

The Catskill Canister
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Balsam Lookout. Photo by Matty Lonergan

ANNUAL DINNER POSTPONEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Members and Aspirants,

As much as we want to celebrate the achievements of our new 3500 Club members and winter finishers and share camaraderie with friends, old and new, at our Club Dinner on April 18th, we will be postponing the annual 3500 Club Dinner. Our priority is the health of all members, guests and staff.

Following public health guidance in regards to COVID-19, the Board has decided that we cannot take the risk of such a large public gathering as the transmission of the virus is spreading so rapidly. We hope to have the dinner in the summer or early fall and will update as things develop. For those of you who have already sent in checks, we will shred any checks we have received. Recent finishers, we hope to be able to present your certificates at the rescheduled dinner or be in touch with [Dave White](#) to have your certificate mailed to you.

Stay safe out there everyone,
Maria Bedo-Calhoun, President

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

In this issue:

- President's Column
- Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club
- Reading Catskill Stream Stories
- A Catskill 3500 Riddle
- Double Devil's Path in a Day
- Doghiker Book Review
- Historical Profile: Ashokan High Point and Samson Mountain
- Interview with Luna Pelton and Jason Pelton
- Reading the Trail Signs
- Hike Schedule
- Member lists
- Editor's Notes



Trail Spice

The President's Column by Maria Bedo-Calhoun

I write this a day after our most recent 3500 Club board meeting and I am happy to report that it was filled with valuable discussion, many details on what board members are accomplishing or hoping to accomplish and great camaraderie. The Club is fortunate to have these dedicated members doing good work, volunteering their time and ideas for the organization and for the mountains we all cherish. I want to point out just a few of the various things going on:

- Under the leadership of the Outings Chair and the wonderful hike leaders for the Club, the number of hikes the Club leads are increasing. Yes, that means more boots on the ground. But, as part of our mission as a Club is also to educate and teach hikers [Leave No Trace](#), mountain ethics and hiking skills (while also having fun!), the increase means more hikers are receiving this valuable education.
- The Stewardship Committee has been busy working with the DEC to move forward with a long-awaited replacement of the Table Mountain Lean-to (also known as the Bouton Memorial Lean-to) this summer. The Club is partnering with the Bruderhof community through an agreement between the DEC and the [New York New Jersey Trail Conference](#). We are hopeful that this summer we can send out a call for volunteers to help with the actual installation so keep your eyes open for that invite!
- The 3500 Club Search and Rescue team is now a full-fledged *Federation of Search and Rescue Teams* member and was a major factor in the sad recovery of a teenager in tough winter conditions in Suffern, NY in January. He had been missing for a month and, while it was a difficult discovery, it did finally give the family needed closure.
- We are increasing our collaboration with the NYNJTC on several things; the most exciting is a good database of the trail systems and maintainers in the Catskills. There will then be an up to date, easily accessible system in place to link those interested in volunteering. If you have a desire to give back, this is the most flexible way to do so.
- Our annual Wilderness First Aid class is running in April (look for information in the Canister below under the announcements and on the [Club site](#)). It provides a great opportunity to learn some valuable skills to prepare for emergencies in the woods. Also, for those who are accepted as hike leaders, we offer the [Founder's Award](#): a retro-active scholarship which refunds the leader 75% of the cost of the class after leading 4 hikes in 2 years.

These are just a sampling of updates – all our board members are busy and there is just not enough room for a complete list, but everyone deserves our deepest thanks for what they do with quiet dedication.

With all of these activities, and more in the works, one of the biggest topics of conversation at our meeting yesterday was whether the Club should move to a 501c3 status. When the Club was established in 1966, it was done as what is called a “social club” and is currently designated a 501c7. The IRS defines that as: *tax-exempt status to some clubs organized as not-for-profit entities and operated for the enjoyment or recreation of their members. These can include fraternities and sororities, country clubs, dinner clubs, amateur sport clubs, yacht clubs and hobby clubs.*

We get inquiries all the time about whether matching grants are available or if we give tax deductions – which we cannot as a 501c7. Only a 501c3 allows for that, so these restrictions have brought us to the point where the Board feels that it might be time to change.

The first step in the process is to update and revise our by-laws. While there have been small amendments over the years, the Club has never done a full revision and review. The Board is in the process of that and you will see advance notification of our suggested revision by e-mail or paper copy. We had hoped to have the by-laws presented at the April Annual Meeting, but, now that it is postponed, the by-laws will be presented when the dinner is rescheduled. Once those by-laws are approved, we can then decide if we are going to move forward to a 501c3 status.

Yes, there are lots of good things and positive changes going on! I, and the rest of the board, were hoping to be able to celebrate this past year with an evening of fun and friendship on April 18th with fellow intrepid hikers. With the postponement of that event, we will just have to wait, but be sure to say hello on the trails in the meantime!



Executive committee at the Winter 2020 board meeting. Photo by Jennifer Pruden

Front (L -R): Charlie Lutomski, Jim Bouton, Matt Smith, Jay Hui, Jake Haisley
 Center (L -R): Maria Bedo-Calhoun, Erica Winterbottom, Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, Stash Rusin, Bill Chriswell, Carol White, David White
 Back (L -R): Melissa McCutcheon, Mike Doehring, David Bunde, Bill Winterbottom
 Not pictured: Heather Rolland, Lourdes Sonera



Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club



The Club extends appreciation to Richard Barr, departing NYNJ Trail Conference Representative



The 3500 Club Board deeply thanks Richard Barr for his long-time service to the Club and Board. Initially, Richard joined the Board as part of the Conservation Committee and then became the Club's New York New Jersey Trail Conference representative. Richard worked closely with Club Conservation Chair Carol White on the committee's 18-year assessment of the environmental and legal issues raised by the Belleayre Resort. Richard was on the ground at that point, joining a team exploring 1,200 acres of newly acquired state land to advise Unit Management Plans. He then became a full-fledged voting board member when he became the TC representative. We wish Richard well as he enjoys being in the Catskills now that he has a home in West Saugerties.

By: Carol White, Conservation Chair



Catskill 3500 Club Welcomes New Board Member



The 3500 Club Board welcomes Matt Smith to our ranks!! Matt is now the [New York-New Jersey Trail Conference](#) representative for the Club, taking over for Richard Barr.

Matt brings a lot of Catskill love and experience, as you can see from his bio:

Matt Smith (#889 W309) has been hiking in the Catskills literally since he could walk. Born and raised in Woodstock, his family frequented Overlook and North Lake for hikes throughout his childhood. Scouting introduced him to backpacking and leave-no-trace backcountry ethics. While getting his degree in Biology, he worked for the Nature Conservancy conducting controlled burns and performing wildlife surveys in the Albany Pine Bush. Matt worked as Assistant Forest Ranger in the Catskills from 1994 to 96, patrolling and maintaining trails in the Slide Mountain and Big Indian Wilderness Areas. He's currently a volunteer trail maintainer and is dedicated to the responsible stewardship of wild lands.



