

The Catskill Canister

The Catskill 3500 Club — Steward of the Catskills



October—December 2016

www.catskill-3500-club.org

Volume 49 Number 4

Trail Mix: News & Notes From The Club *Light Up the Night*


On Friday, September 2nd, *The Catskill Fire Tower Project* invites everyone to find a place with a view of your favorite fire tower on the horizon for our 3rd annual Lighting of the Fire Towers Event!

This event is meant to showcase the history of the five Catskill fire towers (2 of which are 3500' peaks) and some of our other friends around the state. Find an area in your neighborhood where you have a view of one of the fire towers. From 9:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., look up to see the cabs lit up.

Remember that these towers were watching faithfully like beacons over your property for years to help prevent forest fires. The men and women who were in those cabs were there to protect your property from forest fires by providing fire fighters with an early detection and reporting system that was amazingly accurate. If you are lucky, your area may have been covered by more than one tower! For additional information about possible viewing areas near you, see <http://viewsandbrews.com/balsamlake> (click the 'What can I see from the top?' link and select the 'visibility cloak' option), or the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development website: <http://catskillcenter.org/events/>.

Opposing a New Weather Tower

A 103-foot NYS Mesonet weather tower is proposed for the west ridge of Roundtop off Gillespie Road on DEP property. A balloon test will be conducted shortly and we need observers at key viewpoints on the Devil's Path where the 103-foot tower would be visible. Email me at ccswhite@juno.com if you can do this; the test date is not set as this goes to print (may soon be). The Hunter Planning Board meets October 4th at 7 p.m. Unless a public hearing is called for the 9/6 meeting (I think more time is required for public input), our club's participation is essential for the 10/4 meeting, though we'll send written opposition before the 9/6 meeting.

Viable alternative sites are being suggested. Our club will join others in opposing the current plan. 

Views from the Top The President's Column

Fall is fast approaching as is hunting season which starts on 9/10/16. For those of you that shy away from hiking during this time we have many volunteer opportunities coming up. It's a wonderful time to be out of doors, whether hiking or working. To get involved in any of the projects below contact Doug Senterman at doug@nynjtc.org for more information.

The clean up at the Blue Hole and Colgate Lake will continue, 1-4pm on 9/18 and 9/25, respectively.

Other projects for September include building a bog bridge on Sugarloaf, fixing spring boxes on Giant Ledge and Wittenberg and installing stone steps on the new trail at the CIC.

Many Leantos need to be stained and we are looking for leaders to help; everything will be supplied and dates can be chosen by leader.


October promises to be as busy with the Lark in the Park from October 1-10. Anyone interested in leading an event should go to catskillslark.org and sign up.

Two major projects this Fall are the installation of a new Leanto at Dry Brook, tentatively planned for the first week in October, and another at Batavia Kill later in the month. Many hands are needed and no previous experience is necessary. Come and help us in the great outdoors for a wonderful and rewarding time.

Hope to see many new faces. It's always a good time shared with some really special people.

Thanks in advance..

Happy hiking.

Connie Sciutto - President 

The Catskill Canister

President

Connie Sciutto

president@catskill-3500-club.org

Editor

Kevin Morgan

editor@catskill-3500-club.org

Annual Dinner Chairman

Michael E. Doehring

tigermath@aol.com

7 Cloverdale Ave. White Plains, NY 10603

(914) 761-7225

Membership

David White

members@catskill-3500-club.org

28 Mulberry St. Clinton, NY 13323

(315) 853-1070

Subscriptions/Aspirants

Mike Dwyer

aspirants@catskill-3500-club.org

237 April Lane

Bayport, NY 11705

Outings

Bill Winterbottom

outings@catskill-3500-club.org

192 Laurel Drive

Shohola PA 18458

(973) 222-1077

T-Shirt Coordinator

Ira Orenstein

ksbiho@aol.com

18 Interlaken Ave

New Rochelle, NY 10801-1102

The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc. for \$10.00 a year. Articles, not previously published, of less than 1100 words on hiking, essays, or poetry, should be sent to: editor@catskill-3500-club.org

All material contained herein is copyrighted by the authors or by The Catskill Canister.

