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Spring is in the air (unfortunately, it’s been in the air for most of winter), and that means the start of the volunteer season! Our mission, to foster appreciation and stewardship of the Catskill Mountains, lends itself to many exciting volunteer opportunities that start up again this spring. These events are great ways to meet new people and have fun, while giving back to the mountains. Whether it be doing trail maintenance; highway cleanup; teaching about Leave No Trace, DEC hiking regulations and being a prepared hiker as a trailhead steward or hike leader; or being on the Search and Rescue team, there is something for everyone! Some are long term, continual commitments and some are 1-2 days/year. If you love the Catskills as much as I do, then hopefully you care about its protection and proper use as much as I do, too.

The Trailhead Steward program will be going into its third year this spring and has a fabulous new patch! If you are interested in getting involved with this, you can email Lourdes Sonera. You can read more about this program later on in this issue of The Canister. This patch will be given out to all who have volunteered at least twice in a year over the last two years with the appropriate year rockers, in addition to new volunteers.

In preparing to write this article, I finally filled out my application for the Club Service Award and reflected on the service I have done for the Club through the years. It was a fun reflection that brought up good memories of who I was with and who I met at each of the events. I remembered the medical scenarios where we worked together to properly treat the patient at the Wilderness First Aid trainings and Wilderness First Responder training that I’ve taken through the Club. As a hike leader, I am always grateful for this training. As a trailhead steward and hike leader, I enjoy teaching LNT principles and the importance of staying on trails and herd paths for habitat sustainability. They are both also fun for answering hikers’ questions, showing them important points on the map, and sharing hiking stories! I immediately recalled the people that I met and worked with while doing trail maintenance and highway cleanup and remembered the fun conversations we had.

My husband and I have been maintaining the same two miles of trails for the NY-NJ Trail Conference for going on our fifth year this spring. We love going back twice a year and seeing how the forest has changed and how our trail work has held up. It has become really special and we look forward to our little mini ongoing observational research and working to keep our adopted trail sustainable.

Giving back to something I believe in and to a place that brings me joy and mental clarity has always been important to me. Teaching others how to preserve a place of beauty and leave minimal impact so it can be enjoyed for generations to come is my goal. Reflecting on the service I have done for the Club and for the Catskills not only reminded me of the importance and power of education, but reminded me of how much fun it can be to interact with new people who have similar interests. I’ve really had great experiences and urge you to come out and meet new people and have some fun with us!
Our 2023 Winter Weekend was once again held at the Catskill Seasons Inn in Shandaken over the weekend of January 21-22. It was a beautiful weekend for hiking in the Catskills, with snow-covered trees and nice weather, despite the minimal snow. It was great to be able to socialize once again on Saturday evening at the bar, and to see so many of you all together and talking and laughing!

We ran 16 hikes with 101 participants (hikers and leaders). The Board would like to thank Bill Chriswell, the departing Winter Weekend Chair, Marv Freedman, the Outings Chair, our amazing hike leaders, everyone who contributed their time to continue this fun tradition and to all who came out to hike and socialize with us!

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Members and aspirants who joined or renewed after 2022 will receive a reminder in the month when their dues are due. If you haven’t renewed since 2021, you can pay your dues now and we’ll remind you to re-up during the correct month next year. Life Members don’t have to worry about renewing their dues and Life Membership is now tax deductible as a donation.

Contact David White, Chris Adams or Jake Haisley to confirm your status. Forms and rates are on the membership page of the Club website. You may use PayPal at the Club site or renew by mail and/or order additional member items using this form. Please make checks payable to the Catskill 3500 Club.

By renewing your membership (or becoming a life member for a one-time fee of $200), you help us support our mission of being the stewards of the Catskills and help us give back to the mountains. We appreciate your continued support!

By: Dave White, Membership Chair, Chris Adams, Assistant to the Membership Chair and Jake Haisley, Aspirants Chair

The Club Extends Appreciation to the Departing Board Member

The Catskill 3500 Club Board would like to thank Bill Chriswell for his years of service on the Board, planning Winter Weekends, helping with the Annual Dinner, and for his overall collaboration with the Board. We are very grateful for his service.

Bill is a farmer with a wealth of knowledge. It is a 24/7 career to run a farm and giving up whatever little time he had for us was very generous. We hope that Bill can enjoy the farm work that he is so passionate about and enjoy more time with his dogs!

If you are in the Western Catskills, check out his orchard next season: Sunrise Mountain Orchard in Bloomville, NY.
Congratulations to the Latest 3500 Club Service Award Recipients

The Club, besides recognizing hiking accomplishments, also acknowledges members who give back to the Club and the Catskill Forest Preserve. 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 seven points by participating in various volunteering activities.

We would like to acknowledge Bryan Burnham (#3455 W1373) and Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago (#1368 W1063) as the most recent 3500 Club Service Award qualifiers.

Thank you, Bryan and Lisa, for your dedication, stewardship and commitment to the Club! If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer list to stay up to date with the future trailhead stewardship, trail maintenance and road clean-up opportunities, please contact Lourdes Sonera.

Save the Date for Spring Trail Maintenance and Adopt-A-Highway Events

PEEKAMOOSE-TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Join us for our Club trail maintenance outing on Saturday, April 29th, 2023. Please help us keep the Peekamoose-Table Trail clear and safe for the enjoyment of all. Bring work gloves and your favorite trail maintenance tools (the Club will also have tools available). It's fun work and a great way to help the Club and the hiking community. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Please be sure to sign up so we know who's coming. We still need extra hands! Registration information: open; to signup, please contact Lourdes Sonera.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Join us on Sunday, May 7th, 2023 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 and the environment and keeps the Catskills beautiful!

Registration information: open; to sign up, please contact Lourdes Sonera.

If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer list to stay up to date with the future trail maintenance and road clean-up opportunities, please contact Lourdes Sonera to get on the volunteer list.

By: Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair

New Facebook Group - Official Catskill 3500 Club Community

Do you want the latest news regarding Club events and volunteer opportunities? Would you like to meet people who share your enthusiasm for hiking? Are you looking for partners on your excursions? Then please join our Official Catskill 3500 Club Community on Facebook!

We started this group to facilitate connections among our members, answer questions, and disseminate information. The group has grown to 1,600 members since its start in July 2022.

Learn about gear, Catskills history, and how to prepare for your hikes. All are welcome!

By: Julie McGuire, Social Media Chair
New Merchandise Store Update

The Merchandise Committee is excited to launch our new online store with the new website in the coming months. This will include print-on-demand performance gear, which previously wasn’t an option, and was going to require a work-around. Decals and patches will still be available to purchase through David White, the Membership Chair, and will require a different process to purchase online. Stay tuned to the new website when it launches for more information.

By: Sara Chapman and Meg Lachmann, Merchandise Coordinators

2022 Club-Led Hikes in Review

On behalf of the 3500 Club Board I would like to recognize and thank the dedicated volunteers who led Club hikes in 2022: Shari Aber, Karen Bloom, Michael Bongar, Joe Chenier, Michael D’Angelo, Al Davis, Steve Emanuel, Jake Haisley, Sue Hall, Yanny Hecht, Tonda Highley, Amy Holiday, Christopher Garibian, Conor Gillis, Claire Guyer, Joseph Ferri, Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago, Sharon Klein, Suzanne Knabe, Russell Ley, Ed Moran, Harold Oakhill, Ira Orenstein, Erica Pellegrino, Lyn W, and Peggy Wissler. We had a great year in 2022, leading 199 hikes with a total of 1,385 hikers and leaders participating.

