The Catskill Canister Volume 52 Number 4 October - December 2019



Indian Head from Platte Clove Rd. Photo by Karin Murphy

The newsletter will print best if downloaded as a pdf file directly from the Club's site

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THE CATSKILL CANISTER

Vol. I, No. 2

Spring 1968

MY FAVORITE CATSKILL HIKE

It is difficult for a hiker who is interested in the flora, fauna, brooks, waterfalls, history, and scenery of the Catskill Mountain area to pick out the most interesting, exciting, or difficult spot, peak, or valley that has enthralled him over a long period of years. But that is what your editor has ordered, so I will select my

A.T. Shorey, Brighton, ME (For those who know of it, of the Shorey shortcut fame in the ADKs)

Yes, the above extract is from 1968. The first year the Canisters were printed. While they have been available on CD, they were not readily accessible because....how many people have CD drives these days! But, no more. The entire archive of the Catskill Canisters, from its inception to the most recent edition, is now on our website. We posted the announcement on our Facebook page and the Yahoo Group last month, but, for readers who may not find their way to either spot on a regular basis, I wanted to make sure as many people as possible are aware of this great resource.

For those who take the time to delve in, what a treasure trove they will find! I have not finished reading them all yet as there is much to savor, but I encourage readers to click and enjoy stepping back in time. From describing an attempt to find out if Thomas Cole could be seen from Slide Mountain through an experiment with heliography (Winter 1973) to the below excerpt, you will find wonderful stories, sharp senses of humor and an impression (though I admit, perhaps with a bit of sentimentality on my part) of a more innocent time.

A TENDERFOOT IN THE CATSKILLS

Sixty years ago this July, I thought I would try a mountain vacation instead of one at the seashore. I had never done any walking that I could avoid. After a twelve-hour trip from New Jersey I reached the Winter Clove by train, ferry, Hudson River Day Line, narrow-guage railway, and finally an eight-seater drawn by two slow horses.

Alfred S. Clark, Bellevue, MD: Summer 1968 Canister

The membership was so small that there was a news section entitled *The Peripatetic Porcupine* started by Franklin Clark, #33, where members' activities were noted by their number, not name. Franklin was the only editor of the Canister for about 20 years and had quite a dry wit – below is just one of many entertaining tidbits. This is from the Spring 1969 edition.

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

#27 caught up with the hike he was scheduled to lead just as they reached the new slide on Friday. The rocks were icy and no one had full crampons, so much of the ascent was made on all fours, but slowly. In the end, everyone left the slide at the final pitch and took to the woods. * * * * We have noticed that #33 seldom hikes alone these days. His companion wears an ADK patch on her pack, a diamond on her finger, and has a New York Chapter accent. * * * #12 is the new Forest Rang-

There were also moments of creativity as evidenced by this snippet from a free form entry about bushwhacking which I think many of us can relate to... perhaps even on Rocky!

STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS WHILE BUSHWHACKING

for Rocky Mountain watch ridge too far to left off ridge climb up got to get on ridge OK now bad blow down in col this is awful over blown down tree no around it bad should have gone over another one this time over no better can't even find a herd path fight push another scratch climb up small cliff go to left I guess I'd better go right this looks like a way up OK still up hill shoulder to shoulder spruce add my shoulder push shove dead needles down my back itch scratch look a rabbit where the hell is canister this has to be top look search ah something orange this is it rest feels good sip of water ration it tonight

Walter Carstens, Elmhurst, NY: Winter 1970 Canister

But this wonderful historical, entertaining and educational archive would not exist without the dedication, time and foresight of several members who deserve the Club's deepest thanks. It is a project that has spanned many years and was truly a labor of love. Alan Via, #429 W174, was the originator of the Canister archive idea in 2007 and spent countless hours immersed with painstaking scanning, researching and tracking down copies. Facebook was in its infancy and not commonly used yet, so the detective work was done through notes in the Canisters and contacting older members. In Alan's words "Some treasured their copies and I had to convince them I'd be as careful with them as if they were my own." Dave and Carol White had issues that they had saved, which helped fill the gaps. After 3-4 years of this work, Alan had located all back issues and the archive was complete.

At that point former Club president Joe Bogardus stepped in and offered to make them searchable – which they all are. Now, if you are looking for anyone, that is possible. This June the Board decided it was time that more people could delve into the content and that the unique history of the Club should be readily available to all. That is where our webmaster, David Bunde, stepped in and uploaded the archive to our website.

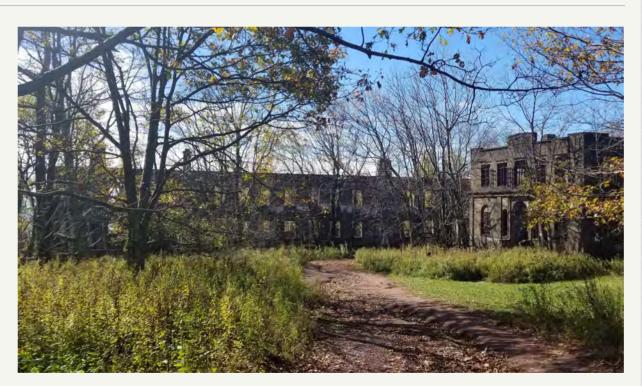
So, thank you to all the hands that made this possible and for exhibiting the true spirit of volunteerism that was evident throughout this endeavor! Everyone involved did this without asking for recognition, but all definitely deserve it for their efforts! Most especially, Alan, for his dedication and quiet patience in carrying this through to completion. Now this archive will allow each generation to connect with the past. In this year, where some former long time Club board members have passed away - like Roy Messaros (#97 W25), Father Ray Donahue (#23 W1) and Cy Whitney (#266 W93) - there is a wonderful and bittersweet quality to reading through the issues and seeing their names.

Because isn't "what's past is prologue?", I leave you with one last selection from the Spring 1972 edition. It made me smile broadly at the energy, fun and stubbornness of all involved – so relatable even 47 years later.

PEEKA MOOSE RIDGE

Sing the praise of mountaineers bold! I know a saga I have to unfold. The story is of a long trek in the CATSKILL undertaken by three men, a boy, and a damsel. Stalwart, courageous, undaunted were we; I know, because that damsel was me. First we took Peekamoose--did it with flair--And then on to Table with hardly a care. Then Seymour, with map and compass in hand, started the bushwhack across that wild land. The brush tore our clothes and the gnats bit our skin, while the blowdowns bruised and battered our shin. By the time we had scrambled up Lone and up Rocky. our brave little band was somewhat less cocky. Then Pete took his turn with the compass and map, and onward we trudged up that old Balsam Cap. On top of each mountain, young Josh took the lead for finding the canister was his great deed. The newcomer, Vince, was the fifth in our party, but he proved in climbing to be hale and hearty. With five to our credit and one more to go, the daylight was fading -- no time to be slow! Regrouping our forces, we shot a straight course and headed for Friday, that mount of remorse. The onslaught of Friday was tough, long, and steep; there was no turning back, we were in it too deep. So we clenched our teeth and our agonies bore; the end found us weary, bug-bitten, and sore. Now this is the memory I share with my peers of the Peckamoose Ridge, or "Blood, Sweat, and Tears."

-- Madeline Libolt, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.



Overlook Hotel ruins. Photo by Josh Gorsch #3009



Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club



The Club extends our appreciation to Jim Gebhard, departing Winter Weekend Chair

We want to extend our deep thanks to Jim for his past service for two years coordinating our yearly winter gathering with such enthusiasm and style. For those who know Jim, they realize how much he loves gathering hikers together and sharing stories and good times. Jim helped move the weekend to the Catskill Seasons Inn last year, which was very successful and well attended; a tradition we hope to continue. Happy hiking!



The Club welcomes Bill Chriswell as a new Winter Weekend Chair

The Officers of the Catskill 3500 Club want to extend a very warm welcome to Bill Chriswell.

Bill Chriswell (#1668 W768; ADK 46r #6338W; Catskill Hundred Highest) rejoins the board as the Winter Weekend Chair. Originally from Palmyra NY, Bill has lived in Pennsylvania and New Jersey before retiring to Bloomville NY in Western Catskills. Well, not exactly retired - nowadays, Bill is busy as an owner and Farmer-in-Chief of Sunrise Mountain Orchard. In his free time, he enjoys cycling in summers, and hiking in fall and winter (no bugs or nettles!). He loves the history of the Catskills and their uniqueness.





Current Officers and Contacts

With the introduction of Bill Chriswell and a farewell to Jim Gebhard, we think that it is also a good opportunity to list all the Club board members for those who may not know who they are.

Please say hello on the trails!