Nominal dates for receiving the Canister are:
Mar 15, Jun 15, Sep 15, and Dec 15.


Conservation Corner

A Note from our Conservation Chair, Carol White

Environmental Monitors in Albany— Eternal Vigilance is Key

A Senate Budget Bill would have allowed ATVs to increase from 1,000 pounds to 1,500 and allow their use in Forest Preserve land, now prohibited. For the first time it would have opened State Parks to ATVs. The permitted 1,000 pound vehicles cause severely eroded trails with large mud-ruts and trampled vegetation, and weightier vehicles would worsen this problem. DEC has no ability to control such use to protect natural resources. A second Senate bill would have increased the current allowable weight to 1800 pounds. Utility Task Vehicles seat up to five people with extra cargo room, increasing their weight to over 3,000 pounds. With a much larger wheelbase than smaller ATVs and up to 12 feet in length, these will cause still greater damage where permitted. Another bill would have revoked permitting and protection authority from DEC and given it to local governments, its purpose to weaken environmental protection.

Still another Senate bill would have reduced hikers' access to trailheads off low volume or seasonal roads, especially in the western Catskills; towns could pass local ordinances to reduce road maintenance, stop plowing, and even abandon roads leading to state trailheads. The Adirondack Mountain Club argued that state taxpayers pay considerable taxes on the Catskill Forest Preserve lands served by these roads. They won a compromise to exempt roads that service Forest Preserve trailheads, and for bushwhackers any road will be kept open that provides access to state Forest Preserve or State Forests, even in the absence of a formal trailhead.

All bills that would have authorized the licensing and registration of multi-passenger ATVs or UTVs over 1,000 pounds, and/or expanded legal riding areas were not included in the approved 2016-2017 state budget, and failed to be approved by the Assembly post-budget. ADK played a leading role in ensuring the defeat of pro-ATV legislation in both instances. 

New Members

2582	Debra Cifelli	03/19/16
2583	Jack Hall	04/09/16
2584	Sarah Wang	04/16/16
2585	Lee Ferris	04/17/16
2586	Paul Nick	03/20/16
2587	Patrick Keough	04/27/16
2588	Paul W Liberty	04/27/16
2589	Maria Jimenez	04/17/16
2590	Amber M Newman	04/02/16
2591	Marty Joelle Baker	04/02/16
2592	Ryan Bakst	05/14/16
2593	Axl Velten	05/21/16
2594	Johnny Soong	05/21/16
2595	Bradley S Winer	05/28/16
2596	Steven Rice	05/29/16
2597	Bruce S Renolds	05/28/16
2598	Dianna V Reynolds	05/28/16
2599	Garrett Yankou	06/04/16
2600	Ross Baldwin	06/10/16
2601	Georg Brudenbender	06/05/16
2602	Katy Elwyn	06/05/16
2603	Carol Berran	06/12/16
2604	Monica Bethencourt	06/26/16
2605	Michael J Funari	03/19/16
2606	Wayne H Stevenson	05/21/16
2607	Sherry Masedman	08/08/15
2608	Nava Naftaly	12/26/14

2609	Samuel Spohn	05/27/16
2610	Christopher Manza	07/20/16
2611	Thomas Lloyd	07/24/16
2612	Beverly Lloyd	07/24/16
2613	Marc Ginsburg	04/23/16
2614	Jessica Benardello	07/30/16
2615	Ethan Jordan	07/30/16
2616	David W Smith	11/21/15
2617	Steven Hoffman	07/22/16
2618	Braden Sayer	08/07/16
2619	Ilana Tamir	08/06/16

New Winter Members

1079	James S Bouton	1808	03/12/16
1080	Richard Reynolds	1684	03/18/12
1081	Scott Chastenay	1932	03/09/16
1082	Al Davis	2192	03/20/16
1083	Andrew Reynolds	2565	03/13/16

New Life Members

2042	Woodward S Bousquet
2305	Stefan Lisowski
2497	Dillon Creen
Asp.	Cristina Pruzan

Note: The new members listed are for tallies received after the annual dinner. Their certificates will be presented at the next dinner which will be on April 1, 2017 — David White, Membership Chairperson

Rambles and Brambles: Hike Schedule October — December 2016

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

Rating System: Please be advised that the hikes listed herein would most likely be rated more difficult by clubs who hike in non-mountainous terrains.

