



# the catskill canister

Vol. X, No. 1

W I N T E R 1 9 7 7

## GEORGIA TO MAINE - IV

Chris and I spent our first night in Massachusetts near the Jug End spring, one of the most reliable water sources along the Trail. The following day we crossed the Housatonic River valley, hiking along gravel roads. As the trail ascended back to ridge tops on the other side of the valley, we had good views back toward Jug End. That evening we camped at the Mt. Wilcox Shelter, joining three other through hikers. Dave Rigg, from Pennsylvania, had overcome the effects of childhood polio, and in spite of a withered right arm, could outpace most other people, including me. "The Sunshine Boys," from Florida, were notorious along the Trail. It was rumored that their mail packages included more than food and other essentials. We were to enjoy the company of these people for the next few weeks.

The next day we reached familiar territory near the Massachusetts Turnpike, crossing the scenic Tyringham Valley and passing by Goose Pond. We spent a rainy night in our tent near Finerty Pond. The next morning we passed many people picking highbush blueberries above the town of Dalton. A severe thunderstorm overtook us as we passed through Dalton and we were invited inside by a friendly family who had seen us pass by as the rains came. An hour or so later we left the comforts of their home and camped in a hemlock grove by a spring. The next day was clear and cool as we approached Mt. Greylock. We stopped in Cheshire for some groceries and a mail package. The little town had gained fame when it delivered a 1235 pound wheel of cheese to President Jefferson in 1801. The cheese had represented one day's produce of the town's dairies, and the event was commemorated by a monument across from the Post Office. Later that afternoon, Chris and I had supper at the Kitchen Brook Leanto and then moved on to camp on Jones Nose, with a fine view to the west. We crossed Mt. Greylock the next morning, and stopped in Williamstown for a shower and a real bed.

On August 7 we reached Vermont, joining the Long Trail which we would follow for the next 100 miles. Shelters were conveniently spaced along this section, and we only used our tent on one occasion. The black flies were gone, except for persistent hordes on the sunny mountain summits. Porcupines were common, and everything, including boots, had to be hung out of their reach. Vermont was very wet, but we noted that much work was being done by the Forest Service and Youth Conservation Corps. Their water bars and bridges were beginning to have a good effect by lessening erosion. Following a rest stop in the friendly town of Manchester Center, Chris and I crossed the well-known ski peaks of Bromley and Killington, reaching Sherburne Pass on August 13. We had a good breakfast at the Long Trail Lodge, joining Dave Riggs, and Steve and Marge Skinner, a young

Elinore G. Leavitt, President, Joslen Boulevard, Hudson, N.Y. 12534  
Franklin B. Clark, Editor, 10 So. Washington St., Athens, N.Y. 12015  
Kenneth A. Shuker, Subscriptions, 20 Cedar Lane, Cornwall, N.Y. 12518

through hiking couple from Schenectady. Shortly after leaving the Lodge, we said goodby to the Long Trail as it headed 160 miles north to Canada. We continued east on the A.T. During the next three days the Trail took us over the rugged region between the Green and the White Mountains. The going was rough as we passed over steep wooded ridges and through high abandoned farmland. We entered the territory maintained by Dartmouth and noted that the white A.T. blazes were supplemented by the Dartmouth Outing Club's black and orange trail markings. I nicknamed them the Halloween Blazes.

On August 17, Chris and I reached New Hampshire, crossing the Connecticut River at Hanover. We stayed for nothing at one of the fraternity houses which accomodates hikers. We realized that night that we had chosen a "jock" type fraternity, for at 2 a.m. when the local bars closed the brothers moved in to their own supply of beer in the next room. We slept well in spite of the racket. In Hanover my mail package was important, as it contained my heavy work pants and shirt, wool hat and gloves, and a down sweater. I would soon be coming to territory above timberline where hypothermia is a danger at all times.

Chris and I parted company at Hanover. I looked forward to hiking independently again, but after being with her for 300 miles, would miss her company. I found that the first few days of hiking by myself, after a visit home or a stretch of hiking with Chris, were the roughest psychologically. At this stage of my trip, mental stamina seemed to be a major factor. Physical stamina had been acquired back in North Carolina. I spent a lonely time that night at Velvet Rocks leanto, just outside of Hanover. There were 415 miles between me and Katahdin.

--Jonathan Clement, Albany, N.Y.

#### LETTERS

Recently I read a book by the naturalist, John Burroughs, entitled "Far and Near." There is a chapter devoted to a trip made by Burroughs and his son to the island of Jamaica in the year 1902. I was surprised to learn that he had the use of a Primus Stove, for I had no idea that this currently popular camper's cooking device had been around so long.