ELECTED OFFICERS
PRESIDENT* Maria Bedo-Calhoun
PAST PRESIDENT* Heather Rolland
1ST VICE PRESIDENT* Charlie Lutomski
2ND VICE PRESIDENT* Stash Rusin
SECRETARY* Melissa McCutcheon
TREASURER* <u>Jay Hui</u>

APPOINTMENTS		
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR* David White	NYNJ TRAIL CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE*	
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR David WHITE	Richard Barr	
THE CANISTER EDITOR* Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond	AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR Linda VanSteenburg	
OUTINGS CHAIR* Bill Winterbottom	STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR	
OUTINGS CHAIR BIII WIRLEIDOLLOITI	<u>Jim Bouton</u>	
TRAIL MAINTENANCE CHAIR* Lourdes Sonera	NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR	
TIVALE MAINTENANCE CHAIN Louides Solicia	<u>Joe Ferri</u>	
SAR COMMITTEE CHAIR* Erica Winterbottom	ARCHIVIST <u>Jeff Glans</u>	
CANISTERS CHAIR* Jim Bouton	WEBMASTER David Bunde	

ASPIRANTS CHAIR* Jake Haisley	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT Bill Winterbottom
ANNUAL DINNER CHAIR* Mike Doehring	T-SHIRT SALES Ira Orenstein
WINTER WEEKEND CHAIR* Bill Chriswell	ASSISTANT TO THE TRAIL MAINTENANCE CHAIR
WINTER WEEKEND CHAIR DIII CHIISWEII	Ted Shemella
CONSERVATION CHAIR* Carol White	ASSISTANT TO THE ANNUAL DINNER CHAIR
CONSERVATION CHAIR COLOR WHILE	Manuel Alfonso Peraza
DIGITAL CONTENT CHAIR* David Bunde	

^{*}indicates a member of the Executive Committee, able to vote on motions brought before the board.



New Canisters on Eagle and Kaaterskill High Peaks!!!!!!

As some of you may have already noticed or heard through the grapevine, there were some big changes on the peaks recently. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation requested that the Club place canisters on Eagle and Kaaterskill High Peak in order to monitor trail traffic on those mountains.

On Saturday, July 27, 2019, Jim Bouton, the 3500 Can Man, placed a canister on KHP and Sunday, July 28, 2019, one on Eagle. The KHP canister is dedicated to Roy Messaros and the one on Eagle to Reverand Ray Donahue. Both were avid Club hikers, board members and stewards of the mountains who passed away in the past year.





His installation on Eagle was memorialized by Club canister editor Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond and president Maria Bedo-Calhoun. An extra treat was had as the first non board members, a family from Long Island, arrived soon after the Eagle canister was up to sign. Congrats on your 3rd peak!



To reassure anyone worried about this, no it does not mean you need to climb the peaks again if you already have!!!

By: Maria Bedo-Calhoun, President



Dues for calendar year 2019 are now past due. Those of you who receive the emailed quarterly link from us also get a dues reminder. Members and Aspirants who joined after the middle of the year may renew at a half year rate to get back to "calendar year renewal." Contact David White or Jake Haisley to confirm your status. Forms and rates are on the membership page of the website.

You may now use PayPal at the <u>club site</u> or renew by mail and/or order additional member items using <u>this form</u>. Please make checks payable to the Catskill 3500 Club.

By: Dave White, Membership Chair and Jake Haisley, Aspirants Chair

Update from the Treasurer

Trail magic isn't just for through hikers! The Catskill 3500 Club and your donations have spent the 2019 summer in various places, from promoting LNT principles on some popular Catskill Summits to supporting a wildlife rescue organization. Our club continues to support the Summit Stewardship program through the NY-NJ Trail Conference with another \$5000 donation. We also support the Catskill Center through a donation of \$2000, and the Catskill Mountainkeeper (a \$1000 donation). On top of this is a combined two year support for the ADK organization for \$7000 for advocacy. This year, we also donated \$1000 to a new group for us, the Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center. The total added up to \$16,000, going to worthy organizations to support the lands we all love. The only way we can do this is from the support of many of you who continue to contribute generously, and through a continuous drive to reduce the operating costs of this organization so that more money goes to our main cause. We strive to support the Catskills in any way possible, through our own form of trail magic, not just to hikers but to the mountains themselves and the animals who live there.

By: Jay Hui, Treasurer



Save the date for the Fall Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up Event!

Join us on Sunday, October 27th, 2019 for the Route 214 clean up. Bring work gloves and a great attitude – all else will be provided, including refreshments afterward. Your participation helps the Club, the environment, and keeps the Catskills beautiful!

See the schedule listing below for the registration information.

By: Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair



Save the date for winter weekend

The 2020 Winter Weekend will take place the weekend of January 25th/26th at the Catskill Seasons Inn. More information will be posted on the Club <u>events</u> page, as well as on the <u>Club's Facebook page</u> soon.

By: Bill Criswell, Winter Weekend Chair



Save the date for 3500 Club Winter Preparedness Class

Location: Livingston Manor, NY

Date: December 7th, 2019

Time: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Cost: none!

While the Catskills are sometimes seen as 'easy' peaks, they can present formidable challenges to the winter hiker. Tom and Laurie Rankin return to this annual event to share their winter mountaineering skills, learned over many years, during an early evening indoor presentation. Also present will be at least 1 DEC Forest Ranger (subject to availability). Bring your winter gear!

You must pre-register by emailing Tom. A minimum of 6 participants are needed or the class will be canceled.

Class details will be posted on the Club <u>events</u> page, as well as on the <u>Club's Facebook page</u>, once available. you can also read the recap of the 2018 class in the <u>spring 2019 issue</u> of the Canister.

By: Tom Rankin, Former President

CLUB VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Did you know that the Club, besides recognizing hiking accomplishments, also acknowledges members who give back to the Club and the Catskill Forest Preserve? Currently, the Club has two awards (with pretty sweet patches that are designed as rockers to go around your member patch) as well as a scholarship.

CLUB SERVICE AWARD



The purpose of this award is to recognize service to the club by its members. The award is open to any member in good standing who accumulates 7 points by participating in various activities. The award is administered by Wanda Davenport, Former President. Application

- 1 for one Club Trail Maintenance event participation
- 1 for one Club Litter Pickup event participation
- 1 for one Catskill Trail Crew participation via established club relationship
- 1 for one year maintaining a Catskill Lean-to via established club relationship
- 1 for one year maintaining a trail section via established club relationship
- 1 for event attendance at Wilderness First Aid Course
- ½ point for 2 days manning a Catskill Fire Tower via established club relationship
- ½ point for 1 year on the Club Board or Committee Membership
- ½ point for 1 event special manned booth or event support.

HIKE LEADER AWARD



The purpose of this award is to recognize leadership in the club by its members. The award is open to any member in good standing who leads six scheduled hikes including a winter hike and (separately) a bushwhack. Also required is participation in one club trail maintenance outing. The award is administered by <u>Bill Winterbottom</u>, Outings Chair. <u>Application</u>

FOUNDERS AWARD

The Founder's Award is a scholarship established by the club to encourage members to attend training to improve their hike leader skills. It was also intended to recruit new hike leaders. The award is administered by Bill Winterbottom, Outings Chair. Application

Partner hiking initiatives in the Catskills!

Check out these options:

"<u>Hike With Us</u>" through the <u>NYS Department of Environmental Conservation</u>. The DEC reached out to the Club to provide leaders for some of their hikes and we are grateful to our volunteer hike leaders who are helping out. The program is designed to introduce less experienced hikers to the variety of regions in the Catskills with guided hikes which include instruction on Leave No Trace and trail stewardship. The program runs through October 26th, 2019.

<u>Catskills Fire Tower Five Challenge</u> The DEC is also running a fire tower Challenge. While the Club is pleased to see new people discovering the fire towers, please be mindful that some of the FT trail heads are not designed for a lot of traffic, so save those hikes for weekdays if possible. The challenge runs through December 31, 2019.

Lark in the Park is a partnership of the Catskill Mountain Club, The Catskill Center, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. "From hiking to paddling to cycling, and from natural history to human culture to stewardship service the Lark offers everyone opportunities to live and learn in and about nature." This year the Lark will begin on October 5 and run through October 14.

By: Maria Bedo-Calhoun, President

Trail Mix Photo credits: Bill's photo is by Bill Criswell, Winter Weekend Chair; new canister photos are by Jim Bouton, Canisters Chair and Yana Levchinsky-Grimmnd, Canister Editor; Club Service Award patch is courtesy of Wanda Davenport; Hike Leader Award patch is courtesy of Bill Winterbottom.



