

The Catskill Canister
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Blackhead Range from West Kill. Photo by Stash Rusin, #2829

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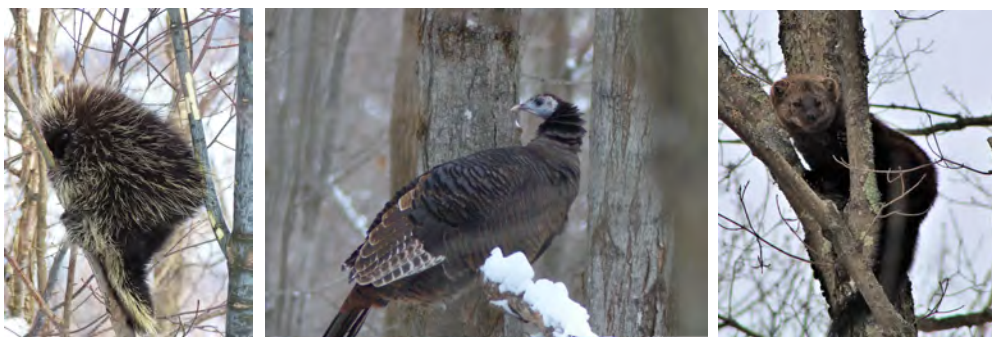
Spathe and Spadix

The President's Column by Heather Rolland

As I sit down to write my penultimate President's column, the snow is piling up. I'm preparing for craft fairs, cooking, dressing the dogs in blaze orange finery, and anticipating the dreaded holiday family get-togethers. We've all been there, sitting around the table with Aunt Gertie and Uncle Jasper, and someone asks you about Your Hiking Thing. After all the requisite jokes about the Bataan Death March and how the only hiking Cousin Fred is doing this year is to the fridge and back to the couch... someone asks you the why question. Why do you do it? Why a list? Why in the winter? And especially why if there is no view at the top?

I have said it before: the Catskill Forest Preserve is my temple and my gym. The oft repeated John Burroughs quote rings true for me: I too go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order. I also "go to nature" for the workout a long challenging hike offers me – a 7 mile hike is so different from a 7 mile run. Add in the ducking and dodging a 7 mile bushwhack entails and it's as thorough as a yoga class plus a run – while wearing a heavy pack.

But truth be told, I do have a single overarching reason why: wildlife. I have never evolved beyond that 7 year old version of me, desperate to catch a glimpse of a wild creature in its native habitat, doing wild creature things. I am blessed to live on a scrubby little mountain in the western Catskills where I am treated to encounters with bears, coyotes, foxes, porcupines, fishers, mink, raccoons, opossums, snapping turtles, eagles, kingfishers, largemouth bass, dragonflies and my own honeybees. I am an aspiring wildlife photographer although mostly I have to settle for taking photos of things that stay still, since I'm not very good! But if I were to answer the why question honestly, wildlife is the answer.



My reasons might not be your reasons. Every hiker, every 3500 Club member and aspirant, every individual has their own reasons. I've met hikers who barely noticed their surroundings, so intent upon their goal. And I've met hikers that savor each step, making those short easy hikes last all day.

Whatever the reasons why, the next question is "are you enjoying yourself?" I remember the thrill of newness during my first round of the 35, and the absolutely addictive delight of finding each canister. (Or not finding a few of them and going back to try again.) Are you enjoying your hikes? Truly madly deeply enjoying them? If you aren't, take a step back – literally and figuratively -- and take stock. Finding a way to rekindle that beginner's mind and re-experience the joy and wonder of newness is a fabulous challenge for experienced hikers.

Giving back to others may be a way to rekindle the romance. I led some DEC staffers on their first visit to North Dome and Sherrill last month, and watching them experience these remote and rugged mountains for the first time reminded me of my first few trips up these two old friends. If you are ready to try introducing others to the 35, contact [Bill Winterbottom](#), our outings chair, to explore becoming a hike leader. You would join an elite crew of trained and experienced leaders who do a fabulous job teaching, guiding, and inspiring the next generation of club members. If hike leadership is not for you, maybe trail maintenance with [Lourdes Sonera](#), our new trail maintenance chair, would fit the bill. She leads trail maintenance trips to Peekamoose and Table twice a year and also offers an Adopt-A-Highway road clean up twice yearly. If you're not so great with a silky saw, perhaps joining the club's search and rescue team is a way to give back. [Erica Winterbottom](#) is the person to contact regarding SAR. The team meets and drills monthly so we stay in shape and ready to be called upon to assist the rangers.

As always, enjoy your winter hikes safely. Know and respect your limitations, and remember, it's always ok to save something for next time.



Samuels Point from Cornell's view point. Photo by Dany Davis, #2000 W904

Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club



The Club extends appreciation to the departing Board Members



As President of the Catskill 3500 Club, I wish to acknowledge the service of two board members: Mike Dwyer and David Bunde. Mike and Dave served as Aspirant Chair and Trail Maintenance Chair respectively.

Mike Dwyer, known to some as Catdacker, served as Aspirant Chair for five years. A heavy workload with loads of communication, Mike's attention to detail was appreciated by all. We thank Mike for his efforts on behalf of the club and wish him well.

David Bunde filled the Trail Maintenance role for 4 years. Under David's thoughtful efforts, the volunteer base grew by leaps and bounds. David's role required communication and coordination with both the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Transportation. It was my pleasure to receive commendations from staff at both agencies upon David's resignation – both DEC and DOT staffers emphasized how much they had appreciated David's excellent work. We are lucky to have David remain with the club in his role as webmaster.

Happy trails and a heartfelt thank you to both David and Mike!

Heather Rolland, President
Catskill 3500 Club

The Club welcomes new Board Members



The Officers of the Catskill 3500 Club want to extend a very warm welcome to the two new board members: Lourdes Sonera (Trail Maintenance Chair) and Jake Haisley (Aspirant Chair).

Lourdes has joined the board over the summer. She is an island girl from Puerto Rico who's passionate about connecting and learning from nature. As an organizer for Hudson Valley Hikers, she loves to introduce other people to the magic and the possibilities of the wilderness. Lourdes is a committed advocate of giving back and promoting stewardship.

Jake is the most recent addition to the board, having joined in late November. A native Mainer, Jake has been hiking all his life. Besides being a recent winter 46er, Jake is an aspiring NE111er. He has a deep love and appreciation for exploring the outdoors, especially the enchanted Catskill forest and its yellow birches. Jake is a movie aficionado and enjoys occasional wildlife rescues.

Dues News



Dues for calendar year 2019 are now payable. 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 [club site](#) or renew by mail and/or order additional member items using [this form](#). Please make checks payable to the Catskill 3500 Club.

Dave White (Membership Chair) and Jake Haisley (Aspirant Chair)



Black Dome sunrise from Blackhead. Photo by Jake Haisley, #2488 W1065

SAVE THE DATE: 2019 3500 Club Winter Weekend Announcement

By: Maria Bedo-Calhoun, 1st Vice President



It's time to sign up for the Catskill 3500 Club Winter Weekend!

We are excited to announce that our annual winter gathering will be held January 25 to 27, 2019. This year we will be convening at the Catskill Seasons Inn. The location in Shandaken is perfect for many nearby trailheads. Be sure to check out the schedule in this issue to see all the great hikes Bill Winterbottom, our hiking chair, and the dedicated Club volunteer hike leaders have scheduled. There will be something for everyone, both for experienced cold-weather explorers or those new to spending winter time in the mountains.

The basic package begins at \$135 per person, double occupancy (plus tax and a \$10 per night gratuity) and includes: accommodations on Friday and Saturday night, a hot breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and dinner Saturday evening. Some rooms have kitchenettes, and others can accommodate up to 6 for those looking for a budget option to lower the cost even more. There is also a specialty room with a jacuzzi for those wanting something deluxe! See the

Inn's website at www.catskillseasonsinn.com or call 845- 688-2505 for details and options. Make sure you mention that you are with the Catskill 3500 Club. Rooms are being held for the Club until January 11th, after which they will be opened to the public, so make your reservations soon! The cancellation policy is 7 days prior to arrival after which no refunds are available.

If you are hiking, but not staying at the Inn, stop by and join the fun on Saturday evening! Dinner is \$40.00 and reservations can be made directly with the Inn. Come early for happy hour too! After making reservations, please let the Winter Weekend coordinator, Jim Gebhard know. He can be reached at gebhardaccord@aol.com or 845-626-4104. Whether staying at the Inn or not, this is a great weekend to meet some of your fellow members and enjoy some winter adventures and fun!



After the ice storm on Bearpen. Photos by John Fellows, #2153 W882

Pitch Perfect

Three Hikes to Visit an Uncommon Conifer in the Catskills

Text and photos: Matt Smith, #880 W309

Pitch pine trees (*Pinus rigida*) are an uncommon sight in the Catskills, occurring only at sporadic sites along the eastern and southern edges of the range. These hardy trees thrive in dry, sandy, rocky soils and on open rock pavements, sometimes growing out of the cracks where other trees struggle to take purchase. The often dwarfed, gnarled appearance of these small trees is the reason for the nickname 'scrub pine' and reminds one of bonsai trees in their tortured beauty.

