachary Porter	4407	02/10/24	Panther
1618	Fred Gillen	3928	02/12/24	Lone
1619	Bruce Barnard	4148	02/12/24	Hunter
1620	Denise Barnard	4094	02/12/24	Hunter
1621	Jared Whalen	4114	02/19/24	Vly
1622	Tracy Streeto	3803	02/22/24	Balsam Lake
1623	Michael A Yesko	4065	02/22/24	Rocky
1624	Vincent Leon	4263	02/24/24	Peekamoose
1625	Maureen Hutcheon	4170	02/25/24	Balsam Lake
1626	Hireni Patel	3503	02/25/24	Balsam Lake
1627	Rita Okoniewski	3546	02/27/24	Peekamoose
1628	Sarah Richardsen	3804	03/03/24	Cornell
1629	Yuriy Klementyev	3549	03/03/24	Plateau
1630	Richard Todd	4119	03/03/24	Balsam Lake



THE CATSKILL 3500 CLUB GROUP HIKES: PRINCIPLES & GUIDANCE



Familiarize yourself with the seven Leave No Trace Principles for all your hikes.

- 1** Plan Ahead and Prepare
- 2** Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- 3** Dispose of Waste Properly
- 4** Leave What You Find
- 5** Minimize Campfire Impacts
- 6** Respect Wildlife
- 7** Be Considerate of Other Visitors



THE CATSKILL 3500 CLUB'S HIKING CREDO INCLUDES THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES:

- 1** Follow the Rules
- 2** Use your Map & Compass
- 3** Know your Limitations

THE CLUB ALSO PROMOTES THE ADHERENCE TO THE HIKESAFE HIKER RESPONSIBILITY CODE.

hikeSafe encourages hikers to be prepared:



- ✓ with knowledge and gear
- ✓ to leave your plans
- ✓ to stay together
- ✓ to turn back for emergencies
- ✓ to share the hiker responsibility code with others

Assumed Risk

Cool Weather & Summer

Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In cool weather, hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia, which can lead to death. In summer participants should have available in their pack garments of wool or fleece and a headlamp, should one have to unexpectedly spend the night in the mountains. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion.

Hike Pace

Pace is indicated as one (or a range) of the following, based on the intended moving pace. It should be understood that for any particular hike, actual pace is usually slower in steep/icy/difficult terrain or while bushwhacking.

- Relaxed (1 mph or less)**
- Moderate (about 1.5 mph)**
- Quick (about 2 mph)**
- Fast (faster than 2 mph)**

Rating System

Please be advised that the hikes listed herein would most likely be rated more difficult by clubs who hike in non-mountainous terrains. Club hikes may be canceled at the hike leader's discretion if dangerous weather conditions exist. When in doubt (heavy rain, high winds, or other serious weather conditions), please contact your hike leader.

Private Property

All Catskill 3500 Club hikes respect "No Trespassing" signs and the owners' wishes in such regards; leaders shall obtain permission to cross private property when so required. Identify private property via the NYNJTC Catskill Trail maps (2023 13th edition), and determine property ownership via online county tax maps.

Cold Weather & Winter

Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In cold weather, hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia, which can lead to death. Instead, wear (and have available in your pack) garments of wool or fleece. Silk or polypropylene make the best base layers, as they tend to wick moisture away from the body. Hats, gloves and a headlamp must be part of the standard fall kit. Ice and snow can come early and unexpectedly to these peaks; if there is any doubt about the conditions that may be encountered, each hiker is strongly advised to bring traction aids to the trailhead; the leader may advise that these do not have to be taken on the hike, but be aware that while there may be bare ground at the trailhead, there is often very significant ice and snow as the elevation increases, which could result in those improperly prepared being sent back. The hike leader may specify required clothing or gear for a hike. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion. Fall in the Catskills is not to be treated lightly.

Group Size

Maximum group size is limited to **12 persons** including hikers and leaders, but a leader may specify a smaller groups size. During fledgling season (June 1-July 15), hikes on trailless peaks will be limited to **8 hikers. The minimum group size is 3.** The hikes listed here and on the online events calendar are official Catskill 3500 Club hikes. Any other advertised hikes to the 3500 peaks are private hikes and, while they can count for membership to the Club, the Club is not affiliated with those hikes.