Professionally, he works as a systems analyst developing software for data science and analytics. He lives in Chatham, NY with his partner and pets, and enjoys exploring the mountain ranges of the northeast year-round.

Welcome Matt!!!



2019 Club-sponsored hikes in review



The Club is very thankful for our hike leaders. You are not just leaders, you are also an inspiration to hikers. All the hard work is appreciated. In 2019, the club had sponsored a total of 181 hikes/events, with the number of participating hikers (including the leaders) being 1280.

By: *Bill Winterbottom, Outings Chair*



Doubletop and Graham Access Update



In the [Winter 2020 issue](#) we reported that Bill Fiedler has taken over from Bill Scholl as a new head caretaker for the Furlough Farms and the Gould Family.

Since then, we have spoken with Bill and were informed as how surprised he was by how many hikers are NOT calling. Bill has encountered numerous, very large groups of over 20 hikers in one group. Because of that, he is implementing even further procedures for hiking on the Gould property. He may ask for each hiker in a group to call him INDIVIDUALLY to register and to discuss the rules. Bill can be reached at (607) 221-1277. If you leave a message, Bill will usually respond by texting, so if you are calling from a land line, please be sure to indicate it in the voice mail.

He clarified that for groups of a few hikers who know each other and can account for one another, one call should be sufficient. When you call him, you should tell him what you are hiking and with whom. If he tells you that your party is good to go, then you're good to go. If you don't know who you're hiking with because you're part of a big hiking group, then those other people will need to call too.

Bill would also like everyone to stay on the old access road to Graham and the main herd path to Doubletop. Please sign in the register on Doubletop with the name you gave Bill or the contact if it is a group. Bushwhacks from Doubletop to Graham will be allowed for now.

He is going to be on site on weekends to greet hikers so don't assume you can slip by. Also ponder what that may mean down the road if enough people do not follow the procedure....

The private landowners could revoke access at any time...so spread the word, do the right thing if you are hiking either mountain.

Our access is a privilege, not a right.

By: *Jim Bouton, Canisters Chair*



Winter Weekend Wrap-Up



Our 2020 Winter Weekend was once again held at the Catskill Seasons Inn in Shandaken, New York. We had an adequate turnout despite dismal hiking conditions on Saturday, and generally I received positive feedback from attendees. The Inn is cozy, and the staff is friendly, and its location is well suited for our scheduled hikes. I did hear from several hikers that the buffet set up for dinner was a better option than a sit-down meal. There is always room for improvement, especially during our cocktail hour. This is an area that will be addressed before next year's festivities. Unfortunately, the rain curtailed any outdoor activities, but I think most enjoyed themselves. The Inn ended up not selling out as there was some confusion as to how many rooms the visiting movie crew would take, so there were some who found accommodations elsewhere. As far as next year is concerned, I am exploring at least one other location. It's pricing may be a bit higher, but may result in a higher quality experience. As I gather information this year, I may ask for member feedback on cost/quality concerns. Thank you all who participated in Winter Weekend this year. I hope to see you all and more next year. In the meantime, fingers crossed for some snow to keep this seasons Winter Finishers honest!







By: Bill Chriswell, Winter Weekend Chair

 Dues News 

Dues for calendar year 2020 are now payable. Those of you who receive the emailed quarterly link from us also get a dues reminder. Members and Aspirants who joined after the middle of the year may renew at a half year rate to get back to "calendar year renewal." Contact [David White](#) or [Jake Haisley](#) to confirm your status. Forms and rates are on the [membership page](#) of the website.

You may now use PayPal at the [club site](#) or renew by mail and/or order additional member items using [this form](#). Please make checks payable to the Catskill 3500 Club.

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

 Winter Prep Class Wrap-Up 

On Saturday December 7th, 2019, Tom and Laurie Rankin held a 'Winter Preparedness' Class at Morgan Outdoors, in Livingston Manor. A total of 11 people attended, along with NYS Forest Ranger Eric Stratton, and our hostess, Lisa Lyon. Participants heard about such topics as safety, conditions, timeliness, nutrition, gear, etiquette, and many others. Ranger Stratton also offered his perspective on various topics, such as when to call for assistance, who to call, and what to say and do. Along these lines, we discussed emergency scenarios and emergency gear.

Participants asked many questions and some brought their gear, which was evaluated.

'Death by Cotton Candy' Gingerbread cookies also made an appearance.

All of the participants were glad to have attended.



By: Tom Rankin, Former President

 Save the date: Wilderness First Aid Course 

The Catskill 3500 Club will be running its annual Wilderness First Aid Course (SOLO Certified) this spring on Saturday and Sunday, April 25th and 26th, at the Catskill Center in Arkville (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. both days). This is a valuable course for both hike leaders and regular hikers

and we are once again lucky that John Kascenska can instruct again. You can see his considerable experience at <http://www.kamountainguides.com/about.html> and read about what the class was like in the [Summer 2019 Canister](#) issue.

This two-day course includes a combination of lectures and hands-on, practical wilderness first aid simulations. More information on what the class involves can be found [here](#) as well as on the [Club site](#). The fee for the training course is \$185 per person. Participants completing the course will receive SOLO certifications in WFA, as well as Adult & Child CPR.

For those considering leading for the club, we are offering an incentive: 75% of the class costs will be refundable after you have been approved for leading and have led 4 hikes in 2 years. Please contact [Charlie Lutomski](#) for further information or to register.

By: Charlie Lutomski, 1st Vice President



Save the date for Trail Maintenance and Adopt-a-Highway events



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Join us on Sunday, March 29th, 2020 for the Route 214 clean up. Bring work gloves and a great attitude – all else will be provided, including refreshments afterward. Your participation helps the Club, the environment, and keeps the Catskills beautiful!

PEEKAMOOSE-TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Join us for our club trail maintenance outing on Saturday, April 5th, 2020. Please help us keep the Peekamoose-Table Trail clear and safe for the enjoyment of all. Bring work gloves and your favorite trail maintenance tools (the Club will also have tools available). It's fun work and a great way to help the Club and the hiking community. Refreshments will be provided afterwards. Please be sure to sign up so we know who's coming. We still need extra hands! See the schedule listing below for the registration information.

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



Save the date: Navigation Class!



The Catskill 3500 Club is pleased to offer a Navigation Class on June 20th, from 9 AM to 11 AM, at the Pine Hill Community Center.

Tom and Laurie Rankin will be leading the class. They will cover map reading, compass use, and how to combine these tools to successfully navigate in the back country. They will also briefly discuss GPS usage. After the indoor class, there will be a practice session in a nearby state forest.