The presence of pitch pines indicates a history of continual disturbance of a site, often by fire. In the case of mountaintop pitch pine communities, ice and wind can present a similar desiccating influence, resulting in so-called xeric landscapes where only drought-tolerant plants thrive. scrub oak and lowbush blueberry are companion species that often grow in these same areas. The nearby Shawangunk Mountains are blanketed in vast stretches of mountaintop pitch pine forests, where fire and ice still shape the landscape to this day.

Michael Kudish¹ lists six locations where pitch pine grow in the Catskills, including locations along the Escarpment and around the Esopus valley. One can still find a small population of pitch pine along the southern flanks of Ashokan High Point, but the fate of the two trees that were noted on Little Tonshi Mountain is unknown due to recent housing development near the elevation where the trees were originally identified. Protecting these rare sites requires a focused land management plan that takes into account the conditions necessary for pitch pine to thrive.

The Catskill Escarpment is home to a few remnant communities of pitch pine. These small groves reveal a history of fire that has shaped the landscape over eons. Fires started by lightning, or intentionally ignited by indigenous populations, burned the eastern flanks of the Catskills for thousands of years. While most of the area has long since overgrown with hardwood forests, a few of these sites have remained open rock pavement since the last glaciation, making them some of the oldest forest communities in the Catskills. The ecological diversity and presence of regionally scarce species make visiting these areas a real treat.

Below are three hikes to areas where pitch pines can be located in the Catskills. Each site is ecologically unique, so the trail notes will include some details about site history and land management challenges to maintain these sites. The hikes vary in difficulty and commitment, so use your best judgment if you choose to visit these rare and wonderful places, and of course Leave No Trace. All of the hikes are located on Map 141 of the NYNJTC Catskill Trails map set.

Artists Rock



Hike Description: Follow the Escarpment Trail north from the North Lake beach parking area for approximately 0.4 mile. Just before reaching Artists Rock, the trail will pass through an open rock pavement where a mature stand of pitch pine dominates the overstory.

Site Description: There are some indications that this site has been an open rock pavement since the last glaciation and has never been overgrown by hardwood forests. In the past, fire was an influence in maintaining this area as open grove, but over the past centuries fire suppression has changed the plant communities along the northern Escarpment.

This isolated, remnant stand is one of the last remaining examples of the ridgetop pitch pine forests that were once common across much of the area. Pitch pine can also be found at Palenville Overlook, but they are dispersed in a hardwood forest along with red pine.

Unique Ecology: The forests immediately around this grove have a tremendous diversity of conifer species, representing most of the evergreens that grow natively in the region: white pine, red pine, red spruce, balsam fir, hemlock, and tamarack can all be spotted in the surrounding canopy.

Land Management: Managing pitch pine communities in the absence of fire is a challenge for land managers. The proximity of this area to campgrounds and hiking trails would make controlled burns difficult, not to mention managing the impact of the fire to surrounding forests without creating obtrusive fire breaks. Interestingly, the presence of fire rings in the area may indicate that humans have been inadvertently maintaining this open barrens by burning excess fuel and reducing the load of organic matter, combined with erosion and soil dispersion due to foot traffic and overnight camping.

Huckleberry Point



Hike Description: Starting from the parking lot at the top of Platte Clove, follow the Long Path north, turning right at junctions, for 1 mile, then take the yellow trail southeast for 1.4 miles to Huckleberry Point. Just before reaching the overlook at the end of the trail, look for a rough herd path leading north along a small rise to an open stand of pitch pine about 300 feet off the main trail.

Site Description: The site is dominated by a dense stand of pitch pine with an understory of blueberry species, surrounded by mountain laurel with occasional red spruce and hemlock. The pitch pines in the central part of the grove rarely top 15 feet in height and have a thin, twisted stature. Standing deadwood is common in certain areas, creating openings in the canopy that result in increased growth of the understory. The forest floor is thick with pine duff and there are very few areas of open rock pavement or exposed mineral soil.

This mature grove represents a relatively late successional phase for pitch pine, trending towards a closed canopy forest. But without fire to suppress competing species and to provide conditions for new growth, the future of this site is in question. Over

the past 40 years, I've witnessed the surrounding forest encroach and the understory flourish as organic matter builds up in the absence of frequent burns.

Unique Ecology: The spindly, stunted trees in the central grove remind one of the krummholz that grows just below tree line on alpine summits. The same forces of wind and ice may be at play here, along with poor soil conditions and competition among the trees for available sunlight. The small size and density of the trees in this area are remarkable, but pitch pine can also be found growing at full height in the surrounding hardwood forests.

Land Management: Maintaining fire-dependent ecosystems in Wild Forests and Wilderness Areas presents a balancing act. Without intervention, it's inevitable that these remnant communities will be overtaken by the surrounding forests over time. Foresters could maintain active burn plans for these sites, similar to how the Nature Conservancy manages the Albany Pine Bush. While site-wide controlled burns may not be an option for preserving these rare sites, it would be possible to use micro-burns to reduce fuel load and encourage new growth. But, the question of whether this is in keeping with the 'forever wild' ethos is not one that is easily answered. Continued conversation and public input is required to untangle these tricky topics.

Hawkeye



Hike Description: Reaching this site requires off-trail navigation skills and climbing significant elevation on rough terrain. Starting at the Harding Road parking area on Rt 23A in Palenville, follow the Long Path south to Malden Ave. To follow the Long Path to Malden Ave, walk 0.3 miles west on Rt. 23A and across the bridge, leave 23A and pass a barrier onto Malden Ave. The LP trailhead is just east of the Fernwood Restaurant up a dirt road for a few yards to another turn right, which passes above the restaurant. (Note turquoise paint blazes for the LP). Begin the ascent along woods roads, eventually reaching a trail and continuing the climb to the height of land at 2.1 miles. Near the junction with the Poets Ledge trail, travel off-trail in a southerly direction along the Escarpment to reach the pitch pines at Hawkeye.

Site Description: The isolated rock bench at Hawkeye juts out of the surrounding landscape, creating a sharp division between the open rock pitch pine community and the cool, shady hemlock forest below. This ecotone is perhaps one of the most striking aspects of Hawkeye – tree species with vastly different niches occurring side-by-side. Mature trees dominate the canopy in the surrounding forest, growing alongside red spruce and white pine further away from the central barrens. A vast stretch of mountain laurel to the south indicates a history of frequent burns.

This high-quality site represents a classic ridgetop barrens community type, similar in character to the mature forests of the Shawangunks. Extensive open rock areas with significant new growth of pitch pine can be found across the site – saplings of various ages growing out of cracks in the rock pavement cling to a tenuous existence. The survival of these new recruits is perhaps due to the lack of human foot traffic, and is in stark contrast to the site at Artists Rock which exhibits little new growth.

Unique Ecology: The fact that there are no trails leading to this area is perhaps a contributing reason why this site has remained frozen in time, a post-glacial relic surrounded by the boreal and northern hardwood forests more common to the region. But in the not-to-distant past, this site was traversed by a significant Mohawk Indian trail which extended south from the site along the edge of Catskill Amphitheater. Remnants of this trail can still be followed and provide another, more challenging way to reach Hawkeye. It's possible that this area of the Escarpment was actively burned as part of keeping the forest open to ease foot travel along this ancient path.

Land Management: The Hawkeye site has a very old character – the imprint of man is less obvious here than at similar sites that can be easily reached by trails. While there is a fire ring at Hawkeye it is seldom used, and the area isn't littered by the ubiquitous cairns that one finds at quarries and other open rocky sites in the Catskills. If you choose to visit this rare and beautiful place, remember to tread lightly and Leave No Trace.

1. Kudish, Michael, *"The Catskill Forest: A History"*, 2000.



Winter wonderland on Slide; Photo by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, #2814

Winter Hiking with Children in the Catskills

Photo and Text by: Will Soter, #1840 907W

Some may think that they have to hang up their boots once they become parents; that's just not true! There are so many ways you can adventure with your children. In fact, you may just find that sharing moments of discovery with your children is more rewarding than bagging peaks. If you're a hiker with young children, you don't need to give up on your love of the outdoors or put it on hold until they leave the nest. If you're a parent who is new to hiking, there couldn't be a better way to share your new love of adventures and discoveries than getting out into nature with your child! Spending time on the trail offers a vast array of options, from the quick and simple, to adventurous vacations. Your time together on the trails will bring you closer as you share the victories and challenges that the trails bring with each adventure. The challenges your little ones face will also build their resolve and resilience. This will serve them well throughout all aspects of their lives, not just on the trail.

It is important to remember that when hiking with children, the adventure is not about (and should not focus on) the destination but is about the experience and discoveries made along the way. If you promise a summit and can't deliver, your child may begin to associate their experiences outdoors with disappointment, or worse, they may think they just can't do it. You always want to under-promise and over-deliver with a younger audience. This is a helpful hint if you're introducing your grown friends to your passion for hiking as well.

Fun & flexibility! Remember that the fun you have with your child will inspire your young explorers to return for more adventures. It is important to keep your focus on their interests and abilities. My older daughter prefers to hike where she can sit and observe wildlife. She will bring her art supplies and sketch pads. So, when hiking with her, I study the area and create stopping points where the scenery shifts. This may be a viewpoint or a spot at an elevation where the vegetation changes. Stopping at these benchmarks allows her to stay well rested without having to ask for a break (this is important: if a child feels like they have to ask for breaks, then they may become discouraged), but it also provides many unique opportunities for her to discover and learn about the subtle differences along the trail.