For many hikers, you provided their primary interaction with the Club. You helped them achieve their goals, taught them hiking skills and etiquette, and motivated them. Thank you.

By: Marv Freedman, Outings Chair

Wilderness First Aid Course

A Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course will again be offered by the Catskill 3500 Club and taught by Catskill Mountain Search and Rescue instructors. It will be held the weekend of April 15th and 16th, 2023, at a location to be announced. Priority in the class will be given as follows: first to 3500 Club hike leaders, then to 3500 Club members, then to non members. This is an intensive two day course that covers classroom as well as practical testing throughout the two days. Parts of the class will be held outdoors.

Prices are as follows:

3500 Club members:
WFA and CPR: $210
WFA only: $180

Non 3500 Club student:
WFA and CPR: $231
WFA only: $198

For further information, please contact Lt. Marv Freedman at marvfreedman@gmail.com.

By: Annmarie Spiciarich, CMSAR Chair

Save the Date for 2023 Annual Dinner

See friends and celebrate new members on Sunday, July 23rd at the Ashokan Center. Same as last year, we will be up in the main hall with patio options available for outdoor dining as well. All the trails on the grounds will be open for exploration and overnight housing will be available. More details on registering via Eventbrite to follow!

By: Mike Doehring, Annual Dinner Co-Chair and Michael Bongar, Vice President and Annual Dinner Co-Chair
In a normal spring I would be joyous about saying Happy Spring in this edition of *The Canister*, but as of this writing, on a near 60F day in February, I am grumpy about the spring-like conditions. Winter conditions have been more like early mud season, despite the sagacious groundhog telling us that we would be enjoying 6 more weeks of winter. Groundhog stew anyone?

As the official representative from the 3500 Club to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, let me make folks aware of the current openings.

One is for a Trail Supervisor for the Dry Brook Wild Forest. This area is a lesser visited area of the Western Catskills and includes the Huckleberry Loop (nearly 14 miles) that traverses over lower mountains in the Western Catskills. The Trail Supervisor oversees trail maintainers and works with the NYS DEC Conservation staff.

There are two volunteer positions open for Maintenance. There is a vacancy for the trail maintainer for the trail to the Terrace Mountain lean-to. There is also a need for someone to maintain the Terrace Mountain lean-to itself.

If interested, contact either Melissa Cascini or Charlie Gadol.

Additional announcements from the Trail Conference:

1. The Trail Conference would like to welcome Ken Posner (#2573 W1108) as the new Board Chairperson.

2. Volunteers needed for the Trail Crew and the Blow Down Brigade:

I know many of you are eager to get your hands dirty and work out those kinks in your back. And the Trail Conference sure has the remedy for your desires. The Trail Crew (and the Blow Down Brigade) will be going back into action by mid-April and working most weekends through October. As a volunteer you can pitch in for just part of a day or you can become a regular and get involved on a more frequent basis. Projects will include additional work on the Long Path at the base of Indian Head and near the Wittenberg/Slide/Cornell junction, cleaning up the Slide Mountain Trail on the west side, more work on the Huckleberry Point Trail, some drainage work along the Long Path near Vernooy Falls, and work on the Devil's Path near Geiger Point. Who knows where the Blow Down Brigade will be needed? That will be determined by the weather and wind. Last year they cleared literally HUNDREDS of blow-downs off the Catskill Trails. Information about work details will be passed along via email and on their Facebook page. If you are interested and would like to be notified by email, contact Charlie Gadol. There will be “swag” (pins/patches, etc.) for volunteers that pitch in.

*By: Dick Vincent, New-York-New Jersey Trail Conference Representative*

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**Website Update**

The website update is in its final stages and will be ready within a couple of weeks for a soft launch. This means that our new website will be live and we will continue to add new sections to the site as they become ready. Please keep checking for updates!

*By: Lynn Houston, Digital Content Chair and Webmaster*
Catskill 3500 Club Trailhead Steward Program is Ready for the 2023 Season

Text by: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075

Friday, May 26, 2023, the Catskills 3500 Trailhead Steward Program is returning to Slide Mountain for the third year and is expanding to Woodland Valley Campground Trailhead. Staffing these sites will provide stewards for both Burroughs Range trailheads.

During the last two seasons, the Club’s stewards have engaged nearly 5,000 hikers, including those coming to the Catskills to enjoy a backpacking adventure, to complete a hiking challenge, or just to seek breathtaking views. Regardless of the motivation, we are witnessing a budding movement of people reconnecting with the natural world.

The trailhead program is a collaborative effort involving the Catskill 3500 Club and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) under the Adopt-A-Trailhead Program. Our mission is to share Leave No Trace (LNT) information with all visitors, to improve the sustainability of the Catskill Park and enhance the hiking experience for all. Our Trailhead Steward program gives Club Members and Aspirants an opportunity to share their expertise and love for the park with others by educating visitors on the value of responsible recreation. We serve weekends from Memorial Day weekend through Indigenous Person’s weekend. Stewards aimed to connect with those starting their hike regarding DEC rules and regulations, Leave No Trace hiking principles, and safety/preparedness best practices. They then aim to reconnect with hikers as they come back to learn about their experiences.

What Does It Take to Become a 3500 Club Steward?

Most important is the will to make a difference. Perspective Stewards do need to attend either virtual or live training.

Prospective Stewards need to attend one training session, plus take the required sexual harassment training, complete an LNT virtual course and complete and sign the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Volunteer Stewardship Agreement form. The training is also conveniently available as a self-guided virtual option.

Save the Date:

- March 29th and April 19th live Zoom training sections.
April 30th in the field training: Stewards will learn how to set up and staff the Steward station and review the Steward Playbook.

What Are the Benefits of Being a Steward?

Current Stewards find their time at the trailhead very rewarding. In addition, they make an incredible impact on conservation efforts, and influence others to become Stewards and complete the requirements for Catskill 3500 Club membership as well.

Stewards' volunteer days count towards the Catskills 3500 Service Award. Those serving as a Trailhead Steward volunteer at least two days in a season will earn the new Trailhead Steward patch, or, in subsequent years, a patch year rocker showing how many years they’ve served at least two days as a Steward. Many thanks to Margaret McGrath (#2009 W939) for her design and procurement of the new patches!

This year, thanks to Ian Dunn, Region 3 Forester, we have secured a Woodland Valley campsite some weekends, available for stewards volunteering back-to-back days those weekends. The available 2023 camping weekends are May 26-28, June 16-18, July 14-18, August 18-20. Dates in September and October will be announced this summer. Please reach out to Lourdes Sonera for more details on this exciting camping option.

Please consider supporting the 3500 Trailhead Steward program's success by becoming a Steward.

The 2023 Steward Calendar is now open! There are two links: Slide Mountain Trailhead and Woodland Valley Campground to save your dates.

For more information please contact: Lourdes Sonera, Colleen Hardcastle or Vicki Ferreira.