Blaze Orange Alert

Please refer to this DEC link (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/65231.html>) for the summary of hunting seasons. Wear orange, avoid white and remember the same for your four-legged hiking companions!

CLUB HIKE SCHEDULE - APRIL

Tues. Apr. 2 - WITTENBERG, CORNELL, & SLIDE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3800'; Elevs: 3782', 3857', 4184'
Challenging hike, done at a slower speed but not a beginner hike.
Challenging scrambles. Slowly paced hike.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Christopher Leon Garibian #3881 W1474

Sun. Apr. 7 - PANTHER VIA GIANT LEDGE

Distance: 6.6 mi, Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3724'
Relaxed to moderate pace. Rain and inclement weather will cancel.
Registration Period: Apr. 2 - 5
Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326 W498

Sun. Apr. 7 - BALSAM & EAGLE

Distance: 9.35 mi. Ascent: 2180', Elevs: 3607', 3583'
Moderate pace from Rider Hollow. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leaders: Yanny Hecht #1868 W751 & Christopher Leon Garibian #3881 W1474

Tues. Apr. 9 - MAP AND COMPASS TRAINING STARTS

Three separate exercises are to be completed at home.
We will be using the NY-NJ Trail Conference Trail Maps for the Catskill Mountains and the SUUNTO A-10 Compass.
Test Out Hike days will be scheduled during April - May.
Twin, Indian Head, Panther, Bearpen and Vly have been the locations of the Test Out Hikes in the past.
Registration Period: Open
Leader/Instructor: Russell Ley #2927 W1262

Sat. Apr. 13 - FIR, BIG INDIAN, EAGLE & BALSAM

Distance: 14 mi, Ascent: 3700', Elevs: 3629', 3699', 3583', 3607'
Long, challenging bushwhack and trail hike from Biscuit Brook to McKenley Hollow at a moderate to quick pace. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Maple D'Angelo #2910 W1168

Sat. Apr. 13

PACKSADDLE, PINE ISLAND, EVERGREEN, RUSK 67/100 SERIES

Two of the Catskill 67/100 Highest, One 3500 Peak, One in between.
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1975', Elevs: 3100', 3146', 3379', 3686'
Moderate pace bushwhack.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262

Sun. Apr. 14 - HUNTER

Distance: 8.2 mi. Ascent: 1898', Elev: 4046'
Relaxed to moderate pace (target about 1.1 to 1.3 mph including breaks, but we'll pace ourselves to slowest hiker)
Registration Period: Apr. 1 -12
Leader: Roger Green #2627 W1383

Sat. Apr. 20 - SLIDE

Distance: 6.7 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev: 4184'
Moderate pace trail hike. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Sharon Klein #3364

Sat. Apr. 20 - WITTENBERG & CORNELL

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 2900', Elevs: 3780', 3860'
Relaxed paced trail hike.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W994

Sun. Apr. 21 - NAVIGATION: MAP & COMPASS

Bluestone Wildforest (Kingston, NY)
Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 500', Elev: 625'
Registration Period: Apr. 10 - 19
E-mail leader for details and advance task (1-hour on own time)
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312

Sun. Apr. 21 - VLY & BEARPEN

Distance: 6.8 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3587', 3541'
Relaxed pace hike with bushwhack & trail hike. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Apr. 4-11
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857 420G#38

Sat. Apr. 27 - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF, & PLATEAU

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 5000', Elevs: 3573', 3650', 3783', 3835'
Long, challenging hike of the Eastern half of the Devil's Path at a moderate to quick pace. Shuttle Required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Maple D'Angelo #2910 W1168

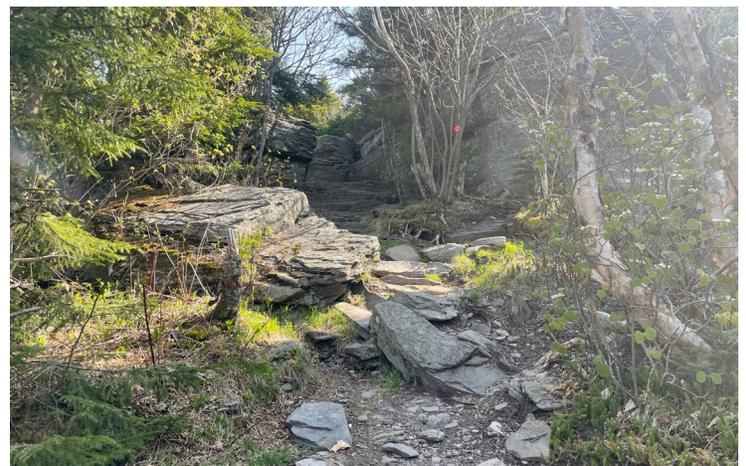
Sat. Apr. 27 - SHERRILL & NORTH DOME

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1877', Elevs: 3558', 3605'
Moderate paced out and back bushwhack from Shaft Road.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Colin DeVries #3382 W1589