My youngest, on the other hand, is all about the adventure. She wants to conquer a challenge and see the cool stuff! When planning an adventure for just her, I can push a little harder on the uphill, as it does not discourage her. However, as you can imagine, planning for both of my daughters to join me requires a little more flexibility. Usually I step in to drive a little more excitement into those breaks, which I cleverly disguise as discoveries. When my oldest gets tired and starts to show signs of slowing, I simply look for something neat to distract her and slow the uphill progress. Sometimes I will say that if we just go a little farther there is a cool spot to stop at. Remember, there is a fine balance between encouraging your child to test their limits and pushing them to their limits.

In thinking of flexibility, you should always have alternative plans when working with kids, and you should be well prepared by studying the bailout points and points of no return along your route. Your bailouts will provide you an alternate plan if the conditions or moods shift. Know where the point of no return is. This is something that will require greater effort to continue in either direction. For example, if we hike beyond a certain mileage we may become committed to a route, because the effort or distance required to turn back or bail out is now greater. It is also nice to have options, so always think things through ahead. As the grownups, it is our responsibility to keep things on track. Just because everyone is doing well after the first 4 miles does not mean they will be ready for another 4. Maybe a 1 mile side trail to another car is all you need for the perfect day.

In the winter it is important to remain extremely flexible with your plans. There are so many variables that can affect your experience on the trail. Heavy wet snow is different than fluffy powdery snow. A dusting is much different than several feet. Ice and downed trees will present unexpected challenges that your map and guide books may not prepare you for. Remaining enthusiastic and cleverly flexible will ensure that your young explorer has a great time no matter how far you wander. Always remember that it's about the experience, not the miles traveled or destinations reached.

Let the little ones lead. Let the children's pace determine yours. Encourage them to study the map with you as you travel. This will help them learn how to use those important tools. Ask them to help track your progress, and ask questions such as: if

we are going there.... which way would we turn? Remember that we want to give them insight and a feeling of control, but we also want to guide the experience to make it more enjoyable. Guide their decisions with your suggestions, and ask questions in a way that helps them feel like they have discovered a new place each time.

If they have specific interests such as birds, flowers, rocks, or animals, bring field guides to break up the rest periods when hiking up steep sections. If it feels like a break, then it may feel like a defeat. If it feels like a discovery, then it no longer matters how many times you have to stop. This is also a great opportunity to begin discussing our roles as stewards. I am sure we all have collected rocks, sea shells, or jars full of lightning bugs as kids. It is important to recognize their instinct to hold on to the things that make them excited. However, we have a responsibility to show them how they can hold on to those moments in a way that allows other hikers to have the same experience they had. Taking photos and creating a scrapbook of your adventures is a really cool way to keep this excitement alive without leaving a trace of your adventure.

Feed, and water them.... DO NOT wait until they are thirsty!!! If we don't create time and provide helpful reminders, it is very common for kids to forget to drink enough. With their lightning fast metabolisms, remember that they will be ridiculously hungry. High-energy whole foods are the best. Always pack additional servings for each person. It is likely the kids will eat theirs even if there is no emergency.

In the winter I generally carry two thermoses on my family adventures. Having hot tasty liquids on demand can be just the thing for keeping those little spirits up. Longer stops may necessitate building a fire or using a cookstove to provide additional heat, hot food or beverages. Keeping their little engines fueled is essential to warding off the cold. Foods higher in natural and healthy fats are what the body will use most effectively to produce heat. Think hot cocoa with half & half instead of milk or water. Yum!!

Dress like an onion. LAYERS!!!!!! It is also very important to monitor your child's body temperature. Children will often ignore temperature extremes and may not call attention to feeling cold the way an adult would. This is especially important if the child is being carried. The child may be cold while you are burning up. Or conversely, you may feel chilled while your child is warm from running around and playing. Look for signs that they are overheating or starting to become uncomfortable from cold. You should never be uncomfortable outdoors. So immediately address discomfort before the problem grows into something serious, such as hypothermia or frostbite. Because children may not understand what the cold is doing to them, it is important to ask questions that require them to describe what they are feeling. For example: "what does it feel like when you wiggle your toes?" We should be keenly listening for responses that could indicate that they have an issue. We should always be prepared to adjust layers or make a quick change of plans. In the winter, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, snow pants, and warm insulated boots are the essential items to have on every adventure. Remember that with the layers, you can adjust up or down based on your activity level. Overheating is a real threat! Sweat equals wet, and that leads to rapid cooling when we are exposed to a breeze or when we reduce our activity. If you keep them comfy, you will keep them safe!

Additionally, always dress children in highly visible clothing. Blaze orange hunting caps are inexpensive and easy to see at a distance. This is important if someone in your group becomes separated.

Winter equipment. What should you bring to help them along the trail? Snowshoes are important if the trail conditions require them. Some lighter children may be fine with just spikes on compacted (broken) trails. But your equipment will dictate how much effort your adventure will require. Since snowshoes require more effort with the best of conditions, it is important to recognize that you may have to lean on your backup or bailout options in these conditions.

I have also brought packable plastic roll-up sleds to increase the pace and fun of winter trips. Always make sure the trail is clear and safe for the sled before launching your little one down the hill. This is a really exciting way to speed things along in tough conditions.

Trekking or ski poles help your little explorer if you are on snowshoes, as that extra balance will help them save effort. It is a great idea to practice snowshoeing around your yard or local park before tackling the mountains. Remember, if we promise the summit and fall painfully short, we are not likely to inspire a passion for the trail.



Pick a good one. Choose a trail with points of interest, such as waterfalls, historic sites, streams or lakes. It doesn't necessarily have to be a summit, especially if you or your child are new to hiking. Create moments for them to discover along the way. I remember hiking as a young boy with my older cousin. He would always tell me these great tales of the Native Americans that had settled the land, or stories of Revolutionary War battles. I would spend countless hours searching for arrowheads or musket balls, while he scouted for new hunting spots or enjoyed a little fishing in a trout stream. Remember, they will be looking at your response when they are deciding how cool their discovery really is. My cousin always had a big grin and a super enthusiastic "Wow! Look at that" for me. When starting out, it is also wise to choose a place close to home. This way your children don't get restless on the long drive.

Make a plan. When selecting your route, don't just look at the elevation and the distance. Look for points of interest, but also look for information about the conditions, and learn how to calculate your average pace. A general rule of thumb is kids will start around ½ -1 mph. Don't forget to add bathroom breaks, snacks, and the all-important moments of discovery that will form the basis of their memories, and hopefully their love for all things outdoors. Have backups, but also know when you should turn around. A watch is a great tool to have. Another helpful method for tracking time is to set alarms on your watch or the phone. This will help you ensure that darkness does not ruin your adventure, or your child's growing love of the outdoors.

Make it fun!!! Teach them about the trail, its cultural and natural history, or how to identify the flora and fauna. Make games or songs to explain trail etiquette. Teach them the signs of changing weather, show them how you use a compass and read a map, and give them their own to follow along. Mythology and folklore are great ways to stimulate the imaginations of your little explorers.

Safety. Give each of your kids a small pack (5-20L, depending on age) with a healthy snack in it, as well as a kid-sized water bottle. If they are old enough to carry their own jacket in the pack, make sure their pack is large enough to accommodate it. EVERYONE should have a safety whistle attached to their pack, and they should know that 3 long blasts on the whistle is the signal for help (If the kids don't have their own pack, attach the whistle to a belt loop or zipper handle.) When planning your trip, review the plan with the kids. A great resource is the [HikeSafe](#) program. This outlines essential items and steps for every adventure you take, big or small. Always review with the kids for each hike: your emergency plan and what to do if they become separated from the group. Following this step each and every time will ensure that they know to stay put and blow their whistles in 3 sharp bursts.

Where do you start? If you have never explored with your child before, the winter is no time to wander far from the comforts and safety of home. A local park, or even the backyard, make great introductions, as long as we provide the right equipment and present the right challenge. These close to home locations allow us to learn our child's capacities and help them understand what they are embarking on. We can now better prepare to introduce them to larger trips, and we can feel confident in our ability to anticipate their needs. Planning, Practice, and Preparation are key elements to the success of any adventure. They are particularly important when we are helping our little ones discover their passion for the outdoors.

Once you feel ready to explore beyond your known world, it is helpful to enlist the assistance of other knowledgeable and experienced hikers. This is where hiking clubs and forums begin to play a role, as they are great resources for finding the support you need to get started on the trails. The 3500 Club offers hikes each weekend. The schedule and the trip descriptions can be found in the Canister and on the [Club's website](#). If you are not certain whether the hike is suitable for your family, the hike leader's contact info is listed with each event. Groups like the Catskill Mountain Club offer a different experience that may prove less challenging than tackling a Catskill high peak. No matter which group you choose, it is important that you clearly explain your group's experience and abilities to the hiker leader. This will help the leader plan better, and they can also let you know if the type of hike they are leading to that destination is suitable. Sometimes a destination may be suitable, but the group or pace might not be. This is important as a group should not split up once they have started their adventure (unless an emergency requires you to do so).