Congratulations to the first Trailhead Stewards Patch recipients:

**TWO YEAR STEWARDS**
Bryan Burnham, #3455 W1373
Richard Cole, #3752
Joseph Ferri, #2223 W945
Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago, #1368 W1063
Colleen Hardcastle, #2990 W1416
Michele Kaminsky, #2804 W1305
Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, #2814 W1222
Lourdes Sonera, #2525 W1075

**ONE YEAR STEWARDS**
Maria Bedo-Calhoun, #1851 W760
Linda Betancourt, Aspirant
Karen Bischoff, Aspirant
Michael Bongar, #2173 W994
Jim Bouton, #1539 W614
Samantha Cash, #3440
Lindsey Clark, Aspirant
Jennifer Conrad Seekamp, Aspirant
Kimberly Daley, Aspirant
Al Davis, #2192 W1082
Colin DeVries, #3382
Mark Evans, #4101
Joe Felter, #3560 W1479
Marcy Felter, #3492 W1480
Victoria Ferreira, #4014
Marv Freedman, #2242 W951
Sheryl Goffman, #3950 W1535
Jake Haisley, #2488 W1065
Sharon Klein, #3364
Jim Malumphy, #890 W337
Julie McGuire, #3500
Erica Miranda, #3934
Izzy Stardust Miranda, #3636
Ruby Rainbow Miranda, #3937
Sarah Oakhill, #3795
Deborah Padilla, Aspirant
Tracy Rakin, #3961
Anne Rubin, #3832 W1507
Stash Rusin, #2829
Jeff Schoenfeld, Aspirant
Matt Smith, #889 W309
Francine Snyder, #3567 W1389
JD "Bear" Szalla, #3935
Dick Vincent, #3055
Natalia Zotova, Aspirant

View from Wittenberg. Photo by Siu Samantha Yuen #2894 W1311
Announcing a Collaboration with West Kill Brewing

We are super excited to announce a collaboration with everyone's favorite post-hike hangout, West Kill Brewing! The new beer honors the Club's unofficial mascot, the elusive Bicknell's Thrush. A portion of the proceeds will be going to support our stewardship work in the boreal zone in an effort to protect Bicknell's Thrush's habitat.

The release is scheduled for March 25th. The Club will be at the brewery to discuss the Club, our stewardship, search and rescue work and take folks on guided hikes to the Diamond Notch Falls. We will also be selling a limited edition poster of the beautiful Bicknell's Thrush IPA can art, so be sure to be there to snag yourself a copy! Note – only cash and personal checks will be accepted for the purchase of the poster.

There will be food by Eat Church who will be serving delicious Asian-inspired dishes from 12-6pm.

Giant Ledge and the Burroughs Range from Panther. Photo by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222
Traditional trail guides describe mileage, summits, junctions, lookouts, springs, lean-tos, and the like, but whoever heard of a trail guide that describes forest history – especially where a trail enters and leaves first growth forest?

This is what I have set out to do for the next few articles for The Catskill Canister. But first we must define terms:

FIRST GROWTH FOREST

This is forest never utilized by people for economic purposes, e.g. logging, barking, farming, quarrying, clearing, or burning not caused by lightning. First growth can have natural disturbances in it (blowdown, landslide, lightning fire, etc.). It can be used for recreational activities (hiking trails, lean-tos, campsites, hunting, fishing, etc.) and be used for research and educational purposes.

ENTRY POINTS

Whenever I am climbing a peak and the forest changes from second (or subsequent) growth (logged, barked, farmed, quarried, burned by people) to first growth, I record an entry point. I have 570 of them catalogued now throughout the Catskills region, both on and off trails. In the following text, and on the accompanying map, these entry points are marked as "e.p." followed by its number and its elevation in feet.

FIRST GROWTH VS. OLD GROWTH

Old growth is simply old trees. There is no standard definition of "old," but the general consensus among forest ecologists is about 150 years. I agree with this age. Much of the Catskills first growth contains old growth, but not all. There are places in first growth where trees cannot attain a great age of 150 years or more. Examples are the balsam fir-dominated summits of Slide, Table, Balsam Lake, and Doubletop Mountains because balsam fir is a short-lived tree, rarely exceeding 100 years. Other examples are scrubby forests atop high ledges at often great lookouts of mountain ash, red (fire, pin, bird) cherry, and a diversity of shrubs.

There is old growth that is not first growth. For example, sugar maples in old sugarbushes where competing species have been cut out. Also, there may be old trees in city and village parks and cemeteries, and around historic homesteads.

Of course, as some forests are first growth AND old, some forests are neither first growth nor old.

COMPARING THE LONGEST CATSKILLS TRAILS THROUGH FIRST GROWTH

I compared about a dozen of the longest Catskills trails to see which offers the greatest mileage in first growth. The difficulty is that many of these trails pass in and out of first growth over their whole length, so that a first growth mileage total is divided into two, three, or even four tracts, each of which is relatively small.

The longest continuous tract of first growth is along the Pine Hill – West Branch Trail at 10.00 miles. The trail is 14.10 miles long and there are two additional but short first growth tracts along it.

MEASURING MILEAGE

I have used the 2018 (12th) edition of the New York-New Jersey’s Trail Conference “Catskill Trails” as my base maps for measuring distances along trails. These maps are most useful because they show the mileage between critical points such as trail heads, junctions, lean-tos, springs, summits, cols, and the like. Of course, these maps do not show first growth, so I had to plot the entry points. Then I measured along the trail with a ruler as best I could between pairs of entry points to determine for how many miles the trail is in first growth.
THE DEVIL'S PATH THROUGH FIRST GROWTH

I thought I'd begin with the Devil's Path because it is so familiar to so many 35ers. First growth forest totals 13.85 miles along the Devil's Path but is divided into four tracts, separated by three tracts of second and subsequent growth. Detailed descriptions of other trails will follow in several subsequent articles for *The Catskill Canister*.

DEVILS’ PATH FIRST FIRST GROWTH TRACT

Mile zero is at the trailhead at the end of Prediger Road. The Devil's Path then passes through barked, logged, and quarried forest until 2.65 miles on the northeast shoulder of Indian Head. Here, at elevation of about 2,900 feet, is entry point #45 (my catalog number). This is the approximate location of the upper limit of Catskill Lumber Company about 1917. My basis for the entry point is the upper limit of white ash and the beginning of old trees, but not to more definitive evidence such as the end of a log road.

The Devil's Path passes through 5.75 continuous miles of first growth over Indian Head, Twin, and Sugarloaf Mountains (including Dolan and Pecoy Notches). It passes out of the first first growth tract on the west slope of Sugarloaf at 8.40 miles, 2,800 feet, at entry point #49.

Mink Hollow (8.65 miles) accommodated a major bark haul road from 1802 until 1823 when a new road, the Hunter Turnpike, was built up the Kaaterskill Clove. The Mink Hollow Road had connected the port of Rondout (i.e., Kingston) with the tanneries in the upper Schoharie Valley, including the Colonel Edwards’ New York Tannery in the Village of Hunter; this tannery opened in 1817. I cannot see how such heavy industrial use through Mink Hollow could have resulted in any remaining first growth forest. In addition, on the south side of the divide (Esopus watershed), Wilber Brothers had a large mill in Mink Hollow just downstream from the Ulster County line from already running in 1871 and still running in 1917; the Wilbers had logged both the Sugarloaf and Plateau sides. More recently, lands owned by Clara DeVico were logged on the Plateau side probably in the 1960s (according to the decayed stumps I had studied) before her tract was sold to New York State on February 28, 1997.

