

The Catskill Canister
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July - September 2021



Headwaters of the Willowemoc Creek. Photo by Jim Hopson #1813 W782

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Suspended in mid air and swallowed up by the tree it is hung up in. Photo by Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

Trail Spice

The President's Column by Maria Bedo-Calhoun

To find the universal element enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter...to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird's nest or a wildflower in spring – these are some of the rewards of the simple life.

John Burroughs

It has been a year! In thinking back to when I wrote my column for the summer 2020 *Canister*, with COVID in full swing and so much uncertainty ahead of us at that time, it does make my head swim a bit to see where we are now a year later. But these words from John Burroughs, the great lover and writer of the Catskills, ring even more true now as we are emerging from this uncertain and challenging year at the same time as winter has passed and the days are getting warmer, longer and brighter. With spring well on its way out by the time you read this, it feels good to focus on all the positive things ahead and to update everyone on Club activities.

First off, we are actually going to be able to gather together on July 31st after over two years! You will see information later in this *Canister* and on our [website](#) about the upcoming annual meeting at the Ashokan Center. It will be a much more causal affair than our usual gathering, but it will be a chance to see all of our friends in person and to welcome new members to the Club. With your ticket you will be able to explore the grounds of the Center, which has some wonderful trails, a covered bridge and historical buildings. There will be socializing down by the pavilion where we can catch up and share our past two years over drinks and a barbecue.

We will also be holding our usual business meeting (required legally). At that meeting we will ask members in good standing to ratify the revised 3500 Club Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws. Those will be sent out a month in advance of the meeting for review. With this ratification, the Club can then move forward with its application to become an official 501c3, an important step for us.

In the past year, in each President's Column, I have been pointing out changes the Club Governance Committee has been making in our revised bylaws. In this one, I want to review a big change in our board structure, which will need to be ratified by members. To be compliant in New York State, all voting members of a board need to be elected by the membership. Currently only the officers (2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President, Secretary and Treasurer) are on the yearly slate. Committee Chairs, like the Outings Chair, Membership Chair, etc., have been voting all this time but are appointed by the President. The changes we are proposing to bring us into compliance are that we move to Officers (which we already have) but add Directors at Large (DAL) as voting members, which is standard in non-profit boards. These DAL candidates will be on the yearly election slate. The number of DAL will range between 12 and 16, which was recommended by our lawyer to allow flexibility.

Committee Chairs will remain (no worries!), they will still have the same duties in their positions and will continue to be appointed by the President. The big change is that if they want to be able to vote, which is completely optional, they will ALSO need to run as a Director at Large. Conversely there can be DAL who are not Committee Chairs, but they will be required to serve on a committee as part of their duties. As is the case now for all nominees, the slate of DAL and Officers will be proposed by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the Club Board as is detailed in the bylaws.

While we will vote on this in July, it will not go into effect until our April 2022 meeting as the New York State has to approve the whole thing once the membership votes. Are you still following? I realize this may seem complicated and confusing, but I do want to be as transparent as possible so that members know what they are voting for in July. The Club Board feels this set up is the best way to replicate the current structure while staying compliant. Please reach out to me if you have any questions now or when the entire document is sent out in June at president@catskill-3500-club.org.

Other Club initiatives are in full swing, too! I would like to highlight our newest one, which is our collaboration with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on their *Adopt a Trailhead* program, run by our Trail Maintenance Chair, Lourdes Sonera, with lots of help from the Stewardship Committee and Assistant Trail Maintenance Chair Colleen Hardcastle. Club volunteers will be at the Slide Mountain Trailhead each weekend from Memorial Day to Columbus Day speaking with hikers, providing information and education on Leave No Trace. Do you want to sign up and give back? Go [here](#) to sign up. We are proud to be the first group to join the program and hope that this initiative will be as successful as the Catskill Summit Steward program the Club founded with the New York New Jersey Trail Conference eight years ago.

The Summit Steward program is just one example of where Club membership dues and donations have made such a difference. The Club provided seed money to help the Trail Conference initiate the steward program in 2015 when, at the time, the DEC said it was not able fund it. The Club has been helping to subsidize it ever since. Jim Bouton, Canister Maintainer, deserves a lot of credit for raising the idea to the Club Board at the time and bringing summit stewards to the Catskills. With the success of this program and the fire tower stewards, these types of initiatives are now increasing. In 2018 the Catskill Center implemented their own stewards at the Blue Hole and this year the DEC has decided to give an official contract to the Trail Conference to fund the Summit Steward program among others. They now realize how important and successful these programs are, whether staffed by paid stewards, AmeriCorps members or, in the case of this new *Adopt a Trailhead* initiative, by volunteers.

I think it is becoming clear to all of us that, as the number of hikers is increasing and because of the greater impact created by so many people discovering the Catskills, we, as a Club, have a responsibility to continue with stewardship and education activities. Which brings me back to the vote in July for our new bylaws and our move to a 501c3. All of this is so that the Club can step up even more to do our part for this area we care deeply about and it also allows us to have a voice in the discussions in the region. It does not mean we need to lose out on all the camaraderie and fun that started the Club and which should always be there in the mix. But being an advocate for the trails and the mountains in these changing recreational times is important as an organization and a responsibility we do have as Catskill Mountain lovers and enthusiasts.



Peekamoose sunrise. Photo by Michael Kucinski #3210



Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club



Dues for calendar year 2021 are overdue as of January 1st. 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 Club 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.

As a reminder, good standing is required to maintain voting rights and privileges of membership (e.g., *The Canister* subscription, ability to buy patches). An active member is one who has completed their requirements for membership and who has paid the prescribed dues for the current year or who is a life member (life membership can be obtained for a one-time fee of \$200). Please note that the initial fee only covers the registration and the first year of membership. Delinquent members may regain good standing by payment of one year’s delinquent dues.

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

And, speaking of life membership — the new patches are in! If you have been a life member at press time and have not received your patch yet, please get in touch with either [Dave](#) or [Chris](#) to verify your address.



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



3500 Club Fifty-Fifth Annual Dinner Meeting



Mark your calendars for the 3500 Club Fifty-Fifth Annual Dinner Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, July 31st, 2021 at the Ashokan Center (477 Beaverkill Rd, Olivebridge, NY 12461).

Access will be open from 12-8 pm. Ticket fee of \$45 includes entrance to all the trails at the [Ashokan Center](#) and a barbeque with vegetarian and gluten free options. Iced tea and water will be provided and a cash bar will be available with beer, hard cider and wine. As in the past, we will have Club-related merchandise available for purchase (see the merch update below!) as well as Carol and Dave White with their books, and Alan Via with his books.

Day schedule:

12 pm: access to the Ashokan Center

1-3 pm: socializing with a cash bar and some simple snacks.

3-5 pm: annual business meeting and awarding of certificates.

5 pm: barbeque

8 pm: departure

Since our gathering will be outside with hiking on the grounds encouraged, dress code is casual. Also, as there will only be a few chairs provided by the Ashokan Center, **please bring your own camp chair** to relax in. Additionally, you CANNOT bring your own alcohol to the event. The Ashokan Center has very specific insurance rules they must follow so any drinks must come through the insured caterer provided.

Parking for most people will be in the upper lot, which will require walking down to the pavilion, but a direct access is available for anyone with mobility issues. Please note that on the registration form.

As we are limiting numbers due to COVID and space issues, we will only accept one member (or member-to-be — coming to get their certificate) with a guest to purchase tickets through July 1. If there is availability after that, we will open tickets to aspirants with one guest. We anticipate a lot of interest, so we suggest members who want to attend should register right away!

The purchase page asks for your member number. If you do not know it, please refer to the member roster on the [Club's site](#). If you are a member to be, check that box instead.

To view an Ashokan Center trail map, [click here](#).

Deadlines:

Registration for members only through July 1st

Registration closes July 17th

Registration link is [here](#). If you have any questions or if you cannot register online, contact Michael Bongar 914-734-1177 or email at michael@bongarbiz.com

By: the Annual Dinner Committee (Mike Doehring, Michael Bongar, Linda VanSteenburg, Maria Bedo-Calhoun, Bill Chriswell).



Catskill 3500 Club Welcomes New Board Members



As the Club is growing, we have continued to welcome new non-voting board members.

The Officers of the Catskill 3500 Club want to extend a very warm welcome to Bill Roehrig, who joins the Club board as an assistant to the Digital Content Chair and to Colleen Hardcastle, who joins the Club board as an assistant to the Trail Maintenance Chair.

Bill Roehrig, #469, started hiking in the Catskills in the late 1970s branching out from the Hudson Highlands to the “big” mountains there. Bill's interest in the Catskills was heightened while taking an adult education course in Poughkeepsie titled “Climbing in the Catskills” with Ralph Ferrusi (#122 W34) as the instructor. Eventually Bill and his hiking partner and wife Sharon became members of the Catskill 3500 Club. While Bill's early days hiking in the Catskills were mostly peak bagging adventures, he now takes the time to enjoy the glorious spring wildflowers and always carries binoculars in hopes of spotting some of the many species of birds that live in the mountains. Bill's working career included many technical positions and along the way he became proficient in web technology. Bill was part of the volunteer technology team at the NY-NJ Trail Conference that helped guide that organization through two transitions of their website.



Colleen Hardcastle, #2990 W1416, is the co-chair of the Trailhead Steward Program. Colleen earned the Club Service Award this spring, and is Wilderness First Aid certified. Colleen also maintains a trail near her home in New Jersey, coaches for Girls on the Run, and kayaks. Her COVID hobby has been logging what she finds growing in iNaturalist.



Carpooling to Hikes



The seven principles of *Leave No Trace* (LNT) are:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

We are all aware of the uptick in hiking visitor numbers all around. Many trailhead parking lots designed and built many years ago did not anticipate the huge increase in hiker numbers. As such, these lots rapidly fill almost any day for hiking in the Catskills.

The 3500 Club has identified carpooling spots along the Route 28 corridor that can be used to help reduce vehicle crowding at these trailhead lots. The list of carpooling spots can be found on the Club's website under the [resources](#) section. Please consider carpooling when participating in group hikes in the Catskills. Three of the seven principles of *Leave No Trace* are followed by Carpooling:

- **Plan Ahead and Prepare** – Carpooling saves gasoline and car emissions, and extends parking opportunities
- **Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces** – Minimizing parking at constructed trail head lots reduces roadside parking and resultant erosion and damage to the environment
- **Be Considerate of Other Visitors** – Having your group hike take up minimal parking slots ensures that all hikers have a space to park, especially in the very small or very busy parking lots

You will also reduce the need for roadside parking, which presents its own problems of impeding emergency vehicle access, private property trespassing, tickets/towing/no parking regulations, and ill-will for local residents.

So consider carpooling to reduce Forest Preserve environmental impacts. It's also fun for camaraderie in anticipating the hike ahead, and recalling the events and beauty of the day on the ride out!

By: Charlie Lutomski, 1st Vice President

3500 Club Service Award

As reported last in the [2019 Fall issue](#) of *The Canister*, the Club, besides recognizing hiking accomplishments, also acknowledges members who give back to the Club and the Catskill Forest Preserve. The purpose of this award is to recognize service to the Club by its members. The award is open to any member in good standing who accumulates seven points by participating in [various volunteering activities](#). The award is administered by [Wanda Davenport](#).



The 3500 Club Service Award was established in 2008 in honor of the Club's founders (Gunter Hauptman, Nancy Locke, Dan Smiley, Bill Spangenberg, and Brad Whiting). Laurie Rankin, Carol White, Tom Rankin and Dave White were the inaugural recipients of the award at the 2008 Annual Dinner. Since then, more than 20 additional members have received the recognition. We would like to acknowledge the following most recent 3500 Club Service Award qualifiers: Colleen Hardcastle, Charlie Lutomski, Lourdes Sonera, Steve Welgoss and Johnny Witter.

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

Private Property guide update

Our [Hiking and Private Property guide](#) has been updated for 2021. Please note the addition of guidance for a western approach to Kaaterskill High Peak, as well as guidance for parking on Rt. 3 for Bearpen and Vly (Fleishmanns side). Following these guidelines is important to reducing our impact on communities and avoiding conflicts with landowners. All guidance for Doubletop and Graham has been removed on account of their closure.

By: Jake Haisley, Aspirants Chair



Parking Alert: Permits Required for Peekamoose Rd Trailhead



The DEC has issued Peekamoose/Table Trailhead Permit revisions that went into effect on May 15, 2021. Previously, it was enforced only for the Blue Hole and there was no charge, but now it covers the entire Riparian corridor (as per the map below) and is required for hikers as well. The fee was added “to cover administrative costs, which is consistent with other day use areas.”

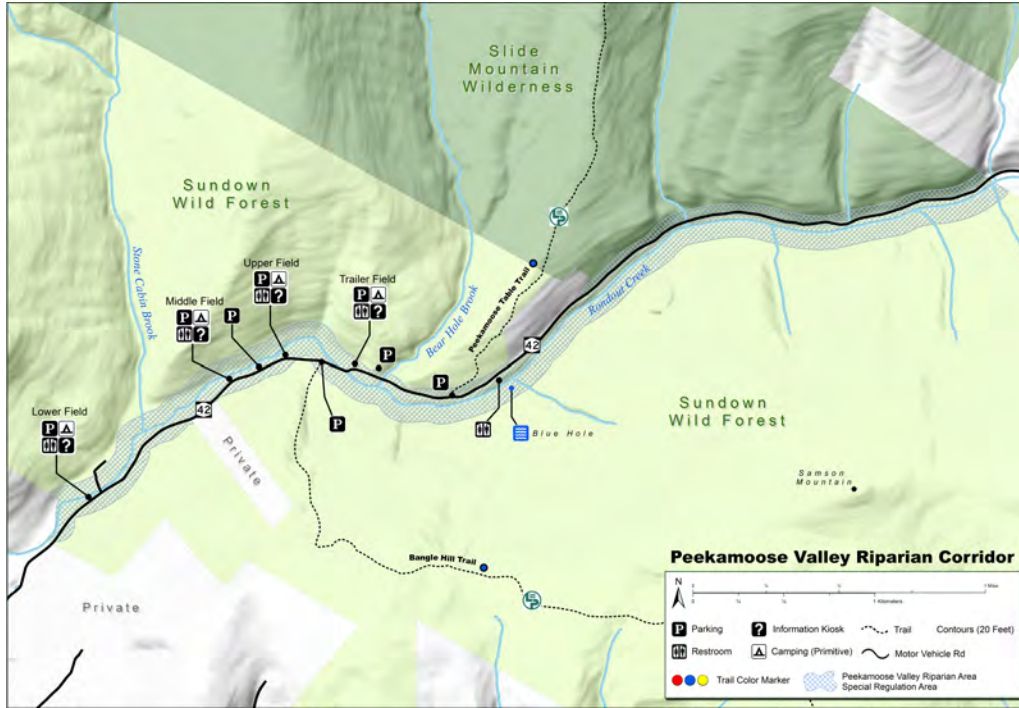
Per the DEC press release:

“The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today released updated regulations for visitors to the Peekamoose Blue Hole and nearby Rondout Creek area in the Sundown Wild Forest, town of Denning, Ulster County. DEC issued the new regulations as part of an ongoing effort to protect this resource and promote sustainable use. The regulations will help improve public safety and reduce environmental impacts in the area.” Full press release [here](#).

Details:

- \$10 per permit but 6 people are covered under one permit, though the permit is attached to a single car and must be displayed on that car.
- 60 permits per day are issued
- 39 per-night camping permits, with the ability to choose your campsite
- Effective: May 15th through September 15th, seven days a week.