There is no charge for the class, but you must register by contacting Tom at tomrankin7@gmail.com or calling 845-926-6209. The first 20 applicants will be taken. Attendees must bring a map of the Catskills and a compass to the class.

By: Tom Rankin, Former President



Update from the Treasurer



2019 saw the club continuing our financial support of existing organizations and a few new ones. We received over \$2500 in donations from members in addition to the membership and the aspirant fees. The club ended 2019 with over \$59,000 in assets, and this is even after we spent over \$8000 more than we earned. The outreach of the club is expanding in trying to do more with our money. Having the money just sitting in the bank is not fitting with our club's desire to support the Catskills in terms of trail and lean-to maintenance and now also supporting the SAR efforts. All of this costs money and it's money we have because of our members. Thanks!

By: Jay Hui, Treasurer

Trail Mix Photo credits: Matt's photo is by Alexis Barth. Winter Weekend photos are by Eve Proper (top row, left), Jess Prekel (top row, center and right), Laurie Rankin (middle row, left), Colleen Hardcastle (middle row, center), and Eve Proper (middle row, right), Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond (bottom row). Winter preparedness photos are by Laurie Rankin.



Buck's Ridge view on West Kill. Photo by Francis Willis #2452

Reading Catskill Stream Stories

Text and Photos by: Dany Davis #2000 W904

I've spent the last couple of decades exploring the Catskills and have found many reasons to stay in love with these peaks and valleys for the rest of my life. I am also fortunate enough to make my living as a geologist exploring Catskill mountain streams. A couple of years ago I led a series of hikes along Catskill creeks with the intention of staying along the stream for as long as we could and trying to visit a summit if possible. The hikes were more about the journey and learning about streams rather than a destination peak. I stopped leading these hikes because I was concerned about the potential impact of large groups invading these sensitive wild places. Through this opportunity, however, I got to share my love of reading Catskill streams with a great group of people.



In this article, I want to share one of the many geologic tales you can read through exploring Catskill streams. How do we read these stories? What is their language and how do we interpret what we read? The branch of geology I work in is geomorphology - the science of landscape forms and processes. I look to the streams and landscape to tell me a story about a place. What bedrock is this land composed of? How did the valley get shaped this way? Why is this stream muddy during a flood and that one isn't? These stories are available to us to read if we know how to interpret them. There are lots of other kinds of tales we can read when exploring the streams and valleys of a mountainous watershed. Stories of life, chemistry, weather. Taken together, they form a compendium of tales that compose a Catskill stream saga.

We'll start with the beginning: what rock forms these mountains and valleys?

Rivers feeding rivers – a Devonian history tale

We can pick up rocks from a streambed and begin to tell part of the watershed's geologic story. The first thing we notice about these stream stones is that they are almost entirely sedimentary rocks - conglomerates, sandstones, siltstones, shales and mudstones. We may find a locally rare granitic gneiss, fossiliferous limestone, or a crystalline garnet amphibolite. These are exotic elements hinting at other stories that tell the tales of different lands and different times. Their rarity lets us know they are not representative of the terrain we wander. When walking along a Catskill Mountain stream in the high peaks region, we are walking through the "fossil" remains of ancient braided and meandering rivers and floodplains draining a forested delta between high mountains to the east and shallow seas extending into today's Midwest. It would have been a wild and alien landscape to us, a terrain and trees we would not know. These primeval streams flowed across and formed a landscape around 380 million years ago. Geologists name this deep past the Devonian Period, and the more than a mile-thick stack of sedimentary rock, the Catskill Delta. The broken lithified (turned to stone) remains of these Devonian streams and their forested floodplains feed today's streams with the sediment being carried down from today's mountains, flood after flood.



Biscuit Brook watershed is one of those Catskill stream valleys that is particularly good for reading the Devonian history of one small section of the Catskills. The streams drain the southern slopes of Fir and Big Indian peaks. Biscuit Brook's course down the mountains to the West Branch Neversink River alternates between bedrock stream channels and sediment-formed channels. We can read part of the bedrock story of a stream valley by walking along the stream and observing the presence and type of bedrock we see. The sediment that fills and forms the stream in between the exposed bedrock channels also tells us of the rock that supplies the creek with the stones we can pick up and try to read.

The gray stream-worn gravel and cobble that form much of the streambed and banks is the same strong sandstone that forms most of the bedrock channels with deep flumes, falls, and steep sliding slopes. And this is the same sandstone that can form the cliffy ledges so common throughout the Catskills. At higher elevations in the watershed, erosion-resistant conglomerate rocks are prevalent and can form the rugged headwater streams' steep rock-formed steps and the rocky crowns of many Catskill peaks.

The shales and other mudstones that form the platy fragments of brick-red and grey-green rock, so easily broken in a flood that they don't last very long, is the weaker bedrock we see between the thicker stronger sandstones. It tends to be very thinly layered since it is made up mostly of clay and silt. In Biscuit Brook where it can form long low-sloping stretches of the channel bed, it is often cracked in a messy connected pattern at the surface, and occasionally surprisingly beautiful when green and red rock are intermingled, much like oil and water.

The sandstones and conglomerates we see are the stone-turned sediment the Devonian streams carried down from the great mountains to the shallow inland sea. We can see river sedimentary structures in the dipping and cross-cutting layers of lithified sand that tell of the paleocurrents that delivered these sands into their final river resting place. How much time is represented by one sand layer? Was it one brief afternoon of flooding that just happened to be preserved, while so many other floods left no record? What of all the layers together? When we look at an outcrop of Catskill sandstone with many distinct cross-cutting layers we are looking at a time-lapse sculpture of the Devonian river's meandering movement across decades to millennia. The sandstone layers, though, are always bounded above and below by the other most frequent rock type we see in Catskill streams: the shales and mudstones. In fact, the easily eroded mudstone layers can often be inferred if not seen in the landscape, as they tend to form the less steep mountain side slopes between the cliffy sections. It is the same in streams where they may form lower gradient channels lined with sediment.



The mudstones and very fine-grained siltstones record the presence of the Devonian lowlands between the river courses that contained muddy floodplains, frequently flooded riparian forests, and abandoned channels that became ponds. How do we know this? In Biscuit Brook the red mudstones are often highly fractured in a near hexagonal pattern that records the wetting and drying of very fine sediment on the floodplain. We can see these world's first forests through the fossils preserved in the rocks. If we look closely at some of these mudstones we can see other patterns that reveal the traces of the forest's roots that pulled nutrients from the Devonian flood sediment into primitive trees. We call these particularly "crumbly" mudstones, paleosols - ancient soil turned to rock. In some of the green-gray siltstones and shales we can find faintly scribed impressions of fern-like "leaves". In some of the gray sandy siltstones we can find the impressions of broken branches that covered the bottom of pools or ponds.