Each child takes to the forest in their own way. My eldest will often say "let's go fishing," and she couldn't care less if we catch anything. She simply prefers the beautiful scenery we find along the streams and reservoirs here in the Catskills, and she knows that I will stop every so often to try to convince some fish to join us topside. My youngest, on the other hand, is ready for an adventure wherever it may be, even if it is at the top of a sheer cliff! Taking the time to make sure that the adventure suits the children will ensure your success.

What trail would be good to start on? Rail Trails and nature trails such as the one at the Kenneth Wilson State Park or the Perimeter Trail at the Catskill Interpretive Center are great beginner trails. Trails such as Trout Pond, Mud Pond, Onteora Lake, and Frick Pond provide greater room to explore a little farther. When you feel ready to push uphill a bit more, the firetower trails offer great bang for your buck. Red Hill, Balsam Lake Mountain and Overlook present great rewards for the effort it will take.

When you are ready to start tackling the higher peaks, remember those earlier adventures and that need to be flexible. Instead of saying we are going to hike to such and such mountain, say we are going to hike on this trail. The total elevation of a peak does not always correspond to its difficulty. Look at things like the starting elevation, type of trail (was it an old road?), and current conditions. Balsam Lake Mountain, Hunter, Slide, and Windham are some of my favorites to hike with children. They each provide their own challenges and opportunities for adventure and discovery. Wherever you choose to explore, remember to keep it fun, and to keep them safe.

Happy Trails!

Editor's note: another great resource on the topic of tips for hiking with kids was published a few years back in the [Catskill Mountain Region Guide](#) (page 18, by Laurie Rankin)



Approaching Camels Hump; Photo by Lou Berrios, #2806

Beyond the List: What Comes After 35?

Photo and text by Michelle Idler-Lutz, #3000

I love lists. At any given time I have no less than a dozen lists tacked to my refrigerator, pinned to the bulletin board of my home office, or saved in my phone. There are grocery lists and to-do lists (confession: I have never actually finished the contents of a to-do list) and lists of books that I may never get a chance to read but would like to all the same. So it's no real surprise to me that when I learned of a list of mountains that were often climbed as part of a challenge, I was instantly drawn to the idea of finishing the list.

But setting aside my inability to fully commit to anything, there were two glaring obstacles standing between me and the list: bushwhacking, and winter hiking. Despite logging thousands of trail miles, before starting the 3500 challenge I'd never intentionally bushwhacked and my hiking season ended when I could no longer make do with just microspikes on trail. As I began to network in the hiking community and to make new friends who graciously volunteered to show me the way, new doors opened for me and it looked like I might actually pull it off.

And then...I did it. I summited Kaaterskill as my 39th peak, surrounded by great friends and all of a sudden it was over. This incredible journey that shaped me as a hiker and as an individual was over, just like that.

Needless to say, my love of a good existential crisis rivals my love of a good list but nonetheless I found myself at a crossroads: this list had fostered such a love of the mountains but now without a goal I faced a real lack of direction. There are other lists to work my way through (I've been chipping away at the NE115) but shifting paces seemed to me like abandonment of the range that had treated me so well these past three years.

After some reflection I thought about how much I gained on the road to 35 but also about how much I missed in the name of finishing. Given a painfully long drive, I hiked for efficiency. I grouped together mountains and planned my route to get the most "bang for my buck" but that often meant a less scenic approach or overlooking many of the plane crashes that somberly landmark the woods. I skipped detours (sometimes just a mile or two out of the way) in favor of summiting an extra peak.

Maybe the secret to fulfillment after 35 isn't hiking with purpose, but the freedom to hike without. Well...after my winter round.



View from Giant Ledge at sunrise

5th Annual Lighting of the Fire Tower Event

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

The 5th Annual Lighting of the Fire Tower Event took place this year on September 1st. As with all happenings at the 5 restored Catskill fire towers, the weather was in charge. In other words, this years lighting event was visible only to the volunteers in the fire tower cabs due to dense fog. If you stepped to the base of the tower, you could see a bit through the fog. Though only Hunter and Balsam Lake are over 3500 feet in elevation, all 5 summits and thus the towers were covered in dense fog.

The Lighting of the Fire Tower Event was developed from a suggestion by Red Hill Fire Tower Chair, Doug Hamilton #1519/738W. Doug's thought was to light the 5 fire towers at a set time on a set weekend and invite the public who could not hike to a fire tower to look up, see the unusual light on the mountaintop and recall why that tower was there. Fire Tower history is important to remember; common questions the volunteers who have staffed the fire towers are asked: *Why is the tower here? We don't have fires here do we?* Let's turn back the clock in the Catskills to the 1800's and early 1900's and see what the Catskills looked like.

If you were to survey the area from a mountaintop in the mid 1800's you would see a very different landscape. The tanning industry had come to the Catskills. The tanning process required the bark of hemlock trees. Massive hemlock trees covered the slopes of the Catskill mountains and were being felled for tanning. Needing only the bark, the trees and limbs were left on the forest floor. Agriculture was a significant part of Catskill life and many acres of land were cleared for this purpose. Often, the mountainsides were barren of standing trees nearly to the summits.

Meanwhile in the Catskill valleys, the homes and businesses were heated with firewood, people traveled by rail, and many individuals were smokers. Businesses included logging, quarrying, and the charcoal industry. Trains were powered by coal which threw cinders in the air through their stacks, and sparks flew off the wheels as they traveled the rails. Organized ways to extinguish fires, if they existed at all, were in their infancy. Communication was crude at best. In the early 1900's telephones were coming into use, but lines were difficult to maintain and were shared by several parties. Add to all of these factors, the weather. Drought and winds were not uncommon events. When fires occurred, they were often quite catastrophic.

In 1885, creation of the Catskill Forest Preserve began to change the trend. This included Article 14, commonly known as the Forever Wild Clause: "The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed."

In 1887 the first fire tower in NYS was placed on the summit of Balsam Lake Mountain (BLM) so that the Balsam Lake Club could protect the private lands which surrounded their private lake. The tower which was made of wood and had an open platform on the top was quite different from what you see today. A man was paid to stay at the tower and watch for fires. Once spotted, he was to report his findings at once. Unfortunately, the tower was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. But other landowners were also putting up these tower structures to protect their lands. NYS began to erect steel towers on mountaintops, including the current steel towers on Hunter (1917), Tremper (1917), Balsam Lake (1919), Red Hill (1920) and Overlook (1927, moved to current location from Gallis Hill in 1950).

As Fire Tower Observers staffed the tower, they were able to provide early detection of fires and communicate their location to Forest Rangers. Forest Rangers were then able to organize fire fighters and equipment and fires were put out quickly. The fire towers and the persons who staffed them were important to the local communities that they watched over, providing much needed protection from fire. As communications improved, logging practices changed, airplanes took to the skies, and outdoor recreationists, including hikers changed their practices, fires diminished. The Forever Wild Forests as well as forests on private lands were able to regenerate into lush, green, and humid forests.

Many other changes have occurred that led to the State of New York deciding to discontinue the use of the towers for fire spotting purposes. This purpose was phased out through the 1970's and 80's and the towers and Observer's cabins that remained in the Catskill park met varying demises. Some were removed, some were sold, and some were left standing, but abandoned.

In the late 1990's grassroots organizations sprang up in the communities near fire towers asking the NYSDEC to consider letting them save the towers. The towers, a part of the local communities history were also wonderful hiking destinations. While the DEC had no funds for same, permission was given to restore the towers if the groups could raise enough funds for repairs. The groups rose to the occasion, raised the funds, and the volunteers needed to carry out the repairs. By 2000 all 5 Catskill Fire Towers were reopened. Staffed entirely by volunteers and maintained by those same volunteers, the towers continue to be open to the hiking public on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day to Columbus day from 10am to 4pm. They not only provide information to hikers about the history of the towers, but also the surrounding forests and best practices to continue to protect them such as [hikeSafe](#) and [LNT](#) information.

On the Saturday of Labor Day weekend 2019, we invite you to look up to the mountaintops at 9:00 pm. We hope the weather will allow you to see a light, a light that will remind you of the history of those who served to protect our beloved Catskill Mountains from the historic fire towers.

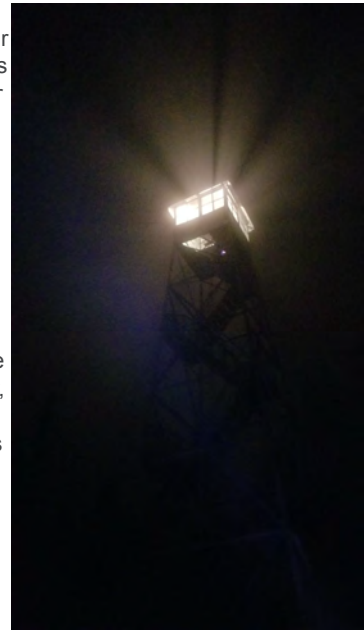


Photo by Balsam Lake Illuminator Jeremy Preston #2281 W1024.