Register for a 3500 Club hike:

catskill3500club.org/hike-schedule

Or scan the QR code:



Westkill - Buck Ridge approach. Photo by Mark Stapylton #4372

CLUB HIKE SCHEDULE - MAY

Fri. May 3

FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, LONE, ROCKY, TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE

Distance: 12 mi.

Ascent: 5000'; Elevs: 3692', 3608', 3487', 3700', 3825', 3819'

Very challenging, long hike. Experienced hikers only.

Slowly paced hike.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Christopher Leon Garibian #3881 W1474

Sat. May 4

FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY, LONE, TABLE, & PEEKAMOOSE

Distance: 12 mi.

Ascent: 5000'; Elevs: 3692', 3608', 3487', 3700', 3825', 3819'

Long, challenging bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate to quick pace. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Maple D'Angelo #2910 W1168

Sun. May 5 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK & BEAKS

Distance: 6.2 mi. Ascent: 1575'; Elev: 3525'

Relaxed pace with novice birding along the way.

Registration Period: Open

Leaders: Ira Orenstein #415 W777 & Karen Bloom #1733 W776

Sun. May 5 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2550'; Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'

Relaxed moderate pace. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Apr 28 - May 4

Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312

Sat. May 11 - WEST KILL, NORTH DOME, & SHERRILL

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3853'; Elevs: 3898', 3605', 3558'

Strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate to quick pace. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Maple D'Angelo #2910 W1168

Sat. May 11 - EAST WILDCAT, WEST WILDCAT 67/100 SERIES

Two of the Catskill 67/100 Highest.

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1700'; Elevs: 3340', 3160'

Slow to Moderate pace bushwhack.

Registration Period: April 29 - May 6

Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262

Sun. May 12 - THOMAS COLE, BLACK HEAD & BLACKDOME

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2550'; Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'

Challenging hike done at a slower speed. Slowly paced hike.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Christopher Leon Garibian #3881 W1474

Sat. May 18 - BLACKHEAD

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1690'; Elev: 3940'

Relaxed pace trail hike.

Registration Period: May 1 - 12

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W994

Sun. May 19 - INDIAN HEAD & TWIN

Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 2320'; Elevs: 3650', 3573'

Relaxed to moderate pace (target about 1.2 mph including breaks, but we'll pace ourselves to slowest hiker)

Registration Period: May 1 - 17

Leader: Roger Green #2627 W1383

Sun. May 19 - NAVIGATION: GPS ON A SMARTPHONE

Bluestone Wildforest (Kingston, NY)

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 500'; Elev: 625'

Registration Period: May 8 - May 17

E-mail leader for details and advance task (1-hour on own time)

Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312

Register for a 3500 Club hike:

catskill3500club.org/hike-schedule

Or scan the QR code:



View from Black Dome. Photo courtesy of Siu Samantha Yuen #2894 W1311

CLUB HIKE SCHEDULE - JUNE

Sat. June 1 - WEST STOPPEL POINT 67/100 SERIES

One of the Catskill 67/100 Highest.
Distance: 3 mi. Ascent: 1000'; Elev: 3118'
Slow to moderate paced bushwhack.
Registration Period: May 13 - May 28
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262

Sun. June 2 - HALCOTT

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1650'; Elev: 3509'
Relaxed-moderate pace bushwhack.
Registration Period: May 26 - June 1
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312

Sun. June 2 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900'; Elev: 3652'
Moderate pace bushwhack & trail hike.
Fun scrambles & great views.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Yanny Hecht #1868 W751

Fri. June 7 - THOMAS COLE & BLACK DOME

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2450'; Elevs: 2940', 3980'
Relaxed pace trail hike, wildflower hunting along the way.
Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Sharon Klein #3364

Sun. June 16 - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU (EASTERN DEVIL'S PATH)