The sedimentary rock layers represent the passage of time in this story through the depositional record. Because the bedrock of the Catskill Mountain high peak region has not experienced a stressful history of deformation through folding or faulting and thereby complicating the story, we know we are moving forward through time when we walk upstream, and backward through time when walking downstream. Time in the Catskill geologic record flows against the stream. Knowing this helps us understand the sequence of events in the story. What we can see as we walk up Biscuit Brook through the repeating sequence of sandstones and mudstones is the record of the meandering, ever-shifting, sediment-

hauling streams carrying down the remains of big, big mountains while life begins to take hold on land in the first forests. In this one valley we can be present with today's mountain brook and yesterday's vast deltaic river system blooming with earth's burgeoning life.

The Biscuit Brook trail offers hikers opportunities to observe the bedrock and sediment-formed channels that tell this epochal tale. Venturing a little upstream or downstream from the lean-to or the trail's stream crossing before heading up toward Big Indian Mountain presents a chapter or two of this Devonian story. The off-trail hiker will of course have many chances to check out how much more complicated the story is than the one I just shared with you. I certainly don't want to encourage the masses to hike the streams – these are precious places that are wild ecosystems still doing the work of shaping the Catskills – but I do want to encourage each hiker to take the time to stop and appreciate how rich these streams are in their geological stories.

If you take the time to hang out on a gravel and cobble bar on a Catskill creek - pick up some rocks and really examine them. Observe what they have in common, how they may differ from each other and see if you can read a part of their story.



Dany Davis AKA Sporty Spice is a geologist and mountain enthusiast living in Rosendale NY.

Photo 1. Hikers on a "Blueline" hike along Biscuit Brook stop to admire one of the many flume and falls carved into Catskill sandstone.

Photo 2. Catskill sandstone exposed in Biscuit Brook with depositional layering of river transported Devonian sand.

Photo 3. Biscuit Brook stream sediment composed of fragments of fluvial sandstones and terrestrial mudstones. Some of the rocks contain fossil impressions of "woody fragments" carried and deposited in the ancient rivers.

Photo 4. Fossil impressions of Devonian forest detritus deposited in ancient stream pools or floodplain ponds are part of the forensic evidence of these world's first forests.

Photo 5. It's not all gray, green and red sedimentary rocks in Biscuit Brook. This platy multi-hued orange sandstone is highly unusual for the Catskills, but is not an exotic rock brought into the Catskills by Pleistocene glaciers. There is an outcrop of this very rock streambed just upstream.

Photo 6. Red-bed shale/mudstone with ferrous green inclusions beneath Biscuit Brook's water.

Photo 7. A section of Biscuit Brook with exposed Devonian "paleosol" mudstone recording the ancient floodplain sediment weathering and bioturbation from trees like Eospermatopteris and Archeopteris.

Photo 8. A close-up of a section of Biscuit Brook with exposed Devonian "paleosol" mudstone recording the ancient floodplain sediment weathering and bioturbation from trees like Eospermatopteris and Archeopteris.

Photo 9. A group of Blueline hikers heading up a sediment-formed reach of Biscuit Brook. The hiker on the right side of the photograph did her Colorado State University Master's thesis in geology on Biscuit Brook in 2018.



View off Phoenicia East Branch Trail towards Wittenberg. Photo by Jason Pelton #3013 W1211

A Catskill 3500 Riddle

Text and Photo by: Ed Moran #2009 W950

Here is the entrance exam for the Master's program in Catskill3500ology. Read the following hiker's story and answer the 3 questions. Yes, there are 3 real answers.

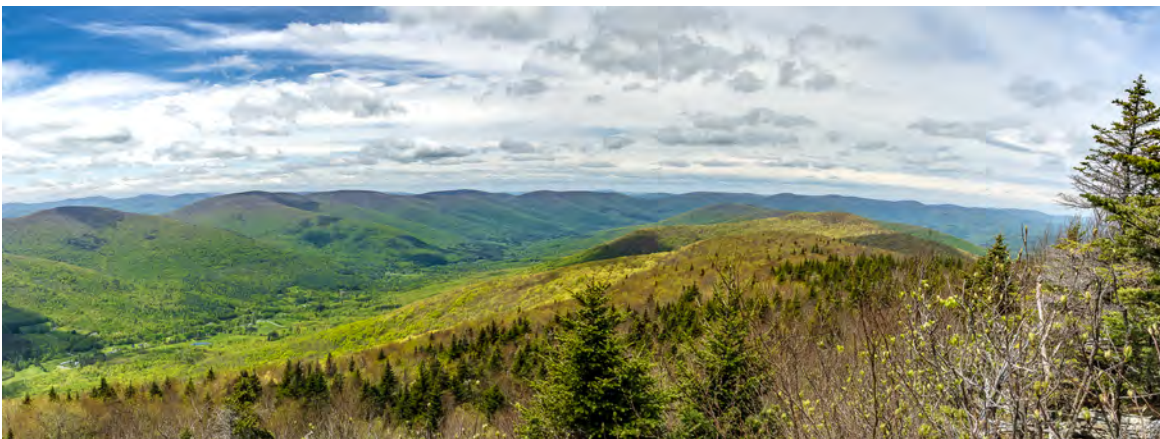
"Woo-hoo! Yesterday I hiked one last peak to finish the regular season 3500 list and became a 3500 Club member. Today, I hiked one peak and finished my Catskill grid. It all started with the first mountains I ever climbed when I joined a 3500 Club hike to Giant Ledge and Panther over the Christmas holiday. Later that winter I got my first snowshoe experience on a hike to Balsam and Eagle and also my first 4000-footer on Cascade Mountain in the Adirondacks. I was hooked!!! From there I hiked all of the 4000 footers in NY ... in winter ...twice! I couldn't stop there and last summer I finished my Northeast 115 on Katahdin. In the end, finishing the Catskills lists posed the biggest challenge of all because I got plantar fasciitis in my left foot and had to rest for 6 weeks before I could hike my last peak. But now I can proudly call myself a 3500 Club member!"



1. What day is it?
2. On which peak did I become a 3500 Club member?
3. On which peak did I finish my Catskill grid?

Answers supplied upon request by [emailing](#) Ed; and will be published in the Summer 2020 issue of the Canister.

Ed is a 3500 club hike leader, a member of the Catskill Mountain Search and Rescue Team, an active New York State licensed guide and owner of Eastern Outdoor Experiences Guide Service.



Spruceton Valley from Rusk. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

Double Devil's Path in a Day

Text and Photos by: James Armstrong #2900 W1158

On August 11th, 2019 I put to bed my longest-standing Catskills hiking goal, the Double Devil's Path in a day. Back in December of 2010 I hiked the Devil's Path in a day for the first time and as I neared the terminus on Spruceton Road the thought of doing it twice in a day, out and back, occurred to me.

Several years ago, the idea of doing the linkup of the Devil's Path and the Escarpment Trail in a day came to mind and seemed much more alluring than the double. After completing the linkup on July 14th, 2019 ([summary in Fall 2019 Canister](#)), the double Devil's Path was the next logical thing to do.