"We had our Primus stove with us sans alcohol, and my patience, even my temper, was sorely tried, and many matches were wasted, in trying to evoke with kereosene oil alone the intense blue flame that crowns success with this stove. But despite the wind, this feat was at last accomplished, and our breakfast of bacon, eggs, tea, and toast was achieved."

--Samuel Steen, Kingston, N.Y.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #244 Alton P. Dieffenbach 11/13/76 201-267-8091  
42 Headley Road, Morristown, N.J. 07960
- #245 Fred Jordan 12/29/76 518-828-9287  
Box 167, Stottville, N.Y. 12172

REGISTER REMARKS

LONE

- 5/71 3 more in summer, 3 more in winter, then no more Catskills ever. (#121)
- 2/72 21 years ago today I got married. Look where I am today. (#97)
- 4/74 #145 dragged up by #146.

FIR

- 5/71 What a waste of time and effort to climb these peaks.
- 5/71 Not responsible for idiot above.
- 6/71 Someone has recently removed the marked trail. (#102)

DOUBLETOP

- 9/65 These people really did it! (#3)
- 3/69 This place is worse than Grand Central Station. (38)
- 10/74 All done! Now to redo my favorites - slowly. (#197)

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- Feb. 5-6 SHAWANGUNK SKI TOUR A circular overnight cross country ski weekend starting at Mohonk Ski Center with camping at Minnewaska. The leader will schedule an alternate day hike if snow conditions are unsatisfactory. Contact leader for details.  
Leader: Matthew Seddon (#223), 80 St. James St., Kingston, N.Y. 914-691-2313 12401
- Feb. 12 BIG INDIAN (& FIR) Moderate to strenuous trail hike and bushwhack which will include Fir if weather and conditions permit.  
Distance: 8-10 mi. Ascent: 1600-2100 Elev: 3680, 3625 Order: 20,23  
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop in Phoenicia at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Dave Mattsen (#187), 28 Park Drive, Woodstock, N.Y. 12498 914-679-6289
- Feb. 19 BLACKHEAD, (BLACK DOME, THOMAS COLE) A required winter peak. Strenuous trail hike which may include Black Dome & Thomas Cole.  
Distance: 4-7 mi. Ascent: 1780, 2575 Elev.: 3940,3990,3945  
Order: 5, 3, 4  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 a.m.  
Leaders: Joseph Whitaker, Jr. (#238) & Joseph Whitaker, III (#239), 51 Lamb Ave., Saugerties, N.Y. 12477 914-246-6329
- Feb. 25 - 28 WEEKEND AT ADIRONDACK LOJ

HIKES (continued)

Mar. 5 BALSAM CAP, ROCKY, & LONE Very strenuous bushwhack. Hikers must be in good condition for this trip.  
Distance: 8-10 mi. Ascent: 3200 Elev.: 3623,3508,3721 Order: 24,  
Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store 34, 16  
on Rt. 28 in Shokan at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Will Merritt (#22), 106 Oak St., Lincroft, N.J. 07738  
201-842-0497

Mar. 19 SHERRILL & NORTH DOME Strenuous bushwhack to close out the winter season.  
Distance: 7-8 mi. Ascent: 2350 Elev.: 3540,3610 Order: 30, 25  
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Roy Messaros (#97), 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, N.J.  
201-337-5004 07417

Mar. 26 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING IN KINGSTON

Apr. 2 PAKATAKAN MT. & DRY BROOK RIDGE Moderate hike traversing this scenic ridge in the western Catskills. Other peaks may be included if time permits.  
Distance: 10+ mi. Ascent: 2500+  
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rt. 28 & Seager Road in Arkville, west of RR crossing at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Richard Goldin (#57), 108-50 66th Ave., Forest Hills, N.Y.  
212-459-0423 11375

Apr. 16 RUSK & HUNTER A moderate to strenuous bushwhack and trail hike.  
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2700 Elev.: 3680, 4040 Order: 19, 2  
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Jim Daley (#51), Upton Lake Rd., Clinton Corners, N.Y. 12514  
914-266-3007

Apr. 30 WESTKILL Moderate to strenuous traverse on the Devil's Path.  
Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100 Elev.: 3880 Order: 6  
Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Carl Zwingli (#118), 100 College Park Rd., Midland Park, N.J. 07432  
201-444-3309

Contact leader if in doubt about necessary equipment and projected snow conditions. Snowshoes may be needed on mountain tops even in April.

Hikers are requested to report canisters in need of maintenance to Roy Messaros, 249 Mulberry Way, Franklin Lakes, N.J. 07417.

Anyone having steel boxes suitable for use as canisters may bring them to Roy Messaros at the Winter Weekend in January, or the Annual Dinner Meeting in March.