Goose in the Spruce: A Fowl Out on West Kill

By Jake Haisley, #2488 W1065

Typically my hikes in the Catskills do not involve unarmed confrontations with wild geese. One exception was a recent hike up West Kill Mountain with Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond. On an overcast Sunday in late October, we set off from the end of Spruceton Road for a quick dayhike, hitting the Devil's Path at Diamond Notch Falls and heading up from there. At around 2800 feet I encountered my first ice of the season, and as we passed the 3000 foot line, coatings of ice appeared on the tree branches – the product of the nor'easter that had come up the coast the day before. It was one of those days with no rain in the forecast, but plenty of precipitation on our heads thanks to the rapid melting of ice from branches as temperatures hovered in the 40s.

At around 3200 feet a small wild goose waddled into view on the trail ahead of us. "It's the brant," Yana enthused. "The what?" "People have been talking about it all week! It must have flown into the mountain and can't take off again." I've spent enough time in the Catskills to know which animals belong and which don't, and this waterfowl clearly had no business up here. Yana explained that Kenneth Posner had shared pictures of the goose on Facebook five days ago. A wildlife rehabber had suggested taking it off the mountain and bringing it to rehab, an absurd prospect, I thought, because who catches a wild animal in the Catskills with their bare hands? "We should rescue it," I said, but really meant: "I'm sure we can't catch this thing, but wouldn't it be fun to try?"

Looking forward to the summit, Yana was less than enthusiastic about catching the goose right there and then, as it wouldn't make sense to take it farther *up* the mountain. But unsure if we'd see it again on the way down, I took off my pack and started chasing it. The wary goose veered off the trail to get away from me, hopping along the icy floor of the mixed birch and balsam forest, and taking flight when I finally got too close. It was quick and feisty, but not as elusive as you'd expect from a wild bird in the woods. After twice coming within a foot of getting my hands on it, I knew it wouldn't stand a chance against a savvy predator. Nonetheless, I needed a second pair of hands, and Yana wanted to wait until the descent, so I put on my pack and we kept hiking.

Healthy brants are not native residents of the Catskill forests, but they're no strangers to the skies above. A migratory coastal goose rarely exceeding 4 pounds, the brant spends its summer in the arctic regions of Canada before flying south along the Hudson Bay en route to its winter habitat on the shores of Southern New England and the Mid-Atlantic states, where they feed on eel grass and sea lettuce. One common migratory route brings the brant over central New York, the Western Catskills and along the Delaware valley to the coast. They can fly at altitudes of several thousand feet, out of sight for most viewers, but no higher than the high peaks of the Catskills.

In unfavorable conditions with wind and poor visibility, it's not hard to imagine how a brant could fly into the mountain and get stuck in the woods. Indeed, our West Kill goose was not the only brant stranded in the Catskills during the late October migration. A Facebook commenter noted another brant stuck on Giant Ledge at the same time. And Jim Bouton described encountering a whole flock of brants stranded on the col between Graham and Doubletop during the spring migration in 2011.

Like Canada geese, brants require a clear and level 'runway' to take off. They are not agile fliers like grouse, and they cannot fly straight up into the air. Put them in the woods, and it's unlikely they can build the forward momentum to get off the ground without eventually hitting trees. A brant in the deep mountain woods is helpless, with no eel-grass to be found and an array of predators, both mammalian and avian, who would find them an easy snack. The birds that Jim encountered in 2011 were already weak and easily brought in by his Labrador retriever. Despite having been in the woods for at least 5 days, our West Kill goose still had some fight left, but without help getting down, he wouldn't be alive for long.

After a respite from the dripping tree ice on the open ledges beneath the West Kill summit, Yana and I headed back down, eager to return to the spot where we'd met the goose and hoping that he'd still be there. Needing to regain some body heat, I moved quickly. We found him once again in the middle of the trail above a small band of ledges, 100 feet up the trail from the spot of the previous encounter. I immediately dropped my pack and poles, and this time Yana was happy to do the same. With two sets of hands, the task became much easier.

Once again, I pursued the brant into the woods, corralling him between tree trunks and low hanging limbs. The idea was to get him turned around and then chase him towards Yana, who was crouching on the trail with catlike zeal. Eventually I got him back on the trail, but he was too close to the ledge, and I had to sneak around below to cut off the easy escape route. I rushed him again, and he took flight once more, flying straight towards Yana, who reached up with bare hands to try to grab him. She couldn't catch him, but she did knock him off course and into the boughs of a small balsam fir tree. As I ran back up the trail, Yana dove into the tree, wrapping her hands around the goose as he fought to break free and come out the other side. Yana was flat on the ground, face down in the middle of a fir tree, her outstretched hands with a tenuous grasp on the struggling goose. Had I had my camera with me that day, I might not have been able to resist a fantastic photo opportunity. As it was, I walked around the tree and picked him up firmly in my hands.



Catching a goose on top of a mountain is one thing; carrying him down 1200 feet on the icy Devil's Path is quite another. After securing the goose, we wrapped him up in the rain liner of Yana's backpack so that he couldn't use his wings to break free. I volunteered to carry him the rest of the way, and Yana carried my hiking poles. For the rest of the hike, I had no use of my arms to balance myself or hold onto roots or rocks as we made our way towards Diamond Notch Falls. Passing through the ledges, each step had to be a smart one.

After a brief discussion, we named the goose 'Mookie Schmaltz' after Red Sox right fielder Mookie Betts (who would homer in World Series Game 5 that night) and the Yiddish term for clarified poultry fat. Mookie Schmaltz periodically pecked at my goretex and bared his goose teeth at me, but I held him snugly to my chest with both hands. Over time I could feel his rapid heartbeat begin to slow down.

The next step was finding a wildlife rehabber who could take a look at Mookie, make sure he was healthy, and get him back on his migratory journey to the coast. The *other* next step was enjoying some delicious beer and snacks from West Kill Brewery, which sits directly across Spruceton road from the base of West Kill Mountain. Fortunately, the folks at the brewery were more than accommodating on both fronts. The bartender found a box and some water for Mookie, and owner Mike Barcone knew who to call. It turns out there's a fantastic wildlife rehab center on 23A about ten miles away. While we enjoyed glasses of Rusk Sour Blonde and the Sticky Situation Belgian Dubbel, Mike contacted Barbara "Missy" Runyan at Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center in Lexington, who agreed to meet us and take Mookie off our hands.

[The Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center](#) is a not-for profit rehab organization that runs on volunteer work and donations. Headed by Missy Runyan, a licensed animal rehabilitator, the center receives injured and orphaned animals from all over the region. Missy has plentiful experience working with all the Catskills' usual suspects: black bears, bald eagles, foxes, owls, fishers, and yes, even the occasional goose. Missy told us what would come next for Mookie. First, an x-ray to determine if there were any broken bones. Then a period of rehab to recover strength and heal from any injuries. And finally, a release along the Hudson River in Kingston to resume migration, either southbound in the fall or northbound in the spring.

Several days later, Missy informed us that Mookie had a broken ulna but was eating well and otherwise in good shape. Knowing her excellent track record in helping birds recover from broken wings, we're hopeful that Mookie will heal quickly and be able to return to the wild soon. If possible, I'm hoping to make the short walk from my apartment in Kingston to the mouth of the Rondout Creek and watch his release. Hopefully, next time he passes through the Catskill mountains he'll fly a little higher than 3200 feet!



Photo of Jake and Mookie immediately after the rescue by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond; photo of Mookie following his arrival at the FFFWC is courtesy of Missy Runyan.



View from the Buck Ridge on Westkill on a late December afternoon. Photo by Phil Blair

CONSERVATION CORNER

By: Carol White, Conservation Chair



A draft Unit Management Plan (UMP) for Sundown Wild Forest and Vernooey Kill State Forest has been recently received by the club. The draft UMP can be viewed on the [DEC site](#). The following comments by the Catskill 3500 Club regarding the UMP were provided to the DEC on Nov 17, 2018:

Board members discussed aspects of this plan at the November 10, 2018 board meeting:

1. Ashokan High Point loop trail re-reroute: We approve construction of a new lean-to in the upper Norway spruce plantation on the Ashokan High Point Trail. The DEC's first re-route proposal of the loop trail, to bring the hiker back to

the proposed lean-to area instead of close to the trail's beginning, seems preferable.

2. Long Path Re-route: Contingent on whether Lundy Road is closed to public use: This road is a dead end road with state land on both sides, with virtually no traffic. A Catskill 3500 Club officer notes: "The road is a pleasure to walk along a creek. While getting trails off roads is ideal, attention to the specific character of a road with a "case by case" approach is best; it also helps volunteer or DEC groups prioritize and triage trail building needs. In this case, the road may be the best place for this section of the Long Path." We're glad to see that the LP section from Bangle Hill to County Route 42 will be re-routed/switch-backed. We note interesting forest on the east side of this section of trail, where some re-routing would be feasible and desirable.
 3. Regarding the Blue Hole: We leave decision-making to the DEC experts. A Catskill 3500 Club board member asks, "How would these proposals impact the parking space for Peekamoose Mountain, if at all?" The Catskill 3500 Club maintains this trail to Table Mountain summit (and the trail to Table Mountain from Denning). This parking area on County Route 42 has, no doubt, been previously impacted by Blue Hole visitors, so your recommendations dealing with areas east of the Blue Hole can help."
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TRAIL MAINTENANCE UPDATE



By: Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair

This past summer I was invited by Heather Rolland, the 3500 Club President, to join the Club Board as the Trail Maintenance Chair. For the last four years, David Bunde has served in that position and performed a remarkable job establishing relationships and building a solid volunteer crew. I had the privilege to join David as he led a group of dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers for the 3500 Club Fall Trail Maintenance and Adopt-a-Highway events.