I'd tried to find someone to hike the double with me, or at least the night hiking section of it. While I'm certainly not afraid of the dark, I've found that I move slower at night when I'm alone. Unable to find anyone crazy enough to find enjoyment in such things, this became a solo adventure.

The first order of business was putting in caches at Devil's Tombstone and Prediger Road. I hung a cooler in a tree at each place, using the bear-hang method to keep them safe from any bruins. Each cooler had a sign on it that it was for a hiker, that it would be removed, and to please not bother it.

After the caches were set I drove to Spruceton. I've hiked the Devil's Path in a day many times since my first crossing in 2010. I know that the eastern section is significantly harder and takes me a lot longer. I didn't want to have to face that near the end, when I was at my most tired. When doing a single traverse in a day I start at Prediger, to get the harder section done first.

My start time at Spruceton was 6:46pm on Saturday, August 10th. I utilized the same strategy as on the linkup, getting the night hiking section out of the way first while I was fresh, and then also enjoying the mental aspect of finishing in the daylight. I signed in at the register and then set my own pace. On the linkup we took turns setting pace. It's nice to be able to turn one's mind off and simply follow along when doing a long endurance hike but this time there would be no such luxury. I made it to the summit of West Kill before I had to turn on my headlamp.

The strategy was much the same as on the linkup.

- 11 hours from Spruceton to Prediger (5 hours to Devil's Tombstone, 6 hours from there to Prediger)
- 12 hours from Prediger to Spruceton (30 minute break at Prediger, 6 hours and 30 minutes to Devil's Tombstone, 5 hours from there to Spruceton)

I knew that for the double to work, and to keep it under the 24-hour timeframe, I'd have to be conservative in my hiking but also determined. I didn't want to push it too hard anywhere and risk burning out, but I also knew that I couldn't afford to take breaks, enjoy views, or lose focus. The 23-hour schedule had a 1-hour buffer built in to allow for any issues that might arise. As long as I finished by 6:45pm on Sunday I would be happy. My plan was for a 30-minute break at Prediger Road where I would eat, rehydrate, and change clothes. I also had a fresh pair of trail runners at Prediger, an added luxury.

It took me a little while to adapt to hiking by myself at night; just me, the dark woods, and a dim headlamp. As on the linkup, I made certain to pass by the Devil's Acre lean-to as quietly as possible. It was full and I don't think I disturbed anyone who was sleeping.

The descent down from the Devil's Acre lean-to went well and I reached Devil's Tombstone in only 4 hours and 15 minutes, solidly ahead of schedule but not feeling that I had overdone it anywhere. I had a bite to eat, refilled my water, hydrated, and began the ascent up Plateau.

On the way up Plateau I met a couple descending by headlamp. I remarked that it was a nice night for a hike, and we all stopped and chatted for a few minutes. They had been camped at Mink Hollow and a young bear had bothered them. Apparently they had yelled at it and shooed it away a few times, but it returned. They made the decision to leave, which I can understand. Talking with them pulled me out of my night-hiking trance and boosted my spirits, which resulted in an increased pace.

The rest of the way to Prediger passed in a bit of a dream-like state. Alone with just my thoughts in the dark woods, I found it a bit difficult to maintain motivation. Usually when doing a big day I feed off a friend's energy and talk about the most ridiculous things we can think of, to keep us laughing and having fun. This time, on my own, my mind wandered.

At 4:30 am I came across two hikers who were getting an early start on the Devil's Path in a day. We chatted for a few minutes, and they told me they planned to finish by 5 pm. I relayed the information about the bear at Mink Hollow (even though I did not see it), completely spacing on the fact that not only would it be daylight when they got there, but that it would be mid-day. Once again, the encounter boosted my motivation and increased my pace.

I made it to Prediger at 5:06 am, still ahead of schedule. I ate, rehydrated, changed, and got back on the trail within 25 minutes. Still using my headlamp, I was very much looking forward to sunrise. Soon the birds began chirping and I knew daylight was fast-approaching. Climbing up Indian Head, this time in the light, seemed like a completely different experience, even though I had been there just a little while ago. The difference from night to day made each mountain seem entirely different and provided me with some appreciated variety.



Owing to the perfect weather, as well as the ever-increasing popularity of the Catskills, I started coming across hikers and backpackers as the morning progressed. Arriving back at Devil's Tombstone at 11:29 am, I knew that the toughest part was behind me and it was just a matter of maintaining focus and getting it done. I was starting to feel a bit tired, more from lack of sleep than from physical exertion. After eating and drinking I started the climb back up to the Devil's Acre lean-to and noticed that I was really dragging.

The climb up West Kill also dragged by fairly slowly, but at the summit I knew it was practically all downhill from there. I ate my first Gu of the hike and felt like a new person. This was definitely a mistake I made. I had plenty of Gu with me and should have taken them earlier when I first started feeling tired. After reaching the summit of St. Anne's (well, technically the actual summit is a bit off the trail) I let loose and ran for the first time on the entire hike. I flew down St. Anne's, and then at the sign I really opened up, running as if I was completely fresh.

I reached the Spruceton parking area at 4:31 pm, completing the double Devil's Path in 21 hours and 45 minutes. Goal accomplished!



The double Devil's Path is a significant step up in difficulty from the Devil's Path/Escarpment Trail linkup. Even though the double is approximately the same distance (not even counting the 10 miles of biking on the linkup), the Devil's Path is just so much more physically demanding than the Escarpment Trail that the difference becomes rather profound. On the linkup everything was fairly relaxed. We took in vistas, enjoyed some breaks, and didn't really push it. I believe that if I did the linkup again I could get it down to under 20 hours, maybe 19 hours if I really wanted. With the double I feel that I gave it a solid effort and can't say with certainty that I could take much time off if I did it again. That said, it felt really, really good to put in a solid effort by myself and meet my goal. There was definitely a feeling of accomplishment all these years after I first had the idea.

The way my caches were set I had water every 6 miles and food every 12 miles. I usually carried one and a half liters of water at a time, drinking a liter at every cache and then drinking approximately one liter between every cache. I carried my usual easily-digestible food/snacks, consuming a minimum of 100 calories every hour. Every 12 miles I ate a larger "meal."

If you're considering doing a long Catskills hike, I'd recommend the Devil's Path/Escarpment Trail linkup over the double Devil's Path. The linkup is more interesting, certainly more varied, and a bit easier. That said, the double Devil's Path is a challenging and rewarding day. I'm always thinking about new challenges in my home mountains and have decided upon my next big goal here in the Catskills. Perhaps I'll see you out there!