# the catskill canister

Vol. X, No. 2

S P R I N G 1 9 7 7

## PEAK BAGGING

In the June 1973 issue of APPALACHIA, the editor, Philip D. Levin, set forth some ideas in an article, "Towards a Recreated Wilderness: Notes on Abolishing the Four Thousand Footer Clubs." He said that it is incongruous to introduce mathematical absolutes into the mountain landscape, and he questioned the existence of formal clubs specifically designed to encourage and increase adherence to artificial standards, with all the rules and regulations and attendant ceremonies for those who have played it according to the game.

His arguments were that without artificial inducements, unconditioned, inexperienced hikers tend to avoid areas which are difficult of access, and experienced trampers avoid areas which are overpopulated; that areas must be made available for all levels of expertise; that he was trying to focus upon the problems of forever-wild areas and the impact on them of excess physical facilities and artificial-use programs such as the 4000-footer clubs.

Some of the ensuing flood of letters to the editor, pro and con, were published in the three following issues. In December 1973 he quoted The Peripatetic Porcupine in THE CATSKILL CANISTER and hoped there might be an element of intentional humor in the practice of referring to our members by numbers instead of names.

Following are extracts from my letter which was published in the June 1974 APPALACHIA.

As one who has done all 111, perhaps I can add a few thoughts. I go a long way back, as the first 4000-foot peaks I climbed were Hunter and Slide in the CATSKILLS in 1922, Marcy in 1925, Washington in 1931, and Baxter in 1948. I finished on South Crocker in 1970, after having ascended many of the peaks three or more times. I am still at it and was leading hikes on Katahdin during August Camp last summer.

The idea of a patch and a certificate undoubtedly does motivate some persons, but I am sure that is not the controlling factor for most. Probably the difference in number of hikers would not be noticed if both were eliminated. Last year one of my friends completed his second round of the 111, "because there was so much I did not get to see the first time." Most of us redo the ones we liked especially, or did not enjoy because of weather conditions. Moreover, many of the lesser peaks look interesting from above, like Owl from Katahdin, and that leads to climbing them.

There is no question but that the trails are in a mess, but they are no worse on the Presidentials than on Chocorua, Monadnock, or

Franklin B. Clark, President, 10 S. Washington St., Athens, N.Y. 12015
Elinore G. Leavitt, Assistant Editor, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534
Deborah P. French, Subscriptions, Box 182, Esopus, N.Y. 12429

other lesser peaks that are closer to the population centers. The problem is general, not limited to 4000 footers, and we must accept the facts of increased population and increased interest in the outdoors. Anyone who hikes much realizes that what we are using are mostly yesterday's trails. They were not designed for today's heavy traffic. Being about 1000 feet higher than the Adirondacks, the Whites have more bare tops. Down below, however, there is the same wet humus-bearing soil that becomes mud and a wider or deeper trail as more people walk over it. Water bars are being placed on slopes as a means of delaying erosion, but rerouting trails with more switch backs and more attention to grades and runoff will be required.

To answer Mary-Lou's wonder, "peak grabbers" do love the white-throated sparrow; they do have time to enjoy the sunshine on a dew-covered spider web, and the painted trillium, bunchberries, bluets, and other delightful things they try not to step on. She may be interested to know that the Adirondack 46-R publication listing those who have completed the climbs is dedicated to "those who walk softly with a discerning eye in our mountain area," and has chapters by members on trees, mammals, birds and flora, as well as one entitled, "Why We Climb."

Many of these "peak grabbers" are concerned with the whole problem. The 46-Rs (an active organization with a program) has distributed plastic litter bags with bio-degradable liners at the main entry points. Another project is the planting of selected grasses on eroded alpine mountain tops. Wilderness workshops have been conducted for leaders of youth groups, slanted at enjoyment of the woods, rather than "peak bagging."

The whole question, in my opinion, is not so simply answered as to edit out a few lists. It is rather to educate the hikers, to re-route and rebuild the trails for tomorrow's traffic, and to build more trails by new routes. Since more people are bushwhacking, we should also do some educating for this. In the CATSKILLS section of the NEW YORK WALKBOOK, the hiker on trailless mountains is admonished to learn to use map and compass, to make no blaze or mark, to avoid walking in a file.

Regarding the excerpt from THE CATSKILL CANISTER, the CATSKILL 3500 CLUB is permeated by a wholesome sense of humor and an ability to laugh at ourselves. After all, when you are grabbing peaks that are only 3500 feet high, you have to have a sense of humor and a love for the woods.