- How to obtain it: via [Reserve America](#) or by calling 1-800-456-CAMP (1-800-456-2267).
- Fine for no permit: up to \$250



Merchandise Update

The Peak List is back! New shirts and sweatshirts arriving shortly! Vintage hiking books!

Here is a preview of our next merchandise order - we are adding performance t-shirts for hunting season; and short sleeve t-shirts and sweatshirts are back in stock! These items will have the new Peak List on the back. And, we have restocked the caps in forest green. Also, thanks to a very generous donation by Matt Harris #2796, we have a limited quantity of two vintage hiking books, a 1987 reprint of 1975 *Guide to the Catskills* and a 1982 reprint of *How to Camp Out* from 1877. You will be amazed at some of the equipment they recommend! Fun fact: the *Guide to the Catskills* received a glowing review by Edward West (#45 W40) in the [Fall 1975](#) issue of *The Canister*. Of course, lots of things have changed since then, but the books would make a great historical reference.



Updated Order Form will be on the website shortly, or you can email us at merchandise@catskill-3500-club.org to place an order or to reserve your copy of the books.

Note: there will be merchandise for sale at the Summer Meeting at The Ashokan Center July 24th, cash or check only, and you will get a discounted price as no shipping is involved.

The pricing information for the new items (which includes both the taxes and the S/H) is per below. [Ordering form](#), which includes all currently offered items, can be found on the Club's website.

Item	Apparel Color/Notes	Price, each
Unisex short sleeve crew neck (50% Cotton/50% Polyester)	Charcoal Heather	\$23
Unisex short sleeve performance tee (100% Polyester)	Bright orange	\$24
Unisex long sleeve performance shirt (100% Polyester)	Bright orange	\$28
Hooded sweatshirt , unisex, pullover (80% Cotton-20% Polyester)	Charcoal Heather	\$56
Hooded sweatshirt , unisex, full-zip (80% Cotton-20% Polyester)	Black	\$62
Guide to the Catskills by Arthur Adams, Published by Walking News 1987, Originally Published 1975	(limit 2)	\$15
How to Camp Out by John M. Gould, Published by Walking News 1982, Originally Published 1877	(limit 2)	\$15

Note: the images of the new merchandise are the proofs we received from the supplier. Proofs are intended for a general placement not for exact scale. The logo will be the same size through all garments and centered appropriately.

By: Margaret McGrath and Terri Baker, Merchandise Coordinators



Wilderness First Aid Training Recap



This year's Club Wilderness First Aid class was a little different than usual, but at least it could run, unlike 2020! The class, held on the April 17th weekend, was mainly for members of the Club Search and Rescue team, with some extra spots filled from the hiker community.

The class was led by Gregory Filipski of LifeForce USA, Inc. Many thanks to the Phoenicia Fire District for letting us hold the WFA course at their M.F. Whitney Hose Co. building.

Hopefully next year we will be back to our regular schedule and be able to offer this valuable training to a wider group of hikers!



By: Erica Winterbottom, SAR Chair



Upcoming Races Alert



Mark your calendars for the upcoming race events being held this summer. We recommend avoiding the trails along which the races are being held to give runners space and to reduce the traffic and impact on those days. Interested in volunteering? Check out each race's Facebook page.

Manitou's Revenge Ultra, the annual 54 mile race in the Catskills will be held on June 26-27, 2021. Course route is provided at the [link](#), but in a snapshot:

- Early Saturday morning, 6/27/2021 the runners start out at the CD Lane Park in Windham, then run three miles along the Big Hollow Rd, then along the Black Dome Trail to Escarpment Trail.
- then the Escarpment Trail all the way to South Mt
- down to Palenville, up the north side of KHP
- skip the summit and stay on the snowmobile trail
- down south side and Devil's Path all the way to Plateau
- Silver Hollow (Long Path) over Mt. Tremper down to Phoenicia

Runners have to finish in 24 hours so the festivities should be done by hiking time on Sunday. Fun fact: Mike Siudy (#1728 W695) is one of the race directors.

Escarpment Race, the annual 18.6-mile race, held since 1977, is tentatively scheduled for July 25th, 2021, and is pending a DEC permit at press time. The Escarpment Race follows the course of the Escarpment Trail from Route 23 in Windham and finishes at the picnic grounds at North Lake. Fun fact: Dick Vincent (#3055) is the founder and the director of the race.



Trail Maintenance and Adopt-a-Highway Updates



PEEKAMOOSE-TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The Catskill 3500 Club hosted its Spring Trail Maintenance event on April 18th, 2021. A dozen volunteers were out in full force on the Peekamoose-Table trail, which the Club has maintained for years. They cut brush, cleaned water bars, cleaned the spring, cleared trash and removed some large blowdowns.

Our utmost gratitude to our trail maintenance volunteers for the significant impact they have made:

Colleen Hardcastle
 Denise Barton
 Amanda Carpenter
 Pat Teora
 Francine Snyder
 Richard Garrison
 Brian Hoody
 David Lemmo
 Johnny Witter
 Eggy Butler
 Larry Leslie
 Lourdes Sonera



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

The Catskill 3500 Club hosted its Spring Adopt-a-Highway event on Sunday, May 2nd, 2021. Our incredible volunteers met at the Devil's Tombstone parking to fulfill our pledge to keep the two-mile stretch of Route 214 litter-free. The Club has proudly maintained this section for nearly 20 years.

While we collected a significant amount of litter, there was a noticeable reduction of garbage from previous years.

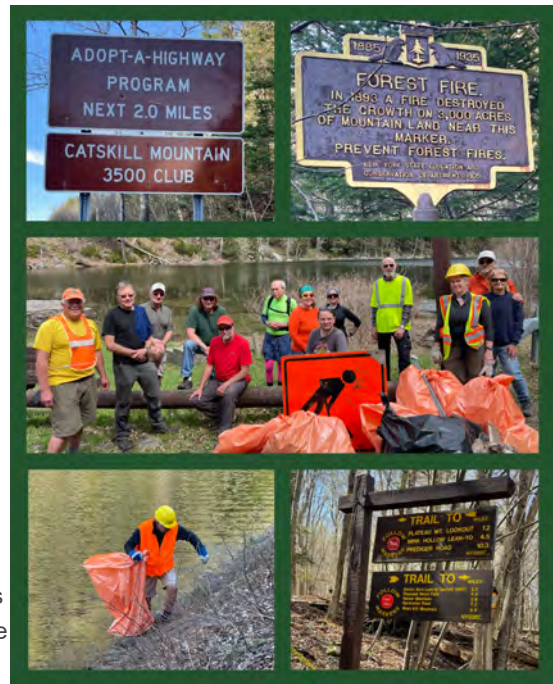
Our appreciation to:

Larry Leslie
 Harold Oakhill
 Colleen Hardcastle

Keith Keator
Charlie Lutomski
Johnny Witter
Michele Kaminsky
Judith Estok
John Estok
Rolf Reiss
Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond
Steve Welgoss
Al Davis
Lourdes Sonera

Thank you so much for showing up to raise awareness and to promote LNT by keeping our highways litter-free.

Fall events will be listed in the Fall issue of *The Canister*. If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer list to stay up to date with the future trail maintenance and road clean-up opportunities, please contact [Lourdes Sonera](#).



By: *Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair*

 **Update from CMSAR** 

The Catskill 3500 Club's search and rescue team, Catskill Mountain SAR, continues to stay busy focusing on education initiatives and training in search tactics, wilderness medicine, and learning the basics of rope rescue. Our all-volunteer team is on call 24/7/365 to respond to searches and rescues in the Catskills and surrounding areas. We are dispatched by law enforcement and are proud members of the New York State Federation of Search and Rescue Teams (NYS FEDSAR) and the New Jersey Search and Rescue Council (SARCNJ).

Scholarships were approved by the 3500 Club Board for Mission-Ready members to advance their Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training to the 80-hour Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification. The WFR course is internationally recognized as the industry standard for SAR members. Team members, Annmarie Spiciarich (Safety & Training Officer) and Marv Freedman (Lieutenant), recently attended the upgraded course and are now certified Wilderness Emergency Medical Technicians (WEMT).

Several members of the team have taken an interest in and have been actively training with Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) accredited teams. In February, CMSAR drilled with New Jersey Search and Rescue's (NJSAR) Mountain Rescue Unit reviewing low angle rope rescue, patient assessment, and carry-out procedures. The Phoenicia Fire Department, Big Indian Fire Department, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Rangers were also in attendance.

Our in-person team meetings will resume in July and thanks to the Pine Hill Fire Department we have a new permanent meeting place. The team has been meeting monthly via Zoom during the pandemic.

Congratulations to our team members, Bill Winterbottom (Chief), Braden Sayer (Captain), David Bunde (Lieutenant) and Jake Haisley, for their successful summit of Mount Hood at 11,249 feet in elevation in Oregon. Well in advance of this trip, free time was spent training, conditioning, and preparing. Beginning the technical climb at midnight, they made way over 5000 feet in elevation gain in just over 3.5 miles to the summit. They enjoyed a spectacular sunrise and pristine conditions on a gorgeous bluebird day. "Amazing experience with great teammates and friends. Looking forward to the next adventure." ~Braden Sayer



Our five candidates are on track to become Mission-Ready within the next few months. It typically takes a candidate nine months to complete the requirements to become Mission-Ready (i.e., to be on the callout list for searches). Of the requirements, the biggest commitment is time and most important is a positive attitude. In addition to being a full member of the Catskill 3500 Club, candidates must complete WFA, CPR, Bloodborne Pathogens and FEMA courses; DEC Basic Wildland Search Certification; NASAR SARTECH II Certification; a fitness test; and a pack check confirming they have their non-urban 24-hour self-sustaining pack to take care of themselves and a subject(s) for an extended period of time. The requirements in the pack are based on the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) [standard](#). We'd also like to commend candidate David Oliver on his accomplishment of completing the Adirondack 46 High Peaks in a single season this past winter.

We receive many inquiries on how to join and greatly appreciate the interest. At this time, the team is not actively recruiting. However, if you would like to support the team's efforts, please consider a donation to the team via [PayPal](#) or by check, payable to Catskill 3500 Club, PO Box 294 West Hurley, NY 12491. Make a note that the donation is for SAR. If you would like to be considered as a candidate in the future, please email catskillsar@gmail.com and, finally, to follow along with the team, find us 'catskillsar' on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Thank You for Your Continued Support! Stay Safe!

By: Erica Winterbottom, SAR Chair



Rocks from off-trail adventures. Photos by Tim Luby #3268

3500 Trailhead Steward Program Update



Text by: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075, Trail Maintenance Chair and Colleen Hardcastle #2990 W1416,
Assistant to the Trail Maintenance Chair

As of the 2021 Memorial Weekend, we are ecstatic to make the Catskill 3500 Club Trailhead Stewards Program a reality! The Catskills 3500 Club is the first organization to partner with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for its initiative Adopt- A -Trailhead. Club President Maria Bedo-Calhoun and Trail Maintenance Chair, Lourdes Sonera had the opportunity meet with Ian Dunn, DEC Forester, and McCrea Burnham, DEC Stewardship Coordinator, in anticipation of the inaugural weekend. Our program has been publicized on the [news!](#)

Starting on Friday, May 28th, 2021, volunteers (a mix of members and aspirants) arrived early at the Slide Mountain trailhead each weekend day, set up our information tent, and eagerly connected with visitors. Our volunteers engaged with 130 hikers and backpackers the first weekend at the trailhead, despite the chilly and damp Memorial Day Weekend weather.



Our stewards are improving the experience for current and future visitors to the Catskills, by sharing information on [Leave No Trace](#), [Hike Safe](#), and the [Ten Essentials](#), and by being a friendly and welcoming presence. Hikers were generally happy to review their hike plans with the stewards and to accept information and gentle advice. One hiker even wrote to praise the Club, and a steward, for the steward's kindness, which turned around her blister-ridden day.

Volunteering is not only helping the hiking community but is also inspiring and rewarding for the volunteers. We saw the drive and persistence that keeps some of us out in the woods, even when it is unseasonably cold and rainy. Visitors showed us their wisdom in turning back, rather than becoming hypothermic or injured. And in turn, volunteers were inspired by other hikers' sharing their passions, from backpacking and long-distance hiking to art.



At press time, the program is just one week young and we would like to thank all the volunteers who braved some less-than-ideal temperatures to be out there so far, sharing information and positive energy with hikers. THANK YOU to everyone who has volunteered since then and for all the volunteers who have signed up for the upcoming weekends!

We are still seeking volunteers for this year. Going forward, we would love to eventually expand the program to include the Woodland Valley trailhead. Please [join us!](#) Do you want to have fun and be inspired, while giving back? Learn more and sign up [here](#).



View from Bellearye Ridge. Photo by Jason Pelton #3013 W1211

Conservation Corner

Victory at Ashokan

Text by: Carol White #860 W310, Conservation Chair



The Catskill 3500 Club, the largest hiking club in the Catskill region founded in 1962, now with over 3,600 members, petitioned the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to grant us full party status in objecting to Premium Energy's Ashokan Reservoir Pumped Storage proposal. The 3500 Club rallied with 16 other conservation and recreation organizations to counter the proposal, achieving intervener status by showing specifically how this project will cause harm. New York State uniquely grants constitutional protection to Forest Preserve lands—they shall be kept *forever wild* and shall not be taken by any corporation, public or private. Over 1,500 filings opposing this private energy corporation's ill-considered project persuaded them to pull out.

The 3500 Club asserted that the construction and operation of a several-hundred-acre upper reservoir, dam, powerhouse, pipeline, and subsequent transmission lines would inevitably encroach on Forest Preserve lands: some land would be flooded and several trails, campgrounds, and roads would be closed or long interrupted; cutting of many trees on steep land causes erosion, without trees to anchor soil; such development would increase destructive flooding of waterways, already a problem due to intensified storms; pumping and releasing water would increase turbidity in the Ashokan Reservoir's settling basin, a source of drinking water for millions.

To ensure protection of Forest Preserve lands now and for future generations, the 3500 Club's mission is to promote safe and environmentally aware hiking of the region's high peaks. This year, Club members will engage with hikers at trailheads, discussing Leave No Trace principles, wilderness safety, and relevant regulations. Previously we've funded stewards on peaks and at popular areas on and near trails to educate the public on how to keep this wondrous land wild and pristine. As Henry David Thoreau put it, *In wildness is the preservation of the world.*



Summer Flowers, from L to R: Lesser Purple Fringed Orchid; Smooth Aster; Round Leaf Pyrola.
Photos by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222

Canister Report for 2020



Text by: Jim Bouton #1539 W614, Canisters Chair

The canister report and tally for the Catskill Trailless Peaks has been completed and submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). This makes the 22 consecutive years that the 3500 Club has been doing this, as per our original Adopt-a-Natural Resource (AANR) and our present Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA). Under this agreement with the NYSDEC, the canister books are collected, all names are counted into monthly tallies and submitted to the NYSDEC for review. Your name stays in the book and is never shared. With this information they can plan and allocate resources for the future. It should be noted this is a major tool for the NYSDEC, as there are not other registers for these peaks and areas.

As suspected, 2020 was a busy year in the backcountry, even with the shutdown in March, April and May. Most hikers respected this recommendation not to visit the high peaks and further stretch local emergency resources. Doubletop was off limits for all at times and limited to area hikers when it was opened. It still saw a significant increase. This was also the first full year with canisters on KHP and Eagle mountains. I did note this in my report.