View off Twin. Photo by Linda Kukol #2248 W1035

High Rise Work Office

Text and Photo by: Eduardo Gil, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
Trail Conference Conservation Corps Steward

I like to think that I have the best job in the world and office space to carry out my duties. Stewardship! Why? Stewardship is the responsible use and active protection of our natural resources. The fundamental issue we face is that we have a shrinking resource compared to the number of users. Protecting hiking areas, habitats, and ecosystems requires advocacy, conservation, and stewardship. Conservation through acquisition of lands can remove immediate acute pressures, but only through careful, prolonged stewardship can we hope to protect areas from the subtle but pervasive pressures of misuse, invasive species, climate change, and misguided wildlife management.

I spend every weekend of a 6-month span during non-winter hiking season having the best office available to service the community and the environment. As a Summit steward for the second year, having served two years prior to these as a trail builder all with the New York New Jersey Trail Conference (NYNJTC) in conjunction with AmeriCorps, I have a profound appreciation for preserving and conserving the environment I wholly enjoy for leisure. I have spent roughly 200+ days up on a Catskills peak educating hikers about Leave No Trace principles, doing some maintenance work when needed, and conducting my own little research observations on needed improvements. I've personally interacted with about 10,000 hikers. I've also encountered all kinds of weather, from heat waves to torrential rainfall, and a few beautiful days in between to take it all in.



A typical day on the trail involves wearing plenty of hats. First responsibility depending on location is making sure hikers are prepared for their day and asking what their itinerary is in order to provide the public with educational information that will assist with the safe enjoyable use of the hiking trails and making recommendations, if needed (particularly for those who are poorly prepared). Often times my help isn't required, and then I am more than happy to click the shutter of their cameras so they can freeze the moment in time when they hiked that particular trail. Other times I do share some knowledge pertaining to the logistics of the environment which they'd appreciate. Often times I walk the trails picking up litter that hikers have left behind, whether intentional or not, or clearing any corridor that requires some TLC for the trail to be open and more accessible, from downed trees or overgrown vegetation. Sometimes I search for illegal camping sites and fire pits that violate the regulations of the region, make a note of their location on my map and attempt to restore the area as if no one had been there. Also among my responsibilities is helping in any emergency situation ranging from aiding an injured hiker to search and rescue operations, which are led by the regions forest rangers.

My name is Eduardo. I am an advocate for conservation.



View off North Plattekill. Photo by Alan Via #429 W174

Father & Son Notes from the Catskill 3500

Text and Photos by: Jon Gordon #2816 W1252 and Beni Gordon #2817 W1251

Benjamin "Beni" Gordon (2817 W1251) holds the record for being the youngest regular and winter finisher of the Catskill 3500. He and his dad Jon have collected some of their favorite memories from the mountains.

Beni: The first big mountain we hiked was Overlook, and at the top we saw the fire tower. There was a person there giving out cookies – vanilla Oreos, one of my favorites! Afterwards, when my Dad asked if I wanted to do another hike, I told him that I wanted to do another fire tower hike because I thought there would be cookies at the top.



Jon: This meant that I carried treats on every hike as a reward for making it to the summit. We started with cookies, but for the



Beni: On our first 3500 hike, when we were on our way back from Balsam Lake, we saw 3 bears! My dad yelled at them and then picked me up and ran away from the bears. I was scared but then the bears were gone.

Jon: At first, I only saw one bear and yelled to try to scare it off. Then I noticed the two cubs following their mom out of the tree. That's when I picked up Beni and ran one way while she took her kids and went the other way. We haven't seen any bears on our hikes since then (though we have seen some outside our window at home).

Beni: On a lot of our hikes we had to cross streams. We made up a game we called "rock rock rock." We stepped from rock to rock to rock over the stream to keep our feet dry. Sometimes we played it even if the trail was dry and we would imagine the dirt was lava.

Jon: Beni was really good at keeping his feet dry. His biggest challenge was the fact that because his boots were so small, he could only step in about an inch or two of water without it pouring in the top. On the other hand, I was the one who ended up with a boot full of water when I slipped off a rock while trying to cross the Neversink on the way up to Rocky and Lone.

Beni: Sometimes we had to cross bigger streams. My dad would carry me across the really big ones. Other times, if there was a big enough log, I would sit on it and scoot across.

Jon: When we crossed bigger streams, I told Beni that he had to hold onto me like a baby monkey. Unsurprisingly, it was difficult to maintain my footing on slippery rocks while carrying a backpack on my back and a child on my front – but other than one wet foot, we were successful. Sometimes we hiked with others, and that helped when it came to the bigger crossings. It helped to hike with others: on a very wet spring hike of Doubletop, I had to hand stand in the middle of the stream on a rock and then hand Beni across to another hiker in our group.

Beni: When we first started hiking, it was just my dad and me. But he soon figured out that I liked going on "party hikes" with other people, so most of our hikes were with groups – especially our bushwhack hikes.



Jon: Halcott was one of our early hikes. I had bushwhacked before, and given the short distance, I figured it couldn't be that bad. What I didn't count on was not being able to find the herd path and instead plowing through endless stands of blackberry canes that were over Beni's head. I found the herd path on the way down, which made me realize that it would be better if we did the rest of the bushwhacks with others who knew the best way to go (the hike up Friday in particular confirmed the wisdom of that decision).

Beni: Our first winter hike was Slide Mountain and my dad thought we could do it with just snowshoes. Turns out he was wrong. There was one spot on the trail where there was a lot of thick ice. Daddy told me to do "monster stomps" so that my snowshoes would grab the ice and I could walk up the trail. After that hike, we got microspikes – though I like to call them "cramps." They are way better for doing monster stomps.

Jon: It's very hard to find hiking gear (particularly for winter) in Beni's size, and what we did find often didn't fit well and wasn't well-made. I even had to order snow gaiters from a European website. The one great discovery we did make is that Katoolah used to make extra-small microspikes, which actually fit Beni's boots pretty well. Unfortunately, they've been discontinued, but I was able to get a couple of pairs from their customer service.

Beni: When there was finally enough snow on our winter hikes, we would slide down the steep spots on our bottoms. I called this "butt sliding." It is a lot of fun and it makes going down the mountain a lot faster. Sometimes I tried ice sliding but that wasn't always a soft landing.

Jon: Beni was so excited about butt sliding that he asked about it before each of our winter hikes. His love of butt sliding is infectious, as he convinced many of the other adults on our winter hikes to try it.

Jon and Beni now lead hikes for the Club, and you can find their next hike in this edition of the Canister. They are now working on completing the Catskill Hundred Highest.



Devil's Path in the distance, as seen from the Cross Mountain along the Phoenicia East Branch trail.

Photo by Jason Pelton #3013 W1211

The Ice Age at Barlow Notch

Text and photo by: Robert and Johanna Titus

The key to doing good geology is field work, lots of it. Geologists put on their boots, jeans, red plaid shirts, Indiana Jones hats and go outside. Right? Well, not this time. Yours is a hiking club, and we are going to send you out to do all the hard work. The truth be known, the two of us spend a lot of time studying topographic maps in order to pick out good locations to find good geology. That's actually before our field studies even begin. Let's do that today. But we need to warn you that when you do get outdoors, you may have to do a little bushwhacking. But you are supposed to be good at that, aren't you?

We want to take you to a place called Barlow Notch which is just below the Windham-Durham boundary in the Northwestern Catskills. Google Earth maps will get you to Nauvoo Road in Windham (black on map). Take that north until you get to the Lake Heloise Campground. Across the road (to the west) is an old wood road, shown red on the map. We would like you to follow this old unmarked trail to the north.



Map of Barlow Notch area, courtesy U.S. Geological Survey

But, before going on this hike, take another good look at the map. We point out the 2,100-foot contour line (blue). Notice that this contour defines a great basin lying in between Mt. Hayden and Ginseng Mountain. The 2,100-foot contour divides this large basin into two smaller ones. The map of the back walls of these smaller basins displays closely spaced contour lines; these are steep slopes. At the bottom of the great basin lies Lake Heloise which exists, today, primarily because of a relatively modern dam. There is a basin, behind the dam and beneath the waters of the lake. That basin was there before the dam.

All this fits with landscape forms that we are quite familiar with. These two small basins appear to be what glacial geologists call glacial cirques. Cirques are common in modern mountainous landscapes, especially in places like the Alps of Switzerland. Modern cirques are often filled with the modern ice of what are called Alpine glaciers. Beneath the ice lies the steep back slopes of glacial headwalls. These were eroded by the glacial ice as it slowly slid downhill. At the bottom of headwalls, Alpine glaciers typically continued their erosion and scooped out smaller basins. Geologists call these basins tarns and, when still filled with water, they are called tarn lakes. In this case the two glaciers combined their erosive efforts to make this single tarn, now known as Lake Heloise.