David's passion and love for the mountains was palpable. I knew right away that I had big boots to fill. David was kind and quick to assure me: "You have a great group of volunteers. They are reliable." August 27th was a perfect day for trail maintenance. With the temperatures in the 60s, our group of 14 volunteers split at each end of the Peekamoose -Table Trail. David led from the Peekamoose Trailhead, while I came from the Denning end. Promptly at 9am, we took our tools and hit the trail. Immediately I felt the strong passion and energy of the group. We talked about our hiking experiences and hiking goals while we trimmed brush, clipped branches and removed recent blow down. I felt like Snow White with seven amazing helpers.

As we neared Peekamoose, we wondered which crew would reach the lunch spot first? But the timing was perfect. Both groups reached the viewpoint near the Peekamoose summit at almost the same time! It was a great feeling of accomplishment and a pleasure to share lunch and our maintenance findings with fellow club members while enjoying a Five Star view of the Cats.

A week later, we met for the Adopt-a-Highway event. The volunteer turnout was great. Several bags of trash and yes, a mattress, were collected. At the end, we had an opportunity to thank David for his selfless contribution to the 3500 Club. On your next Catskill hike, take a moment to admire the bridges you cross, the stone staircases you ascend, the lean-tos you spend the night in, and the cleared trails that take you to their summits. Much of this is the work of our 3500 Club Volunteers. If you really want to show your appreciation for the Catskills, consider giving your time to preserving trails for posterity. Make a New Year's Resolution to join the 3500 Club Spring Maintenance events and give back to the trails that give us so much. Our eternal gratitude goes out to David Bunde and we wish him all the best with the SAR team. And a big thank you to all the volunteers, for your hard work and kindness. You're a true inspiration.

Buen camino,
Lourdes



A group photo of the Adopt-a-Highway Club volunteers (Tracy Baglivio, Tim Bender, David Bunde, Mel Cooksey, Steve Emanuel, Marv Freedman, Peter Greweling, Tonda Highley, Nancy Hilsenbeck, Miyon Lee, Larry Leslie, Tom Martone, Yong Ae Mohs, Marguerite Munch-Weber, Wayne Ouderkirck, Harold Oakhill, Kathy Pacuk, Mike Relic, TJ Robinson, Thom Robinson, Laura Sanford, Lourdes Sonera, Miyon Sung, Rick Taylor). Photo by Lourdes Sonera.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

By: Jim Bouton, Stewardship Committee Chair



As some of you are noticing, the trailless peak canisters are starting to change color, not due to seasonal change but because we have a new Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA) with the NYSDEC to maintain the canisters on the trail less peaks. The previous VSA required the canisters to be painted earth tone; gray was the color chosen back in 1999 when the first VSA was signed, with Harry Rampe as maintainer, enabling the Catskills to keep their canisters (the ADKs lost theirs at that time). Canisters in Region 4 remained red until 5 or 6 years ago, when they were all changed to gray. Another stipulation of the VSA called for the books to be tallied and a report be sent to the DEC every year with the results, including monthly visits to each of the 13 canistered peaks, a yearly total, and a list of hours put in by the volunteer steward.



Since 2008, when I took over from Scott Lane, I have been collecting and changing books, repairing, painting, replacing missing or damaged canisters, and reading and counting each and every entry, which at times can be a real chore. Many of your sign-ins are works of art, but more seem to be illegible grouse scratching, which I attribute to the difficulty of finding the canister, the signer being too exhausted to sign in a normal fashion.

In 2008 I tallied around 2100 signatures, averaging 160 yearly visits to each peak; this has grown every year to a high of 8907 in 2016, with 685 visits per peak. Documented volunteer time has also risen, with many more hours actually invested. It's a labor of love; I enjoy it.

Last year, 2017, saw a slight drop in usage. The summits seemed cleaner, no new fire rings or cutting, and cairn building and flagging was less frequently found and removed. For the first time I did not brush over herd paths as in previous years. January was the most popular month to hike the canister peaks, with March seeing the fewest visits, most likely because of the deep snows we had last year. Usually the 3 winter months see the highest usage. The summer months are the time to go if you are looking for solitude; the nettles keep many at bay. SW Hunter again is the most popular, thanks to the rail bed being illegally cut out several years ago. It's hard to believe it was once the hardest canister to find. Big Indian runs a close second, being near a major trail. Lonely Halcott was the least visited last year. North Dome only saw 19 people in June, but there were years when over a month would go by without any one going to this peak.

Herd paths are here to stay. Herd path development was first documented when usage rose to 250 yearly visits per peak, less than ten extra monthly trips. With the increased usage, GPS tracks putting people in the same path time after time, the internet and even micro spikes slowly eroding the steeper sections, it was going to happen. However, we can help keep these peaks as pristine as possible so others may enjoy them by following a few simple practices: don't hike in large groups; the DEC and the 3500 Club recommend keeping groups down to 12. When conditions are wet or muddy, avoid these areas or go in a smaller group of 2 or 3. Try eating or resting away from the canister; there are view points within a few steps of many of these. Do your business before or after leaving the summit area, this goes for your pet also. And of course don't camp, or build fires above 3500 feet or better yet, anywhere in the boreal zone. While the boreal zone may be at a lesser elevation, it is a much more fragile area and may take years to recover. Don't blaze, cut, flag or build cairns to "help" others find their way; let them experience the same frustrations and sense of accomplishment you had felt when you first found the canister.

And please sign the canister with some identifier that the DEC can use to contact you in case of an emergency. The cans are always checked by rangers in the case of a missing or an overdue hiker if they were or had planned on going to one of the trailless peaks. Information you have may help to save a life. Your Catskill 3500 Club number works, we do not give this out except in such an emergency and only to the agency running the search.

Feel free to leave a short, legible note along with your sign in with any comments about what you saw, experienced or felt about your trip to the canister, I read them all and appreciate hearing about your journey.

Enjoy, Respect.

Photo by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, #2814

Advice for the guide?

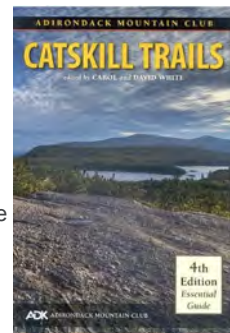
By: Tom Rankin #1503 W627 – Past President of the 3500 Club

I was honored when Dave and Carol White asked me if I would like to take over editing the ADK's 'Catskill Trails' guide book. After some hemming and hawing, the contract was signed, and I started the daunting task of hiking all the Catskill trails. Laurie and I have climbed all the 35'R peaks many times, but there are still a lot of trails we've never been on. I can already say we've been to some interesting places! I've already 'discovered' a few new trails and bridges that were recently created.

As far as updating goes, I'm going to add Winter accessibility to each section. I've also noticed a few items that need to be modernized. (e.g. does anyone still use instep crampons?) And then there's all the new summit elevations!

Right now, the plan is to have the new (5th) edition out in mid 2020. If you have any feedback or suggestions on the guide, let me know. I am also soliciting pictures. I'd especially like to have some fire tower shots. Thanks, and maybe we'll see you out there!

You can contact Tom at tomrankin7@gmail.com





Spruceton Valley from Rusk; Photo by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, #2814

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER ANNOUNCEMENT

Mike Doehring, Annual Dinner Chair



Members and aspirants are cordially invited to attend the upcoming 54th annual dinner, to be held at the Chateau in Kingston, NY, on April 13th, 2019.

Please **RSVP by March 25, 2019** by mailing the invitation form to Mike at the address provided. The invitation will print best if [downloaded](#) directly from the club site.

Club related merchandise will again be available for purchase and Joe of Dorohovech Designs will be back with his trail signs (new this year: summit signs!).

We are considering having a video done of the annual meeting (mainly the awarding of certificates, etc.) It was discussed at our November Executive Meeting. But we **need** someone to be in charge of the project, to work with the videographer, etc. Interested? Get in touch with Mike Doehring at tigermath@aol.com

Jeremy Apgar will be this dinner's featured speaker and he will be presenting: "Trail Maps in the Catskills, Then & Now." Jeremy Apgar has been the cartographer for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference for more than 10 years, creating maps to assist with all aspects of building, maintaining, and educating people about trails. His first Catskill High Peak hike, with an ascent up Blackhead Mountain's northeast slope, remains one of his favorite hikes. The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is known in part for their high-quality trail maps. You will learn about the history of trail mapping in the Catskills over the past 100+ years and how the Trail Conference's latest edition of their Catskill Trails map set was produced.

Members and aspirants are cordially invited to attend the
FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
Saturday, April 13, 2019

Location:
 LOCATION: THE CHATEAU
 RT 32
 KINGSTON, NY 12401 (845) 331-4386

SOCIAL HOUR: 3:30-5:00 PM
 CASH BAR, HORS D'OEUVRES SERVED
DINNER 5:15 PM

GUEST SPEAKER: The speaker for this year's dinner is Jeremy Apgar of NY-NJ Trail Conference, and he will be presenting "Trail Maps in the Catskills, Then & Now".