A total of 17,349 names were counted. Excluding Eagle and KHP, there were 14,701. This made a 57% increase from the 9,344 names counted in 2019. A certain number of hikers didn't sign for various reasons. I conducted an unscientific poll on one of the popular hiking internet groups and discovered roughly 10% didn't sign. So, adding 1,734 more names to the 17,349 gives us a grand total of 19,099 visits. I also logged over 150 names I took to be dogs, although they could be spouses or friends. Put a paw next to your pet's name. It should be noted that Doubletop had 600 sign-ins, but the number of visits was probably closer to 1,000, as many did not sign as they were trespassing or using false addresses. I did witness this in person on the day I removed the canister. While this was not the reason given for Doubletop and Graham being closed, it certainly didn't help.

The past year's sign-ins of 19,099 is a large increase from when I first started maintaining the canisters in 2008 — there were only 1,750 sign-ins then. This is an increase of over 1000% in 12 years!

For the most part, the summits were clean. Some have even grown back from previous cuttings. There were no signs of fires and camping in the summit areas. Yet, there were a few instances of cutting, blazing and painting. New herd path formation seems to have slowed, but the main herd paths have become established. Thank you to all who respect these peaks and clean up when they see a problem.

Southwest Hunter was again the most popular, with 1565 signers. Sherrill, again, was the least visited, with 957 visits, with Rocky close behind. September and October are the most popular hiking months, while December is the least for the trailless peaks.

I thank each of you for signing. I do read every entry. For the most part, they are respectful and appreciative of the peaks. A few were unhappy with the bugs, nettles, closeness of the spruce and location of the summits. Because of the large volume of hikers, I do ask that you use every page in the book, in chronological order. And try to write somewhat legibly. I do enjoy notes, drawings, songs, poems and personal thoughts about your hike. Good or Bad. And use the pencils

supplied, or bring your own. The paper is water repellent. Pen and markers run, destroying pages of entries, including your own.

Remember, the summit areas are fragile and pristine areas, and deserve special care. Most have good viewpoints nearby. After signing and celebrating your accomplishment, I suggest eating or resting at one of these, if possible. Food attracts animals, which can damage the canisters. Don't handle the books after eating. Do your "business" before or after leaving the summit, same for your dog, or cat. Don't leave food or trinkets in the canisters. Coins actually plug the ventilation holes in the bottom and prevent the inside from drying out. The canisters are painted orange to aid finding them and to prevent further herd path formation. They were placed where they are for reasons including private property issues, technology available at the time, USGS markers, or a one-time viewpoint, and not where some of the popular mapping apps say they are. Use an altimeter. If you are unsure of your ability, or want to meet like-minded hikers, join a Club hike. The leaders are well versed in LNT, safety, wilderness ethics, and first-aid and many offer orientation lessons. There are also many qualified, for-hire guides available.

Be safe, enjoy your journey, and respect the mountains and your fellow hikers.



View of Indian Head and Twin from Prediger Road by [Joseph Raguzin](#)

Hiking with John Burroughs, Conversing in Wood Blocks

Text and Images by: Andrew Moroz #1218 W452

John Burroughs did not write much poetry, but his poem "Waiting" is the core of his philosophy of seeing Nature* as a complete work of art, one that is "not for our private good alone, but for all other things" – of which we are but one. A prescient view from a 26 year-old who, in 1863, understood what we're just now learning, that all things are interconnected and mutually reliant.



It is doubtful one could make many Catskill hikes, let alone 35 of them, without crossing paths with John Burroughs. After all, his name is in bronze on Slide Mountain. I came across it on my first hike, in December 1995. My sister and I had come up from Philadelphia hoping to smell the balsam fir on what seemed like a mild late autumn day, attracted by learning that the southernmost Northern Forest was in the Catskills, islands of sub-alpine environs carved and left behind by the torrent of melting glacial streams. We instead found a full-on winter ascent of Slide and another of the Wittenberg the next day. In Tannersville we stopped at a bookstore where I bought a copy of essays called *In the Catskills* by Burroughs. Inside, his account called "A Bed of Boughs" described the same



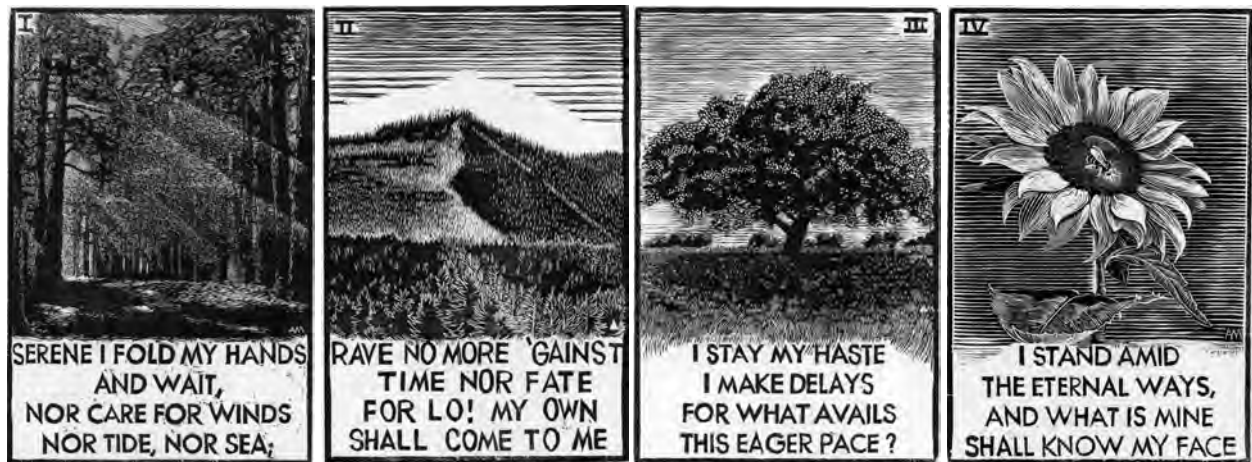
terrain we'd just experienced. His friendly style is that of a knowledgeable companion who speaks just enough to entertain, but not so much to bore with facts.

The facts, however, are all there and this is Burroughs' greatness. His knowledge of Nature is as extensive as those who devote their academic (scientist) or practical (farmer, hunter, forager) life to its study and use, and he understands that our interpretation of those facts is native to our relationship to Nature. "I would not have the poet change his way" he says. "The way of science" gives us power, while Nature "as reflected in the poet's mind" gives us beauty. Thus, we have a way to act and a means to reflect.

What good news this was to a 40 year old! Burroughs explained "Waiting" as "a happy acquiescence of the order of the universe as I found it – a faith in the essential veracity of things." Nature is complete in itself and when seeing it that way "disharmonies vanish, and all our perplexing problems are solved." Nature is beautiful and terrifying, like our happiness or misery, they are like "the devices of the artist to enhance the total effect of his work." I'd submit that means accept the facts; they mean no harm; after all, you are one of them.

Years of hiking the Catskills and reading Burroughs passed, eventually the poem consumed me and the engravings were done over a few years, finishing in 2014. I chose to decorate the poem to reflect the order of the universe as I happily found it, tramping within the deep woods of the Catskills. Each 6"x4" plate is cut from end-grain maple, printed on a proofing press, and decorates a half-stanza:

- I Earth, Forest, morning comes again;
- II Earth: Slide Mountain, mountains are a symbol of permanence;
- III Plants: Oak Tree, symbol of immense and enduring strength;
- IV Plants: Sunflower, symbol of devotion;
- V Plants: Moonflower, symbol of the dreams of love;
- VI Animals: Trout, symbol of conviction;
- VII Animals: Turtle, symbol of longevity;
- VIII Animals: Fox, symbol of opportunity;
- IX Animals: Heron, symbol of wisdom and judgment;
- X Animals: Bear, symbol of strength and introspection;
- XI The Heavens: Stars at night, (not just a) symbol of meaning from order;
- XII The Heavens: "All Creation," from Natty Bumppo's famous Catskill viewpoint, another morning.

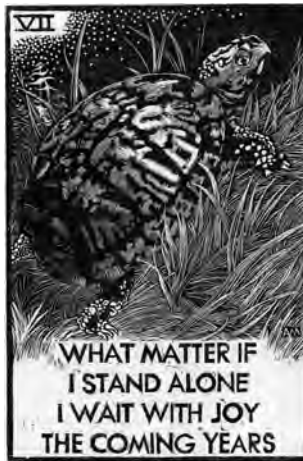




ASLEEP, AWAKE,
BY NIGHT OR DAY,
THE FRIENDS I SEEK
ARE SEEKING ME



NO WIND CAN DRIVE
MY BARK ASTRAY,
NOR CHANGE
THE TIDE OF DESTINY



WHAT MATTER IF
I STAND ALONE
I WAIT WITH JOY
THE COMING YEARS



MY HEART SHALL REAP
WHERE IT HATH SOWN
AND GARNER UP ITS
FRUIT OF TEARS



THE WATERS KNOW
THEIR OWN, AND DRAW
THE BROOK THAT SPRINGS
IN YONDER HEIGHTS



SO FLOWS THE GOOD
WITH EQUAL LAW
UNTO THE SOUL OF
PURE DELIGHTS



THE STARS COME NIGHTLY
TO THE SKY,
THE TIDAL WAVE
COMES TO THE SEA



NOR TIME NOR SPACE
NOR DEEP NOR HIGH
CAN KEEP MY OWN
AWAY FROM ME

*Burroughs capitalized the word "nature."

The poem was written by John Burroughs in 1863, at age 26. The images are copyrighted by Andrew Moroz. Please ask permission to use 12 Wood Engravings by Andrew Moroz, 2014.

Andrew (Life Member #1218 W452) is an architect, living in Philadelphia. He was born in New York City and grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and NYC. His grandfather owned a summer house in the White Mountains of NH, and that's where his hiking life started. Andrew was taught by his father to make simple linoleum block prints. Eventually a focus of interest became the detailed engravings of another great age of the applied arts, when the production of type-high wood blocks allowed books to be richly illustrated by wood engravings, unveiling the magnificent work of the craftsmen of the era. Andrew's images have won awards and have been purchased by museums and libraries. Andrew can be contacted via [email](#).

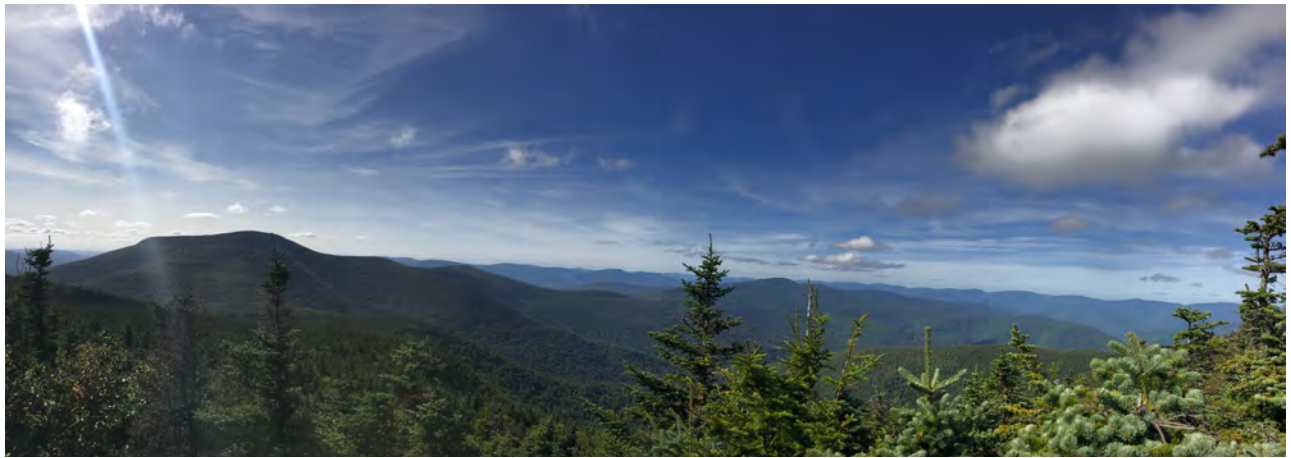
Wood Engraving Technical Info

Wood engravings are distinguished by the liveliness of the marks and the degree of fineness that engraving tools can produce. The tools are solid shapes, honed to a fine edge, similar to those used on metal. "Wood engravings" differ from "woodcuts" by the use of end grain. Woodcuts are made on the side of the grain, or the "plank side" of the wood, and the gouge-like tools produce broad and expressive marks. They are both used to make relief prints.

It is the nature of relief prints that the ink – darkness – is supported by the uncut surface. The relief-printed image is seen entirely by the light admitted by the marks of the engraver's tools where no ink adheres. The engraver must be keen to the sources and effects of light on the subject and how, by those marks, light describes form.

My relief prints are made using a 1950s era Nolan No. 1 Proof Press, a manually operated cylinder printing press formerly used to check a typesetter's work – it is set to the height of metal type plus the thickness of a composing stick. Engraving blocks are also type-high. To make each print the block is inked with a brayer, the paper laid upon the block,

and the cylinder is rolled across the paper and inked block, by hand. The paper is then lifted from the block, carrying the ink transferred from the uncut areas of the block.



Slide from Cornell. Photo by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222

How And When Slide Mountain Became Popular With Hikers

Text and photos by: Chris Van Kleeck

Once upon a time, Slide Mountain was devoid of hiking trails and its woods saw little human activity. When and how did the magical mountain become a hiker's paradise? Let's find out.

The forces that first brought Slide Mountain to the public's awareness began in 1871 when the Big Indian Railroad Station was built. Gradually over the next few decades, New York City residents (known at that time as "Yorkers" by Frost Valley residents) could travel to Big Indian and climb Slide after a good night's sleep in the growing number of boarding houses in the Big Indian and Oliverea Valley. I made a movie called, [Vacation Valley](#) about these boarding houses and resorts that can be seen on YouTube.



The next development that brought hikers to Slide Mountain began about 1879 when Slide was deemed to have the highest elevation of all the Catskill Mountain peaks at 4,190 feet above sea level. Why is this important? Human nature seems to be forever intrigued by extremes — the highest, the lowest, the biggest, the smallest, etc. Once it was known that Slide Mountain had the highest elevation and had an out-of-this-world view, the public had to see it for themselves.

Perhaps more than any other factor however was a new invention called, *vacation!* Yes, you read that correctly. Incredibly, the average person in the late 1800s had to be educated as to what a vacation was and why it might be good for you. Most had never heard of taking time off to visit a beautiful setting for rest and rejuvenation. This quote was written in 1894 by the Ulster and Delaware Railroad Company encouraging NYC residents to come to the Catskills for their first vacation.

There is a science to summer rest, and the sooner this fact is realized ... the better it will be for all ... In the United States the vacation habit has now grown ... It is surprising that so few ... fully comprehend the real lesson of the doctrine of rest.

I'm sure this sounds as incredible to you as much as it did to me when I first read it. To add to the story, the Catskills became one of the earliest, if not *the* earliest vacation destination in the United States with Slide Mountain being the most popular hiking destination.

Another driving force that brought so many to Slide was a health and hiking craze to escape modernized, industrialized America which was choking on air and noise pollution in the late 1800s. This back-to-nature movement was strongly influenced by John Burroughs' prose which brought the beauty of the Catskills into imaginations around the world.