When we first examined these map views, we strongly felt that we were looking at the record of a late ice age Catskills, a time when, throughout the Catskills, there were numerous Alpine glaciers. In short, we felt that we were looking at an Alpine landscape. It is this image that we hope you will bring along on your ascent of the old wood trail. The steepest part of the trail will take you up the backwall of an old cirque. Look up; above you there were once hundreds of feet of ice up there.

It is our understanding that, in the vicinity of Barlow Notch, there are one or more vantagepoints where sweeping views of the old Alpine landscape can be seen. If you can find one of these, we would like you to summon up your mind's eyes and look into the distant past. Below you are two Alpine glaciers; one of them is in the immediate foreground, the other enters into view from your left. Much of the ice is a brilliant, even blinding white; the left and right margins, however, have been dirtied with earth eroded off of adjacent hillslopes. There is another stripe of earth between the two glaciers where they merged. See our second photo for a modern example of all this.



Two modern Alpine glaciers combine. Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons

You, the mind's eyes, watch as the glaciers below you do indeed merge and their combined ices advance off to the south. The climate had been cooling but times change. You watch as things warm up and the ice retreats, it melts back. That tarn becomes exposed and you see that it is filled with ice water, even without a dam. Gradually, the ice melts away, the forests return, and the Barlow Notch vicinity became what we see today.

But what about Barlow Notch itself? We, having studied many similar notches in the Catskills, argue that this was an altogether different chapter of ice age history, one that takes us back farther into the distant past. We believe that we are looking at a time called the Grand Gorge advance of the ice, perhaps about 14,000 years ago. A very sizable glacier had advanced up against the edge of the northern Catskills during that cooling. Then the climate warmed and enormous volumes of meltwater poured off the melting glacier. It was this flow that carved Barlow Notch. On your hike, you are likely to enter the notch. Stand there and look up at adjacent slopes. Now look north; hold your hands up and feel the powerful ice water flow that once passed by. This should be a most remarkable experience.

Our studies of this topographic map and your hike there should combine to provide a remarkably vivid image of the Catskills during the latest Ice Age. We would like you keep all this in mind in your future hiking. One important thing that we have learned from our years of studies is that almost all of our scenic Catskills landscapes were directly the products of advancing and eroding ice age glaciers along with the erosion of powerful meltwater streams. This was certainly the case at Barlow Notch.

Robert Titus is a professor of geology at Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y., and Johanna Titus is a professor of biology at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y

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Buck Ridge on West Kill. Photo by Steve Aaron

Longtime Catskills Goal: The Linkup

Text and Photos by: James Armstrong, #2900 W1158

July 14th, 2019 was one of the greatest hiking days I've ever had – and there have been a lot of hiking days. It had it all: Excellent weather, great trails, good company, and a fantastic challenge. It couldn't have been better.

My experience with the Devil's Path stretches back many years. It has always been one of my favorite days in the mountains and I've hiked it as a day hike multiple times. Some years ago I was hiking the Devil's Path in a day with a friend of mine. It was his first time on the Devil's Path, but he had hiked the Escarpment Trail many times. We got to discussing the differences and similarities between the trails. They are both similar lengths, both have some fantastic scenery and great terrain, but they are very, very different experiences. Most importantly, they are, for all intents and purposes, right next to one another.



My background is climbing. In climbing, linkups are the norm. Whether it's linking pitches on one climb, or linking multiple routes on El Capitan in a day, or perhaps linking three desert towers in a day, linkups are a part of the climbing culture. When my friend and I were on the Devil's Path a few years ago, somewhere along the way while discussing the Devil's Path and the Escarpment Trail we got the idea that it might be possible to link them in one really big day. We spent the rest of the hike talking strategy, training plans, and what would make it work.

I firmly believe that the best way to train for Catskills hiking is by Catskills hiking. In April I hiked the last 28 peaks remaining for my Catskills Hundred Highest finish. I really loved that experience and saw some of the best seldom-traveled places in the Catskills. While finishing the Hundred Highest, I hiked a number of 3500s as well, since I was in the neighborhood. I took May off from hiking to pursue other interests, but then in the beginning of June I thru-hiked the Foothills Trail. Then, from June 9th to July 9th I hiked a total of 49 Catskills 3500 peaks, along with some other non-3500 hiking.

I knew that for the linkup to work I needed to travel light. My food needed to be light, but most importantly, I needed to not be carrying much water. Accordingly, I cached water in quite a few places along the way. My caches were all out of sight of the trail and buried. At no point on the hike did I carry more than two liters of water.

An interesting development is that while hiking the Peekamoose 9 in late June I randomly bumped into a fellow hiker, Russ Burkhardt, who was out there doing the same thing. We joined up for the rest of the hike, and while talking I mentioned what I was training for. He expressed interest, and I agreed that he could join. The weather was right on July 14th, and the plan was set.

I had given a lot of thought as to the best strategy. I knew that the Devil's Path is by far the tougher of the two, and that I'd rather tackle it while fresh. I also decided that I'd rather finish in the daylight, figuring that mentally I'd have an easier time pushing hard while it was light. The trade-off would be that by starting in the evening, I'd be starting tired, giving up a night of sleep. Lastly, I devised a schedule, knowing that having something to adhere to would help push where necessary, while also aiding in not overdoing it in places. Here is what I came up with:

- 9 pm start at the Spruceton Rd. Devil's Path trailhead.
- 11 hours for the Devil's Path. 5 hours to get to Devil's Tombstone/Notch Lake. 6 Hours from there to Prediger Rd.
- 2 hours to eat, rehydrate, bike the 10 miles to the Escarpment Trail trailhead, change clothes, and resupply food.
- 10 hours to hike the Escarpment Trail

This allows for a one hour buffer at the end. From past hiking experience I know that 40 miles is my "Cinderella" mileage. After 40, things can start going wrong. The one hour buffer would allow me to significantly slow down if necessary toward the end.

Russ and I met at 6:30 pm on Saturday, July 13th to sort the last few things, cache bikes, stage cars, etc. Our start time at Spruceton was 9:08 pm. This meant we needed to be done by 9:07 pm on Sunday to meet the self-imposed challenge I had created. We just barely had to turn our headlamps on to start which meant we would have the full possible amount of daylight in which to finish on Sunday.

I took the lead starting off, emphasizing that it's important to start slow. At the beginning of a long day psyche can be very high, which often leads to setting an unsustainable pace. When playing the long game, slow and steady wins. As a famous climber said on a speed record attempt on El Capitan, "Start out slow, go go go. Start out fast, just won't last."

Hiking at night is interesting. Your world is reduced to the small bubble of light that your headlamp casts. The woods are quiet, still, and peaceful. About a mile up from the trailhead we ran into a couple who were completing the Devil's Path in a day. We congratulated them on their accomplishment, and they expressed surprise that we were just starting hiking. Because neither they nor we ever stopped, we didn't have to explain, and didn't share our plan. No reason to perhaps take away from their very worthy accomplishment by saying that we were doing something a bit bigger.

We arrived at Devil's Tombstone in only four and a half hours, thirty minutes ahead of schedule. While this would seem like a good thing, I was concerned that we had perhaps overdone it. Russ had taken the lead from Diamond Notch Falls up to Devil's Acre lean-to and his psyche was super high. The pace was quicker than I would like, and I think this is where our half hour came from. We made certain to stop talking and sneak by as silently as possible while going past the Devil's Acre lean-to so as to not wake anyone sleeping. The lean-to was empty, which surprised me.

I led us up Plateau, and we welcomed the easy hiking that followed the summit. At Indian Head, now light out, we were starting to feel it. The nutrition plan was to eat 100 calories per hour, every hour. We were good about calling this out and ensuring we always ate. In addition, we had several larger "meals" along the way.



We finished the Devil's Path at 7:37 am, half an hour ahead of schedule. After eating and drinking, Russ and I hopped on our bikes and started off. It was important to me that I bike between the two trailheads, and this had always been part of my plan. I wanted to keep this adventure human-powered. It would certainly be "purer" to hike between the trailheads, but I'm not a fan of road-walking, and I also didn't think I could do this and keep it within the 24-hour time frame.



After biking, we got underway on the Escarpment Trail at 9:22 am. The first five miles went great. It was a change seeing so many tourist-hikers, and we wished everyone a cheerful "Good morning!" After five miles things slowed. At the Dutcher Notch water cache we met a group of four women backpackers having lunch on the trail. We refilled our water and chatted with them. They were low on water and we happily shared our extra. I also helped them with blisters with supplies I had in my small first aid kit. This was our longest stop of the hike and re-energized me significantly.