Please detach and mail to:
 Michael Doehring
 7 Cloverdale Avenue
 White Plains, NY 10603
 tigermath@aol.com (preferred)

Reservations: \$45.00 per person
 Amount of check: \$ _____
 Checks made payable to "The Chateau" but
 mailed to Michael Doehring

Please Circle Choice of Entrée

Name: _____ Prime Ribs Chicken Française Mixed Veg. Lasagna
 Reg# _____ Winter# _____

Name: _____ Prime Ribs Chicken Française Mixed Veg. Lasagna
 Reg# _____ Winter# _____

If you intend to sit with a large group, print the names of the people you would like seated at your table, and please verify that they plan to attend and wish to sit with you.

SPACE IS LIMITED SO RESERVE EARLY—CHECKS WILL BE DEPOSITED AFTER THE DINNER—THERE IS NO VALET PARKING.

PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE _____

DEADLINE IS MARCH 25, 2019



Ice on Slide. Photo by Jake Haisley, #2488 W1065

IN MEMORIAM

Edwin C Faber Jr., of Rhinebeck, NY, passed away September 6, 2018 at the age of 86. He was member #834.

Austin Patrone, of Andes, NY passed away on October 12, 2018 in his home. He was member #2463. His sister, Angela Patrone Grano, wrote: "Austin enjoyed living in the mountains of Andes and loved every bit of nature... animals, birds, growing herbs and vegetables. He especially enjoyed hiking and climbing. Austin enjoyed photography as well and captured many beautiful objects.. human, animal, rock, mountain... he always had his camera with him." His good friend, Richard Johnson #1972 recalls: "We did most of the trailless 3500's together. He loved the Catskills and bought a house here so he could immerse himself in the geography, history and ecology of this beautiful place. He told me he wanted to come up from the city one last time; he knew his time was short and wanted to be in his beloved mountains when the time came. He had traveled the world with his wife Sumiko and loved seeing new things and experiencing different cultures, but he was happiest here in the Catskills. May your future journeys go smoothly and gratifyingly, my friend."

John Alden Davison, of Bainbridge Island, WA, passed away on November 15, 2017 at the age of 100. He was member #75 and an active leader in the AMC. His wife, Jane, reports that Dr. Davison traveled widely in South America and Europe and spoke and read in many languages. He was a lifetime member of the American Chemical Society.

Father Ray Donahue passed away shortly before this newsletter went to print. He was charter member #23 and winter #1, and served as the President of the 3500 Club (1969-1970), as well as the Chair of Conservation through 1994. Mary Sive, #595 W234, recalled Father Ray as being an inspiration to many. His obituary read: "As a renowned mountain climber, Father Donahue passed on his love for the mountains to many other people. In 1969, he climbed all forty-six peaks in the Adirondacks over 4,000 feet in elevation in nine days, a record that stood for many years." More complete information and remembrances will be published next quarter. The Club welcomes comments and memory submissions from the members. Please send your recollections of Father Ray Donahue to [the editor](#).

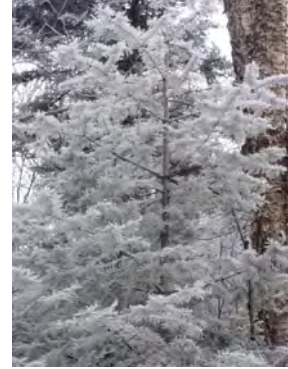
Rambles and Brambles

Hike Schedule

January - March 2019

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 3 basic principles:

1. Follow the rule
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.

Not all parking areas are open in winter, and of those that are, not all are plowed in a timely manner. Always have a shovel in your car and consult [this list](#) for winter parking guidelines.

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 winter kit. Ice and snow can come early and unexpectedly to these peaks. **Each hiker must 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. **Winter in the Catskills is not to be treated lightly.**

Please wear snowshoes to avoid postholing; they are helpful as snow deepens in the higher reaches, and it leaves the trail in good shape for those following you.

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.

Photo by: Sue Hall, #2460 W1091



Unbroken Spruceton trail to Hunter; Photo by Stash Rusin, #2829

Sat. Jan. 5 - TWIN & INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 8.4 mi. Ascent: 2760', Elevs: 3640', 3573'

Moderately quick-paced trail hike.

Registration period: Dec. 30 - Jan. 4

Leader: Mike Stallbohm #1826

mstall0128@gmail.com



Sat. Jan. 5 - PLATEAU

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1867', Elev: 3840'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Dec. 26 - Jan. 3

Leader: Steve Welgoss #2709

yankeepride20@gmail.com

Sat. Jan. 5 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 7+ mi. Ascent: 1755', Elev: 3655'

Moderate pace & 2 plane crash sites.

Open Registration

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com



Sat. Jan. 5 - FIR & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2678', Elevs: 3620', 3700'

Strenuous paced hike.

Registration Period: by Jan. 3

Leader: Timothy Watters #268

twatters@wattersfinancial.com

Sun. Jan. 6 - THOMAS COLE

Distance: 5.8 mi. Ascent: 2148', Elev: 3940'

Moderately paced out and back trail hike.

Registration Period: Dec. 30 - Jan. 5

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Fri. Jan. 11 - PEEKAMOOSE (Weekday)

Distance: 8.5 mi. Ascent 2450', Elev: 3843'

A relaxed pace trail hike.

Registration Period: Jan. 6 - 10

Leader: Moe Lemire #2921

chanelzee@gmail.com



Sat. Jan. 12 - SUGARLOAF

Distance: 7.3 mi. Ascent: 2300', Elev: 3800'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Jan. 5 - 10

Leader: Steve Welgoss #2709

yankeepride20@gmail.com



Sat. Jan. 12 - DOUBLETOP

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3860'

Moderately paced bushwhack hike.

Registration Period: Jan. 7 -11

Leaders: Doug Garrity, #1757,

Suzanne Garrity #1968

garrid0@lycos.com

Sat. Jan. 19 - WITTENBERG & CORNELL

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2841', Elevs: 3780', 3860'

Strenuous paced hike. Winter gear required.

Registration Period: by Jan. 17

Leader: Timothy Watters #268

twatters@wattersfinancial.com

Sat. Jan. 19 - TWIN & INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 8.55 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3640', 3573'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Jan. 5 - 10

Leader: Steve Welgoss #2709

yankeepride20@gmail.com



Sat. Jan. 19 - HALCOTT & SLEEPING LION

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2235', Elevs: 3537', 3408'

Moderately quick-paced bushwhack.

Registration Period: Jan 14 - 18

Leader: Neil Berenhoolz #2443

neilberenholtz@gmail.com

Sun. Jan. 20 - BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 6.1 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3980', 3940'

Moderately paced trail hike, with car shuttle

Registration Period: Jan. 11 - 18

Leaders: Joe Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com



Sat. Jan. 26 - SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU (WW)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elevs: 3800', 3840'

Moderately quick-paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Jan. 14 - 25

Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. Jan. 26 - BLACKHEAD (WW)

Distance: 5.4 mi. Ascent: 1740', Elev: 3940'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Inclement weather will cancel.

Registration Period: Jan. 17 - 23

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

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

Sat. Jan. 26 - WEST KILL & ST ANNE'S (WW)

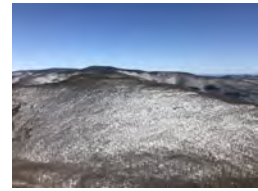
Distance: 8.7 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevs: 3880', 3040'

Moderately paced trail hike. Shuttle Needed.

Registration Period: Jan.. 18 - 25
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997
michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. Jan. 26 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL (WW)

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent 2600', Elevs: 3610', 3540'
Bushwhack & trail hike at a moderate pace.
Registration: open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com



Sun. Jan. 27 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK (WW)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent:1800', Elev: 3524'
Moderately quick-paced trail hike.
Registration Period: Jan. 14 - 25
Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925
david@dgbdesign.com

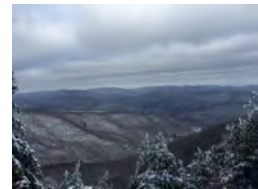


Sun. Jan. 27 - HALCOTT & RUSK (WW)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 2920', Elevs: 3537', 3680'
Bushwhack at a moderate pace.
Open Registration
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Jan. 27 - PANTHER (WW)

Distance: 6.8 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elev: 3720'
Moderately paced trail hike. Suitable for beginners.
Registration period: Jan. 18 - 25
Leaders: Tom and Laurie Rankin #s 1502 W627; 1337 W531
tomrankin7@gmail.com



Sun. Jan. 27 - BALSAM (WW)

Distance: 5.15 mi. Ascent: 1629', Elev: 3600'
Moderately paced trail hike.
Registration Period: Jan.. 18-25
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997
michael@bongarbiz.com

Sun. Jan 27 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK & ROUNDTOP (WW)

Distance 8 mi. Ascent 1330', Elevs: 3655', 3440'
Moderately paced bushwhack. Not for beginners.
Registration period Jan 17 - 24
Leaders: Jim Bouton #1539 W614 and Margaret McGrath #2009 W939
mmcgrath55@msn.com (email preferred) 845-750-8671