John Burroughs (1837 - 1921) was a Catskills native who grew up in Roxbury which is only 30 miles from today's Slide

Mountain parking lot. Burroughs was not a tourist but a hiker and writer who relished in simply being in the woods and lovingly and eloquently describing what his senses observed. My favorite essay by Burroughs is *Bed of Boughs* which was published in the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine in 1877. The essay speaks of his hike down Slide, having lunch at Biscuit Brook, and meeting locals in Frost Valley. If I were a Yorker reading that article in 1877, I would have found my way to see Slide Mountain as soon as possible!

Catskills historian Alf Evers refers to Burroughs as the “poet” of Slide Mountain.^[1] Evers writes,

Millions of Americans learned that pleasure is to be found in listening to the songs of the birds ... in pausing to note the contour of a mountain's back or the shape of a sassafras leaf. No wonder the vivid pages on which Burroughs related his adventures on Slide Mountain awakened men, women and children to the charms of Slide.



Speaking of the “contours of a mountain’s back,” Burroughs felt the shape of Slide Mountain looked like a horse lying down. Here is his description from his essay, *The Heart of The Southern Catskills* (1880).

On looking at the southern and more distant Catskills from the Hudson River on the east, or on looking at them from the west from some point of vantage in Delaware County, you see, amid the group of mountains, one that looks like the back and shoulders of a gigantic horse. The horse has got his head down grazing; the shoulders are high, and the descent from them down his neck very steep; if he were to lift up his head, one sees that it would be carried far above all other peaks, and that the noble beast might gaze straight to his peers in the Adirondacks or the White Mountains. But the lowered head never comes up; some spell or enchantment keeps it down there amid the mighty herd; and the high round shoulders and the smooth strong back of the steed are alone visible. The peak to which I refer is Slide Mountain, the highest of the Catskills by some two hundred feet; and probably the most inaccessible; certainly the hardest to get a view of, it is hedged about so completely by other peaks,-the greatest mountain of them all, and apparently the least willing to be seen; only at a distance of thirty or forty miles is it seen to stand up above all other peaks. It takes its name from a landslide which occurred many years ago down its steep northern side, or down the neck of the grazing steed.



Image source: Private collection

This is John Burroughs in 1906 reading to four young people with Slide Mountain and Frost Valley in the background.

Of course, we cannot pay a quick tribute to John Burroughs and his influence on bringing so many to Slide Mountain without a few more of his delicious words.

“I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.”

“Every walk to the woods is a religious rite, every bath in the stream is a saving ordinance. Communion service is at all hours, and the bread and wine are from the heart and marrow of Mother Earth.”

“To find the universal elements enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter. . . to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird’s nest or a wildflower in spring – these are some of the rewards of the simple life.”

As we can see, many forces came together for Slide to become such a popular hiking destination. Let’s take a moment to learn about a fellow named Jim Dutcher (1838 - 1913) who, beginning in the 1870s, was one of many to house, feed and physically bring hiking tourists to the summit of Slide Mountain.

Dutcher owned the Panther Mountain House, which was on the site of today’s Full Moon resort in the Big Indian and Oliverea Valley – about four miles from today’s Slide Mountain parking lot. Again, Alf Evers describes things so well:ⁱ

He organized visiting Slide into an interesting and fairly profitable operation. The climbers-to-be were picked up by Dutcher at the station and taken on a jolting five-mile wagon ride to his Panther Mountain House. There they would spend the night as Dutcher’s boarders in order to get an early start for the mountain the next morning. When the summit was reached, the tremendous view of almost 70 named Catskill peaks, the Hudson Valley and its Highlands would be admired from the top of Dutcher’s observation tower. Following lunch, a little orchestra of accordion, violin and harmonica would sometimes furnish music while the climbers enjoyed the pleasure of dancing on the topmost ledge of the Catskills.

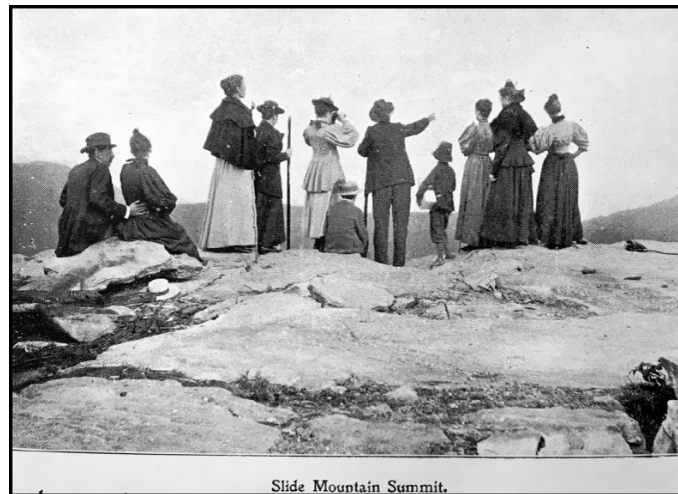


Image source: Picturesque Ulster by Lionel De Lisser.

Dutcher is the man pointing and the photograph is from the late 1890s^[ii]. Today, it is against regulations to cut a standing tree in the Catskill preserve, which is why the view from the summit of Slide is more limited than is seen above.



Image source: Private collection

In 1880 Dutcher built a primitive lookout tower (*similar* to the above tower) and in 1911 the state built the fire tower as seen above as well as an observer’s cabin – both of which were operational for only a year.^[iii] From 1912 to 1916 there was a telephone at the Slide summit and telephone wires can be seen in both images on this page. A man was hired to

keep an eye out for lost hikers or fires and would call on the phone to reach Big Indian for assistance. Legend has it that the telephone lines rested on tree branches along the Big Indian road and the road to the Slide summit. As you can see below, by the second decade of the 20th Century, cars could be driven to the summit.



Image source: Courtesy of the Shandaken Historical Museum



Image source: Fire Towers of the Catskills by Martin Podskoch.

You can see the Slide summit's steel observation tower (1936 to 1968) in the back of this 1950s photo.^[iii] The steel tower was built by the state for hikers to get a better view above the tree line — the cement foundation of the steel tower remains at the summit.

Forest historian Michael Kudish informs us that the first Slide lean-to was built in 1927 and a second one was added around 1960^[iv]. They were removed in the mid-1970s due to new regulations prohibiting camping above 3,500 feet (except in the winter). I slept in one of the lean-tos around 1970 and as I recall there was quite a crowd camping at the summit that night.



Image source: Private collection

Dutcher's primitive trail was replaced by this 1893 State trail which is the trail we hike on today to reach the Slide summit (today as part of the Burroughs Range Trail). The trail was referred to as the "Carriage Trail" or "Bridle Path" and was

originally promoted as a quick and easy way for anyone to reach the summit, have lunch and effortlessly return to Big Indian. In reality, few took a carriage to the summit as it was rough for wooden wheels and pampered tourists. Most importantly, the climb for horses was too much. This 1894 photograph was taken by Ray Stoddard and is located at the 3,900-foot level (Kudish).

Let's learn further about trails in and around Slide Mountain. When you get out of your car at the Slide Mountain parking lot you walk on a footpath and cross the Neversink River. You might wonder how the river was so named. Legend has it that Munsee Native Americans named it "Neversink" as nothing would ever sink to the bottom of the river as the water moves so fast a rock or other object would flow downstream instead of sinking to the bottom.

As you continue to walk on the footpath, eventually you turn right onto an old dirt road before turning left toward the Slide summit (the former "Bridle Path"). The old dirt road is often called the Denning Trail but was originally a town road called East Branch Road which was operational from the 1870s to 1892. It is a very pleasant hike to Claryville should you get the chance.

If you do walk towards Claryville (which is a hamlet of the town of Denning) you will see the Curtis–Ormsbee Trail on the left, which eventually joins the main trail to the Slide summit. Curtis and Ormsbee were well-known hikers who died in 1900 on Mount Washington in New Hampshire. They had planned the trail to the Slide summit and it was later built in their honor.

By the 1930s, skiers were "side-stepping" or "herring-boning" (ski tips out, like a reverse snowplow) on their skis to reach the Slide summit. Finding a good four feet of snow at the top, they skied back down the summit trail and referred to the trail as a "novice" ski trail.

In 1948, State Senator Wicks of Kingston proposed that the Slide summit trail be converted into a paved "memorial highway" in honor of World War II veterans. An elaborate observatory at the summit was also proposed allowing thousands to enjoy the view. Let's thank our lucky hiking stars this did not become a reality!

Now let's add to our conversation about good ole Slide and look at a few weather facts. A rainforest has to have a minimum of 75 inches of precipitation per year. According to *Catskill Trails* by Edward G. Henry, "Slide's summit receives more than 70 inches of annual precipitation, almost enough to classify it as a rainforest." Also, the summit of Slide is the wettest spot in New York State and the coldest spot in the Catskills. Furthermore, it is estimated that the summit of Slide receives more than 16 feet of snow per year, which is the most in the Catskill Mountains.

Finally, here is a helpful hiker factoid. As you know, it is difficult to get an accurate guess as to what the temperature at the Slide summit might be if you are looking online before you pack for your hike. In 1996, Dr. Jerome Thaler wrote a book called *Catskill Weather*. According to Thaler, during the summer the temperature at the Slide summit should be about 10 degrees colder than what is predicted in Big Indian and six degrees colder in the winter. However, if precipitation is a part of the forecast, there is little to no difference across different elevations in any season.

I hope you enjoyed this article about how and when Slide became such an attraction for hikers.

[i] Evers, Alf. *The Catskills, from Wilderness to Woodstock*. Overlook Press, 1982

[ii] De Lisser, Lionel. *Picturesque Ulster*. Hope Farm Press, 1968

[iii] Podskoch, Martin. *Firetowers of the Catskills: Their History and Lore*. Podskoch Press, 2012

[iv] Kudish, Michael. *The Catskill Forest: A History* Purple Mountain Press, 2000

Chris Van Kleeck is an amateur historian of the Big Indian-Oliveria Valley and has been around Slide Mountain for almost 65 years. He can be reached via [email](#).



Kaaterskill High Peak and Roundtop from the Escarpment. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

When High Peak Was King

How Kaaterskill High Peak Was Once Considered the Highest Mountain in New York State

Part I

Text by: John Sasso #2034

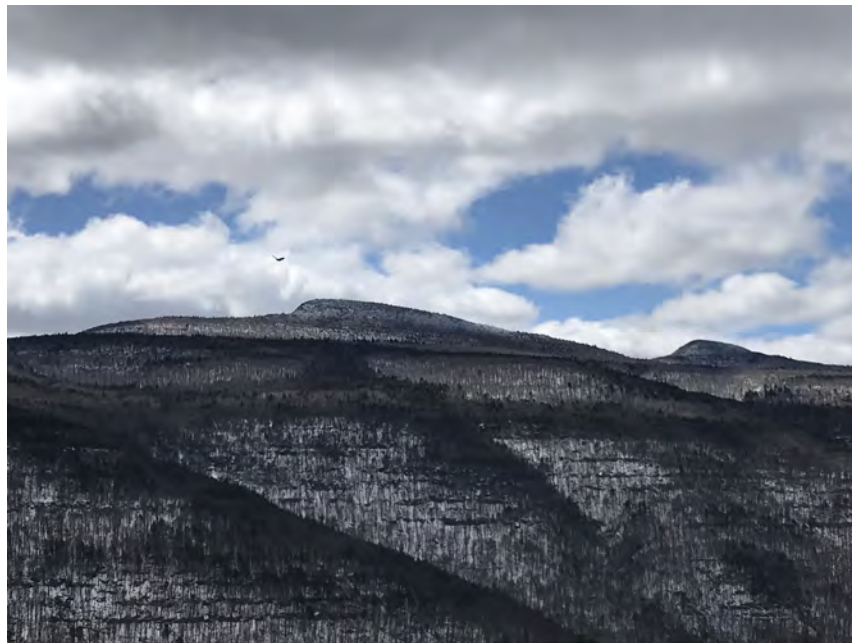
At a height of 5,344 feet, Mount Marcy is the highest peak in the State of New York. Until 1836, the stature of topographical eminence was held not by the High Peak of Essex,^[a] but by Kaaterskill High Peak^[b] in the Catskill Mountains. As a matter of fact, Whiteface Mountain reportedly had an elevation of less than 3,000 feet! It took an ascent of Whiteface by a State Geologist, Ebenezer Emmons, to determine that it exceeded 4,000 feet in height, thereby dethroning High Peak. Furthermore, that the mountain Emmons saw 16 miles to the south, Marcy, was indeed the highest of all mountains in New York State.



The assumption that High Peak was the highest mountain in the state is matched in its inaccuracy by the claim it was the highest in the Catskills. High Peak ranks 22nd in height^[c] among the Catskill Mountains. It took a Swiss scientist by the name of Arnold Henri Guyot, through his extensive surveys, to determine that Slide Mountain was the most prominent peak in the Catskills.

This article is the first of a two-part series that delves into the history of the surveys performed on High Peak, from the first measurement of its elevation in 1793, to being deposed as the highest peak in the state by Emmons, and, finally, to being deposed as the highest peak in the Catskills by Guyot.

Throughout much of the 19th Century, today's High Peak was referred to as Round Top, and vice-versa. To preserve how these peaks were referenced in the historic literature and maps and to prevent confusion by the reader, any mention of "Round Top" implies today's High Peak. Likewise, any mention "High Peak" implies today's Roundtop Mountain. Finally, I shall refer to today's High Peak as "Kaaterskill High Peak" (or "KHP"). As we shall see later on, Guyot put a nail in the coffin on this confusion in name-placement during his survey in the latter half of the 19th Century.



View of (Kaaterskill) High Peak (center) and Roundtop (right) from the south.
 Photo courtesy of: Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond

Earliest Measurement of a Catskill Mountain

Our chronology begins in the 1790s, when the Adirondacks were not considered to contain some of the highest peaks in the state. At the time, the Adirondack High Peaks region and surrounding territory were largely unsettled and unexplored by those of European descent. A map of the State of New York, created in 1795 by William Harrison, shows very little topographical detail for the Adirondack region. Our only view of the Adirondacks is a simple, narrow range of mountains running north to south from Canada to the Mohawk River, between the massive land tract known as McComb's Purchase and Lake Champlain.

Likewise, the Catskill Mountains were largely unexplored, viewed as wild frontier by Europeans who settled along the Esopus, Schoharie, and Catskill Creeks and the Hudson River. As late as 1819, they were described as an extensive range which traversed the Mohawk River at Little Falls, passed northward through Montgomery[d] and Herkimer Counties, and diminished in altitude upon crossing the St. Lawrence River at the Thousand Islands.[1] Finally, the Catskill Mountains were referred to by other names, such as the Blue, Katskill, Kaats Kill, Kaatsberg, or Catsberg Mountains – to name a few.



A portion of a map of the State of New York created in 1795 by William Harrison. Source: [Library of Congress](https://www.loc.gov/)

Peter (Pierre) de la Bigarre, an agent of the French Republic, would be the first to measure and record the elevation of a Catskill mountain, the account of which was published in a 1794 article entitled “Excursions on Our Blue Mountains.”^[2] On the morning of July 26, 1793, de la Bigarre, along with an unnamed “natural philosopher,” set forth from Red Hook Landing (near today’s village of Tivoli in the Town of Red Hook) toward the prominent ridge of Catskill peaks to the northwest. This would be his second excursion into these mountains, the first being on April 9th, when he climbed today’s Overlook Mountain.