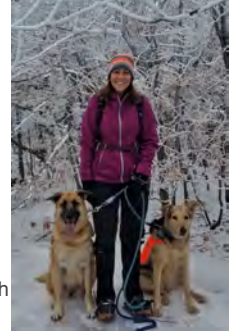


Misty West Kill from the eponymous brewery. Photo by Karin Murphy

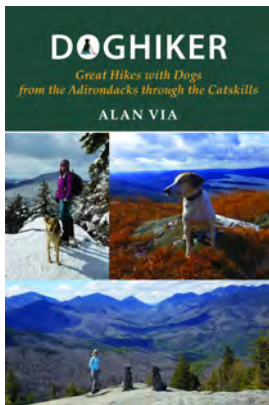
DOGHIKER Book Review

Text and photo by: Deborah Osterhoudt #3079

As hikers, we are drawn to the comfort of the trail, the embrace of the woods and the occasional reward of an awe inspiring 360° view. That well-earned 360 provides glimpses of future adventure on trails in adjacent valleys, along streams and to nearby summits all of which were not a part of our individual trail experience yet still give us that unique feeling of being connected to everything around us in the natural environment. Alan Via's *Doghiker* also provides a unique 360° view on the joys and rewards of hiking, your dog's. This guide allows those of us who share the trails with our four-legged friends and even those who don't, to experience a hike through the eyes of a dog hiker, while providing great insight into enjoying the trails safely on two feet or four.



Alan Via is an outdoor enthusiast and dog supporter who hiked throughout the Adirondacks, the Catskills and beyond in researching this comprehensive guidebook. In *Doghiker*, Alan calls on his experiences and those of others who hike with and without dogs to provide advice on everything from choosing the right four-legged companion for the type of hiking you enjoy to preparing your dog's pack. Alan shares his decades of experience training and hiking with dogs and valuable guidance on socializing your pup, choosing the right hike and weather conditions for your dog, trail etiquette and why it is so important, appropriate gear and how to handle various wildlife. His understanding of canine first aid and a proper kit make this a book a necessity for anyone who hikes with a dog.



Beyond providing methods that create enjoyable hiking adventures for you and your dog, Via shows how you can ensure those around you are also able to enjoy themselves, all while the bond between you and your dog grows. *Doghiker* includes in-depth information on 77 dog-friendly hikes that stretch from the Catskills to the Adirondacks. In addition to the essentials like distance, altitude gain, trail conditions and difficulty, Via beautifully describes each hike as he carefully offers a glimpse into each route setting the stage for your mind to see what you may experience the moment you step onto the trail. Each hike has a tailored topographic map that identifies parking, trails and viewpoints as well as availability of water and potential areas of concern for your dog. What really sets this guidebook apart is that each hike is written as if Alan were sitting next to you, smiling and telling you the story of what he hiked yesterday. You aren't just reading a trail description, you are walking through the woods with Alan as he tells you about the trail, from where to turn or climb, what you will see, and where to find a side trail for blueberries or a hidden treasure of wildflowers. Via's genuine enthusiasm and love for the outdoors comes through with every word and can't help but make you smile while reading through the many adventures that await you.

Whether you hike with a dog or without, *Doghiker* is a must-have guidebook that will provide all the information you need to choose the right dog hike and help you enjoy the great outdoors.

DOGHIKER can be purchased at The Golden Notebook in Woodstock, The Catskill Center, The Book House in Albany, other local bookshops as well as direct through the publisher, SUNY Press: 877.204.6073, their [email](#), or by visiting the [website](#). It will soon be available everywhere.

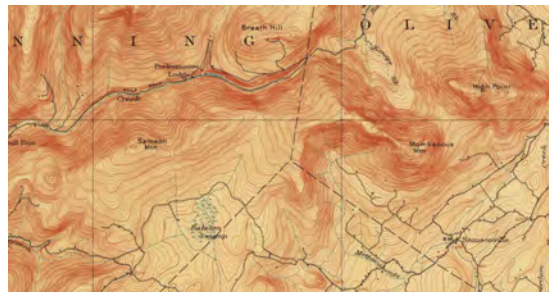


View of Ashokan High Point from Friday. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

Historical Profile: Ashokan High Point and Samson Mountain Or, Will the Real Samson Mountain Please Stand Up

Text and Photos by: John Sasso #2034

In the southern Catskills are two peaks with an odd connection: Ashokan High Point and Samson Mountain. The former is a popular hiking destination and the latter, six miles to the west, is a destination for peak-baggers accessible via bushwhack. As Ashokan (or Shokan) High Point^[1] was classically referred to as High Point, and this is a historical article, I shall refer to the peak as such. The odd connection between these two peaks, which led to a request for me to write about the history of them for *"The Canister,"* is a bronze 1942 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey reference marker on the summit of High Point stamped "SAMSON" – on a peak which is *not* Samson Mountain! As we shall see, the connection between these two peaks goes beyond a survey marker.



Samson Mountain to the west in the Town of Denning, and High Point to the east in the Town of Olive, from the 1905 Slide Mountain, N.Y. U.S.G.S. quadrangle. (Source: caltopo.com)

High Point of Ulster County

Although not the highest point in Ulster County, High Point is certainly the highest in the Town of Olive. The origin of the unimaginative name for this peak is unclear, and the earliest source I could find for High Point, in writing, is in *"Map of Ulster County, New York"* from 1853, based on the surveys of Oliver J. Tillson and Peter Henry Brink. Tillson, a cartographer from Rosendale with a focus on practical surveying, along with Brink and Jason "Jay" Gould, published the aforementioned map at the age of twenty.^[2] In regard to the name being unimaginative, consider that there are two other peaks in southern New York by the same name!



Map of Ulster County, New York from 1853, based on the surveys of Oliver J. Tillson and Peter Henry Brink, with High Point shown. (Source: Library of Congress)

The elevations of the Catskill mountains remained largely unmeasured until a Swiss scientist by the name of Arnold Henri Guyot came along in 1862. From that year until the close of the summer of 1879, Guyot mapped the location and carefully measured the elevation of a great number of peaks in the Catskills.^[4] Elevation was measured using a mercury or aneroid barometer, a method also known as barometric hypsometry. Guyot would publish the elevations of seventy-three summits in a paper entitled "On the Physical Structure and Hypsometry of the Catskill Mountain Region," published in the June 1880 edition of *"The American Journal of Science."*^[5] Of the peak-elevations documented, the elevation of High Point was given as 3,098 ft; today, the elevation of High Point is recognized as 3,079 ft. Another ground-breaking product of Guyot's survey was the publication in 1879 of *"Map of the Catskill Mountains,"* a map drafted by Ernest Sandoz.