Let me sum up by saying that I am grateful for the 111 Club and its lists, for without them I would not have for instant recall wonderful mental pictures of the little pond on the Saddleback ridge surrounded by sub-arctic growth, or the whole Bigelow ridge, the Horns and Horn Pond, or . . . . .

--Henry L. Young, Ridgewood, N.J.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #246 Don W. Rain 1/15/77 914-462-2219  
23 Fair Way, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603
- #247 John M. Kennedy 1/15/77 914-876-3269  
P. O. Box 122, Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572
- #248 Friedel Schunk 1/22/77 201-447-0923  
771 Hillcrest Rd., Ridgewood, N.J. 07450
- #249 Richard Wolf 1/22/77  
209 East 16th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11226
- #250 N. Jansen Fowler 1/22/77 914-331-3010  
21 John St., U.P.O. Box 457, Kingston, N.Y. 12401
- #251 Gary Sokol 2/20/77 516-433-6561  
6 Jefferson Ave., Hicksville, N.Y. 11801
- #252 Hyman Nasoff 3/2/77 914-454-8162  
5 Miller Rd., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603
- #253 Ronald A. Hahn 3/5/77 914-331-6298  
28 President's Pl., Kingston, N.Y. 12401
- #254 Nancy Smith 3/23/77 518-851-2406  
Box 85, Claverack, N.Y. 12513
- #255 Daniel Streib 2/22/77 914-758-8651  
24 Fisk St., Red Hook, N.Y. 12571
- #256 Julius Picuri 12/31/76 518-678-9258  
P. O. Box 336, Palenville, N.Y. 12463

WINTER MEMBERS

Twelve more members have qualified for the winter patch during this winter season: Bruce Palen, Richard Davis, Murray Goldstein, Richard Furman, Donald Seeger, Larry Braun, William Riemvis, Ronald Hahn, Dr. Raymond Spies, Donald Deem, Deborah French, Richard Jewett.

REGISTER REMARKS

HALCOTT

- 2/19/1878 What is zis can doing here? A. Guyot
- 11/19/73 Saw 17 deer coming up!
- 11/30/73 Seen nothing - going home.
- 11/17/74 Wow! What a walk! Where is the beer hidden?

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Our New England cousin reports that #101 completed the Appalachian Trail in 1970, and that #101 and #122 have hiked the Long Trail in Vermont. \* \* \* \* Our Adirondack cousin reports that #34, #35, and #101 have walked the Northville-Lake Placid Trail at some time or other. \* \* \* \* #102 and #148 have climbed the Matterhorn.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

May 7 INDIAN HEAD & TWIN A moderate hike on the Devil's Path.

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3573, 3640' Order: 29,22  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville, at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Deborah French (#159), Box 182, Esopus, N.Y. 12429  
914-384-6842

May 21 WINDHAM HIGH PEAK A moderate hike along the eastern  
CATSKILL escarpment.

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elev.: 3524' Order: 32  
Meeting Place: General Store & Post Office in Maplecrest at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 29 Willys St., Apt. A-3, East Hartford,  
203-568-5781 Conn. 06118

May 29 BALSAM LAKE (& GRAHAM) A moderate trail hike which will  
include Graham if time and weather  
permit. Joint trip with the North Jersey Chapter ADK.

Distance: 5 (9) mi. Ascent: 1125' (1700') Elev.: 3725" (3868')  
Order: 15, (8)  
Meeting Place: Jnct. of Dry Brook Rd. & Rt. 28 in Arkville, 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: Fred Schmelzer (#140), 116 Summit Ave., Waldwick, N.J. 07463  
201-444-4387

June 5 FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JOSEPH BRANT Another histor-  
ical hike with

Ed West to explore the lookout point and Indian Fort he  
described in his Autumn 1976 CANISTER article. A trip to  
the summit of Kaaterskill High Peak may be included.

Distance: 6 (8) mi. Ascent: 800' (2000') Elev.: (3655') Order: (21)  
Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Ed West (#45), Shandaken, N.Y. 12480  
914-688-5488

June 18 FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP (& ROCKY) Strenuous bushwhack which  
will include Rocky if time  
and weather allow.

Distance: 6 (8) mi. Ascent: 2800" (3300') Elev.: 3694', 3623',  
(3503') Order: 18, 24, (34)  
Meeting Place: Winchell's Corner Antique Store, Rt. 28 in Shokan  
at 8:30 a.m.  
Leader: John Kennedy (#247), P. O. Box 122, Rhinebeck, N.Y. 12572  
914-876-2055 or 876-3269



LOST---- The thermometer hanging from a branch near the canister on  
Vly belongs to Richard Furman, #131.