At the top of Blackhead Mountain my body and mind must have smelled the barn. I suddenly felt 100%. My legs didn't feel sore, my feet didn't hurt, and somehow I wasn't tired. The last 10.2 miles flew by. For the first time on the entire hike I ran. I ran down Windham and arrived at the Elm Ridge parking area at 6:29 pm, 21 hours and 21 minutes after starting. Goal accomplished! By the time I got back home after having dinner in Windham and retrieving vehicles, it had been around 40 hours without sleep, a feat I hadn't "accomplished" since my undergrad years.



As far as difficulty, this is certainly up there. I've done a number of other "big" days. The traditional "big day" most people think of is the Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim-to-Rim in a day. When I did that I wasn't in as good shape, it took a little under 17 hours, and wasn't nearly as hard. The difference is terrain. While the Grand Canyon certainly has elevation gain (and loss), the trails are essentially perfect. They're smooth, wide, and with no obstacles. The Devil's Path is very rarely suitable for striding. Every step must be placed carefully. There are times you have to use your hands as well as your feet. It's rare that one gets to take a full stride. While the Escarpment Trail is far easier, it too holds challenge.

I do want to thank the trail maintainers for the Devil's Path and the Escarpment Trail. I've never seen the trails in better condition. There were zero deadfalls. The folks taking care of these trails are doing a stellar job. Conditions couldn't have been better. In fact, in all the time I've spent on the Devil's Path this is the only time I've seen the mud almost completely dried up. We were able to walk through all the usual mud pits without having to worry about getting our feet wet.

There are a few other Catskills personal challenges I have in mind, and I'm always looking for suggestions. If anyone wants to give the linkup a shot, I'd be happy to share where I made water caches and my reasoning behind my strategy. Give it a go - I think it's the best long day hike in the Catskills!



Sunrise on Indian Head. Photo by Marina Jacqueway, #2813

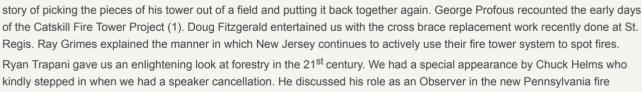
Forest Fire Lookout Association Northeastern Conference Wrap Up

Text by: Laurie Rankin #1337 W531, BLM Chair, Director, NYS FFLA (Forest Fire Lookout Association)

The New York State Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association hosted the Northeastern Conference in Mount Tremper the second weekend in June. Conversations went something like this: "Is that a 60 footer?" "An LS-40?" "Let's hit the steel" "In 1919...." People gathered at the Mount Tremper Fire Hall, coming from 8 different states, with differing backgrounds, but one common thread – their love of fire towers. Those conversation snippets are a common part of fire tower buff language.

A slate of excellent speakers presented a wide variety of topics. Ed Engelman spoke about how to preserve towers via the National Historic Designation. Barry Knight told the

spotting program. Door prizes were given out, the food was tasty, and the conversations plentiful!



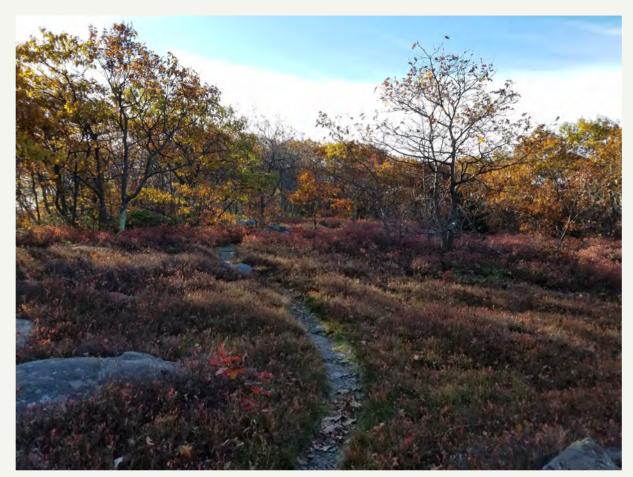
We visited 8 fire towers as a group; Jackie Jones, Stissing, Ferncliff, Knight Tower, Leonard Hill, Utsayantha, Balsam Lake, and Red Hill. Some attendees got to 29 towers during their visit to the northeast! We supported the local community through our lodging and food choices. We thank the Mount Tremper Fire Hall for the use of their space for the conference - it was a perfect venue. Our attendees and speakers made the conference a great success. Thanks to Ed, George, Doug, Barry, Ryan, Ray, and Chuck for presenting. Thanks to all who attended!





1) The Catskill Fire Tower Project began in 1997 as a cooperative effort between the DEC, CCCD, and private citizen groups to restore the 5 remaining Catskill Fire towers.

Photos (L to R): Conference; Group visit to Knight Tower near the Ashokan Reservoir.



Ashokan High Point. Photo by Jason Pelton #3013 W1211

Taking the Measure of a Trail: Surveying 350 Miles of Trails by Wheel

Text and Photos by Carol White (Conservation Chair) and David White (Membership Chair)

After we finished writing Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons for the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), the organization needed a new editor for their comprehensive guidebook, Guide to Catskill Trails, and we happily offered our services. One glorious October day, we met at ADK's headquarters with other guidebook editors and we were given a surveying wheel. All trails needed measuring to reflect changed trailheads, many trail reroutes and previous inaccuracies. From October 2001 to June 2003, we discovered that nearly every hike on a Catskill trail offers wonders and experiences of all kinds. The wheel was noisy enough that we thought it would scare off any animals nearby, but we had many encounters, human and animal. Pushing the wheel in front of us, curious onlookers would ask, "What are you doing?"

"We've always felt the trails are longer on the way out," Dave usually joked, "so we're trying to prove this."



We began our big assignment in the Haines Falls-Palenville areas. Measuring the Sleepy Hollow Horse Trail from Palenville to North-South Lake Campground, we took a break where an old tavern used to be, above which Rip Van Winkle was reputed to have slept twenty years. Looking around, we found an 1881 penny! That was the last year a carriage road was used to transport people to the Catskill Mountain House, because in 1882, a railroad between Phoenicia and the Hunter-Tannersville area was operating.

The Escarpment Trail here is one of our favorites. We set off with our clanking wheel on the 24.2-mile Escarpment Trail at its 4.8-mile point at North Lake. The route traverses lovely flat rock terrain with pitch pine, reminiscent of an oriental garden, and runs along the escarpment edge to Artists Rock with breathtaking views of the Hudson Valley. Thomas Cole brought fellow artists from the *Hudson River School* to this vista to paint.

Nearing the junction to Sunset Rock, one mile from North Lake, the trail ascends under interesting conglomerate cap rock overhangs. Here we discovered the first of many mileage errors on DEC signs: the yellow-marked spur trail to Sunset Rock is only 0.18 miles but the sign says "0.3 miles." We hope that no one is deterred from taking this beautiful very short side trip to Sunset Rock, an open rock area cleaved with deep crevices with magnificent views down to North-South Lakes and to Kaaterskill High Peak and Roundtop Mt.

The Escarpment Trail continues up a steep pitch and follows the top of a cliff to spectacular Newman's Ledge, with sweeping views of the Hudson Valley. Renowned forest ranger Pete Fish, who cut the current trail up Peekamoose, tried rappelling off Newman's Ledge; his misadventure is recounted by Ann Clapper, daughter of Bill and Elinor Leavitt #1 and #2, in Catskill Peak Experiences. We measured the Rock Shelter Trail in winter from County Rte. 18 to Bad Man's Cave at its junction with the Escarpment Trail, 0.6 miles above Newman's Ledge. Legend has it that 18th century outlaws lived there.

The other long, spectacular trail in the Catskill Forest Preserve is the aptly-named 24.6-mile Devil's Path; at Orchard Point we met a man training to hike in the Alps who'd come from Prediger Road. The surveying wheel is lightweight and Dave's nimbleness, even climbing near-vertical pitches on the Devil's Path, made the task manageable. On West Kill, we were taking a break on Buck Ridge absorbing the marvelous views when a porcupine crawled up onto the ledge and soon a companion joined him; they made little noises with each other. We didn't move a muscle, because they run fast if startled; we pursued one across Plateau Mountain and got a picture. On Kaaterskill High Peak, a baby porcupine kept ahead of us, then positioned himself next to the trail with his backside facing us, quills raised, to assure us that he was bad! The voracious porkie will eat your brake lines, so if you're planning an extended backpack, we're told to put chicken wire around the car. Porcupines especially love to chew on trail markers, outhouses, and crashed airplanes.

We were afraid that the clanking wheel would scare off wildlife, but not at all. Near Mongaup Pond State Campground, trails excellent for cross-country skiing are less used in summer. One sunny day we had these trails to ourselves—for awhile. The usual wheel noise was muted on these grassy lanes. Upon rounding a bend, a large bear was not far away and it gazed at us for a few seconds before beating a retreat up the trail we still had to measure! After giving it a few minutes head start while we ate our snack, we resumed our trek and nearing Junkyard Junction, that was no "junkyard dog" waiting for us. This time, turned sideways, we got a better view of its true size.