Around 4:00 PM, the two reached North and South Lakes, just over three miles northeast of High Peak. Following a night camped out in the wilderness and an overnight stay at a new settlement, the two returned to the two lakes on the 28th. They set a course due south for their then-unnamed destination: High Peak. Of the profile of the mountain, de la Bigarre wrote, “That summit is distinguished from the river by its circular form in the shape of a cap, we took upon us to call it LIBERTY CAP.” Thus, High Peak was given its first name, pertaining to the liberty or Phrygian cap that was adopted by The Sons of Liberty in the 1760s. As we can see from the photo of High Peak, taken from the north, its profile does resemble that of a flattened liberty cap. The “bonnet rouge,” as it was called in de la Bigarre’s home country, was very popular among the French Revolutionaries.



Drawing from 1792 of Louis XVI wearing the Phrygian or liberty cap. Source: Bibliothèque nationale de France.



A portion of the map “Pensylvania, Nova Jersey et Nova York cum Regionibus ad Fluvium Delaware in America Sitis,” created around 1748 by Tobias Conrad Lotter. It is one of the earliest maps denoting the Catskill Mountains by name (in this case, “Katskill Mons,” where “mons” is Latin for “mountain”). Other 17th and early 18th Century maps referred to the land of the Catskills, but not the mountains. Source: [Library of Congress](https://www.loc.gov/rr/preservation/maps/1748/1748.html)

When de la Bigarre and his companion reached the summit, they took measurements with the barometer and thermometer they brought with them. It is through measurements of atmospheric pressure and temperature that the elevation of a point on land is determined via a technique called *barometric hypsometry*. Their estimate for the elevation of Liberty Cap was calculated to be 3,549 feet above the level of the Hudson River – 105 feet higher than today’s recognized elevation.[e] This would be the first recorded measurement of the height of High Peak – and certainly not the last.

Shortly after de la Bigarre’s ascent, Samuel L. Mitchell, a professor of chemistry, botany, and natural history at Columbia College, took to a sailing expedition up the Hudson River. He paid a visit to the manor of Robert R. Livingston, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States and commonly referred to as “The Chancellor.” The Chancellor’s manor, located in Clermont on the east bank of the Hudson River, has a clear, unadulterated view of the Kaaterskill Mountain Range, less than eight miles to the northwest. The “Cattikill Mountains,” as Mitchell referred to them, “appeared so grand in prospect to the west, and seemed so connected with what I observed during my passage, that I determined to take a nearer view.” Mitchell would undertake his endeavor to ascend “their highest elevations” on July 24-26, 1795, the account of which he published that same year in an article entitled “Description of the Blue Mountains in the State of New York.”[3]

While using the terms Catskill Mountains and Blue Mountains interchangeably, Mitchell clarified that they were called the Blue Mountains[f] “on account of a blueness or haze which they present to the eye when seen from a distance.” He also stated they contained the highest peaks in the State of New York. Of the mountains Mitchell climbed, he referred to two by name: *Round Top* and *High Peak*; High Peak is today’s Roundtop Mountain, and vice-versa. Mitchell’s article contains the earliest mention of these peaks I could find, in writing. Alf Evers’s oft-cited text on the history of the Catskills, *The Catskills, from Wilderness to Woodstock*, [4] does not refer to any earlier mention of these peaks.

de la Bigarre’s measurement of Round Top’s height was mentioned as late as 1836, such as in James Bell’s text, *A System of Geography, Popular and Scientific*. [5] The earliest entry I found connecting Round Top to his 3,549-foot measurement is in Horatio Gates Spafford’s 1809 text, *General Geography, and Rudiments of Useful Knowledge*. [6] Spafford, a lawyer, inventor, and geographer, wrote the first two gazetteers of the State of New York, the first in 1813 [7] and the revised edition in 1824. [8] A gazetteer is a geographical dictionary used in conjunction with a map or atlas. Spafford’s Gazetteer of the State of New York would inspire the publication of subsequent gazetteers for the state throughout the 19th Century. For historians, they provide a wealth of information about the geographical view of different regions at the time of their publication.

The reported elevation for Round Top would change when Jedidiah Morse’s text, *The American Universal Geography*, was published in 1812. Morse was a geographer whose textbooks were among the reading material for students in the United States during the late 18th and the early 19th centuries. This particular text reported Round Top’s elevation as 3,566 feet and that of High Peak as 4,386 feet. [9] This is the earliest text on geography I have found reporting an elevation for High Peak. Morse also asserts that the Catskill Mountains “are the highest land in the state.”

Morse tells us that these measurements for Round Top and High Peak came from “Lieut. Partridge.” This would be Alden Partridge, professor of mathematics and Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. According to Laura and Guy Waterman in their classic work, *Forest and Crag*, Captain Partridge developed advanced ideas in practical education which were considered quite progressive for a military school, such as the teaching of modern languages. [10] He was also an avid hiker of mountains of the Northeast, often taking long-distance treks. When Partridge made his first trip to the White Mountains in 1811, he walked 76 miles from Norwich, Vt to Rosebrook’s Inn at Crawford Notch. Accompanied by a guide (the son of the innkeeper), they bushwhacked to several summits of today’s Presidential Mountain Range, reaching Mount Washington at 1:00 PM.

The earliest record of Partridge climbing a mountain and measuring its elevation is his ascent of Round Top and High Peak in October 1810. He reported their elevations to Colonel Jonathan Williams, President of the U.S. Military Philosophical Society, in a letter dated October 30, 1810. [11] In his letter, where he wrote of his recent expedition to the Catskill Mountains, he provided the following elevations:

- Round Top (above the Hudson River): 3,566 feet
- High Peak (above the Hudson River): 3,486 ½ feet

With the exception of rounding down High Peak's elevation, the first two measurements are given by Morse in his aforementioned 1812 text. These elevations would be repeated in the first edition (1813) of Spafford's gazetteer of the State of New York. In what may be considered an odd case of a prescient mistake, Spafford misquoted Partridge's elevation for Round Top as 3,655 feet instead of 3,566 feet. Round Top – today's Kaaterskill High Peak – has a recognized elevation of 3,655 feet!

Partridge made corrections to his elevations for Round Top and High Peak, which he reported to former President Thomas Jefferson, in a letter dated September 6, 1815. In his table of altitudes, the revised elevations of the "Catts-kill Mountains" were given as:[12]

- Round Top (above the sea): 3,804 feet
- High Peak (above the sea): 3,718 feet

It is unclear why he revised the elevations. Partridge did not revisit these mountains, as evidenced by his letter to the editor, published in an 1818 edition of *Niles' Weekly Register*,[13] in which he notes he measured the elevations in October 1810.[g]

Partridge could be considered the first to make formal measurements of the heights of mountains in the Catskills, for the purpose of scientific knowledge. The heights of Round Top and High Peak would be repeated in publications such as Joseph Emerson Worcester's *Sketches of the Earth and its Inhabitants* (1823),[14] the second edition of Spafford's *A Gazetteer of the State of New York* (1824), John Brodhead's *History of the State of New York* (1859),[15] and others as late as the early 20th Century.[16][17], [18], [19], [20], [21]

Coming Next in Part II ...

Up until 1837, the Catskill Mountains were thought to be the highest in the state, with Round Top and High Peak the most prominent among them. In the second part of this paper, coming in the next edition of *The Canister*, we shall see how the early survey of northern New York by geologist Ebenezer Emmons and meteorologist William C. Redfield led to the demotion of Round Top and High Peak as the highest in the state. We shall also see how the first extensive survey of the Catskill Mountains by Swiss scientist Arnold Henri Guyot led to further demotions of their rank, as well as the swapping of their names which we see on today's maps.

[a] The first name known to be given to Mount Marcy was "The High Peak of Essex," applied by William C. Redfield after he saw the peak from a hill on the south bank of the Opalescent River on August 19, 1836.

[b] Officially known as High Peak, which shall be used throughout this paper.

[c] Some sources rank High Peak as 23rd in height, but this appears to be incorrect.

[d] Fulton County was split off from Montgomery County in 1838.

[e] Several nineteenth-century texts state that de la Bigarre made the measurement of height of High Peak (then Round Top) in 1798, but this is incorrect.

[f] One of the earliest references to the Catskill Mountains as Blue Mountains is in an Indian deed to Johannes Hardenberg, for a tract of land in the county of Ulster (the Hardenburgh Patent), dated March 22, 1707. The deed refers to the "Mountains that range from the blew hills."

[g] In Partridge's letter, he notes the elevation of High Peak as 3,708 feet, which differs from the elevation of 3,718 feet in his 1815 letter to Thomas Jefferson. The former elevation may be a typo.

[1] Rees, Abraham. *The Cyclopaedia; Or, an Universal Dictionary of Arts, Sciences, and Literature*. Vol. 39. United Kingdom: Longman, 1819.

[2] de la Bigarre, Peter. "Excursions on Our Blue Mountains." *Transactions of the Society*. Part II. New York: Order of the Society, 1794, pp. 128-139.

[3] Mitchell, Samuel L. "Description of the Blue Mountains in the State of New York." *The New York Magazine*. Vol. 6. Albany, N.Y.: T. and J. Swords, 1795, pp. 465-471.

[4] Evers, Alf. *The Catskills, from Wilderness to Woodstock*. Woodstock, N.Y.: Overlook Press, 1982.

[5] Bell, James. *A System of Geography, Popular and Scientific*. Vol. 5. Glasgow, Scotland: A. Fullarton and Company, 1836, p. 394.

- [6] Spafford, Horatio Gates. *General Geography and Rudiments of Useful Knowledge*. Hudson, N.Y.: Crowell and Frary, 1809, p. 144.
- [7] Spafford, Horatio G. *A Gazetteer of the State of New York*. Albany, N.Y.: H.C. Southwick, 1813.
- [8] Spafford, Horatio G. *A Gazetteer of the State of New York*. Albany, N.Y.: B.D. Packard and H.G. Spafford, 1824.
- [9] Morse, Jedidiah. *The American Universal Geography*. Vol. 1. Boston, MA: Thomas and Andrews, 1812, p. 384.
- [10] Waterman, Laura, and Guy Waterman. *Forest and Crag*. Boston, MA: Appalachian Mountain Club Books, 2003, pp. 29-35.
- [11] Williams, Colonel Jonathan. "On the Height of the Mountains in Virginia and New York, with Observations on the Formation of Rivers." *The American Medical and Philosophical Register*. 2nd ed., Vol. 1. New York: C.S. Van Winkle, 1814, pp. 344-345.
- [12] Partridge, Alden. "Enclosure: Alden Partridge's Table of Altitudes of Northern Mountains." *Founders Archive*. [National Archives, National Historical Publications and Records Commission](#). (accessed April 19, 2021).
- [13] Partridge, Alden. "Heights of Mountains." *Niles' Weekly Register*. Vol. 15, No. 11. November 7, 1818, p. 184.
- [14] Worcester, Joseph Emerson. *Sketches of the Earth and its Inhabitants*. Vol. 1. Boston, MA: Cummings, Hilliard and Company, 1823, p. 79.
- [15] Brodhead, John. *History of the State of New York*. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1859, p. 29.
- [16] Henry, Joseph. "Topographical Sketch of the State of New York." *Transactions of the Albany Institute*. Vol. 1. Albany, N.Y.: Webster and Skinners, 1830, p. 90.
- [17] Dwight, Theodore. *The Northern Traveller, and Northern Tour*. New York: J. and J. Harper, 1831, pp. 32-33.
- [18] Davison, Gideon Miner. *The Traveller's Guide Through the Middle and Northern States, and the Provinces of Canada*. Saratoga Springs, N.Y.: G.M. Davison, 1834, p. 131.
- [19] Gordon, Thomas F. *Gazetteer of the State of New York*. Philadelphia, PA: T.K. and P.G. Collins, 1836, p. 473.
- [20] French, John Homer. *Gazetteer of the State of New York*. Syracuse, N.Y.: R. Pearsall Smith, 1860, p. 19.
- [21] Hough, Franklin B. *Gazetteer of the State of New York*. Albany, N.Y.: Andrew Boyd, 1872, p. 27.

John Sasso (#2034) is an Adirondack historian, and avid hiker and bushwhacker, from Colonie, N.Y. Contact the author at jsassojr@gmail.com. For those interested in the history and folklore of the Adirondacks, join John's Facebook group [History and Legends of the Adirondacks](#).



Hunter Mountain ridge. Photo by [Joseph Raguzin](#)

The Scent of Balsam Firs

Text by: Ralph Ferrusi #122 W34

Close your eyes, relax, take some deep breaths, and imagine you are in the Catskills, high up on a ridge, or a summit, on a warm, perfect, blue-sky summer's day. Exhale, breathe in through your nose, and imagine the smell of balsam firs.

When my wife Kathy, #1102 W413, read my "Imagine" in the April-June 2021 *The Canister* she commented, "I can smell the balsams." Ahhhh, yes: this immediately brought me back to the smell of the balsam firs, that I associate just about exclusively with being high up on Catskill high peaks and ridges. It made me think about how our five senses—sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste—are affected by our experiences in the mountains.



It pretty much goes without saying that sight is the biggie: for example, the VIEW from the summit of Everest or Kilimanjaro or the Matterhorn. I can't imagine anyone waxing poetically about how these extraordinary experiences smelled or tasted. This brought me to the views from the 35 Catskill peaks and the ledges. The most astonishing and surprising revelation was how few of the peaks have "Hey WOW" views!!! Hunter and Balsam Lake have 360-degree views, thanks to their fire towers. But, without the fire towers, you'd be looking at... just another bunch of balsam firs!!!

Views from the Top

The following recollections date back to my Last Great Burst of Catskill peak-bagging, those halcyon days between 1996 and 2004 when I accompanied Kath and #1122 W509 Ralph III as they stormed the required summits both summer and winter. These recollections do not include what nature—tree growth and rogue hurricanes—and the DEC maintenance have wrought on these beloved peaks in the quarter century since then.

What summits do I recall having views, on the tippy top, or, reasonably nearby either on the way up or pretty close beyond? Let's start with the big guy, Slide. The site of the long-gone fire tower is probably on or near the actual high point of Slide, but, no fire tower, no view. You used to be able to see every single one of the rest of the 34 high peaks from the big ledge just beyond the summit: I have an 8 ½" X 11" diagram somewhere of the compass directions to all of them from the ledge. I haven't been there in quite a while, and the last time I was there trees were growing up blocking this once-in-the-Catskills view. I've heard that it's now pretty much grown in.

Windham High Peak: there was a good view south up on the flats before the summit, and that great view north on the small ledge a little way down beyond the top. Balsam had a great small ledge/photo-op just down a ways from the summit. Didn't Sugarloaf have a viewpoint to the west near the top? And, maybe Indian Head and East Twin. Whoops, how did I forget that spectacular ledge on Wittenberg! How about Panther? How about the view north from the top of the ski slope on Bearpen that's pretty much accepted as the peanut butter sandwich spot: but...is it *really* the highest point? Going down the list, in my recollection, so many summits, even the vaunted Friday and Balsam Cap tough guys, or Southwest Hunter/No Name, rated zero on the summit-view-scale.

Wait a minute: how about EAGLE? Humor me: I can't resist doing some Eagle-bashing. I'm one of those near-fanatics who are obsessed/compelled to stand on the very highest point of a mountaintop. ANY time I turned right from what I thought or felt was the highest point on the Pine Hill/East Branch Trail and charged into the woods, hoping to find, once and for all, Eagle's true highest point. I always searched, and searched and searched the hundreds of square miles of woods that are Eagle's broadest summit plateau in the Catskills and each time pretty much gave up, unsatisfied that I had found the top... A little-known fact: when I finished my second round of winter climbs and unofficially submitted my roster to Cy Whitney I—just for the fun of it—selected Eagle as my Favorite Peak.