# the catskill canister

Vol. X, No. 3

S U M M E R 1 9 7 7

## GEORGIA TO MAINE - Part V

The first two days out of Hanover, N.H., I traveled about 40 miles, looking forward to reaching the White Mountains. The first night I stayed in the fire warden's cabin on the summit of Smarts Mt. The fire tower had just been closed, and the cabin, complete with bed, wood stove, and cooking pots, had been left open to hikers. It was the most comfortable night I had spent on the Trail. The next day was hot and humid, with about 10 miles of road walking. I took a welcome dip in Watchipauka Pond before camping along an abandoned railroad bed, just outside of Glencliff. The following morning I entered the White Mountain National Forest as I ascended Mt. Moose-lauke, the first of the 4000 footers. In the summit emergency shelter, sitting out the wind and rain, I met three fellow through hikers who had left me behind in Hanover. They spent the night in the shelter, while I pushed on to stay at the Eliza Brook Shelter, a few miles beyond Kinsman Notch. The following day I hitchhiked into North Woodstock to make a supply stop, before heading over the Presidential Range.

The climb up out of Franconia Notch the next day impressed me as one of the most spectacular ascents I had made. I spent much time taking in the views on Mts. Lafayette and Lincoln, and was also surprised to run into a CATSKILL 3500 CLUB member, Charles Bennett, who was doing the same. I slowed my pace down as I traveled through the Whites to enjoy the great views. I had to become accustomed to the hordes of people, and to arrive at a shelter site early in order to get shelter or tent platform space. While staying at the Mizpah Hut area, I met Jim Stolz, a through hiker I had last seen in Central Virginia. We had a great time gossiping and exchanging stories. Jim was moving along at a leisurely pace, and I left him behind the next day after we feasted at the summit snack bar on Mt. Washington. That night I made an unscheduled stop at the Madison Hut after learning there was a vacancy. I had a chance to see the sewer in action when a helicopter arrived to carry out the latrine barrels. One of the Hut peoples' most disliked jobs was to search for and sanitize the occasional barrel which broke loose at 1000 feet. In the morning, perfect hypothermia weather accompanied me over the steep rocky cone of Mt. Madison. The descent into Pinkham Notch was rocky and steep and rather than heading across the Wildcat Ridge to Carter Notch Hut, I hitchhiked into Gorham to stay at a \$3.00 tourist home, the cheapest accommodations to date. The next day was crisp and much clearer. I had a spectacular ascent over the Wildcat Ridge and a treacherous descent to the Carter Notch Hut where I spent the night. I watched the moon rise above the Notch that evening as I cooked supper on the bunkhouse porch.

The next day was the last of August. I hiked only 7 miles and

Franklin B. Clark, President, 10 S. Washington St., Athens, N.Y. 12015  
Elinore G. Leavitt, Associate Editor, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534  
Deborah P. French, Assistant Editor, Box 182, Esopus, N.Y. 12429  
Kenneth A. Shuker, Subscriptions, 20 Cedar Lane, Cornwall, N.Y. 12518

stopped at the Imp Shelter, a cabin perched high above Gorham. The shelter was packed with Labor Day weekenders, and I was glad to have hiked through the Whites prior to that holiday. A Maine-to-Georgia hiker stopped over and gave some helpful hints about the Trail ahead. Included was the usual advice to avoid the A.T. re-routes and to take the old footpath which was shorter and easier. This was advice I routinely ignored. Most relocations are more scenic and were usually built to preserve the wilderness aspect of the Trail.

On September 2 I entered the State of Maine. This territory had been the scourge of southbound hikers in the Spring. September, however, provided relatively dry and bugless weather. Actually, the first three days were rainy and made for extremely hazardous hiking through the Mahoosac Mountains, which are said to be the toughest on the Trail. I found them less strenuous than the Stekoahs in North Carolina, but I am sure my improved physical condition influenced my opinion. A southbound hiker probably would have had the opposite opinion. One of the most memorable days on the Trail was September 3rd. I covered only 13 miles during 10 hours of steady hiking in a cold rain. Particularly hair-raising was the hour and a half trek through the Mahoosac Notch, a mile long V-shaped valley filled with huge boulders. I wended my way over, under, and around the slippery rocks, taking the pack off several times to lower it ahead of me. Ice from the previous winter could still be seen in some of the crevasses. I was physically and emotionally drained when I reached the Grafton Notch Shelter that night. The following day was just as wet as I hiked 17 miles to the Squirrel Rock Shelter. I woke up during the night to see the welcome sight of moon and stars, and the next few days were clear and cool. At the Sabbath Day Pond shelter I met Carlton Gooden and Ray Hachey, two middle-aged men who were hiking the Trail in Maine. I spent most of the remaining nights with them as they were moving along at about the same pace. About an hour after I met them, Carlton warned me about Ray's snoring, and the following morning I seriously considered getting as far ahead of them as I could. They were great company however, and we became good friends. They nicknamed me the "Clement Express," for I usually got a later start in the morning, passed them during the day, and reached the next shelter an hour or so ahead of them.