"What if it has little ones?"

"What if it is the little one?"

After deciding we weren't of interest, it took off up a hill. That day we headed back to civilization, leaving the 14-mile round-trip trek to Quick Lake for another day. But we've never heard of any instance of bear attacks in the Catskill forests; problems occur at campgrounds or in civilization where they are looking for food and have lost fear of humans. We encountered a mother with two cubs while measuring the magnificent trail through a red pine forest from Hill Road near Margaretville to Dry Brook Ridge. Bushwhacking off Sugarloaf before the new loop trail was built, we startled a mother bear with two cubs at a river. Somewhat alarmingly, she whirled around, but then ran up the hill while the cubs climbed a tree.

One dazzling winter day we were measuring the northern section of the Dry Brook Ridge Trail at 3400 feet and saw a large round print denting the snow.

"A bear—aren't they hibernating?"

"These look more like a *horse*," Dave opined. We arrived at an open area with a frozen pond at the Huckleberry Loop Trail descending to Ploutz Road. Myriad ice-wrapped branches of surrounding bushes shimmered in sunlight, and standing in this fairyland was indeed a horse. We tried to lure him down with us, but no luck; we reported the horse's whereabouts at a farmhouse on Mill Brook Road. We inquired about it the following weekend and were told the horse was found three days later.

You can never be sure how a wild animal is going to react to you. As we plummeted down a steep section off Cabot Mt, a doe bounded across the trail but "the buck stopped here"—just a few feet away a buck stopped and scowled at us, interlopers in his territory. A pair of rattlesnakes on Overlook Mt. didn't slither into the rock ledge or move toward us, but rattled loudly. Then there was the "attack goose" protecting his mate at a small pond we'd chosen to camp by. He thought he owned the pond, obviously, because he walked all the way around to us with his mate close behind him, and lifted his head in a belligerent pose as he approached.

The bird population is a source of never-ending delight. A species of beautiful ducks, American Mergansers, know how to have fun! While measuring the 12.9-mile loop over Dry Brook Ridge and Huckleberry Brook Ridge, we watched them bobbing down the cascades of Huckleberry Brook, and then they would fly back upstream and start over again. Ravens also spend a lot of time just having fun. They ride the thermals and pairs will swoop toward each other and nearly touch, then glide apart, turn and embrace again on the air currents. Once a ruffed grouse pursued our slow-moving car out a dirt road, and Will Nixon's hilarious poem in *Catskill Peak Experiences*, "My Late Mother as a Ruffed Grouse," seems not inconceivable.

On a hot June National Trails Day 2014, Dave completed the first measurement of the new 9-mile segment of the Long Path,

which runs from Lane Street in Phoenicia over Romer, Pleasant, and Cross Mts. to the 2.8-mile point on the trail to Wittenberg. Laurie Rankin drove us to Woodland Valley to hike it in the opposite direction in November, for Carol's last trail to achieve the All Trails Challenge, established by the Catskill Mountain Club in October 2014—hike all 87 trails in the Catskill Forest Preserve, 350 miles. Excellent views are enjoyed with leaves off. On another frosty autumn morning we measured the trails to Quick Lake, and back at Frick Pond parking area after 14 miles, Dave had completed his All Trails. Near the car was a colorful balloon, saying "IT'S YOUR DAY!"

After measuring all the trails, Carol corresponded with Daniel Chazin at the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference to update all their Catskill Forest Preserve maps, which we continue as updates are undertaken. Dave numbered all trails for the National Geographic's Catskill Park Trails Illustrated Map, now packaged with Catskill Trails. People new to hiking can get an overview of all the trails on one map. We are fortunate to have experienced every part of the Catskill Forest Preserve. Consider doing the All Trails Challenge. You never know what you might see on a Catskill trail.

Dave's photo was taken at the Quick Lake Lean-to, with the measuring wheel, his All-Trails finish in fall 2014; Carol's photo is from her final All Trails hike on the Cross-Pleasant-Romer Trail on Nov. 11, 2014 (rock stairway coming off Cross Mountain).

Carol and David White are authors of *Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons* and became editors of ADK's comprehensive guidebook, *Catskill Trails* in 2001. Carol edited *Catskill Peak Experiences: Mountaineering Tales of Endurance, Survival, Exploration & Adventure from the Catskill 3500 Club*, Black Dome Press. Dave is membership chairmen for the Catskill 3500 Club and Carol is conservation chair.



View off the Sunset Rock. Photo by Stash Rusin, 2nd Vice President

My Catskills

Text and photo by: John Vermilyea, #3146

My first impression of the Catskills came to me courtesy of Washington Irving and his story of Rip Van Winkle. I have some Dutch ancestry, so there has always been an affinity to the region and its history. Unfortunately

for me, my closest interaction with the area came from driving the NYS Thruway and looking out the window, but that would change.

Being out of doors has always been my favorite place to be. I'm of an age where my first backpack and tent were made of canvass. We always wore jeans and cotton T-shirts when we hiked, and our provisions consisted of a six pack and some cigs. As things naturally evolve through the years, tenting was replaced by a pop up. The pop up was replaced by a Winnebago and eventually camping was replaced by "Glamping" (a term my wife introduced to me). But this too would change (the glamping, not the wife).

I wanted to reconnect with my past, revisit the things that I enjoyed so much in my youth, things that sometimes are forgotten as we evolve. So, it was time to go for a hike. But not alone. My daughter would surely benefit from some out of doors time. But how do I get her to like something she has not done in 11yrs? Perhaps if the hike had a destination to hype, like maybe a Fire Tower? Surely that would capture her interest.

The Balsam Lake fire tower is a gem. It was our 2nd fire tower of what would eventually be a total of 23 towers we would hike together over the course of the next 5 months. It is the best maintained tower and caretakers cabin of all of them (in my opinion). And it was at the top of this tower that I learned something. My daughter and I were not alone this day, with us in the cabin was a young college student who we struck up a conversation with. The 3 of us were gazing out from the fire tower on a beautiful, windy crisp spring day, taking in all the spectacle and majesty of the mountains, then it happened.

All those mountains have names, "there's XXX and YYYY, over there you and see ZZZ right next to the AAA range and there's 35 of them and I'm going to climb them all," she said. "What? Really, 35 over 3.500 ft, that's a convenient number."

So, I looked it up, thought about it and concluded that if I was to even consider attempting this, then I would have to do something I had never done, hike in the winter. So, I picked the biggest on first, Slide. My logic was that if I could complete that, then surely the rest would be a breeze or if I failed, there would be no reason to continue.

On the 22nd of December, I had a blast on Slide, and there was snow! I got to use my brand-new snow shoes for a little bit; however, I didn't need them for the whole trail. But the piece de resistance was that I brought a butt sled. What took me 3 hours to stumble up, took about an hour to slide down. I had so much fun. I videotaped it on my GoPro. I think I can do this!

So begins my journey of the 35. Some of the highlights are the views, especially from Wittenberg and Cornell. I know now what must have inspired those Hudson Valley school painters from a century ago. On a fall day if I squint my eyes just right, I see the exact view in the same pigments.

Ramps; hiding in plain sight. Never knew what they were, but can no longer live without them. Spring is eternal.

Bushwhacks, full of paranoia... not sure if its gong to be a bear or rattlesnake that ends this quest. I finally learned how to use a compass and map.

Dibbles Quarry on the way to Sugarloaf. Surely this is where Rip Van Winkle himself and the ghosts from the crew of the Henry Hudson sat down to drink and play ninepin! (listen to the thunder!)

Except for the 2 fire towers, I did it solo. That is a bunch of hours and miles left alone to contemplate the meaning of life, the universe and everything. If you don't know he answer by now, you've obviously been asking the wrong question. It's 42.

And I got a cool patch!



Sunset on Twin's eastern sub-summit. Photo by Yana Levchinskly-Grimmond, The Canister Editor

Remembering Cy Whitney and Roy Messaros

Cyrus Belknap Whitney, 92, #266 and 93W, died peacefully at home on June 7th, just before the Summer issue of this newsletter went to print. Cy was the second Membership Chairman after Elinore Leavitt. He was also the Club President in 1986-87. Roy Messaros passed away in January just short of his 91st birthday. He was member #97 and 25W. Roy was president in 1978 and 1979, as well the Annual Dinner Chair from 1981 to 1999. He also installed the all-weather canisters on the trailless peaks (see Trail Mix for the dedication of the new canister on KHP to Roy).

In the last issue, we asked for member input with the memory submissions.