DEVIL’S PATH SECOND FIRST GROWTH TRACT

At 8.75 miles, the Devil's Path climbs out of the DeVico logged lands on Plateau Mountain and re-enters first growth for the second
time. Here is entry point #50 at about 2,870 feet. This tract of original forest runs for 2.75 miles along the crest of Plateau Mountain until it enters the 1893 burn at about 11.50 miles at entry point #51, elevation 3,700 feet, a short distance before Danny’s Lookout.

We have a double disturbance history lower down on the west slope of Plateau Mountain. The Devil's Path descends through only the 1893 burn until it reaches an elevation of 2,950 feet. Here the trail enters a segment that was not only burned, but had been an Edwards' New York Tannery bark road at an earlier date. Hikers might note that the trail becomes wider at 2,950 feet because one is entering a road. The Devil's Path follows this bark road down to the Devil's Tombstone Campground in Stony Clove at 13.05 miles.

Edwards built a major trunk bark road from his tannery in Hunter Village into Stony Clove in the 1840s, with branch roads up both the Plateau and Hunter sides. His tannery closed sometime between 1856 and 1867.

Incidentally, for those of you who are rail buffs, the Devil's Path crosses the Stony Clove and Catskill Mountain Railroad grade just before it reaches State Route 214. This narrow-gauged line was built in 1881 as a branch of the Ulster & Delaware, connecting at Phoenicia. In 1893, sparks from a locomotive initiated a major forest fire that burned high up on both sides of the Stony Clove Notch. The railroad was standard-gauged in 1899, closing in 1940 when it was owned by the New York Central.

DEVIL'S PATH THIRD FIRST GROWTH TRACT

On the east slope of Hunter Mountain, the Devil's Path climbs in and out of another Edwards' bark road. At 14.15 miles at elevation 2,980 feet is entry point #640. Here, the bark-peeling crews ran out of hemlock.

One would think that the Devil's Path would remain in first growth for the rest of its way up and over the south shoulder of Hunter Mountain, but something strange happens instead. This third first growth tract is very short, only 0.30 mile, extending only to 14.45 miles at elevation 3,350. Here, at entry point #641, we leave the first growth behind and cross into lands once owned by the Fenwick Lumber Company (1906 to 1917). We follow one of the Fenwick log roads (not one of their two tram cable railroads) almost on contour for 0.75 mile until we reach the Devil's Acre Lean-to at 15.20 miles.

For detailed maps and discussion of this third narrow strip of first growth through which the Devil's Path passes, see “Between Edwards and Fenwick: A Slice of First Growth” in Kaatskill Life magazine 29, 2 (summer 2013), pages 60 to 67.

From the Devil's Acre Lean-to, the Devil's Path utilizes another Fenwick bark road (not a railroad) down the west side of Hunter Mountain, passing Geiger Point and then crossing a Fenwick tram grade at 3,100 feet, finally reaching the Diamond Notch Trail junction at 17.35 miles.

DEVIL'S PATH FOURTH FIRST GROWTH TRACT

As the Devil's Path climbs West Kill Mountain, it very soon reaches entry point #145 at 2,400 feet at 17.50 miles and enters the fourth and final first growth tract. For 5.05 miles, it passes through original forest over West Kill Mountain and Saint Anne's Peak, coming down to entry point #146 at about 2,800 feet at 22.55 miles.

The remainder of the trail, through the westerly of the two Mink Hollows, is in second growth forest until its western terminus on the Spruceton Road (Greene County Route 6) at 24.40 miles. Old log roads, old stumps, and a younger forest provide evidence that this westerly of the two Mink Hollows been logged.

SUMMARY OF THE FOUR DEVIL'S PATH FIRST GROWTH TRACTS

- First: 5.75 miles
- Second: 2.75 miles
- Third: 0.30 mile
- Fourth: 5.05 miles

Total: 13.85 out of 24.40 miles = 56.8%.

POST SCRIPT: DEVIL’S PATH CONSTRUCTION DATES –

For the hiker curious about trail construction dates, here they are for the Devil's Path:

- Over Indian Head, Twin, and Sugarloaf: 1929
- Over Plateau: 1934
- Over Hunter: 1935

PS: Some readers may notice that the Hunter Mountain entry points are numbered 640 and 641 when I have only 570 entry points. This is because I have a deliberate discontinuity in my entry point catalog so that no conflict with bog numbers occurs.

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. Mike can be reached by email.

Mike's photo is by Dave Turan.

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**Ain't Nothing Gonna Break My Stride**

Text by: Erica Miranda (#3934), Bear Szalla (#3935), Izzy Miranda (#3936) and Ruby Miranda (#3937)

This may be an odd way of introduction to our family, but I must say that my partner and I were not athletic people growing up. The idea of competition and team sports was not and STILL IS NOT something that interests us. The testosterone of sweaty humans, sports balls and the ever-present danger of contact injuries and/or a concussion?! Well, NO to that! I'll take a Hunter S. Thomson book and a six-pack of Tangerine White Claws to Rockaway Beach any day over football, hockey or boxing, thank you.

Hiking, however, was and is different. It is a solo effort even when hiking with company. It is your own two legs that propel you to the peak. But, when hiking as a family, especially with young kids, it then becomes a team sport.

In our first hikes as a family, there was a lot of carrying our girls over water crossings, through stinging nettles and across muddy...
patches, as well the constant breaking for their legs to rest. A mile might take three hours, but that was our experience and our love of being outdoors with our young Miranda daughters, Izzy Stardust and Ruby Rainbow.

Over a short period of time, on and off the trail, they became, and to this day are still, a sister team. They consistently support each other, from the trailhead to the long return to the parking lot, from sharing snacks to songs. Tag teaming from Clancy’s Corn Chips, Cosmic Brownies, chicken nuggets “nuggies” to Huggies (wet wipes); assisting each other in the pooping ritual on the trail, honoring the Leave No Trace with catholes dug by Papa Bear and carrying out the…well, you know, in a Ziplock.

In the dogged days of summer on The Devil’s Path they start belting out David Lee Roth’s Crazy from The Heat or classic Van Halen’s Runnin’ with The Devil! They are, the one and only, Team Miranda!

Several years later, here we are hiking 10-mile days in the Hudson Valley and the Delaware Water Gap. We started a routine of trail games. Being a home school family, hiking is a large part of Izzy and Ruby’s physical education. These times and miles opened the door for additional trail lessons to sneak in. Our math, spelling and vocabulary games not only helped keep morale up when we were all spent physically, on what felt like the long haul of those final miles, but also taught those less than enthusiastic subjects in motion; a sort of “plein air-trail scholar” approach to homeschooling.

I recall the day our youngest, Ruby, bounded into the parking area after a 14-mile hike, she restarted the alphabet game proclaiming “A is for accomplishment!” It was then that we knew our team was ready for bigger mountains!

After this, we set our sights further north into the Catskills. We had been hiking the Catskills, but had not done any of the high peaks. We started our 3500 journey on Panther. It was a crowded approach via Giant Ledge, but it’s popular for good reasons. The views were and still are incredible! From that day forward, we all fell in love with the Catskills, these beautiful mountains. Izzy marveled at the autumn views from Giant Ledge saying it looked like a painting of a crazy quilt. We don’t look at grand views anymore without seeing quilts in our minds’ eye; a forgotten sense of awe in any season, at the green, crimson, burnt sienna, yellow ochre or titanium white.