A few words about ledges-with-views. Giant Ledge: 'nuff said. And, Hurricane Ledge on Katterskill High Peak. And, looking back towards Black Dome from Blackhead. I'm sure there are others: there's one on North Dome that you used to have to scramble to find: there's probably a herd path to it now.

Views of the Mountains from Down Below

I'll never forget my first sight of Everest from the Base Camp Trail above Namche Bazaar in Nepal or my often-mentioned sight of Everest, by moonlight, from a Sherpa teahouse in Pangboche. Back to the Catskills: while on the road, I rarely missed a chance to spot and identify Catskill peaks. Here are some of them. That superb view of Wittenberg looming huge across the way from Route 28 just beyond Boiceville. You had to know just when to look, and the window of opportunity was very short. And, most of the Devil's Path—Indian Head, Twin, Sugarloaf, Plateau, and Hunter, from Route 23A dropping down into the village of Hunter. The Three Sisters coming down 23C towards Maplecrest are Thomas Cole, Black Dome, and Blackhead—such masculine names, sounding like a law firm—still known as “the Three Sisters?” Also, that gotta-know-when to look first view of the Catskills on the northern Taconic State Parkway coming back from hiking or skiing in Vermont.

There are many other places west of the Hudson River, and in the Catskills themselves, that have good views of the Catskills. There are also many places east of the Hudson River where the Catskills can be spotted, and individual peaks can be identified. My long-time hiking buddy Pete Ricci (#475 W171) was one of the best at this. Coming down Route 9G near Germantown I recall a good view of “Rip's Profile,” that then-*The Canister*-Editor Elinore Leavitt suggested I draw as a masthead for *The Canister* that first appeared in 1976 and endured for many years. I think the three peaks comprising the profile of Rip Van Winkle lying down were from right to left Overlook, Plattekill, and Indian Head. Another dramatic view I often saw from the east side of the Hudson was coming west on I-84 down towards Fishkill: there they were, 'way over there!

Taste, Hearing, Touch/Feel, Smell

Taste: the sometimes summit celebratory peanut butter and jelly sandwich on Wonder Bread. Celebratory summit champagne when someone has just completed their peaks. The what-became “traditional” pizza for Kath, RIII, and I at Ricciardella's in Phoenicia.

Hearing: the wind: just about always there, sometimes nice down below, but sometimes very scary on the high peaks. The crunch of snow beneath boots, snowshoes, and, sometimes, skis. Shuffling through late-autumn leaves. I'm sure there were plenty of bird calls, but I don't recall them: I really just didn't pay attention at the time.

Touch/Feel: again, the crunch of snow, and, the leaves. The “oh no” feel of snow down the back of your neck when you try to duck under a low snow-loaded branch in the winter.

Smell: The balsam firs trumped them all. Maybe damp autumn leaves; the scents of springtime awakening? I don't recall any sweeter scent, in the mountains or out, than the scent of balsam firs, especially on a warm, picture-perfect, blue sky summer's day.

Back to balsam firs one more time. Bob Consadine (#646 W209) was, to the best of my knowledge, the very first Catskill 420-er. He was a good man and loved the Catskills. He was well known for introducing as many people as he could to his beloved mountains. On the day of his wake, Mark Hudson (#1548 W608), known on the Appalachian Trail as “Skeeter Bait,” and I had climbed a Catskill peak: right now I don't recall which one. We had removed a small balsam fir branch from a tree on the summit and brought it down with us. At the wake, we respectfully and reverently, placed it in the casket. Goodbye, #6-4-6. Your spirit will *always* be in those mountains.

Ralph is Catskill 3500 Club member #122 W34, as well as ADK 46er #2023, Northeast 111er #139, and an Appalachian Trail 4000-Miler. For more Catskills adventures, check out his book [Catskill Tales and Trails](#) (published in 2006). Ralph was a longtime editor of the Peripatetic Porcupine column in *The Canister* and he also drew the header for *The Canister*, which was in use from 1976 -2013! Ralph can be reached by [email](#).



Editor's Notes: thanks to more recent blowdowns or hurricanes, a few views that were not around before have opened up. The Trail Conference maps do a fantastic job of identifying viewpoints with a star, and, yes, some may be harder to find than others! Want to learn why some 3500 summits have balsam firs and some do not? Check out Dr. Kudish's article in the [Fall issue](#) of *The Canister*.

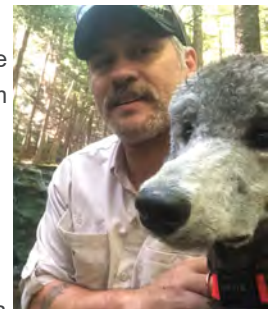


View from Bearpen. Photo by Siu Samantha Yuen #2894 W1311

Trail Conditions? There's an App for That

Text and photos by: Chris Adams #2710

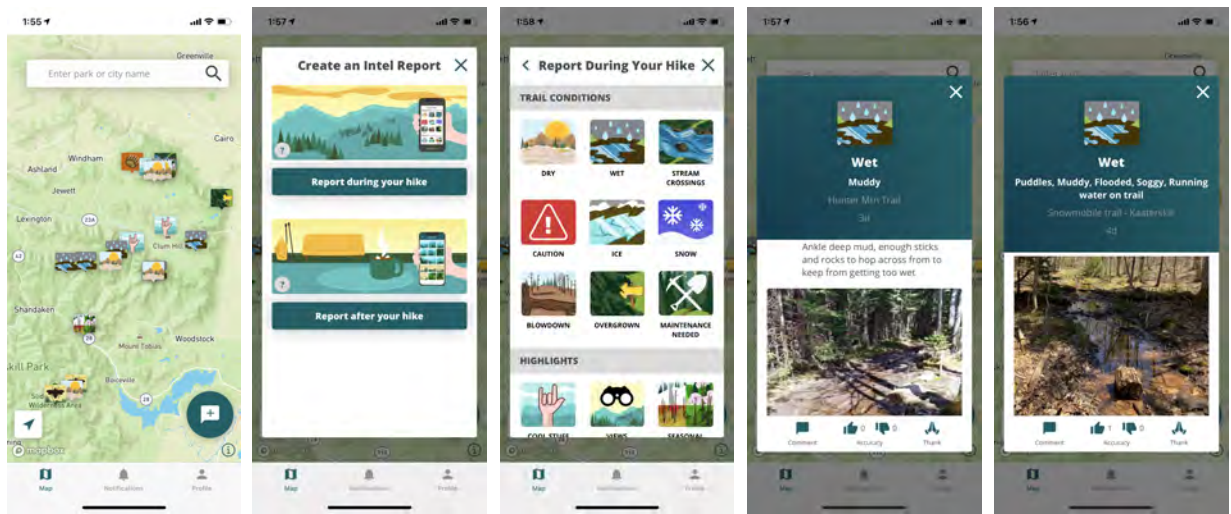
Thanks to the expansive array of technology, pre-hike research and planning these days can go quite in depth. First, look at a mapping app and plan out a route. Then, go online and see if there are any trail descriptions for the route you planned. Next, check out the local weather report from a few online forecasters and adjust that forecast for the elevation that you plan on hiking. Hey, maybe someone has been there recently, so a quick scroll through the Catskills Trail Conditions Facebook page may be in order, too. Inspired by that Facebook group, the Hike Intel app is a new, distilled way to gather trail conditions for an upcoming hike.



The strengths of gathering trail intel through a Facebook group like [Catskills Trail Conditions](#) or a message board are also its weakness. These venues are ideal for building communities and friendships, with various combinations of real-world and virtual-world friends interacting regularly. As would happen when a group of friends gathers in the real world, the intended topic of a discussion may be addressed, but then the conversation may take the scenic route, touching on an array of topics that may or may not relate to the original discussion.

For those looking for specific trail conditions, the Hike Intel app distills this information down onto one easy-to-use interface. The map-based main screen is a format that is familiar with hikers. To find trail conditions, pinch zoom in the location you're planning for and see if any intel report icons are there. If so, click them and you'll get location-specific info that was reported recently by other hikers.

There are two ways to contribute trail reports to Hike Intel. On the trail, the app's map utilizes your phone's GPS chip to pinpoint your location. Once you click the add intel button (+) and choose to report during your hike, you are presented with an array of condition-specific icons—from wet, icy, blowdown, cool stuff, water sources, etc.—and then the opportunity to briefly describe the condition and even upload a picture of it. Trail reports can also be added after a hike. By uploading a photo as part of a post-hike trail report, the app pinpoints where the picture was taken and where the condition report is relevant.



An example of intel available for the Catskills; creating an entry; and individual examples of intel.

Hike Intel was inspired by the [Catskills Trail Conditions](#) Facebook group. That page was launched in November 2015, when Tim and Jess Luby owned The Storehouse, which was a small but well-appointed outfitter in Phoenicia. The Storehouse closed up shop in 2016, but the Catskills Trail Conditions Facebook quickly grew into a large, active community. In 2018, Tim had the initial idea for Hike Intel.

“I was seeing more and more trip reports posted that didn’t include trail conditions,” says Tim Luby, founder of Hike Intel and #3268. “Facebook isn’t always the best place for trail conditions because conversations tend to go other places beyond trail conditions.”

Developing the Hike Intel app was a long process that included some stops, starts, and false starts for Luby and his partner, Matt Cutler. Their perseverance paid off when a thoughtfully designed app hit the Apple App Store earlier this year. The app is currently available in an iPhone version. Luby hopes to develop a version for Android, as well.

Cutler was integral to building Hike Intel. Luby says he, “couldn’t have built Hike Intel without him.” His art direction background combined with his experience as a UX designer were key to framing out the user experience for Hike Intel.

When development of Hike Intel first began, the intended user for the app was planned to be serious hikers. However, last year as the Coronavirus epidemic unfolded, the number of newer hikers hitting the trails exploded. As such, the need for education in terms of respecting the trails while also ensuring everyone gets back to the trailhead safely grew, too. That inspired a more-inclusive focus for Hike Intel.

“The mission for Hike Intel is to make hiking safer and more enjoyable for everyone,” says Luby. “In doing so, we hope to encourage stewardship of the mountains and trails.”

The app provides users the opportunity to report trail maintenance needed, caution, overgrown trails, blowdowns, and illegal activity. Luby says he hopes to partner with trail maintenance organizations and even state agencies and law enforcement, where appropriate reportable conditions are forwarded onto those entities.

As the Hike Intel community grows, Luby has plans to expand the features offered in the Hike Intel app. For now, expanding the app’s user group is a primary focus. A larger audience will benefit this app, which gathers user-generated information. The more people contribute, the richer the intel that is available on the app. So far, most of the reports on the app have come from the Catskills, Adirondacks, or Hudson Highlands. However, the app can be used and useful anywhere—all it takes is someone posting a trail condition report for that area.

Chris Adams, is a lifelong outdoor enthusiast who lives in Hastings-on-Hudson and Phoenicia, NY, with his wife, son, daughter, cat, and his main hiking and backpacking partner, Rosie the silver standard poodle. Chris is currently serving on the board as an assistant to the membership chair.



Setting sun on Balsam Lake Mountain. Photo by Tom Rankin #1503 W627

IN MEMORIAM

Richard Williams, #2175 W899, who was popular with local hiking groups for his oversized personality and for sharing trip reports for hikes he and his dog, K-9 member of the 3500 Club, Oscar Meyer Deweiner Williams, took, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on April 22, 2021. Williams was an active Hudson Valley Hiker, a winter 46er (#10878W) and the CMC's All Trails Challenge finisher.

"Richard really loved to live and made others and Oscar Meyer Deweiner do the same along with him. He helped me when I was near hyperthermia after an extra-long day at Santanoni a day after a big snowstorm. "If you really want it, stick with me – I will take you there!" – was what he told me there and it really resonated with me. He was with me in spirit this past winter on the Presidential traverse in NH. I told him that I don't know how many of the Presi peaks I would get to reach, but I will shout out his name at every peak.. I wanted him to think he was hiking with me, just like he did at Adirondacks. So I did. My partners joined in in the shouts. It was ecstatic to call out Richard Williammmms! from the top of those peaks. I became greedy. One after the other. Before long, I called out his name seven times! I swear, it was Richard who made my dream come true once again! Thank you Richard for believing in me, and taking my dreams seriously."

—Manami Harada, #2572 W1072

"Richard spent much of his time helping others in their journey towards their fire towers, 35ers, W35s, and 46ers. He also was a fire tower steward on Tremper Mountain. Richard always made sure the group was having a good time during their time in the woods."

—Steven Yansick, #2344 W948

Judith L. Mann, #1891 passed away April 24, 2021. Judy loved the Catskills and hiked the 3500-foot peaks numerous times as well as many of the lesser peaks. Forever seeking adventure, she left her position as an educator after 20 years to hike the Camino de Santiago. Ill health made her reign in her hiking in the past few years.

"She got me into the Catskill by asking me to join her in completing her first round and urging me on to complete mine. She was a lovely hiking partner. Some of her crusty New England independent streak would relax in the sun, snow, and rain and she opened up a world of ideas as we chatted up the peaks."

—Miriam McGiver

James G Cunningham III, #212 W70, passed away on May 29, 2021 after a hard-fought battle with pancreatic cancer. When Jim completed his winter round at the age of 12, Jim became the youngest winter member at the time. All hikes were done with his father, James G Cunningham, #211 W69. They finished their regular round on Kaaterskill on September 28, 1975 and their winter round on Windham on March 13, 1976. Jim Cunningham Sr, recalls: "My son and I were active participants starting in the early 70's, back in the days of the legendary Bill Leavitt and his regular hiking companion Rev. Ray Donahue."

Patrick Colangelo, #1586 W665, 81, died on February 22, 2021. Pat, who served on the 3500 Club audit committee, perfected the art of work/life balance. As an adult he would rise early in the morning to check his lobster pots in Long Island Sound before going to work or squeeze in an hour of pick-up basketball at lunchtime before heading to a board meeting. He was active all his life, playing basketball until the age of 72, traveled the world fly-fishing, and, until recently, was an avid hiker, especially in his treasured Catskills. Pat was finisher #15 of the Catskills 420 grid.

"A dual love developed when Pat and his wife Moira first met up with the RIPS on Giant Ledge. Pat quickly became an active member participating and leading many of the RIPS' 3500 hikes, thereby helping numerous members go from aspirants to full-fledged members in the 3500 Club."

—Susan Puret #1208 W455, secretary of the now-defunct Rip Van Winkle Hikers (RIPS)

"**Don Dobbs, #1730**, passed away on June 11, 2020. Don and his wife Glenn, #1729, walked a flat route daily by the Saugerties Reservoir—with the looming 35s in the background. When they found out about the RIPS, they quickly added a quest for membership in the Catskill 3500 Club to their flat walking routine. They credit Pat Colangelo for helping them achieve that goal."

—Susan Puret

"**Gil Hales, #1099**, died on Aug 9, 2020. Gil was one of the original members of the RIPS. His love of the outdoors had him an active participant in the club's early years. He later turned his attention to biking and was responsible (with a friend) for producing several bike routes in Saugerties."

—Susan Puret

"Talk about perseverance and commitment. **Marty Kutikoff, #1593** set a goal to achieve 3500 Club membership by participating in RIPS hikes of the Catskills. He pursued his quest with determination even after having a lung removed. Marty continued hiking with the RIPS after achieving his goal and in recent years added biking and scuba diving to his passions."

—Susan Puret

"After Marty retired from teaching in the New York City metropolitan area, hiking became his major hobby. In addition to hiking, Marty also volunteered with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, helping to maintain various trails."