Sat. Oct. 1 - BALSAM LAKE MOUNTAIN "YOGA"

Distance: 5.8 mi. Ascent: 1147', Elev: 3723'

A moderately paced hike with a short yoga session at peak.

Registration Period: Sept. 23-30

Leader: Pamela Martin #2102;

Pamelamartininc@gmail.com

Sat. Oct. 1 - HEMLOCK WOOLY ADELGID (HWA) LEADER TRAINING

Join Dan Snider, the Catskill Center's Field Projects Manager for specialized training for our club leaders to help protect our beloved Catskills. Find out what damage this bug is causing and what is being done to combat this unwanted visitor. We will see Hemlock Woolly Adelgids first-hand and gain experience in detection, monitoring, and reporting protocols.

Registration Period by Sept. 30

Leader: Bill Winterbottom #1904

Billw@usdsoftware.com

Sun. Oct. 2 - PEEKAMOOSE, TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

It's our fall trail maintenance day! Please help us keep the Peekamoose-Table Trail clean, clear and safe for the enjoyment of all. Bring work gloves and your favorite trail maintenance tools (the Club will also have tools available). It's fun work and a great way to help the Club and the hiking community.

Refreshments will be provided afterward.

Registration Period: Open

Leaders: David Bunde #2269 W925, Tom Martone #2454 W1010 david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. Oct. 8 - SLIDE "YOGA"

Distance: 5.4 mi. Ascent: 1760', Elev: 4180'

A relaxed paced trail hike with a short yoga session at peak.

Registration Period: Oct. 1-7

Leader: Pamela Martin #2102

Pamelamartininc@gmail.com

Sat. Oct. 8 - ROCKY & LONE

Distance: 10.3 mi. Ascent: 2678', Elev: 3508', 3721'

Moderately paced, strenuous bushwhack to two remote peaks.

Registration Period: Oct. 1-7

Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925;

david@dgbdesign.com

Sun. Oct. 9 - HEMLOCK, SPRUCE, FIR & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elev: 3240', 3380', 3620, 3700

A moderately paced difficult bushwhack.

Registration Period: by April 8

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W#994

michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. Oct. 15 - THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME, BLACKHEAD

Distance: 7.4 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elev: 3940', 3980', 3940'

A strenuous hike at a relaxed pace. Peak fall colors. Short car shuttle.

Rain cancels, rain date on Oct. 16.

Registration Period: Oct. 1 - 13

Leader: Lanny Wexler #593 highpt43@optimum.net

In case of bad weather or dangerous conditions, hikes may be canceled; if in doubt contact the leader.

Sat. Oct. 15 - BEARPEN & VLY

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2035', Elev: 3600', 3529'

Moderately paced bushwhack.

Registration Period: Oct. 7- 14

Leaders: Tom and Laurie Rankin #s 1503, 1337;
lauriejrankin@gmail.com: (845)-926-2182 (e-mail preferred)

Sun. Oct. 16 - FIR & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 10.3 mi. Ascent: 2678', Elev: 3620', 3700'

Moderately paced, bushwhack and trail hike.

Map & compass instruction.

Heavy rain cancels.

Registration Period: Oct. 10 -14

Leader: Ed Gorczynski verticallyinclined1@live.com

Sun. Oct. 16 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elev: 3540', 3610'

Moderately paced, strenuous bushwhack with car shuttle.

Registration Period: Oct. 7-14

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli #1368 W1063

lgizz@hotmail.com (845) 532-3922

Sat. Oct. 22 - HEMLOCK WOOLY ADELGID (HWA) TRAINING

Join Dan Snider, the Catskill Center's Field Projects Manager for specialized training to help protect our beloved Catskills. Find out what damage this bug is causing and what is being done to combat this unwanted visitor. We will see Hemlock Woolly Adelgids first-hand and gain experience in detection, monitoring, and reporting protocols.