Arnold Henri Guyot (1807-1884), the Swiss-born geologist, geographer, and educator who was responsible for the extensive surveying and mapping of the Appalachian and Catskill mountains. (Source: Library of Congress)



Arnold H. Guyot's 1879 *"Map of the Catskill Mountains,"* based on his extensive survey of the Catskills. High Point and its elevation are denoted to the east. (Source: New York Public Library Digital Collections)

We are now at a point where we can revisit the survey marker on the summit stamped "SAMSON," the motivation for these historical profiles. If you visit the summit of High Point, you will see three large, iron bolts sunk into the flat summit rock, arranged in a triangle. Each bolt is a 3/4"-diameter screw sunk into the rock, topped with two washers and a nut; the sides of the triangle are 7 feet in length. In the center of this triangle is a small, hollow, metal stem in a shallow hole about the size of a coaster. According to the National Geodetic Survey datasheet for High Point,^[5] a station recovery note from 1970 states that the stem's location once held the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey triangulation station marker from 1942, which was stolen and then replaced in 1970. Unfortunately, that triangulation station marker was nabbed as well, with the thieves leaving just the stem. However, at least 25 feet away from that stem are two bronze reference markers from the survey of 1942, each on open rock and which are stamped "SAMSON," the arrows of which point to the stem where the triangulation station marker used to be. This missing triangulation station marker is illustrative of the purpose of the reference markers: to triangulate back to the triangulation station marker, should it go missing!

Further research shed some light on the purpose of the three iron bolts sunk into the summit rock. Although nothing in writing could be found indicating that High Point served as a signal or triangulation station during the U.S. Geological Survey or U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, I surmised they were used to hold down the legs of a wooden signal station tripod (similar to the iron eye-bolts used to hold down Verplanck

Colvin's signal stations during his Adirondack Survey). In the 1942 "Hydrographic Manual" of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey[6] is found a description of the design of wooden signal towers for a survey, and in the list of materials for such is a 3/4"-diameter bolt, with nut and washers. This assembly, arranged in a fashion to hold down the legs of a tripod, is exactly what was found on the summit! Thus, a strong indication of a signal station constructed on High Point for the 1942 survey.

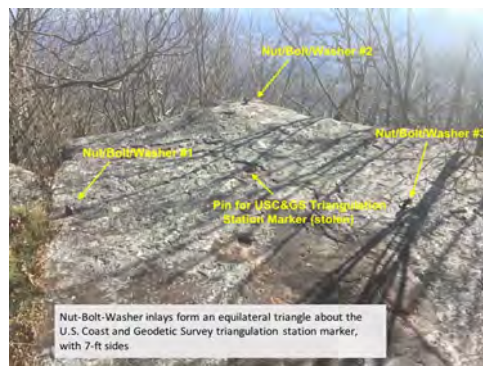
If the reader is wondering why the survey markers were stamped "SAMSON" instead of "HIGH POINT," a discussion of that will follow shortly. In the meantime, we continue on to the historical profile of Samson Mountain.



Markers from the 1942 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey on the summit of High Point. The left and middle are reference markers whose arrows point to the triangulation station marker. The right-most photo shows the location which once held the 1942 and 1970 triangulation station markers, which were stolen, and now only the metal stem remains.



Bolt, nut, and washer assembly on the summit rock of High Point, arranged in a triangle, which would have held down the wooden legs of the signal station tripod for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.



Samson Mountain

Lying six miles west of High Point, in the Town of Denning, is the next peak in our historical profile, Samson Mountain. As with High Point, Samson Mountain was recognized in name and location by the U.S.G.S. ever since being denoted on the 1905 Slide Mountain, N.Y. quadrangle map (the earliest I could find its name, in writing). Although the mountain is just over five miles west of the hamlet of Samsonville in the Town of Olive, named for Henry A. Samson (1818 – 1869), I could not readily conclude it was named for the same person after I found two residences denoted "Samson" on John Homer French's 1858 "Map of Ulster County, New York." A search of census records showed no Samson's living in the Town of Denning at the time. While it sounded reasonable to connect Samson Mountain with the name of a prominent businessman like Samson, doing so out of convenience can lead to mistakes when doing toponym research, something which I have seen other authors make. Thus, I had to establish a stronger connection between the two.

Henry Almonzo Samson settled in the Town of Olive around 1848 with his wife, Elizabeth Peckham Tripp, and established the hamlet of Samsonville, which would grow to include a store, church, tannery, and post office. The tannery was a significant operation that was the industrial heart of Samsonville, and relied on the bark from hemlock trees, which Samson and his partner, Zadock Pratt, harvested on tracts of land they owned and sawmills they operated in the region.

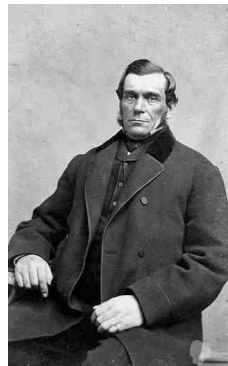
In October of 1853, the defendants contracted with Samson to purchase 4,000 acres of land in the Town of Denning. The plaintiffs also gave the

defendants license to use the sawmill located on the land to cut timber and use such for staves and lumber. In the 1854 edition of Tillson and Brink's "Map of Ulster County, New York," a tract of land denoted "Ogden & Delafield's 4000 Acre Tract" is located near the south-facing side of Samson Mountain. Within the tract are denoted two sites: "Steam Stave Works" and "Steam Saw M."; the former corresponds to the mill where staves were made, and the latter corresponds to the sawmill. These appear to correlate with the two residences named "Samson" in French's map. According to a court case before the New York State Court of Appeals in 1860 pertaining to a land use dispute involving Samson and Pratt, Samson testified that he advised the defendants that the best side of the tract to cut timber for staves was the southeast side of a mountain facing the sawmill. This was likely the side of Samson Mountain.

Considering the stature of Samson as a high-ranking military officer of high regard, a prominent businessman, and his ownership of a large tract of land and a sawmill upon on the southern side of Samson Mountain, it is quite reasonable to conclude that Samson Mountain was named in honor of Henry A. Samson.



"Map of Ulster County, New York" from 1858, by John Homer French. Note the two residences named "Samson" south of the unnamed mountain, near the town boundary between Denning and Rochester. (Source: Library of Congress)



Prominent businessman, military officer, and founder of the hamlet of Samsonville, Henry Almonzo Samson (1818 – 1869). (Source: Find A Grave)



"Map of Ulster County, New York" from 1854, based on the surveys of Oliver J. Tillson and Peter Henry Brink. West of the corner of the towns of Denning, Olive, and Rochester is the 4,000-acre tract acquired by David S. Ogden and Rufus K. Delafield from Henry A. Samson. (Source: Library of Congress)

I shall close this section with a discovery which will surely interest fire tower buffs. The 1911 edition of "The Roxbury Times" reported that Assistant State Superintendent E.S. Howard of Albany, District Superintendent John J. McGrath of Phoenicia, of the Conservation Commission, and Inspector George C. Russell of Ellenville, considered constructing fire observation towers on High Point of the Shawangunk Mountains (another High Point in Ulster County) and Samson Mountain.[Z] The purpose of the towers was to protect the State lands in southern Ulster County and much of Sullivan County. Although a fire tower was built on the Shawangunks High Point in 1919, I could not find any record in the annual reports of the Forest, Fish and Game Commission and the subsequent Conservation Commission from around 1911 to indicate any

interest in building a fire tower on Samson Mountain or Ashokan High Point. Thus, the concept of a fire tower on the peak never went beyond the State's consideration for some reason. While one may argue that the State may have implied Ashokan High Point, which is higher than Samson Mountain, both peaks were recognized by their current names at the time, making this unlikely.