Being the leader of “Team Miranda,” I love arbitrary goals. I had decided I wanted to hike the 3500, not thinking the family would want to do the same. I figured it would be a several year endeavor, but it was Bear who said this should be a family goal. From there our merry band of misfits became a little Catskill team with Mama Miranda as team leader. As co-captain, Papa Bear’s patience of a daily homeschool instructor combined with the attitude of a man of the mountains complemented my goal-driven attitude and love of a good spreadsheet.

Hiking the 3500 as a family has been an adventure and a privilege. I say privilege because hiking is not something you HAVE to do; it is something you GET to do. And we are very fortunate to have this privilege as a family.

Weekend after weekend we choose to embrace setting our alarm for an eye shattering 4 a.m. to make the trail head some three hours later; leaving our Bay Ridge Brooklyn home well before sunrise just to arrive at the trail head before the lots fill. This is where I must annoy and motivate the team by singing out loud: “Break My Stride,” by Mathew Wilder. Come on now; sing it with me!

Simply put, not all days are fun. Even some days take a turn for the “not-even-remotely-fun-at-all-fun,” but when you are miles from your car, “you have to keep on movin’!” Many times, we remind the girls “you can do hard things” and “every step is one step closer” and “going up is optional, coming down is mandatory.” We are never short on songs, games or motivational mantras.

Most of these “not fun” moments become some of our greatest memories because in the end, we made it through as a family. It is funny to look back at road walking a mile and a half in the pouring rain; because dropping elevation before the deluge was the better plan, even if it meant walking down Route 214 in a downpour.

The experience of exploring the beauty our home state has to offer us with our children, over mountains, has made our family stronger. We work together, we sing, we crack jokes, we cry, but mostly we laugh together. Some of the girl’s earliest memories are vague, but as they get older, they remember more. As we return to the trails previously hiked, they recall their favorite trees and views. They get excited to recall specific areas, indigenous plants and mushrooms. The idea of sharing hikes with friends and seeing familiar faces (and dogs) on the trails is invaluable.

If you ever hear a family singing on the trail (often David Lee Roth songs and NEVER Sammy Hagar!), squealing at dogs and
cracking bad dad jokes, well, that's our team! We encourage you to join us, and keep one another going with humor, song and getting stronger in your quads! This is our misfit-Team-Miranda family dynamic.

On other days you may find us volunteering for the 3500 Trailhead Steward Program. As we continue to hike as a family, we instill in our girls that these mountains are NOT just where we hike and camp, but also is our home away from home. The Catskill Mountains and the people we meet in the process of hiking has given us so much, so, we try to give back as a team; the same way we hike.

As we continue to set goals as a family, we have begun our Adirondack 46 pursuit, completing the Saranac 6 as a team. The Catskills, however, is the place we return to the most. Together we hike up mountains and then back down them. Sometimes we move slow, sometimes we move like “runnin' with the devil." We always do this as a family. We somehow became the parents who teach their girls that it is not really fun unless it's Type 2 fun. Only I might claim Type 3 is fun, but I am giving it time. The girls may one day acknowledge it as a form of “actual fun,” as long as there is the promise of Stewart’s milkshakes and Voodoo Chips at the end. Now, sing it with me: "Ain't nothin' gonna break my stride, Nobody gonna slow me down, oh no, I got to keep on moving!......"

Erica Miranda (#3934) lives in south Brooklyn with her partner JD "Bear" Szalla (#3935) and their daughters Izzy (#3936) and Ruby (#3937). In their free time they are most likely to be found hiking the Catskills. Erica is an art gallery registrar, Girl Scout troop leader and Brooklyn Delegate to the Girl Scouts of Greater New York. She is a reluctant runner, road trip enthusiast and coffee snob. Bear is a stay at home Papa and homeschool teacher. He enjoys foraging and preparing meals foraged in NYC parks. Erica can be reached by email.

![View from the Hermit's Ledge on Friday. Photo by Teddy Reiser #4039](image)
There is an immense emotional difference between hiking with a group, or a club like the 3500 Club or the AMC and hiking alone, especially when climbing mountains, and even more especially when the climbs are bushwhacks. I didn't give that much thought back, when I did it, but my summer finishing hike for the Catskills patch consisted of three bushwhacks all in one day.

How did that come about? Simply, I noticed that the total number of 3500 Club finishers was around 700 and, (i) for no important reason, I decided I wanted a number less than 1,000, (ii) I only had three peaks left to go (Friday, Balsam Cap, and Kaaterskill) and (iii) I had no steady hiking partner at the time. So, I made the less than prudent decision to go for it. I was really kind of ignorant about the Catskills. I had climbed 32 peaks, all following an experienced leader, so I was hardly an expert. At home I took out my trail maps and came up with a plan: rise early, drive to Moon Haw Road (I don't know what it means, either) and knock-off Friday and Balsam Cap; then drive up to Josh Road and get Kaaterskill.

Looking at the map, I got a bearing for the summit of Friday and headed out. I didn't run across any herd paths, just pretty dense woods, but not terrible like Rocky. I made some noise once in a while—I didn't want to surprise a bear—as I trod through this forest where no human had ever been. Then I saw something orange on the ground, it was a pair of Chums, those straps one uses to keep one's glasses from falling off. Ok, one person had been there before me (I still use those Chums, they are attached to my hiking sunglasses).

As I got higher, I encountered ledges and decided for no great reason other than consistency to always go around them to the right. After a number of such rights I came to a significant slide. See, how many hikers know Friday has a slide? Surprisingly, after scaling only a few minor ledges, I walked right into the canister, signed in, took a direct bearing to Balsam Cap, and was off again. I learned later, hiking with an experienced leader, that the compass bearing to Balsam Cap does not yield the most efficient route. That route requires inching one's way through very dense balsam and fir; the wiser route is to descend Friday a bit, cross over towards Balsam Cap and then ascend to the summit of the latter; it's somewhat longer in distance, but much shorter in pain.

After finally reaching and signing in to the canister on Balsam Cap, I took a compass bearing back down towards Moon Haw Road and made my way down one of the worst descents I ever encountered: huge boulders with the spacing between them filled with leaves. I didn't know whether any particular leaf pile was three inches or three feet deep. I was precarious. After a while, I encountered a small stream heading in the right direction, so I followed it down. That was where I learned that hiking alongside streams often has a major disadvantage—one has to repeatedly clamber over the bank's continual rises and falls (I don't know what they're called, they must have a name). I didn't keep track of how many such obstacles I encountered, but it was a lot. Finally, I came across a woods road, I didn't know where it was going but, without hesitation, I took it. By dumb luck this pleasant woods road landed me out on Moon Haw, a few yards from my car!

Studying the trail map, which also displayed the local roads and highways, I noticed a short cut to Josh Road off Route 16, where I would park to begin the ascent of Kaaterskill. Anxious to save time on this long days' labor, I set out on the back roads indicated on the map. As I drove north, I noticed the road turning to dirt, and then becoming rockier and rockier and (surprise) reaching the Schocharie Creek, but with no bridge! As I had to cross the Schocharie to get to Route 16, I had no choice but to backtrack on my shortcut. That wasted sojourn cost me at least an hour.