Registration Period by Oct. 21

Leader: Heather Rolland #1777 W757

haliagrace@hotmail.com

Sat. Oct. 22 - PANTHER

Distance: 8.2 mi. Ascent: 2,850', Elev: 3,720'

Trailed through hike from Fox Hollow to the summit of Panther Mountain and over Giant Ledge to Rt. 47. Great Views! Shuttle from Rt 47. Moderate pace.

Registration Period: October 12 -18

Leader: Neil Berenholz #2443;

neilberenholz@gmail.com

Sat. Oct.22 - NORTH DOME, SHERRILL

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2600', Elev: 3610', 3540'

Moderately paced bushwhack. Joint with Mid-Hudson ADK.

Registration Period: Oct. 13 - 20.

Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com (914) 489-0654 and Joe Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com (914) 489-1582

Sun. Oct.23 - KATTERSKILL H.P. & ROUNDTOP

Distance: 8.5 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3655' & 3440'

Moderately paced, sometimes steep bushwhack & trail

Registration Period: Oct. 17 - 22

Leader: Keith Keator #1143

kvkeator@yahoo.com (preferred) (518)-589-9890

Sat. Oct. 29 - GRAHAM

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

A moderately paced bushwhack. Rain, inclement weather will cancel.

Depending on the group consensus, we may do Balsam Lake.

Registration Period: Oct. 24-28

Leader: Suzanne Knabe#1326; suzkna@msn.com; (718)-435-3092 after 7:00 pm

Sat. Oct. 29 – PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2950', Elev: 3843' & 3847'

Strenuous paced trail hike

Registration Period: Oct. 24 - 28

Leader: Keith Keator #1143

kvkeator@yahoo.com(preferred) (518)-589-9890

Sun. Oct. 30 - ROCKY & LONE

Distance: 10.5 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elev: 3508', 3721'

A strenuous bushwhack to two remote peaks. Moderate pace.

Registration Period: Oct. 24-28

Leader: Tom Martone #2454 W1010

tom.martone.cmc@gmail.com

Sat. Nov. 5 - BALSAM

Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 1689', Elev: 3600'

A relaxed paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Oct. 31 - Nov. 4

Leader: Jane Bannon #2387

jb_outdoorgirl@yahoo.com

Rambles and Brambles: Hike Schedule continued...**Sat. Nov. 5 - BEARPEN & VLY**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elev: 3600', 3529'

Relaxed paced bushwhack with some rocky scrambles.

Registration Period: Oct. 28 – Nov. 3

Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 w789

tshemella@yahoo.com (preferred)

(845) 687-2208 to leave message

Sun. Nov. 6 - HALCOTT & SLEEPING LION

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2235', Elev: 2520', 3410'

Moderately paced, sometimes steep bushchack to a Catskill High Peak and one of the Hundred Highest.

Registration Period: Oct. 24 - Nov. 4

Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925;

david@dgbdesign.com

Fri. Nov. 11 - BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY (Veteran's Day Route)

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2,250', Elev: 3623', 3694'

Limited group size and plenty of trail breaking on this steep bushwhack. We will visit a B-25 bomber that crashed on Friday Mtn. in 1948.

Registration Period: by Nov. 9

Leader: Michele Corn Farrell #2055, W858;

cornfarrell@gmail.com (preferred); (917) 695-6831 Cell

Sat. Nov. 12 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

Distance: 7.7 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elev: 3694', 3623'

Relaxed paced bushwhack with a few rugged scrambles.

Registration Period: Nov. 4 - 10

Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 w789

tshemella@yahoo.com (preferred)

(845) 687-2208 to leave message

Sun. Nov. 13 – RUSK & EAST RUSK

Distance: 5.0 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3680', 3640'

Moderately paced hike, start and end on trails, mostly bushwhack.

Joint with Mid-Hudson ADK.