Jack Driller (#483 W176) recalls: Roy was a good friend and will be missed. I hiked with him on many Catskill trips (he knew all the best trails to get to a peak). He and his buddy John Grob got me started in biking doing local rail trails. He and his buddy Cy Whitney talked me into becoming the Club Treasurer (1992 to 1995). I worked with Roy putting up some of the newer canisters.

The old canisters were made of old WW2 ammo cans which the animals and the weather were able to get into. He designed and built the new canisters, using plastic pipe. When the animals found a way to explore those, he re-designed the few they liked and made them out of steel. Sturdy, indestructible and heavy to schlepp up the hill, but they did the job. He was justifiably very proud of that work. Roy was a good friend who did a lot and left his mark for all of us to enjoy.

Jonathan Clement (#68 W17) writes: I served on the board with Roy and Cy and have good memories of winter weekends with them at the Alpine Inn. They were both very organized and dedicated to the club and great company on the club hikes and other activities. I particularly remember Roy as being a bluegrass music enthusiast and talking about upcoming concerts he'd being going to.

Mike Doehring (Annual Dinner Chair, #144 W51) fondly remembers: My first year as president at the annual dinner/meeting I announced the names of folks getting their certificates while Cy handed them to the awardees.

When one woman picked up hers she kissed Cy. Naturally I looked over at Cy and paused for effect when he came to the mic and said "perks of the job." Good sense of humor. We did have fun.

At his visitation in Wyckoff in June one person mentioned to me that Cy was quite a nice fellow and that he never heard a bad word from anyone about Cy. Also, he never heard a bad word out of Cy's mouth about anybody else.

Definitely a good fellow.

Marty Cohen (#728 W330) remembered Cy as "a wonderful guy, responsible, hardworking, modest, non-complaining, friendly, helpful, and probably several more such adjectives. As we seniors (old fogeys) remember, when he retired as Membership Chair, it took two people to replace him.

His hiking career was ended prematurely by a joint replacement (I think it was one of his hips). When I joined the club back when, it was "Cy and Roy (Messaros)." I'm sure the other board members contributed significant time and energy, but Cy and Roy were the powers that be.

Cy was certainly an exemplar of volunteer service.

Michael O'Brien (#809) recalls: An amazing man that spent countless hours mentoring me. In the late 80's, on the way back from a Scout outing, I asked him about missing church again in favor of time in the woods. He said, "I don't feel like we're missing church at all, in fact we're actually spending time with God."

Carol White (Conservation Chair, #860 W310) found information about Roy's work locating different venues for the Annual Dinner in old Canisters from 1963-1994, passed on by Fr. Ray. The dinners were held at the Crystal Room of the Governor Clinton in Kingston, buffets costing \$5.50 per person; rooms were \$9.50 and \$13.00.



Diamond Notch Falls. Photo by Steve Aaron

Rambles and Brambles <u>Hike Schedule</u> September - December 2019

Familiarize yourself with the seven <u>Leave No Trace</u> 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 3 basic principles:

- 1. Follow the rules
- 2. Use your map and compass
- 3. Know your limitations.

The Club also promotes the adherence to the <u>hikeSafe</u> hiker responsibility code. <u>hikeSafe</u> 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: 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 snowshoes and full crampons 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. 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.

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

Blaze Orange Alert: The hunting season is coming! Refer to this DEC link for the summary of hunting seasons. Wear orange, avoid white and remember the same for your four-legged hiking companions!

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.

Group Size: All Club hikes are limited to 12 participants including the leaders. The DEC limits group size to 12 in the Wilderness Areas. Accordingly, all Club hikes allow no more than 12 participants.

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.

Daylight saving time ends on Sunday, November 3rd, 2019 at 2 am. Don't forget to reset your alarm clock by 1 hour (turn forward).



A clash of seasons along the Kaaterskill Creek. Photo by Dick Vincent #3055

The calendar of the current hike schedule can also be found on the Club site.

Sat. Oct. 5 - FIR, BIG INDIAN & EAGLE

Distance: 9.5 mi. Ascent: 3100', Elevs: 3629', 3699', 3583' A strenuous bushwhack and trail loop from Burnham Hollow.

Registration Period: Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 Leader: Tom Martone #2454 W1010 tom.martone.cmc@gmail.com

Sat. Oct. 5 - ROCKY & LONE

Distance: 10.9 mi. Ascent: 2385', Elevs: 3487', 3700'

Long and sometimes thick bushwhack. Registration Period: Sept. 26 - Oct. 3 Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 W789

tshemella@yahoo.com

Sat. Oct. 5 - SW HUNTER

Distance 8 mi. Ascent: 1654', Elev: 3753'

Moderately paced out-and-back trail hike via Devil's Tombstone.

Registration Period: Sept. 26 - Oct. 3

Leader: Jess Prekel #3106 jessikraut@gmail.com

Sun. Oct. 6 - VLY & BEARPEN

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevs: 3541', 3587'

Short bushwhack with a few scrambles followed by a hike on snowmobile trails.

Registration Period: Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 Leader: Tom Martone #2454 W1010 tom.martone.cmc@gmail.com

Sun. Oct. 6 - DOUBLETOP, GRAHAM & BALSAM LAKE

Distance: 8+ mi. Ascent: 3300', Elevs: 3874', 3868', 3729' Challenging bushwhack and easy trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Oct. 6 - TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE (Yoga)

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 2950', Elevs: 3825', 3819' Moderately paced trail hike with yoga at the peak.

Registration period: Sept. 22 - Oct. 5 Leader: Pamela Martin #2102 pamelamartininc@gmail.com

Sat. Oct. 12 - SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elevs: 4184', 3857', 3782'

Moderately paced trail hike with shuttle. Registration Period: Oct. 1 - Oct. 9 Leader: Christy Belardo #2959 W1230

christy.belardo@gmail.com

Sat. Oct. 12 - LONE & ROCKY

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2385', Elevs: 3700', 3487'

Moderately paced bushwhack. Registration Period: Oct. 3 - 10

Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com
Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Sat. Oct. 12 - WINDHAM, BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 14+ mi. Ascent: 4700', Elevs: 3525', 3940', 3994', 3953'

Long, challenging trail hike from Peck Rd to Barnum Rd at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Oct. 13 - GRAHAM

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1360', Elev: 3868'

Moderately paced bushwhack. Rain, inclement weather will cancel.

Registration Period: Oct. 7 - 11 Leader: Suzanne Knabe#1326

suzkna@msn.com 718-435-3092 after 7:00 pm

Sat. Oct. 19 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elevs: 3605', 3558' Strenuous bushwhack to two remote peaks.

Registration Period: Oct. 13 - 18 Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

michael@bongarbiz.com

Sun. Oct. 20 - HALCOTT

Distance: 3.7 mi. Ascent: 1695', Elev: 3509'

Map and compass lessons. Relaxed pace bushwhack.

Registration Period: Oct. 13 - 18 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082 ad322@freeelectron.net (518)947-6407







Sat. Oct. 26 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elev: 3652'

Relaxed pace trail and bushwhack with steep scrambles.

Registration Period: Oct 20 - 25 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net (518)947-6407

Sat. Oct. 26 - WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2230', Elevs. 3782', 3857', 4184'

Moderately quick-paced trail traverse with shuttle.

Registration Period: Oct. 14 - 25 Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. Oct 26 - HALCOTT & RUSK

Distance: 7+ mi. Ascent: 3400', Elevs: 3509', 3686' Two short but steep bushwhacks at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Oct. 27 - ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Route 214 Clean Up. Bring work gloves and a great attitude – all else will be provided, including refreshments afterward. Your participation helps the Club, the environment, and keeps the

Catskills beautiful! Registration Period: Open

Leader: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075

200chu@gmail.com

Sat. Nov. 2 - WEST KILL

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elevation: 3898'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Oct. 23 - Oct. 30 Leader: Christy Belardo #2959 W1230

christy.belardo@gmail.com

Sat. Nov. 2 - WITTENBERG & CORNELL

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 2600, Elevs: 3782', 3857'

Moderately paced trail hike. Registration Period: Oct. 28 - Nov. 1 Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

michael@bongarbiz.com

Sun. Nov. 3 - BIG INDIAN (note: Daylight Saving Time Ends on Sun, Nov 3, 2 am)

Distance 9 mi. Ascent: 1660, Elev: 3699'

Relaxed - moderate pace

Registration period: Oct. 27 - Nov. 1

Leader: Lyn W. #2865 catskill35r@gmail.com

Sun. Nov. 3 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK (Bushwhack) (note: Daylight Saving Time Ends on Sun, Nov 3, 2 am)

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1500', Elev: 3525'

Map and compass lessons. Relax paced bushwhack.