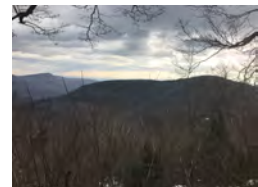


Sun. Jan. 27 - SLIDE (WW)

Distance: 7.7 mi. Ascent: 1750', Elev: 4180'
Historic Curtis Ormsbee trail hike.
Registration Period: Jan. 17 - 24.
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857, thighley1944@gmail.com

Sat. Feb. 2 - SUGARLOAF

Distance: 7.3 mi. Ascent: 2300', Elev: 3800'
Moderately paced trail hike.
Registration Period: Jan. 7 - 11
Leader: Neil Berenhoolz #2443
neilberenholtz@gmail.com



Sat. Feb. 2 - INDIAN HEAD & TWIN

Distance: 7.0 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elevs: 3573', 3640'
Moderately paced trail hike.
Registration Period: Jan. 24 - 31
Leaders: Joe Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com
Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com

Sun. Feb. 3 - BALSAM

Distance: 4.85 mi. Ascent:1250', Elev: 3600'
Moderately paced trail hike.
Registration Period: Jan. 27 - Feb. 2

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Sat. Feb. 9 - FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY, LONE, TABLE & PEEKAMOOS

Distance: 11+ mi. Ascent: 4500', Elevs: 3694', 3623', 3508', 3721', 3847', 3843'
Challenging bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration: open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Fri. Feb. 15 - THOMAS COLE (Weekday)

Distance: 5.8 mi. Ascent: 2148', Elev: 3940'

A relaxed pace trail hike.

Registration Period: Feb. 10 - 14

Leader: Moe Lemire #2921

chanelzee@gmail.com

Sat. Feb. 16 - DOUBLETOP, GRAHAM & BALSAM LAKE

Distance: 11+ mi. Ascent 3700', Elevs: 3860', 3868', 3723'

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

Registration: open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. Feb. 16 - RUSK

Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3680'

Bushwhack and trail hike.

Registration Period: Feb. 11 - 14

Leader: Tom Martone #2454 W1010

tom.martone.cmc@gmail.com

Sun. Feb. 17 - VLY & BEARPEN

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev: 3529', 3600'

Bushwhack hike and on snowmobile trails.

Registration Period: Feb. 11 - 14

Leader: Tom Martone #2454 W1010

tom.martone.cmc@gmail.com

Sat. Feb. 23 - GRAHAM

Distance: 4.3 mi. Ascent: 2041', Elev: 3868'

A true bushwhack from a different direction.

Registration Period: Feb. 14 - 21

Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 W789

tshemella@yahoo.com

Sat. Feb. 23 - HUNTER & SOUTHWEST HUNTER

Distance 10.2 mi. Ascent: 2300', Elevs: 4040', 3740'

Strenuous paced hike.

Registration Period: by Feb. 20

Leader: Timothy Watters #268

twatters@wattersfinancial.com

Sat. Feb. 23 - WITTENBERG & CORNELL

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 3321', Elevs: 3,780', 3,860'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Feb. 15 - 22

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. Mar. 2 - FIR, BIG INDIAN, EAGLE & BALSAM

Distance: 14+ mi. Ascent 3350', Elevs: 3620', 3700', 3600', 3600'

Challenging bushwhack & trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Mar. 3 - TABLE & PEEKAMOOS

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2950', Elevs: 3847', 3843'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration period: Feb. 22 - 28



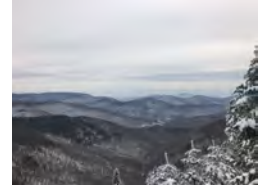
Leaders: Tom and Laurie Rankin #s 1502 W627; 1337 W531
tomrankin7@gmail.com

Sun. Mar. 3 - PANTHER

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev: 3720'
Moderately paced trail hike.
Registration Period: Feb. 24 - Mar. 2
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Sat. Mar. 9 - WEST KILL & ST ANNE'S

Distance: 7.7 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevs: 3880', 3420'
Moderately paced trail hike.
Registration Period: Feb. 1 - Mar. 7
Leaders: Joe Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com
Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com



Sat. Mar. 9 - ROCKY & LONE

Distance: 10.9 mi. Ascent: 2385', Elevs: 3508', 3721'
Moderately paced bushwhack.
Registration Period: Feb. 28 - Mar. 7
Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 W789
tshemella@yahoo.com

Sat. Mar. 9 - SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG

Distance: 9.8 mi. Ascent 2700', Elevs: 4180', 3860', 3780'
Challenging trail hike at a moderate pace.
Open Registration
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

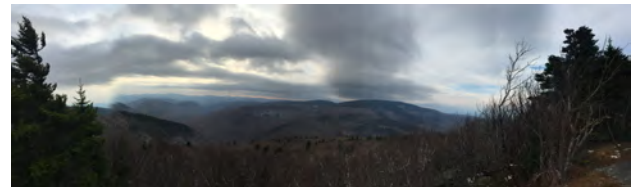


Sun. Mar. 10 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1330', Elev: 3655'
Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack.
Registration Period: Mar 3 - 9
Leader: Jon #2816 & Ben Gordon #2817
jonathan.gordon@gmail.com

Fri. Mar. 15 - PLATEAU (Weekday)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1867', Elev: 3840'
A relaxed pace trail hike.
Registration Period: Mar. 10 - 14
Leader: Moe Lemire #2921
chanelzee@gmail.com



Sat. Mar. 16 - BIG INDIAN & FIR

Distance: 10.5 mi. Ascent: 2678', Elevs: 3700', 3620'
Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.
Registration Period: Mar. 8 - 15
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997
michael@bongarbiz.com

Sun. Mar. 17 - BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elevs: 3623', 3694'
Moderately quick-paced bushwhack.
Registration Period: Mar. 4 - 15
Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925
david@dgbdesign.com



All photos used in this section are by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, #2814.



Kaaterskill High Peak shoulder from Palenville Overlook. Photo by Ron Johnson, #2943

NEW MEMBERS:

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

New Lifetime Members:

1819	Ted Wallace
2231	Martha Waldman
2232	Cliff Prewencki
2490	Fred Haghghi
2515	Jason Wolfanger
2618	Braden Sayer
2868	Michael Prestia
2995	Kryisia Caldwell

New Members:

2985	Alex Bolling	9/2/2018	Windham
2986	John W Pitera	9/1/2018	Balsam Lake
2987	Gary Titone	8/25/2018	Balsam Cap
2988	Eli Rogers	9/1/2018	Kaaterskill
2989	Jeffrey DuPree	9/9/2018	Doubletop
2990	Colleen Hardcastle	9/9/2018	Cornell
2991	Anthony Falcone	9/8/2018	Kaaterskill
2992	Kris Waite	9/23/2018	Blackhead
2993	Jonathan Erwin	5/25/2018	Lone
2994	Danielle Boyle	5/25/2018	Lone

2995	Kryisia Caldwell	9/23/2018	Balsam
2996	Jeffrey Roggenburg	9/30/2018	Eagle
2997	Sean Dougherty	9/16/2018	Kaaterskill
2998	Frank L Greenagel II	10/6/2018	Indian Head
2999	David Mahoskey	10/13/2018	Friday
3000	Michelle Idler-Lutz	9/9/2018	Kaaterskill
3001	Karen M Piepho	6/6/2018	Windham
3002	Al Roman	6/6/2018	Windham
3003	Harrison Taylor	10/21/2018	Rocky
3004	Robert Proietti	10/18/2018	Plateau
3005	Kayla Girard	10/28/2018	Kaaterskill
3006	Steven Taylor	11/4/2018	Eagle
3007	Brian Constable	11/4/2018	Windham
3008	Anthony Colombo	9/23/2018	Balsam Cap
3009	Josh Gorsch	7/28/2018	Blackhead
3010	Sara Park	11/21/2018	Rusk
3011	Yun K Park	11/21/2018	Rusk
3012	Melissa Emmerson	6/9/2018	Balsam
3013	Jason Pelton	12/1/2018	Graham

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 are very much welcomed and appreciated. Contact me at editor@catskill-3500-club.org.

Editorial correction: inadvertently, an incorrect image was used for the Rocky story ("The man needs Rocky!"). An image of Lone was used instead.

Saving and printing of the newsletter - the newsletter can be saved as a pdf file and then printed. To do so, open the newsletter in a separate tab by clicking on "view this email in your browser" link found at the very top left of the email. Proceed to print, but select "save as pdf" as your printer destination, which would then allow you to print it. It is recommended to deselect "background graphics".

The Catskill Canister

President

Heather Rolland

president@catskill-3500-club.org

Editor

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

Subscriptions/Aspirants

Jake Haisley
aspirants@catskill-3500-club.org
12 Stuyvesant St, apt 3
Kingston, NY 12401

Annual Dinner Chairman

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

Outings

Bill Winterbottom
billw@usdsoftware.com

Membership

David White
members@catskill-3500-club.org
28 Mulberry St.

T-Shirt Coordinator

Ira Orenstein
ksbiho@aol.com

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View from Blackhead shoulder towards Eastern Devil's Path and the Burroughs Range
Photo by Stash Rusin, #2829

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Our mailing address is:
Catskill 3500 Club
P.O. Box 504
Arkville, NY 12406