Maine is a land of lakes, streams, and beaver. Bear and moose are to be found as well, although I saw only their tracks. The Trail crossed several scenic mountain ranges; Saddleback, the Crockers, and the Bigelow Range. Maine also has the widest ford along the Trail, the quarter-mile Kennebec River crossing. It was possible to hire a boat, but I chose to wade. Early morning ensured that the water would only be knee-deep. Later in the day, the water was waist-deep and filled with pulp wood being sent to mills downstream. I reached the other side without incident and, after a mail stop at Caratunk, went on to Joe's Hole Lean-to. Carlton and Ray arrived later, having taken the boat across the river.

On September 13 I reached Monson, Maine. There I had another overnight stop where I picked up food and supplies. Included in the mail was my old pair of work shoes. My second pair of shoes had begun to deteriorate, and I was not going to risk them on the next 115 miles which were some of the most isolated along the Trail. After a good sleep in a tourist home, I left Monson the following morning and started the final leg of my trip. That night at Long Pond Stream shelter I noted that Alan Gross, whom I had last seen in Pearlsburg, Va. was only a day or two ahead. I hoped to meet him again before reaching Katahdin.

--Jonathan B. Clement, Albany, N.Y.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

- #257 Todd Jackson 12/19/76 201-334-8729  
13 Valley Rd., Mountain Lakes, N.J. 07046
- #258 Michael W. Anderson 4/17/77 914-687-7529  
Rt. 1, Box 558A, Stone Ridge, N.Y. 12484
- #259 Jonathan D. Pierce 4/17/77 914-687-0447  
P. O. Box 42, Stone Ridge, N.Y. 12484
- #260 Sandra Stash 4/8/77 914-758-9551  
R. D. 2, Box 425, Red Hook, N.Y. 12571
- #261 John B. F. Woods III 4/25/77  
P. O. Box 15, Durham, N.C. 27705
- #262 Daryl Hoffman 5/1/77 914-687-7109  
Rt. 1, Box 187, Stone Ridge, N.Y. 12484
- #263 Paul Pomeroy, Jr. 6/4/77 914-687-9150  
Box 224, Stone Ridge, N.Y. 12484

1977 OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

President, Franklin B. Clark; Past President, Elinore G. Leavitt; 1st Vice President, Roy Messaros; 2nd Vice President, Jonathan B. Clement; Secretary, Deborah P. French; Treasurer, David L. Clapper; Canisters, Roy Messaros; Conservation, Rev. Ray L. Donahue; Information, Kenneth A. Shuker; Membership, Elinore G. Leavitt; Outings, Jonathan B. Clement; "The Catskill Canister", Franklin B. Clark; Trails, Fred Schmelzer; Winter Weekend, Walter L. Gregory.

THE PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

Congratulations to #260, who was valedictorian at Red Hook High School. \* \* \* \* Congratulations to #170, who was graduated from Hudson High School with a Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship, and who has been accepted at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. \* \* \* \* Best wishes to #211 and to #261, who have removed to their respective states of Wisconsin and North Carolina after making generous donations to the Club treasury.



1977 OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

President.....Franklin B. Clark  
Past President.....Elinore G. Leavitt  
1st Vice President.....Roy Messaros  
2nd Vice President.....Jonathan B. Clement  
Secretary.....Deborah P. French  
Treasurer.....David L. Clapper  
Canisters.....Roy Messaros  
Conservation.....Rev. Ray L. Donahue  
Information.....Kenneth A. Shuker  
Membership.....Elinore G. Leavitt  
Outings.....Jonathan B. Clement  
"The Catskill Canister".....Franklin B. Clark  
Trails.....Fred Schmelzer  
Winter Weekend.....Walter L. Gregory

\*\*\*\*\*

This Roster is for members' convenience only and must not be used for solicitation, circulation, or general mailing of any nature.

Preserve your copy as there will be only a supplement in 1978.

Inactive members may return to active status upon payment of current dues.

Please send address changes immediately to:

Elinore G. Leavitt, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534



# the catskill canister

Vol. X, No. 4

A U T U M N 1 9 7 7

## CATSKILL TREES

A survey of which trees occur on what peaks above the 3500 foot contour in the CATSKILLS is in progress, and the results to date are presented here. Further field checks in future years should bring in new and higher stations for many species.