Eventually I drove onto Josh Road, pulled off to the side, took a bearing on Kaaterskill, which loomed prominently to the north, and headed out. As I recall, the bushwhack through the woods wasn't particularly challenging and by and by I reached the snowmobile trail which circles Kaaterskill. Turning on to that trail, I came shortly to a blue-blazed trail that was heading towards Kaaterskill's summit, so off I went, up, up, up. Close to the summit, I encountered ledges. Fortunately, the ledges had good hand and foot holds, so I scammed up them and in short order was on the summit, with it's great view to the south. Even though the afternoon was late, I spent a few minutes taking in the view, before starting my descent. As I was pretty tired by now, and as the ledges had water trickling down them, I opted to continue north on the blue trail, as the map showed it would take me back to the snowmobile track by a less steep route.

It turned out that that choice was, in fact, necessary in order to claim the peak. I had assumed the great view point was the summit, but that isn't true. The summit is at the north end of the summit ridge, which I learned by that last segment of hiking. (I don't remember if I came across the plane wreck up there on that hike, or if it was a later climb of Kaaterskill.) In any case I descended to the snowmobile trail, went back to my reference point, which I had marked with a cairn, and followed my bearing to Round Lake, I
think it was called. Wouldn't you know, I hit it dead on, now what do I do? Studying the map, it showed the abandoned NY State Police Camp (now the Bruderhof) nearby. As I should mention, it was now just about dark, so I decided, rather than attempt a nighttime bushwhack through the woods, to take the longer route through the Police Camp's roads back to Route 16, and then to Josh Road, where my car waited patiently for me. Good choice.

I was tired, though not maximally, and very pleased that I had completed my summer peaks for the 3500 Club patch. Now, I only needed to get my four winter peaks, but that's another tale.

Disclaimer: Back in 1990, the Schultis property was open to hikers, and the state-owned Police Camp had been closed for at least a few years, with no "No Trespassing" or other cautionary signs posted. Attempting the descent to Moon Haw as described, as well as following the approach to Kaaterskill High Peak from Josh Rd at present time would be considered trespassing.

Marty has climbed the 35 Catskill peaks in summer and in winter and, in fact, once after age 80 (see "It Was All Paul Leiken's Fault" in the winter edition of the 2017 Canister). Other hiking feats include: the Devil's Path in one day, the Northeast 111, Mt. Whitney, Costa Rica, and Patagonia. For many years he was also an avid, if not greatly skilled, runner, Nordic skier, kayaker, trail maintainer, and storyteller—the last two in which he still engages (see outdoorexploits.w3spaces.com). Marty can be reached by email.

Sugarloaf viewpoint. Photo by Russel Hanford #3331
Echoes of Eden Along the Devil’s Path

Text by: Henry Dircks

The Black-Throated Blue Warbler perched
Atop a fir off Buck Ridge Lookout,
Clouded Sulphur butterflies puddling in the mist
Below the falls at Diamond Notch,
Would likely have passed unnoticed
On our traverse over West Kill Mountain,
Were it not for the toad,
Which, earlier, from the underbrush
Near St. Anne’s Peak,
Had leapt onto a log and posed,
Abandoning camouflage for curiosity,
And halting us in wonderment.

“The trail is too much with you,”
Was its untrilled admonition.
In pursuit of summits, vistas,
We’d overstepped and overlooked the place,
Until this splendid specimen of *bufo americanus*
Compact and speckled, brown, olive, gray,
Heralded Nature’s beauty, warts and all.

Henry Dircks is a retired social studies teacher from Long Island. A lifelong hiker, he began climbing in the Catskills in 2019. He looks forward to hiking more of the Catskill high peaks, and has the goal of climbing Mount Marcy someday. He can be reached via email.
Drifting Down Neversink

Text by: Brian Hoody #3805

The light breeze that I had on Lone died out on Rocky, but the view from near the canister was better than I expected. Even though it was hot, especially for mid-September, there was very little haze to obscure the view. Reluctantly leaving my perch, I set a course for the unnamed brook that drained the col between Lone and Rocky. By a shear stroke of luck I picked a route that was neither too steep nor too scratchy. And after some time I heard the rush of water; the slope began to steepen, and I came upon the brook.

I spied a cairn on the opposite bank. Picking my way carefully down the embankment, I rock hopped to the other side. Reaching the cairn I looked for any sort of path but did not see one. At that point I figured it was at least some sort of sign of being on the right track — in theory I just needed to follow the brook along to where it joined with the East Branch. Making my way down I shifted back and forth from bank to bank depending upon the terrain. The brook began to grow wider and rockier as I descended and eventually I could hear the Neversink before I could see it.

Upon reaching the mouth of the brook I picked up a weak path, the infamous Fisherman’s Path, on the northern bank, which I began to follow. Although the path was a bit tough to follow in places, I began to relax now that I sort of had an idea where I was. The river was low but beautiful, with the occasional leaf swirling by and as I made my way along, the path became more defined and easier to follow. The afternoon drew on and the mid-September sunlight filtered down through the canopy. It was probably the long miles, coupled with the very early start, but a feeling of contentment, coupled with exhaustion began to settle over me.

I stopped for a quick break and I could imagine myself leaning back against one of the larger trees in the vicinity of the path and taking a Rip Van Winkle-style nap. However a sandwich broke my spell and as I got underway I was surprised to come shortly upon the Peekamoose-Table trail. I was a bit reluctant to leave the river – my ramble along its banks had been an enjoyable way to spend a September afternoon. Nonetheless, I made my way slowly along towards Denning, sort of like a leaf drifting down the Neversink.

Brian spent his formative years wandering around the Adirondacks, but in recent years has taken to wandering about the Catskills, which he finds historical, challenging and immensely beautiful. Currently Brian is enjoying revisiting the peaks during the winter (and all the other seasons as well). Brian can be reached by email.
IN MEMORIAM

Arlene Scholer, #441 W142, of New Hyde Park, NY, passed away on November 28, 2022. Arlene was a lifetime member of the Catskill 3500 Club and was active in the ADK-LI chapter since 1977. At ADK, she shared her fondness for the Catskills by starting the Empowerment Series—hikes to help new members progress from beginner through climbing their first Catskill high peak.

E. Richard Holm Jr., #2141 W861, of Toms River, NJ, passed away unexpectedly at home on February 12, 2023. An avid hiker, Rich was a member of the Catskill 3500 Club and Adirondack 46ers. In recent years, he walked 500 miles on El Camino de Santiago.

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Painted Trillium. Photo by Myra Romano #3621

Rambles and Brambles

Hike Schedule
April - June 2023

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 and 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:** 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. Instead, wear (and have available in your pack) garments of wool or fleece. Silk, wool or wicking synthetic materials 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 winter kit. Ice and snow can come early and unexpectedly to these peaks. Hikers must be prepared with all gear specified by the hike leader. In early spring, if there is any doubt about the conditions that may be encountered, each hiker must bring snowshoes and traction aids, and poles with snow baskets 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. Don’t be seduced by buds on the trees at the trailhead; early spring in the Catskills is not to be treated lightly.

**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.

**Group Size:** Maximum group size is limited to 12 persons including hikers and leaders, but a leader may specify a smaller groups size. The minimum group size is 3. A mask may be required for situations when social distancing is not possible, for example during a car shuttle.

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.