—Addie Haas, #1231 W525



Cascades in Kaaterskill Clove. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

In Memory of My Mentor, Richard Williams

Text by: Alicia Devero #2646 W1259

I was hiking right behind Oscar, watching his tortured little body as he followed Richard up Rusk Mt. (after already hiking North Dome and Mount Sherrill, per my request). He was forcing his one tiny paw in front of the other as he resigned himself to the idea that he would not be able to escape this hike and there was no way his Daddy would carry him up the hill – after all, he never did. As I watched him struggle in the unbearable heat, I fully sympathized with his feelings, although whatever he thought of me at that moment was definitely NOT worth repeating. Probably every time he saw me at the parking lot, he was having a nervous breakdown. On a different occasion, when I convinced Richard to lead one of those treacherous bushwhacks to a faraway land, Lone and Rocky Mountains. On the way down, Richard stepped on hornets' nest and, luckily for all three of us, we narrowly escaped stinging, although I could not say the same about everyone else behind us, running around and screaming from pain. Nonetheless, it was fun, we just run out of Benadryl.



I adored Richard. I still can see his smiley face with Oscar at his feet and can hear his contagious chuckle and sarcastic tone in his voice. I will always remember him as a funny, full of life, BS-free guy, who loved the mountains and the only man in the whole world who I could trust with my life. When I saw him using a compass on a bushwhack up Graham Mountain, while explaining to me how the terrain in the forest matches the real map, I knew why I chose him for my guide. I had faith in him. On the other hand, Richard understood my madness in trying to earn my very first patch – Catskill 3500 Club. I regretted that he could not hike with me to my last mountain, but he came to the parking lot with Oscar to congratulate me on earning my first patch. Richard was my mentor, my mountain guide whom I will always remember as someone very special who helped me become a better hiker who feels at home in the mountains. I only regret that I could not see him for the last time to say my goodbyes and tell him how much I miss hiking with him, but, in a sense, Richard has never left us – every trail in the Catskills and Adirondacks bares some memory of him. I am sure one day we will hike together again. Until then Richard. With Love, Alicia

Photo by Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075



Old Farm Road en route to Windham. Photo by Harold Oakhill #283 W1244

Rambles and Brambles

[Hike Schedule](#)

July - September 2021

Familiarize yourself with the seven [Leave No Trace](#) Principles for all your hikes:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare;
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces;
3. Dispose of Waste Properly;
4. Leave What You Find;
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts;
6. Respect Wildlife;
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

The Catskill 3500 Club's hiking credo includes three basic principles:

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

The Club also promotes the adherence to the [hikeSafe](#) hiker responsibility code. [hikeSafe](#) encourages hikers to be prepared:

- with knowledge and gear
- to leave your plans
- to stay together
- to turn back for emergencies
- to share the hiker responsibility code with others.

Assumed Risk: Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In cool weather, hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia, **which can lead to death**. In summer participants should have available in their pack garments of wool or fleece and a headlamp, should one have to unexpectedly spend the night in the mountains. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion.

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

Club hikes may be canceled at the hike leader's discretion if dangerous weather conditions exist. When in doubt (heavy rain, high winds, or other serious weather conditions), please contact your hike leader.

Group Size: 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.

The hikes listed here and on the [online events calendar](#) are official Catskill 3500 Club hikes. Any other advertised hikes to the 3500 peaks are private hikes and, while they can count for membership to the Club, the Club is not affiliated with those hikes.

Private Property: All Catskill 3500 Club hikes respect "No Trespassing" signs and the owners' wishes in such regards; leaders shall obtain permission to cross private property when so required. See Club's website the [Catskill 3500 Club Hiking & Private Property guide](#).



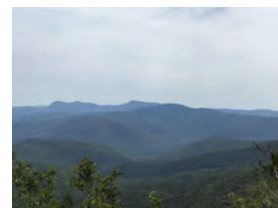
Stone bridge along Giggle Hollow Trail. Photo by Jason Pelton #3013 W1211

The calendar of the current hike schedule can also be found on the [Club site](#).

Club hiking schedule is subject to change.

Sun. June 27 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent 2445', Elevs: 3605', 3558'
Moderate pace bushwhack. Shuttle Required.
Registration Period: June 20 - June 25
Leader: Harold Oakhill #283 W1244
hoakhill@gmail.com



Sun. June 27 - FIR & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3629', 3699'
Moderate pace trail & bushwhack.
Registration Period: June 14 - 23
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262

russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600

Thu. July 1 - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU (Weekday)

Distance 13 mi. Ascent: 5000', Elevs: 3573', 3650', 3783', 3835'

Long, challenging trail hike at moderate, steady pace. Eastern Devil's Path traverse with shuttle.

Registration Period: June 25 - 30

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

michael@bongarbiz.com

Fri. July 2 - RUSK, HUNTER, SW HUNTER (Weekday)

Distance 12.3 mi. Ascent: 3050', Elevs: 3686', 4030', 3753'

Moderate pace bushwhack & trail.

Registration period: June 18 - 30

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Mon. July 5 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK (Weekday)

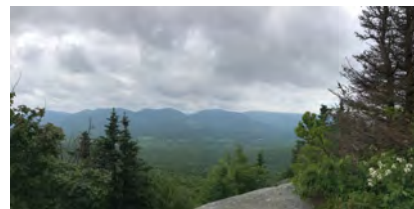
Distance 7.3 mi. Ascent: 1810', Elev: 3652'

Moderate pace, teaching map & compass skills Beginners welcome.

Registration period: June 21 - July 2

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922



Tue. July 6 - PANTHER via FOX HOLLOW (Weekday)

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev: 3724'

Traverse over Panther and Giant Ledge. Moderate pace. Shuttle required.

Registration period: Open

Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390

ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Wed. July 7 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP (Weekday)

Distance 7.5 mi. Ascent: 2905', Elevs: 3692', 3608'

Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.

Registration period: June 23 - July 5

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Wed. July 7 - LONE, ROCKY, BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY (Kid's Hike - Weekday)

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2719', Elevs: 3700' 3487' 3608', 3692'

Challenging bushwhack with shuttle.

Preference given to kids and accompanying adults. Others waitlisted.

Registration Period: By July 5.

Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com

Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Thu. July 8 - INDIAN HEAD and TWIN (Weekday)

Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 2600', Elevs: 3573', 3650'

Moderate pace.

Registration Period: by July 5

Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950

edmoran@gmail.com 631-741-3765

Sat. July 10 – INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU

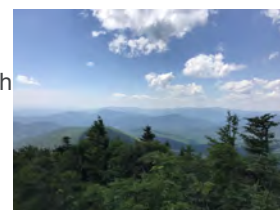
Distance 13 mi. Ascent: 5000', Elevs: 3573', 3650', 3783', 3835'

Long, challenging trail hike at moderate, steady pace. Eastern Devil's Path traverse with shuttle.

Registration Period: June 19 - July 3.

Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262

russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600



Tue. July 13 - TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE (Weekday)

Distance 9.6 mi. Ascent: 2481', Elevs: 3825', 3819'

Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.

Registration period: June 29 - July 10

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Wed. July 14 - BEARPEN & VLY (Weekday)

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent 2078', Elevs: 3587', 3541'

Relaxed-moderate pace, snowmobile trail and easy bushwhack.

Registration Period: July 7 - 12.
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857
thighley1944@gmail.com

Thu. July 15 - Balsam (Weekday)

Distance: 7.15 mi. Ascent 2107' Elev: 3607'
Relaxed pace thru hike from McKenley Hollow to Lost Clove with shuttle.
Registration Period: July 1 - 11
Leader: Sharon Klein #3364
musicwithoutwalls@gmail.com

Thu. July 15 - BALSAM LAKE (Weekday)

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1290', Elev: 3729'
Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075
L_Sonera@Optonline.net

Sun. July 18 - SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 3120', Elevs: 3783', 3835'
Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration period: July 4 - 16
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Tue. July 20 - THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME & BLACKHEAD (Weekday)

Distance: 8.5mi. Ascent: 2520', Elevs: 3953', 3994', 3940'.
Moderate pace. Shuttle Required.
Registration period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Sat. July 24 - HALCOTT & RUSK

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 3400', Elevs: 3509', 3686'
2 short but steep bushwhacks at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. July 25 - PANTHER

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent 2374', Elev: 3724'
Moderate pace bushwhack and trail from Woodland Valley.
Registration Period: July 18 - 23
Leader: Harold Oakhill #283 W1244
hoakhill@gmail.com

Sun. Aug. 1 - BALSAM LAKE via MILLBROOK RIDGE

Distance 9.0 mi. Ascent 2200', Elevs: 3465', 3729'
Relaxed-moderate pace. Shuttle required.
Registration period: Jul. 25 - 30
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312
catskill35r@gmail.com

Tue. Aug. 3 - TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE (Weekday)

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 2481', Elevs: 3825', 3819'.
Moderate pace.
Registration period: Open
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390
ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Fri. Aug. 6 - North Dome and Sherrill (Weekday)

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elevs: 3605', 3558'
Moderately paced bushwhack shuttle hike in at Rt. 42 and out at Devil's Path.
Registration Period: July 30 - Aug. 4
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997
michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. Aug. 7 - WEST KILL

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent 1898', Elev: 3898'
Moderate pace bushwhack from Spruceton Rd.



Registration Period: July 31 - Aug. 5
Leader: Harold Oakhill #283 W1244
hoakhill@gmail.com

Tue. Aug. 10 - WITTENBERG, CORNELL, SLIDE (Weekday)

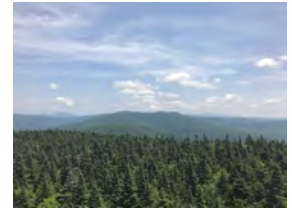
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3800', Elevs: 3782', 3857', 4184'
Relaxed pace trail hike with steep scrambles. Shuttle Required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Wed. Aug. 11 - MILLBROOK RIDGE & BALSAM LAKE (Weekday)

Distance: 8.8 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3465', 3729'
Moderate pace. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Aug. 2 - Aug. 9
Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com
Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Thu. Aug 12 - BALSAM LAKE MOUNTAIN (Weekday)

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1250', Elev: 3729'
Moderate pace.
Registration Period: by Aug. 9
Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950
edmoran@gmail.com 631-741-3765



Fri. Aug. 13 - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU (Weekday)

Distance 13 mi. Ascent: 5000', Elevs: 3573', 3650', 3783', 3835'
Long, challenging trail hike at moderate, steady pace. Eastern Devil's Path traverse with shuttle.
Registration period: July 30 - Aug. 11
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Sat. Aug. 14 - HALCOTT via Elk Creek

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1400', Elev: 3509'
Relaxed pace true bushwhack, teaching map & compass skills. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sun. Aug. 15 – WEST KILL

Distance 6.8 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3898'
Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration period: Aug. 1 - 13
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Tue. Aug. 17 - FIR & BIG INDIAN (Weekday)

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elevs: 3629', 3699'
Relaxed pace bushwhack.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Wed. Aug. 18 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE (Weekday)

Distance 8 mi. Ascent 2550', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'
Relaxed-moderate pace. Shuttle required.
Registration period: Aug.12 - 16.
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857
thighley1944@gmail.com



Thu. Aug. 19 - HUNTER (Weekday)

Distance: 7.2 mi. Ascent: 2050', Elev: 4030'
Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075
L_Sonera@Optonline.net

Sat. Sept. 4 - SLIDE

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 4184'
Moderate pace.

Rain, inclement weather will cancel.
Registration Period: Aug. 30 - Sept. 2
Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326
suzkna@msn.com 718-435-3092 (after 7:00 pm)

Sun. Sept. 5 - VLY & BEARPEN

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevs: 3541', 3587'
Moderate pace, snowmobile trail and easy bushwhack.
Registration Period: Aug. 22 - Sept. 3
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Mon. Sept. 6 - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF, PLATEAU & WEST KILL (Weekday)

Distance 24.4 mi. Ascent: 8500+', Elevs: 3573', 3650', 3783', 3835', 3898'
Extremely long, challenging trail hike at moderate, steady pace. Devil's Path traverse with shuttle.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Wed. Sept. 8 - WINDHAM & BLACKHEAD (Weekday)

Distance: 12.5 mi. Ascent: 3246', Elevs: 3525', 3940'
Strenuous hike at moderate pace. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Aug. 30 - Sept. 6
Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com
Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com



Fri. Sept. 10 - PLATEAU (Weekday)

Distance: 7.3 mi. Ascent 2185' Elev: 3835'
Relaxed pace.
Registration period: Aug. 27 - Sept. 5
Leader: Sharon Klein #3364
musicwithoutwalls@gmail.com

Fri. Sept. 10 - ROUND TOP & KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK (Weekday)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1330', Elevs: 3465', 3652'
Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.
Registration Period: Sept. 3 - 8
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W994
michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. Sept. 11 - BALSAM LAKE via MILL BROOK RIDGE

Distance 9.0 mi. Ascent 2200', Elevs: 3465', 3729'
Moderate pace. Shuttle required.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. Sept. 11 - HALCOTT

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1690', Elev: 3509'
Moderate pace bushwhack.
Registration Period: Aug. 28 - Sept. 9
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Sat. Sept. 11 - TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent 2800', Elevs: 3825', 3819'
Moderate pace.
Registration Period: Sept. 3 - 10
Leader: Sue Hall #2460 W1091
shall@catskill.net



Sun. Sep. 12 - BALSAM & EAGLE

Distance 9.3 mi. Ascent 2700', Elevs: 3607', 3583'
Relaxed-moderate pace.
Registration period: Sep. 5 - 10
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312
catskill35r@gmail.com

Sun. Sept 12 - SW HUNTER, HUNTER, EAST RUSK & RUSK

Distance: 12mi. Ascent: 3075'. Elevs: 3753', 4030', 3628', 3686'

Long bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390

ericapellegrino71@gmail.com

Thu. Sept 16 - BALSAM & EAGLE (Weekday)

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2800', Elevs: 3607', 3583'

Moderate pace.

Registration Period: by Sept 13

Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950

edmoran@gmail.com 631-741-3765

Thu. Sept. 16 - PANTHER via GIANT LEDGE (Weekday)

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1775', Elev: 3724'

Moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075

L_Sonera@Optonline.net

Sat. Sept. 18 - HUNTER & SW HUNTER

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent 2250', Elevs: 4030', 3753'

Moderate pace.

Registration Period: Sept. 10 - 17

Leader: Sue Hall #2460 W1091

shall@catskill.net



Sat. Sep. 18 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 4.5 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3525'

Relaxed pace bushwhack, teaching map & compass skills. Beginners welcome.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Tue. Sep. 21 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL (Weekday)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3200', Elevs: 3605', 3558'

Relaxed paced bushwhack to 2 remote peaks. No shuttle.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sat. Sept. 25 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 8.8 mi. Ascent 1705', Elev: 3652'

Moderate pace.

Registration Period: Sept. 17 - 24

Leader: Sue Hall #2460 W1091

shall@catskill.net

Mon. Sept. 27 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK, BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE (Weekday)

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 4300', Elevs: 3525', 3940', 3994', 3953'

Challenging bushwhack & trail loop from Big Hollow Rd. Moderate Pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Wed. Sept. 29 - TWIN & INDIAN HEAD (Weekday)

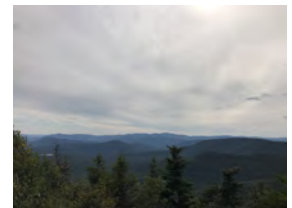
Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3650', 3573'

Relaxed-moderate pace.