- Balsam Fir:** On all peaks above the 3500 foot contour, except Bearpen, Vly, and Halcott.
- Red Spruce:** On all peaks above the 3500 foot contour, except Slide Fir, Doubletop, Big Indian, Graham, Balsam Lake, Eagle, Balsam, Halcott, Vly, Bearpen, Sherrill, North Dome, Windham High Peak, and Black Dome. The Pigeon Notch spruce grove between Doubletop and Big Indian is only at 3200 feet. Note that spruce is absent in the northern and western CATSKILLS.
- Paper Birch:** Very similar to spruce in its distribution except that paper birch is present on Slide and Black Dome whereas spruce is not. On Rusk, spruce is present but paper birch is not.
- Yellow Birch:** Present on all CATSKILL peaks over 3500 feet except the very summits of Slide, Hunter, Black Dome, Black Head, West Kill, Peekamoose, Sugarloaf, Friday, Kaaterskill High Peak, and Balsam Cap. On these ten peaks yellow birch makes it often within a ledge or two of the very summit.
- Mountain Ash, Red (Fire, Pin, or Bird) Cherry, Striped Maple (Moosewood), and Mountain Maple:** These should be on all peaks over 3500 feet but have not yet been tallied on all. Striped maple is often like yellow birch, not attaining the very summit but lingering only a ledge or two below. The other three should make the summits. Beech was expected on all peaks above 3500 feet but has been found on the summits of only eight: Lone, Big Indian, Fir, Eagle, Bearpen, Sherrill, Vly, and Halcott.
- Sugar Maple:** Sugar maple is the most nutrient-demanding of all the species listed here. It occurs above 3500 feet on Slide, Hunter, Black Dome, Thomas Cole, Black Head, Doubletop, Plateau, Balsam Lake, Friday, and Rusk--but only locally in rich, deep soil in protected pockets and terraces. Sugar maple attains the very summits of only five peaks: Bearpen, Sherrill, Vly, Windham High Peak, and Halcott--none over 3600 feet.

**An Explanation:** The major factor determining the distribution of tree species in the CATSKILLS is soil fertility. The trees at the top of the list (spruce, fir, paper birch) can grow on the poorest

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

Published by the Catskill 3500 Club

Franklin B. Clark, President, 10 S. Washington St., Athens, N.Y. 12015  
 Elinore G. Leavitt, Associate Editor, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534  
 Deborah P. French, Assistant Editor, Box 182, Esopus, N.Y. 12429  
 Kenneth A. Shuker, Subscriptions, 20 Cedar Lane, Cornwall, N.Y. 12518

sites and thinnest soils. Those on the bottom of the list (beech and sugar maple) can grow only on the better and deeper sites. Sugar maple and beech crown the summits of only the lower and more north-westerly peaks, where slopes are gentler and soils deeper and more fertile. In the northwestern CATSKILLS, the bedrock contains more layers of siltstone and shale, producing finer-textured soils and thus less acid and more fertile sites. In the eastern CATSKILLS, the massive sandstones and conglomerates dominate, giving rise to coarse-textured, very acid, and infertile soils. In addition, because of the greater precipitation in the southern and eastern wet belt, leaching is greater; here, nutrients are removed from the humus to the subsoil rapidly by downward-moving rainwater, further impoverishing the topsoil in which most trees and plants are rooted.

--Michael Kudish, Paul Smiths, N.Y.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB

#264 Melvin Kleiman 8/18/77 914-534-9131  
 64 Avenue A, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y. 12520

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES

- Nov. 12 WESTKILL A moderate to strenuous hike by trail; joint trip with Albany Chapter ADK.  
 Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100' Elev.: 3880' Order: 6  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rt. 42 & Spruceton Rd. at 9:30 a.m. (Please call or write leader to inform him of your attendance)  
 Leader: Jim Schaller (#194), 91 Maple Ave., Vooreesville, N.Y. 518-765-3196 12186
- Nov. 19 ADIRONDACK HIGH PEAKS Ranger Fish will lead another strenuous hike in the Keene Valley area. The route will depend on the group and the weather. Please call leader regarding details and necessary equipment.  
 Leader: C. Peter Fish (#12), Box 43, Hulls Falls Rd., Keene, N.Y. 518-576-4796 12942
- Nov. 21 - Dec. 13 DEER SEASON (firearms) in CATSKILLS  
 No scheduled hikes
- Dec. 4 TACONICS-BERKSHIRES Leaders choice of a hike on trails (Sun.) to escape the N.Y. hunters.  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 41 & 44 in Village of Salisbury, Conn. (near White Hart Inn), at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Doug Robins (#153), 29 Willys St., E. Hartford, Conn. 203-568-5781 06118