**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.

**Blaze orange alert:** The turkey hunting season is coming May 1st! Refer to this [DEC link](#) for the season info, including the hunting hours and the special youth hunt weekends dates in April. Wear blaze orange or blaze pink, avoid red, blue, white and black and remember the same for your four-legged hiking companions!

**Wildlife alert:** During Spring, Club hikes require dogs to be on leash above 3500 feet.
The calendar of the current hike schedule can also be found on the Club site.

Club hiking schedule is subject to change.

**Sat. Apr. 1 - VLY & BEARPEN**
Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3541', 3587'
Moderate pace hike on snowmobile and informal (non-DEC) trails. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marcy Felter #3492 W1480
mjfelter@optonline.net 845-258-8240

**Sun. Apr. 2 - BALSAM LAKE**
Distance: 5.9 mi. Ascent: 1150', Elev: 3729'
Moderate relaxed pace from Mill Brook Road. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Mar. 23 - 30
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857
Thighley1944@gmail.com

**Sun. Apr. 2 - NAVIGATION: Map & Compass**
Bluestone Wild Forest (Kingston, NY)
Distance 2-4 mi. Ascent: 500', Elev: 625'
Registration Period: Mar. 23 - 30
E-mail leader for details and preparation (1-hour on own time)
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312
catskill35c@gmail.com

**Tue. Apr. 4 - PANTHER**
Distance 8.2 mi. Ascent: 2850', Elev: 3724'
Fox Hollow to Oliverea Road. Moderate pace. Great views from Giant Ledge. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leaders: Mark Evans #4101 & Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
mark.evans2112@gmail.com 443-545-6188

**Fri. Apr. 7 - WITTENBERG & CORNELL**
Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 2900', Elevs: 3782', 3857'
Relaxed pace trail hike with steep scrambles.
Registration Period: Apr. 1 - 6
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W994
michael@bongarbiz.com
Sat. Apr. 8 - MILL BROOK RIDGE & BALSAM LAKE from ALDER LAKE
Distance 8.8 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3465', 3729'
Relaxed to moderate pace on less used trail. Beginners welcome. Shuttle required. Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. Apr. 8 - 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: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Tue. April 11 - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU
Distance: 13+ mi. Ascent: 5000+', Elevs: 3573', 3650', 3783', 3835'
Long, challenging Eastern Devil's Path traverse at a quick pace. Shuttle required. Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Thu. Apr. 13 - WINDHAM
Distance: 6.2 mi. Ascent: 1575', Elev: 3525'
Relaxed paced trail hike.
Registration Period: by Apr. 11
Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950
edmoran@gmail.com  631-741-3765

Fri. Apr. 14 - PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elevs: 3819', 3825'
Moderate pace trail hike.
Registration Period: Apr. 7 - 12
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857
Thighley1944@gmail.com

Sat. Apr. 15 - WEST KILL
Distance: 6.8 mi. Ascent: 1798', Elev: 3898'
Moderate pace trail hike. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leaders: Peggy Wissler #1499 W612 & Yanny Hecht #1868 W751
YannyHecht@gmail.com

Sun. Apr. 16 - PANTHER
Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3724'
Moderate pace trail hike with great views at Giant Ledge. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Tue. Apr. 18 - HALCOTT
Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev: 3509'
Moderately-fast paced bushwhack.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Sat. Apr. 22 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE
Distance: 7.3 mi. Ascent 2650', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'
Moderate pace trail. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com & Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Sat. Apr. 22 - 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: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com
Sat. Apr. 22 - PLATEAU
Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 2381', Elev: 3835'
Moderate pace trail hike. Warner Creek to Devil's Path. Beginners welcome. Shuttle required.
Registration period: Open
Leader: Mark Evans #4101
mark.evans2112@gmail.com 443-545-6188

Sat. Apr. 22 - WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE from Moon Haw
Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3900', Elevs: 3782', 3857', 4184'
Relaxed to moderate pace bushwhack and trail hike starting from Moon Haw Road with steep climbs & challenging scrambles. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Apr. 23 - BEARPEN & VLY
Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3587', 3541'
Moderate pace bushwhack and trail hike. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Sun. Apr. 23 - INDIAN HEAD
Distance: 6.7 mi. Ascent: 1573', Elev: 3573'
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Sharon Klein #3364
CatsNGunks@gmail.com

Tue. Apr. 25 - KAATERSKILL
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3652'
Quick pace bushwhack & trail hike. Fun scrambles & great views.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Sat. Apr. 29 - PEEKAMOOSE-TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE
Join us for our club trail maintenance outing. Please help us keep the Peekamoose-Table Trail clean, clear and safe for the enjoyment of all. Bring work gloves and your favorite trail maintenance tools (the Club will also have tools available). It's fun work and a great way to help the Club and the hiking community. Refreshments will be provided afterward. Please be sure to sign up so we know who's coming.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075
L_Sonera@outlook.com

Sun. Apr. 30 - SLIDE
Distance: 6.7 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev: 4184'
Relaxed to moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Apr. 21 - 28
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312
catskill35r@gmail.com

Sun. Apr. 30 - WINDHAM, BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE
Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 4300', Elevs: 3525', 3940', 3994', 3953'
Challenging bushwhack & trail loop from Big Hollow Rd at a moderate to quick pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Tue. May 2 - FIR, BIG INDIAN, EAGLE & BALSAM
Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 4180', Elevs: '3629', '3699', '3583', '3607'
Long, challenging bushwhack and trail traverse from Biscuit Brook to McKenley Hollow at a quick pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Wed. May 3 - WINDHAM
Distance: 7.4 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3525'
Relaxed to moderate pace along Escarpment Trail with great views. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
Fri. May 5 - HUNTER
Distance: 7.1 mi. Ascent: 2050', Elev: 4030'
Relaxed to moderate pace trail hike.
Short yoga session at fire tower.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Pamela Martin #2102
pamelamartininc@gmail.com

Sat. May 6 - INDIAN HEAD & TWIN
Distance: 7.4 mi. Ascent: 2320', Elevs: 3573', 3650'
Relaxed pace trail hike,
Registration Period: Apr. 28 - May 3
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857
Thighley1944@gmail.com

Sat. May 6 - WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3600', Elevs: 3782', 3857', 4184'
Moderate to quick pace with challenging scrambles. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sun. May 7 - 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
L_Sonera@outlook.com

Tue. May 9 - PANTHER
Distance: 8.2 mi. Ascent: 1950', Elev: 3724'
Traverse over Giant Ledge and Panther to Fox Hollow. Quick pace. Shuttle required.
Registration period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Fri. May 12 - BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE
Distance 6.3 mi. Ascent: 1950', Elevs: 3994', 3953'
Relaxed-moderate pace through hike with short car shuttle. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Sharon Klein #3364
CatsNGunks@gmail.com

Sat. May 13 - FIR & BIG INDIAN
Distance 9.3 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3629', 3699'
Trail hike and bushwhack, relaxed to moderate pace
Registration Period: May 4 - 11
Leader: Lyn W. #2865
catskill35r@gmail.com