Registration Period: Sept. 22 - 27

Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857

thighley1944@gmail.com



Photos used in this section are by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, *The Canister* Editor.



Toad along the Devil's Path. Photo by Harold Oakhill #283 W1244

NEW MEMBERS

The “Class of 2021” includes a record number of new members. In prior years, members who finished by the time of the dinner were considered to be in that year’s class. This year, there was another consideration. Two substitute peaks were designated to replace Doubletop and Graham, if they had not been climbed before the closure. So, 39 (regular)/35 (winter) peaks were required to be in the class of 2021. Those who finished under the old rules by mid-April (when we would have had a dinner) are in that class. Going forward, 37 (regular)/33 (winter) peaks are required.

The 3500 Club’s “Class of 2021” faced a range of once-in-a-lifetime anomalies on its way to earning membership. The surge in hiking spurred by Covid-19-related restrictions made this yet-another record-setting year for membership, with 273 regular members (48 of which also went on to become winter finishers) and 104 winter finishers, up from last year’s record-setting numbers of 219 and 80, respectively. Also, spurred by the restrictions and then elimination of Graham and Doubletop Mountains, which also included a stint with two temporary peaks to climb, this class was presented with a tally sheet that may have required patience and adaptability to complete.

However, the year’s anomalies and milestones weren’t all challenges. This class of members includes our 3500th member, Julie McGuire (see [Spring 2021 Canister](#))! Plus, the winter class of ‘21 includes the three youngest people to accomplish the feat—all before the ripe age of 6 and all on the same day! On January 31st, 2021, the Kralick twins, Ezra and Daniel, became the youngest Winter 35 finishers at 5 years and 5 months and finished their W35 on Cornell. Luna Pelton became the youngest female to finish the Winter 35 on West Kill a week shy of her 6th birthday.

Slide Mountain continues its position as perennial favorite first peak, with 39 members choosing it. Panther (27), Balsam Lake (26), Hunter (22), and Indian Head (21) round out the top-five favorite first peaks. Members chose a range of options for their first peak—all but seven of the peaks from the tally sheet were climbed. No one climbed Rocky, Sherrill, Balsam Cap, Rusk, or Big Indian for their first ascent. Also, temporary peaks South Doubletop and Millbrook Ridge, weren’t first climbs for anyone. However, the two temporary peaks were popular last peak destinations, with Millbrook having nine finishers and South Doubletop attracting 22 finishers, which makes it the fifth most popular last peak. The top four last peak destinations—the four mountains that must be climbed in the winter—were Blackhead (32), Slide (30), Panther (27), and Balsam (23). The next most popular peak to finish on was Kaaterskill High Peak (21). Seven of the 35 mountains weren’t last peak destinations: Hunter, Black Dome, Thomas Cole, Big Indian, North Dome, Eagle, and Vly.

As was the case in the past few years, there wasn't an obvious favorite peak for finishing the winter list. Favorites include Cornell (15), Kaaterskill High Peak (10), West Kill (9), Indian Head (4), and both Millbrook Ridge and Rocky tied for fifth with six winter finishers each. Out of the 35 peaks, 28 were chosen as last peak by winter finishers.

Certificates were mailed out with the patch and letter for all processed applications. There are still some prior-year certificates that are available (please [contact Dave](#) to claim yours!). More recent finishers will be listed next quarter.

By: Dave White, Membership Chair and Chris Adams, Assistant to the Membership Chair.

New Lifetime Members:

Number	Name
268	Timothy Watters
1304	Chris Koebelin
1469	K W Hanson
1596	Renee Gerber
1726	James Druiett
1779	Johanna Rioux
1835	Daniel C Mahoney
1879	Glenda L Brown
1880	Peter K Brown
2376	Sara Gulbrandsen
2452	Francis Willis
2525	Lourdes Sonera
2953	Bill White
2960	Gardiner Barone
2973	Daniel Mahoney
3004	Robert Proietti
3090	David Bullock
3265	Zisis Soulantzos
3266	Chrisoula Kalloudis
3364	Sharon Klein
3388	Christopher Higgins
3461	Mina Brenneman
3548	Roberta Mulder
3550	Gil Adler
3551	Laya Barak
3552	Cara E Vaughan
3553	Karen Seward
3566	Ryan Malcom
3571	Thomas M Kochanowski
3574	Songui Yi
3579	Kim Cuppett
Asp	David Martino
Asp	Jessica Mullinnex-Rusin
Asp	Kelsey Fenimore

New Winter Members:

Winter Number	Name	Number	Date of Finish	Final Peak
1365	Deborah Osterhoudt	3079	2/20/2021	Plateau
1366	Robert Osterhoudt	3078	2/20/2021	Plateau
1367	Roberta Mulder	3548	3/5/2021	South Doubletop

1368	Mina Brenneman	3461	3/6/2021	Indian Head
1369	Roseann Amato	3383	3/6/2021	Windham
1370	Corey Herzlich	3384	3/6/2021	Fir
1371	Angelica McIntyre	2872	3/8/2021	Sugarloaf
1372	Ryan McIntyre	2871	3/8/2021	Sugarloaf
1373	Bryan Burnham	3455	3/9/2021	Kaaterskill
1374	Gregory Dunn	2766	3/14/2020	Cornell
1375	Beth Renaud	2765	3/14/2020	Cornell
1376	Brian Collins	3161	3/8/2021	North Dome
1377	Megan Bailey Smith	3221	3/6/2021	Indian Head
1378	Paul Krempa	3144	3/13/2021	Balsam Lake
1379	Dianna Reynolds	2597	3/8/2021	Rocky
1380	Krysia Caldwell	2995	2/21/2021	Rocky
1381	Nicholas Lenzi	3404	3/14/2021	Millbrook Ridge
1382	William Quinn	3565	3/14/2021	Indian Head
1383	Roger Green	2627	3/11/2021	Balsam Lake
1384	David Bullock	3090	3/13/2021	Rocky
1385	Barbara Dyer	3495	3/14/2021	North Dome
1386	Shannon Pinkowski	2883	3/13/2021	Cornell
1387	Michael Deciel	3338	3/13/2021	South Doubletop
1388	Ryan Williams	3091	3/13/2021	Hunter
1389	Francine Snyder	3567	3/14/2021	Kaaterskill
1390	Erica Pellegrino	3463	3/16/2021	Southwest Hunter
1391	Lorraine Anderson	3557	3/16/2021	Cornell
1392	Patricia B Johnson	3284	3/12/2021	Millbrook Ridge
1393	Chrisoula Kalloudis	3266	3/13/2021	West Kill
1394	Zisis Soulantzos	3265	3/13/2021	West Kill
1395	Deven Connelly	3569	3/13/2021	Kaaterskill
1396	Rebecca Van Kollenburg	3568	3/13/2021	Kaaterskill
1397	Lee Ferris	2585	3/13/2021	Hunter
1398	Thomas M Kochanowski	3571	3/14/2021	Kaaterskill
1399	Sarah Voor	3572	3/14/2021	Balsam
1400	Christina Hoyos	3499	3/17/2021	Sugarloaf
1401	John Whitney	3575	3/19/2021	Kaaterskill
1402	John Stubecki	3237	3/9/2021	Millbrook Ridge
1403	Maureen Weakley	3016	3/13/2021	Rocky
1404	Donna Monroe	3462	3/10/2021	Bearpen
1405	Francis Willis	2452	3/13/2021	Millbrook Ridge
1406	Lynn Houston	3578	3/14/2021	Kaaterskill
1407	Jeanette Bennetti	3438	3/12/2021	South Doubletop
1408	Michael Reiss	3133	3/20/2021	Kaaterskill
1409	Phil Burch	3276	3/20/2021	Balsam Lake
1410	Edwin R Lamon IV	3582	3/6/2021	Plateau
1411	Deborah Geiger	3197	3/20/2021	West Kill
1412	Robert Berry	3196	3/20/2021	West Kill
1413	Cynthia Listort	3584	3/20/2021	Cornell

1414	Cherie Kidd Kocsis	3583	3/20/2021	Cornell
1415	Kim Cuppett	3579	3/20/2021	Cornell
1416	Colleen Hardcastle	2990	3/21/2021	Friday
1417	Raeann Bond	3386	3/9/2021	Millbrook Ridge
1418	Rob Bond	3385	3/9/2021	Millbrook Ridge
1419	Christopher Keller	3585	1/10/2021	Rocky
1420	Sayaka Araki	3587	2/27/2021	Rocky
1421	Dario Mucilli	2919	3/6/2021	Windham
1422	C Martin Armitage	2918	3/6/2021	Windham
1423	John Koral	2917	3/6/2021	Windham
1424	James Scott Merrill	3150	3/20/2021	Friday
1425	Richard Hoult	2884	3/13/2021	Cornell
1426	Yong Kim	3114	3/21/2021	Indian Head
1427	Daechan Lee	3305	3/21/2021	Indian Head
1428	Eunyoung Cho	3445	3/21/2021	Indian Head
1429	Sangtae Moon	3460	3/21/2021	Indian Head
1430	Christopher Lee	3588	3/20/2021	Kaaterskill
1431	Reece Minerley	3589	3/19/2021	Wittenberg
1432	E Annette Nash Govan	3502	3/17/2021	North Dome
1433	Marvin Warren	3479	3/21/2021	Plateau
1434	Katy Leidel	3272	3/21/2021	Cornell
1435	Matthew Sanford	2694	3/21/2021	South Doubletop
1436	Arlena Zajac	3129	3/13/2021	Cornell
1437	Chase Budell	2973	3/13/2021	West Kill
1438	Alison Bach	2972	3/13/2021	West Kill
1439	Steve Dempsey	3409	3/21/2021	Plateau
1440	Heidi Tanner	3610	3/21/2021	South Doubletop

New Members:

Number	Name	Date of Finish	Final Peak
3543	Chris Condon	2/27/2021	Sherrill
3544	Kiran Mahale	3/7/2021	South Doubletop
3545	David Ness	1/24/2021	Blackhead
3546	Rita M Okoniewski	3/3/2021	Panther
3547	Joseph C Okoniewski	3/3/2021	Panther
3548	Roberta Mulder	3/5/2021	South Doubletop
3549	Yuriy Klementyev	3/5/2021	Rocky
3550	Gil Adler	2/16/2019	Slide
3551	Laya Barak	3/7/2020	Hunter
3552	Cara E Vaughan	3/6/2021	Blackhead
3553	Karen Seward	3/7/2021	Wittenberg
3554	Michael Riccuiti	3/8/2021	Kaaterskill
3555	Shashikant B Gund	2/13/2021	South Doubletop
3556	Daniel Ball	3/3/2021	Slide
3557	Lorraine Anderson	3/8/2021	Lone
3558	Chance Caswell	3/9/2021	Panther
3559	Lena Leyla Baydar	2/28/2021	Kaaterskill
3560	Joseph Felter	3/13/2021	Sugarloaf

3561	Benjamin Chrobot	3/14/2021	Balsam
3562	Amanda Galanti	3/7/2021	South Doubletop
3563	Patrick G Connolly	3/12/2021	Blackhead
3564	Sandra Galindo	3/13/2021	Panther
3565	William Quinn	3/14/2021	Indian Head
3566	Ryan Malcom	3/11/2021	Friday
3567	Francine Snyder	3/14/2021	Kaaterskill
3568	Rebecca Van Kollenburg	2/20/2021	Lone
3569	Deven Connelly	2/20/2021	Lone
3570	Peter Tullio	3/12/2021	Balsam
3571	Thomas M Kochanowski	3/14/2021	Kaaterskill
3572	Sarah Voor	3/14/2021	Balsam
3573	Khalil Hammid	3/13/2021	Rocky
3574	Songui Yi	3/14/2021	Blackhead
3575	John Whitney	3/19/2021	Kaaterskill
3576	Andres Castro-Agramonte	3/14/2021	Balsam
3577	Beth Smith	3/13/2021	Slide
3578	Lynn Houston	3/14/2021	Kaaterskill
3579	Kimberly Cuppett	1/31/2021	Sherrill
3580	Jodi LaMarco	8/9/2020	Rocky
3581	Max Zielinski	3/14/2021	Blackhead
3582	Edwin R Lamon IV	2/6/2021	Lone
3583	Cherie Kidd Kocsis	3/12/2021	South Doubletop
3584	Cynthia Listort	3/20/2021	Slide
3585	Christopher Keller	3/1/2021	Balsam
3586	Julien Cortes	12/13/2020	Millbrook Ridge
3587	Sayaka Araki	2/18/2019	Bearpen
3588	Christopher J Lee	3/20/2020	Kaaterskill
3589	Reece Minerley	3/19/2021	Wittenberg
3590	Joseph Kirtland	3/29/2021	Panther
3591	Cynthia R Kirtland	3/29/2021	Panther
3592	Andrew J Craigie	4/3/2021	West Kill
3593	Hannah Keggins	3/12/2021	Rusk
3594	Calley Erlwein	4/3/2021	North Dome
3595	Kevin Erlwein	4/3/2021	North Dome
3596	Ben Smith	4/3/2021	South Doubletop
3597	Hope Lloyd	3/27/2021	Balsam
3598	Justin W McNaughten	3/7/2021	Blackhead
3599	Joseph Goliber	3/14/2021	Balsam



Windham High Peak from Peck Rd. Photo by Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

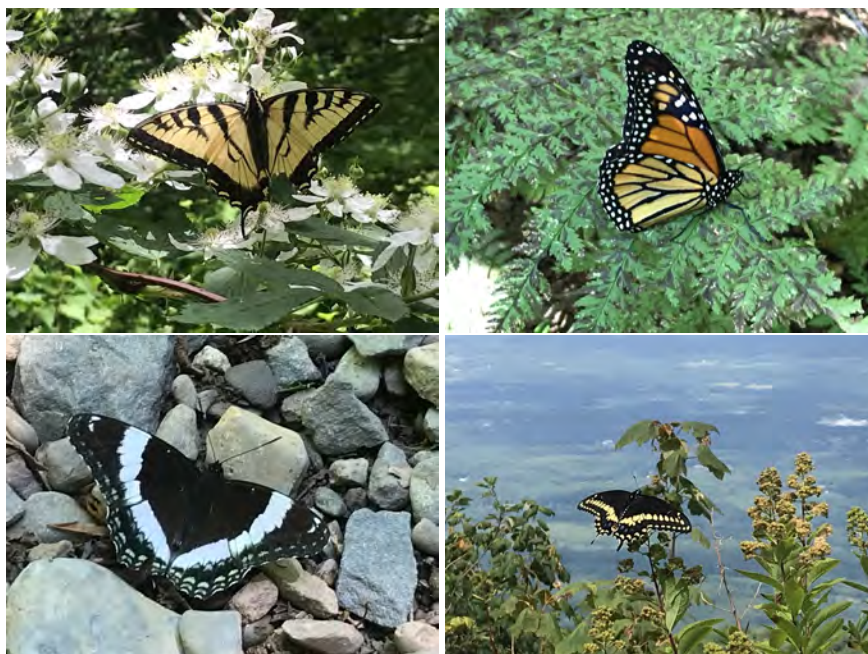
Editor's Notes

By Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond



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

Please note: the newsletter will print best if downloaded as a pdf file directly from the [Club's site](#).



Catskill butterflies, clockwise from top left: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (on Bearpen); Monarch (on Rusk); Black Swallowtail (on WHP); White Admiral (on Hunter). Photos by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222

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Late summer day in the Vinegar Hill Wild Management Area. Vista from the wetlands to Packsaddle, North Dome, Sherrill and Balsam. Photo by Jim Hopson #1813 W782

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