Registration Period: Nov. 4 -11

Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944

shnaber@yahoo.com (914) 489-0654 and Joe Ferri

#2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com (914) 489-1582

Sat. Nov. 19 – SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU

Distance: 8.6 mi. Ascent: 4600', Elev: 3800' & 3840'
Strenuous trail hike.

Registration Period: Nov. 14 - 18

Leader: Keith Keator #1143 kvkeator@yahoo.com

(preferred) (518)-589-9890

Sat. Nov. 26 - WEST KILL

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent:1786', Elev: 3880'

Relaxed pace trail hike.

Registration Period: Nov. 11 - 18

Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net (518) 947-6407

Sat. Dec. 3 Winter Preparation Class—

Location: TBD

While the Catskills are sometimes seen as 'easy' peaks, they can present formidable challenges to the Winter hiker. Tom and Laurie Rankin have climbed all of the Catskill 3500 peaks at least twice in Winter, as well as all the 4000'+ peaks in the North East. They will share their winter mountaineering skills, learned over many years, during an early evening indoor presentation.

Bring your gear! This would be a great way to help get ready for winter weekend!

Contact leaders for additional details and to register between Nov. 26 and Dec 2nd.

Time: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM MUST PREREGISTER (minimum 6 participants or class will be cancelled).

Leaders: Tom & Laurie Rankin #1503, 1337

laurierankin@hvc.rr.com (preferred) (845)-926-2182

Sun. Dec. 4 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK & BURNT KNOB

Distance: 6.9 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elev: 3524', 3180'

A moderately paced trail hike traverse.

Well behaved dogs are welcome. Car shuttle.

Registration Period: Nov. 28-Dec. 2

Leader: Tom Martone #2454 W1010

tom.martone.cmc@gmail.com

Sat. Dec. 10 - EAGLE & HAYNES

Distance: 7.86 mi. Ascent: 1559', Elev: 3600'

A relaxed paced trail hike.

Registration Period: Dec. 2 - 8

Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 w789

tshemella@yahoo.com (preferred)

(845) 687-2208 to leave message

Sat. Dec. 17 - FIR & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 10.3 mi. Ascent: 2678', Elev: 3620', 3700'
Relaxed paced bushwhack and trail hike with early start.
Registration Period: Dec 9 - 15
Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 w789
tshemella@yahoo.com (preferred)
(845) 687-2208 to leave message

Sat. Dec. 17 - DOUBLETOP

Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3860'
Moderately paced bushwhack.
Registration Period: Dec. 5 - 16
Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925
david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. December 18 - INDIAN HEAD & TWIN

Distance: 7.4 mi. Ascent: 2,521', Elev: 3,573', 3,640'
Steep and strenuous trail hike over two peaks with great views.
Moderate pace.
Registration Period: Dec. 7 - 13
Leader: Neil Berenholz #2443;
neilberenholz@gmail.com

Sun. Dec. 18 – SOUTHWEST HUNTER & HUNTER

Distance: 10.2 mi. Ascent: 2300', Elev: 4040', 3740'
Loop hike from the Diamond Notch Trail to SW Hunter and to the Hunter Mountain fire tower.
Joint with Mid-Hudson ADK.
Registration Period: Dec. 9 – 16
Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944
shnaber@yahoo.com (914) 489-0654 and Joe Ferri
#2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com (914) 489-1582

Sat. Dec. 31 - BALSAM

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1250', Elev: 3600'
Moderately paced trail hike to a required winter peak.
Registration Period: Dec 23-30
Leaders: Tom and Laurie Rankin #s 1503, 1337;
lauriejrankin@gmail.com: (845)-926-2182
(e-mail preferred)

Guide To Animal Tracks

TRACK PATTERN

WHITE-TAILED DEER 2 1/2" to 3"
MOOSE 4 1/2" to 5 1/2"
DOG - 2 1/4" to 4"
COYOTE
RED FOX
GRAY FOX
BOBCAT - 1 7/8"
LYNX
HOUSE CAT - 1 to 2"
OTTER - 1 1/2"
FISHER - 2 1/4"
MINK - 1"
WEASEL - 1/2" to 1"

TRACKS NOT TO SCALE

Depending on the substrate (snow, mud, dust, sand, etc.) and the speed the animal was moving, tracks may show great variability in their appearance.