Registration Period: Oct. 27 – Nov. 1 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082 ad322@freeelectron.net (518)947-6407

Sat. Nov. 9 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6+ mi. Ascent: 2400', Elevs: 3605', 3558' Trail & bushwhack hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. Nov. 9 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

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

Moderately paced trail hike. Registration period: Nov. 4 - 8 Leader: Mike Stallbohm #1826 mstall0128@gmail.com





Sat. Nov. 9 - SUGARLOAF

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 2135', Elev: 3783'

Relaxed pace trail loop hike. Registration Period: Nov. 1 - 7 Leader: Steve Brown #3060 stevebrown0801@gmail.com



Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 2550', Elevs: 3953', 3994'

Moderately paced out-and-back trail hike via Camel's Hump.

Registration Period: Oct. 27 - Nov. 8

Leader: Jess Prekel #3106 jessikraut@gmail.com

Sun. Nov. 10 - BALSAM LAKE (Family Friendly Hike)

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 980', Elev: 3729' Relaxed pace, based on age range and fitness of children.
Registration Period: Oct. 27 - Nov. 8
Leader: Maria Bedo-Calhoun #1851 W760
maria1bedo@gmail.com

Sat. Nov. 16 - BALSAM

Distance: 8.1 mi. Ascent: 3335', Elev: 3607' A steep hike from a different direction. Registration Period: Nov. 7 - 14 Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 W789

tshemella@yahoo.com

Sat. Nov. 16 - TWIN & SUGARLOAF

Distance: 8.5 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elevs: 3650', 3783'

Moderately paced trail hike. Registration Period: Nov. 7 - 14

Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com
Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Fri. Nov. 22 - HUNTER

Distance: 8.2 mi. Ascent: 1898', Elev: 4030'

Moderately paced loop.

Registration Period: Nov. 11 - 17

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

ksbiho@aol.com (preferred) (914) 262 5816

Sat. Nov. 23 - Devil's Path East PLATEAU, SUGARLOAF, TWIN & INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent 4350', Elevs: 3835', 3783', 3650', 3575'

Long, challenging trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Nov. 24 - PANTHER

Distance 6.6 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev: 3724'

Relaxed - moderate pace. Registration period: Nov. 17 - 22

Leader: Lyn W. #2865 catskill35r@gmail.com

Sat. Nov. 30 - PANTHER

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevation: 3724'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Nov. 18 - Nov. 28 Leader: Christy Belardo #2959 W1230

christy.belardo@gmail.com

Sat. Dec. 7 - HUNTER & SW HUNTER

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 4030', 3753'

Moderately paced trail and bushwhack. Registration Period: Nov. 26 - Dec. 5

Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 <a href="mailto:shape-moreover-shape-shap









Sat. Dec. 14 - WEST KILL & RUSK

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3480', Elevs: 3898', 3686' Moderately quick-paced trail hike and bushwhack.

Registration Period: Dec. 2 - 13 Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. Dec. 14 - HUNTER

Distance: 6.4 mi. Ascent: 1998', Elev: 4030' Trail hike to the second highest Catskill mountain.

Registration Period: Dec. 5 - 12 Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 W789

tshemella@yahoo.com

Sun. Dec. 15 - HALCOTT & SLEEPING LION

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2235', Elevs: 3509', 3391'

Moderately paced bushwhack. Registration Period: Dec. 8 - 13

Leaders: Jon (#2816 W1252) and Ben (#2817 W1251)

jonathan.e.gordon@me.com

Sat. Dec. 21 - SLIDE

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 4184'

Relaxed pace trail hike.

Registration Period: Dec. 15 - 20 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net (518)947-6407

Sat. Dec. 21 - FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY, LONE, TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE

Distance: 12+ mi. Ascent: 4500', Elevs: 3692', 3608', 3487', 3700', 3825', 3819'

Long, challenging bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Mary Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Dec. 22 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance 6.2 mi. Ascent: 1500', Elev: 3525'

Relaxed - moderate pace Registration period: Dec. 15 - 20

Leader: Lyn W. #2865 catskill35r@gmail.com

Sat. Dec. 28 - FIR, BIG INDIAN, EAGLE & BALSAM

Distance: 12+ mi. Ascent: 3350', Elevs: 3629', 3699', 3583', 3607'

Long, challenging bushwhack & trail at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Apart from Nov 10 Balsam Lake hike (photo by Kristen Taylor), all photos used in this section are by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, The Canister Editor.









View off Blackhead towards Black Dome. Photo by Karin Murphy

NEW MEMBERS

Members listed are as of the publication; more recent finishers will be listed next quarter.

New Lifetime Members:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
2749	David Meeker
2820	Andrea M Rosen
2821	Stefan Rosen
3128	Joseph Secoges
3130	Hema Kesineni

New Members:

Number	Name	Date of Finish	Final Peak
3107	Thomas First	4/6/2019	Balsam
3108	Daniel Robin	4/25/2019	Graham
3109	Matthew Robin	4/25/2019	Graham
3110	David Zurine	3/17/2019	Blackhead
3111	John Barbarite	5/8/2019	Blackhead
3112	Andrew Volent	5/8/2019	Kaaterskill
3113	Jeremy Alan Funk	8/24/2018	West Kill
3114	Yong Kim	5/11/2019	Sherrill
3115	Issiah Toner	5/25/2019	Bearpen
3116	Anna Quell	5/24/2019	Friday
3117	Jeffrey Quell	5/24/2019	Friday
3118	Andrew Quell	5/24/2019	Friday
3119	Elizabeth Quell	5/24/2019	Friday
3120	Eric Avery	5/18/2019	Friday
3121	Perry T Jones	5/9/2019	Balsam Cap
3122	Lawrence Wakin	5/31/2019	Black Dome
3123	Elliot Thomas	5/27/2019	Plateau
3124	Ryan Thomas	5/27/2019	Plateau
3125	Janine Warren	5/27/2019	Plateau

3126	Serena Lafayette	5/18/2019	Friday
3127	Doron Resheff	6/11/2019	Windham
3128	Joseph Secoges	5/9/2019	Balsam Cap
3129	Arlena Zajac	6/15/2019	Graham
3130	Hema Kesineni	6/15/2019	Blackhead
3131	Robert Wehmann	6/22/2019	Windham
3132	Elizabeth Harris	6/22/2019	Windham
3133	Mike Reiss	6/30/2019	West Kill
3134	David Trestick	6/29/2019	Plateau
3135	Sean O'Dwyer	7/1/2019	Kaaterskill
3136	Michael Stampalia	7/3/2019	Cornell
3137	Mary Zawacki	7/6/2019	Kaaterskill
3138	Jason Waters	7/6/2019	Kaaterskill
3139	Jill Moretto	7/6/2019	Kaaterskill
3140	Eric Zenker	7/13/2019	Kaaterskill
3141	Margaret O'Keefe	6/22/2019	Lone
3142	Daniel Honig	7/19/2019	Lone
3143	Elizabeth Sweeney	7/19/2019	Lone
3144	Paul Krempa	7/24/2019	Hunter
3145	Blythe Czaja	2/24/2019	Slide
3146	John Vermilyea	7/26/2019	Lone
3147	Matt Adinolfi Jr	8/9/2019	Rocky
3148	James Pedersen	8/11/2019	Thomas Cole
3149	Jim Pedersen	8/11/2019	Thomas Cole
3150	James "Scott" Merrill	8/16/2019	Kaaterskill
3151	Steven D Babbitt	8/16/2019	Panther
3152	Paula Liberty	8/17/2019	Rocky
3153	Maribeth Williams	8/20/2019	Sugarloaf
3154	Daniel Jones	8/20/2019	Sugarloaf

New Winter Members:

Winter Number	Name	Number	Date of Finish	Final Peak
1257	Tim Huneck	2225	3/16/2019	Lone



Samuel's Point viewpoint. Photo by Alan Via #429 W174

Editor's Notes

By Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond



I hope you are continuing to enjoy this new format of the Canister, and I thank each and every one of you who has already reached out with feedback and suggestions. Feedback, as well as submissions to future editions and ideas are very much welcomed and appreciated. Submissions on the topics of hiking with kids, pushing your limits, exploring something new and exciting, history of the Catskills, ecology and geology, your personal experiences, advice, etc. are just some of the examples of what we would love to include in the next issue of the Canister! For photo submissions, please ensure the photos are high resolution (several MB at a min) and the landscape format is preferred. We would love to see your photos of foliage, geological oddities, waterfalls, wildlife, views, flora, sunsets and sunrises. Please contact me at editor@catskill-3500-club.org.

Please note: the newsletter will print best if downloaded as a pdf file directly from the <u>Club's site</u>.

The Catskill Canister

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Previous issues can be downloaded <u>here</u>.



Change of season on KHP. Photo by Linda Kukol #2248 W1035

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