Sat. May 13 - HALCOTT
Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev: 3509'
Relaxed pace bushwhack
Registration Period: Open
Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaberr@yahoo.com &
Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Sat. May 13 - 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: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sat. May 13 - PANTHER, SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG
Distance: 19 mi. Ascent: 5300', Elevs: 3724', 4184', 3857', 3782'
Long, challenging bushwhack and trail hike at a relaxed to moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
Sat. May 13 - RUSK, HUNTER & SW HUNTER
Distance: 12+ mi. Ascent: 3150', Elevs: 3686', 4030', 3753'
Relaxed pace trail hike & bushwhack
Registration Period: May 1 - 12
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W994
michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. May 13 - TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE
Distance 9.5 mi. Ascent: 2539', Elevs: 3825', 3819'
Trail hike from Denning. Moderate to quick pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Mark Evans #4101
mark.evans2112@gmail.com
443-545-6188

Sun. May 14 - WINDHAM, BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE
Distance: 14.5 mi. Ascent: 4700', Elevs: 3525', 3940', 3994', 3953'
Long trail hike from Peck Road to Barnum Road at a quick pace. Shuttle Required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Tue. May 16 - BALSAM LAKE & MILL BROOK RIDGE
Distance: 8.5 mi. Ascent: 2800', Elevs: 3729', 3465'
Quick pace. Easy trail hike to Balsam Lake and Mill Brook Ridge, then a short bushwhack down to Kelly Hollow. Shuttle Required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Thu. May 18 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP
Distance: 7+ mi. Ascent: 3100', Elevs: 3692', 3608'
Moderately paced trail hike.
Registration Period: by May 16
Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950
edmoran@gmail.com 631-741-3765

Sat. May 20 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK & BEAKS
Distance: 6.2 mi. Ascent: 1575', Elev: 3525'
Relaxed pace with novice birding along the way. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: May 8 - 17
Leaders: Ira Orenstein #415 W777 & Karen Bloom #1733 W776
ksbiho@aol.com (preferred) 914-262-5816

Sun. May 21 - PANTHER
Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3724'
Relaxed to moderate pace. Great views from Giant Ledge.
Rain and inclement weather will cancel. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: May 15 - 19
Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326 W498
suzkna@msn.com 718-435-3092

Sun. May 21 - RUSK
Distance: 3.7 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3686'
Short but steep bushwhack. Moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leaders: Peggy Wissler #1499 W612 & Yanny Hecht #1868 W751
YannyHecht@gmail.com

Sun. May 21 - SW HUNTER, HUNTER & RUSK
Distance: 12+ mi. Ascent: 3200', Elevs: 3753', 4030', 3686'
Long, moderate to quick pace bushwhack and trail.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Tue. May 23 - HALCOTT
Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev: 3509'
Quick pace bushwhack.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
Wed. May 24 - SW HUNTER, HUNTER & RUSK
Distance: 12+ mi. Ascent: 3200', Elevs: 3753’, 4030’, 3680’
Long bushwhack and trail hike at a relaxed to moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. May 27 - DRY BROOK RIDGE via Huckleberry Loop
Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 3100’, Elev: 3465’
Moderate pace trail via a less traveled scenic loop.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D’Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sat. May 27 - VLY & BEARPEN am / HALCOTT pm
Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2100’, Elevs: 3541’, 3587” (Vly & Bearpen)
Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1700’, Elev: 3509’ (Halcott)
Hike on snowmobile and Informal (non-DEC) trails in the morning, followed by short, steep bushwhack in the afternoon.
Relaxed to moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. May 28 - SHERRILL, NORTH DOME & WEST KILL
Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 4400’, Elevs: 3558’, 3605’, 3898’
Strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a quick pace. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Sat. June 3 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP w/ B25 Crash
Distance: 7+ mi. Ascent: 3100’, Elevs: 3692’, 3608’
Challenging bushwhack including a B25 crash site. Relaxed to moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leaders: Mark Evans #4101 mark.evans2112@gmail.com 443-545-6188
Marv Freedman #2242 W951

Sat. June 3 - BALSAM LAKE & MILL BROOK RIDGE
Distance: 8.8 mi. Ascent: 1500’, Elevs: 3729’, 3465’
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D’Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sat. June 3 - RUSK
Distance: 3.2 mi. Ascent: 1549’, Elev: 3686’
Relaxed pace bushwack.
Registration Period: Open
Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com &
Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Sun. June 4 - KAATERSKILL
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900’, Elev: 3652’
Quick pace bushwhack & trail hike. Fun scrambles & great views.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Sun. Jun 4 - NAVIGATION: GPS on a Smartphone
Bluestone Wild Forest (Kingston, NY)
Distance 2-4 mi. Ascent: 500’, Elev: 625’
Registration Period: May 25 - June 1
E-mail leader for details and preparation (1-hour on own time)
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312
catskill35r@gmail.com

Sun. June 4 - VLY & BEARPEN
Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2100’, Elevs: 3541’, 3587’
Moderate pace unmarked trail hike. Beginners welcome.
Tue. June 6 - FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY, LONE, TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Tue. June 6 - 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 quick pace. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Thu. June 8 - BEARPEN & VLY
Registration Period: by June 6
Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950
edmoran@gmail.com 631-741-3765

Sat. June 10 - FIR, BIG INDIAN, EAGLE, & BALSAM
Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 4180', 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: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168
nmdange@live.com

Sat. June 10 - SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG
Distance 14 mi. Ascent: 4376', Elevs: 4184', 3857', 3782'
Long, challenging trail hike at moderate pace.
Registration Period: June 4 - 9
Leader: Jacob Haisley #2488 W1065
jacobhaisley@gmail.com

Sat. June 17 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE
Distance: 7.3 mi. Ascent: 2650', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'
Relaxed to moderate pace trail hike with challenging climbs and great views. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. June 18 - WINDHAM
Distance: 6.2 mi. Ascent: 1575', Elev: 3525'
Intermediate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Sat. June 24 - PANTHER
Distance 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3724'
Moderate pace trail hike with great views at Giant Ledge. Beginners welcome.

Registration Period: June 1 - 16
Hike Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1268
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600

Sat. June 24 - SW HUNTER & HUNTER
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3753', 4030'
Relaxed pace trail & informal (non-DEC) trail.
Registration Period: June 15 - 21
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857
Thighley1944@gmail.com

Sun. June 25 - KAATERSKILL
Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3652'
Moderate pace bushwhack & trail hike. Fun scrambles & great views.
Registration Period: Open
Leaders: Peggy Wissler #1499 W612 & Yanny Hecht #1868 W751
YannyHecht@gmail.com

Sun. June 25 - WEST KILL & ST. ANNE's
Distance: 8 mi Ascent: 2321', Elevs: 3898', 3423'
Relaxed to moderate pace through hike with short car shuttle. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Sharon Klein #3364
CatsNGunks@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

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

New Lifetime Members:

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<td>Linda Steubesand</td>
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New Members:

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**Editor's Notes**

By Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond

I hope you are continuing to enjoy *The Canister*, and I thank each and every one of you who has reached out with feedback, suggestions and of course, with submissions. Feedback, as well as content contributions 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, wildlife 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*! Any book lovers out there? I would love to publish your review of a relevant nature/Catskills/hiking book. For photo submissions, please ensure the photos are high resolution (several MB at a min) and in a landscape or panoramic format. 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 Club’s site.
The Catskill Canister
President
Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago
president@catskill-3500-club.org

Editor
Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond
editor@catskill-3500-club.org

Aspirants
Jake Haisley
aspirants@catskill-3500-club.org
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Red Hook, NY 12571

Annual Dinner Co-Chairman
Michael E. Doehring
tigermath@aol.com
7 Cloverdale Ave.
White Plains, NY 10603
(914) 761-7225

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