F - Front track
H - Hind track
T - Tail marks may be present

RACCOON
STRIPED SKUNK
PORCUPINE
BEAVER
BLACK BEAR
OPOSSUM
WOODCHUCK
MUSKRAT
SNOWSHOE HARE
COTTONTAIL RABBIT
GRAY SQUIRREL
WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE
CROW - 2 1/2"
TURKEY - 4"
RUFFED GROUSE - 2"

BLUE RIDGE DISCOVERY CENTER

Print & Cut Out Animal Track Cards. Laminate and Carry with you in your pack!

The Future is Here!
Now you can renew your membership with PayPal!
New members must still submit a written application.

PayPal
VERIFIED

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER BANK

AMERICAN EXPRESS

Hike in your Brightest this Hunting Season

By Rob Burbank

My dear departed canine hiking companion, Buck, was always eager to hit the trail at any moment. The weather and the season made no difference to him. There were new miles to cover, new sights to see, and new smells to smell. “All right! Let’s go!” his eyes would seem to say when he’d see me shoulder my day pack and head toward the door.

And so it was with no hesitation at all that Buck, a black Labrador retriever cross, would allow us to dress him in appropriate attire when our destination was the woods during hunting season. I don’t think he knew the costume was a brightly-colored attempt to keep his shiny, black coat and four furry legs from too closely resembling those of wild game. Whether he understood the purpose or not, he would calmly step into his hunting season T-shirt, front legs through the arm holes, head where the head was intended to go. The ritual would get him even more excited than usual. The T-shirt, you see, was invariably bright — usually a vibrant orange; on occasion, a vivid, hot-pink number.

We got some strange looks on the trail (both he and I), but no one ever mistook my pooch for a bear or a deer.

And that’s the point when hiking in the fall. It’s hunting season, and it’s important to be visible in the woods. There’s no better way than by wearing blaze orange — the color worn by virtually all hunters, and the color which excites the visual spectrum to such a degree that you pretty much have to stick your head in a bucket to miss it.

Each year we at the AMC get questions about hiking during hunting season. Many people, especially those unfamiliar with the traditions of hunting, are fearful of venturing into the woods during hunting season.

Caution is certainly advisable, but fear isn’t necessary, if you think about where you’re going and you prepare properly for your trip. The best form of preparation is in the clothing you wear and the places you choose to go.

I avoid wearing white during hunting season. A flash of white may be mistaken for the white of a deer’s tail. Follow the lead of hunters when you dress for a fall hike. Items of blaze-orange clothing that are visible from all

directions are best. For instance, an orange cap or an orange jacket encircle the wearer in color. Inexpensive, orange, vinyl vests are easy to come by in outdoors shops or department stores. And don’t forget your four-legged pal. Pet stores carry blaze-orange collars and mesh vests for Fido’s safety, too.

Hunters generally know where hiking trails are located, so it’s not a bad idea to stick to established trails and limit off-trail trappings at this time of year.

All that said, remember that a responsible hunter never fires until he is absolutely certain of his target.

According to a statement from the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, “the increased voluntary use of hunter orange clothing and the steadfast efforts of volunteers in the hunter education program for the past 35 years” have been credited for declining numbers of hunting accidents.

Keeping in mind that there are many areas where the hiking is great and the hunting isn’t, I’ll often head for the high country for an autumn outing. There are some areas where the habitat isn’t attractive to game, but where views are well worth the trip. Consider hiking away from areas that are popular with hunters.

If you’re wondering where those areas are, you might ask the proprietor of your local sporting goods shop, or check with the folks at your state Fish & Game Department. Don’t miss the fun of a fall hike, when the air is crisp, the bugs are gone, the crowds are scarce, and — with the leaves off the trees — the views are terrific. A little extra planning and preparation will help ensure a safe and enjoyable outing.

Wear that hunter orange and we’ll see you, I mean, really, SEE you, on the trails. 



While it IS orange, it’s the WRONG kind of orange!