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 4700'; Elevs: 3573', 3650', 3783', 3835'
Very challenging, long hike. Experienced hikers only.
Slowly paced hike.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Christopher Leon Garibian #3881 W1474

Fri. June 21 - BALSAM

Distance: 5.2 mi. Ascent: 1607'; Elev: 3607'
Relaxed-moderate loop trail hike with some fun water crossings.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Sharon Klein #3364

Sat. June 22 - BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY

Distance: 7.69 mi. Ascent: 2813'; Elevs: 3606', 3660'
Relaxed pace bushwhack.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W994

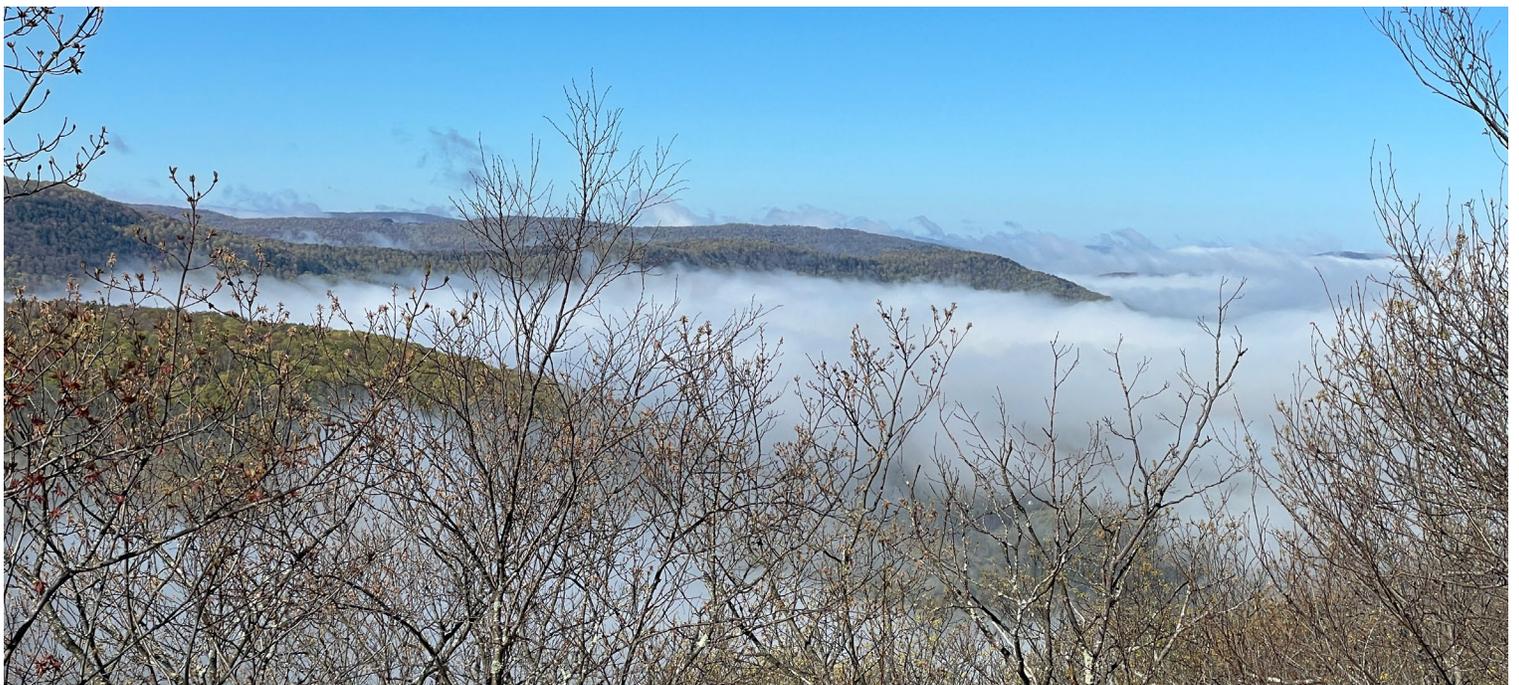
Sun. June 23 - HALCOTT

Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1700'; Elev: 3509'
Challenging hike done at a slower speed. Slowly paced hike.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Christopher Leon Garibian #3881 W1474

Register for a 3500 Club hike:

catskill3500club.org/hike-schedule

Or scan the QR code:



Pakatakan Summit. Photo by Kristen Taylor #3288 W1299