HIKES (continued)

- Dec. 17     NORTH DOME & SHERRILL     Strenuous bushwhack from Broad Street Hollow to Rt. 42.  
 Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev.: 3618', 3540' Order: 25,30  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 42 & 28 in Shandaken at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Richard Davis (#234), 4156 Old Stage Rd., Saugerties, N.Y.  
 914-382-1428     12477
- Jan. 7     DOUBLETOP     A strenuous bushwhack from Frost Valley or Biscuit Brook. Joint trip with North Jersey Chapter ADK.  
 Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev.: 3870' Order: 7  
 Meeting Place: Jnct. Rts. 28 & 42 in Shandaken at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Friedel Schunk (#248), 771 Hillcrest Rd., Ridgewood, N.J.  
 201-447-0923     07450
- Jan. 7     NORTH LAKE SKI TOUR     Easy ski tour in the scenic escarpment area around North Lake.  
 Distance: 5 mi.  
 Meeting Place: Entrance to North Lake Campsite (follow sign from Haines Falls) at 10:00 a.m.  
 Leader: Sam Owen (#206), 52 Newman St., Metuchen, N.J. 08840  
 201-548-5875 weekdays; 914-657-6736 weekends
- Jan. 8     NORTH LAKE TO PALENVILLE     Another ski tour which will include a 2½ mile, 1300 foot descent to Palenville.  
 (Sun.)  
 Distance: 5 mi.  
 Meeting Place: Parking lot of Palenville Post Office at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Sam Owen (#206), see above.
- Jan. 14     KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK     Moderate to strenuous trip which may include Round Top.  
 Joint hike with North Jersey Chapter ADK.  
 Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1500' Elev.: 3655' Order: 21  
 Meeting Place: Warm's Restaurant in Tannersville at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Fred Schmelzer (#140), 115 Summit Ave., Waldwick, N.J.  
 201-444-4387     07463
- Jan. 21     OVERLOOK & ECHO LAKE     Moderate to strenuous trip for intermediate skiers. Snowshoers are welcome. Joint trip with Ski Touring Council.  
 Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1700'  
 Meeting Place: Public parking lot behind Orange County Bank in center of Woodstock at 8:30 a.m.  
 Leader: Sam Owen (#206), see Jan. 7 hike.
- Jan. 28     CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND     Hiking and ski touring in the area around The Alpine Inn, in Oliverea. See reservation sheet and reserve early.
- Feb. 24     ADIRONDACK LOJ WEEKEND     Hiking and ski touring in the high peak area of the Adirondacks near Lake Placid. See reservation sheet and reserve early.



CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND

January 28, 29, 1978 - at The Alpine Inn, Oliverea, N.Y. 12462.  
 South of Rt. 28 at Big Indian, N.Y. Tel.: 914-254-5026

Reservations: \$10.00 per person must arrive by Jan. 16. Make check payable to Walter L. Gregory, registrar, and mail to Walter L. Gregory, 8 Wall Ave., Valhalla, N.Y. 10595. Tel.: 914-949-7567.

All rooms have twin beds. Rates are based on double occupancy. Please specify preference of roommate, if any. Room assignments will be in the order of receipt of reservations. Edelweiss has 4 rooms with private bath & 8 rooms with semi-private. des Alps has private bath in all rooms. Extra dinner Friday evening - \$5.00 plus tax & gratuity. Extra dinner Sat. evening and/or Sun. - \$7.50 plus tax & gratuity.

.....  
 Arrival Friday evening after dinner (2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner)

_____ Edelweiss	\$41 per person	} includes tax & gratuity
_____ des Alps	\$45 per person	

Arrival Saturday for dinner (1 night lodging, 1 breakfast, 1 dinner)

_____ Edelweiss	\$27 per person	} includes tax & gratuity
_____ des Alps	\$30 per person	

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday evening dinner.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ deposit enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ persons. Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

ADIRONDACK LOJ WEEKEND, LAKE PLACID, N.Y.

February 24-27, 1978. Reservations must be in by Dec. 31, 1977. Bunk with three meals - \$23.50 plus tax and 10% service charge\*. ADK members may deduct 15%. Send check for \$10.00 each to Mrs. Wm. H. Leavitt, Joslen Blvd., Hudson, N.Y. 12534 (payable to Mrs. Leavitt)

.....  
 Please reserve the following for Feb. 24-27, 1978 at Adirondack Loj:

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Lodging
Friday, 24				
Saturday, 25				
Sunday, 26				
Monday, 27				

\$\_\_\_\_\_ check enclosed, for \_\_\_\_\_ men &/or \_\_\_\_\_ women.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\* per person, per day - lodging and three meals (bunk)