Was High Point Also Called "Samson Mountain"?

We are now in a position to address why the survey markers on the summit of High Point are stamped "SAMSON" when the peak is *not* Samson Mountain. At first, I thought the surveyor who originally had the triangulation station and reference marker disks put in place in 1942 mistakenly thought High Point was known locally as Samson Mountain. I say "mistakenly" because no record could be found of High Point going by another name, especially "Samson Mountain." The two peaks were known in both name and location by the U.S. Geological Survey at the time, as far back as their 1905 maps. However, a publication from the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey revealed the most plausible reason.

According to the section "Naming Stations" in the 1941 *Manual of Reconnaissance for Triangulation* of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,^[8] the names of survey stations are normally assigned by the reconnaissance party in order to identify them. The triangulation party of the survey is authorized to change the name but seldom do. The manual recommends that the name of the geographical feature be used, but it elaborates further:

If the station is on the summit of some well-known mountain or hill of recognized name, it may be given that name. If it is on a bluff overlooking a river it may be given the name of the river. Similarly, it may be given the name of some nearby town, church, or school, or of the township or county in which it is located. Duplicate names must not be used within a county and preferable not within a State. [...] The best name is one which instantly associate the station with a well known feature in its vicinity ...

We recall that there are two peaks named "High Point" in Ulster County, the one which is the focus of this historical profile and the one in the Shawangunk Mountains. Thus, knowing of the Shawangunk High Point, the surveyors in 1942 likely chose the name of the hamlet near its southern base, Samsonville, but shortened the name to "Samson" for the station name on High Point, which was stamped on the bronze survey disks. This may have been a legitimate thing to do, considering that the real Samson Mountain did not serve as a signal or triangulation station, but it has certainly caused some head-scratching by some observant, inquisitive hikers who have taken a close look at these disks. Perhaps the surveyors should have taken into consideration that there was a Samson Mountain in Ulster County and stamped the survey markers on High Point with a different name, but, as they say, that's history!

Of Caves and Cavemen on High Point

During the course of my research, I came across several newspaper reports and folktales from the late nineteenth-century regarding caves off the slopes of High Point, and the denizens of such. Although the extent of the veracity of the newspaper reports is unclear, these legends have not been well-published in the Catskill literature. In the next edition of the Catskill Canister, these legends will finally be fully revealed, so stay tuned!

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](#)."

[1] John Homer French referred to High Point as "Shokan Point" in his 1859 *Gazetteer of the State of New York* (p.454, footnote), one of the very few references I have seen of this name.

[2] Historic Huguenot Street. *Oliver J. Tillson Family Papers (1787-1899)*. May 17, 2004. Accessed November 6, 2019. <https://www.huguenotstreet.org/oliver-j-tillson-family-papers>.

[3] Dana, James D. "Biographical Memoir of Arnold Guyot 1807-1884." *Biographical Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences*, v. 2, 1886.

[4] Guyot, Arnold Henri. "On the Physical Structure and Hypsometry of the Catskill Mountain Region." *The American Journal of Science*, Vol. 119, No. 114. June 1880, pp. 429-451.

[5] "Datasheet for U.S.G.S. Benchmark: LY2481 (Samson)." National Geodetic Survey Data Explorer. Accessed November 10, 2019. https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds_mark.prl?PidBox=LY2481.

[6] Adams, Kenneth T. *Hydrographic Manual*. Special Publication No. 143, Revised (1942) ed. U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C., 1946, pp. 157-158. https://www.google.com/books/edition/Hydrographic_Manual/rHUIAQAAIAAJ.

[7] "Observatory Stations in Mts." *The Roxbury Times*. 1911.

[8] Mussetter, William. *Manual of Reconnaissance for Triangulation*. Special Publication No. 225. U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C., 1941, pp. 88-90. https://www.google.com/books/edition/Manual_of_Reconnaissance_for_Triangulati/QnAiAQAAIAAJ.



Summit field of Ashokan High Point. Photo by Rob Stewart #2186 W1036

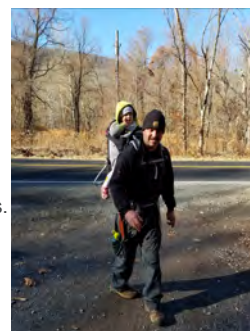
Interview with Luna Pelton and Jason Pelton

Questions by the Catskill 3500 Club

On January 5th, 2020, after summiting her final qualifying mountain (Windham High Peak), 4-year old Luna Pelton became the youngest member of the Catskill 3500 Club. President Maria Bedo-Calhoun and Canister Editor Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond "virtually" sat down with Luna and her dad Jay with questions, which were graciously answered in much detail.

3500 Club: It is not Luna's first patch. How old was Luna when she started hiking and how did you work her up to bigger hikes as well as winter hiking?

Jay: Luna started hiking with us when she was very young (before her first birthday), starting in a child carrier on mom's Laura's belly, and later on Jay's back. Her last hike in a carrier was on November 16th, 2016 when Laura, Grandpa Joe, Aunt Kim, and Jay hiked up to Tremper Mountain Fire Tower. At this point, Luna was getting rather big for the child carrier backpack, although she was under the age recommendations for the carrier. That's when we realized it was time to get her hiking on her own two feet. We hiked with Luna on very short trails and mostly in State Parks until she was three years old. In June of 2018 we started her first challenge, the [Catskill Explorer](#), choosing adventures of various degrees of difficulty. For example, we hiked to Diamond Notch Falls as one of the requirements. Luna finished this challenge before the winter that year, and then we moved onto the Kid's [Lean-to challenge](#).



Luna has always loved being outdoors, whether we were out somewhere or at home. She always wants to be outside, even if it's wintertime. She is very fond of the snow. So, I guess I never wondered if she wouldn't like hiking in the snow, I just knew that she would. She always became very excited when new gear (such as spikes or snowshoes) would come for her. She wanted to go outside and try them right away. Probably she would have used them in the house if we weren't paying attention! We returned to Spruceton Road that winter to practice her spiking to the waterfall. On this trip, her maternal grandparents from Poland, Babcia and Dziadek, joined Luna, Laura, and Jay. On December 15th, 2018 Luna hiked up to Leonard Hill Fire Tower with Mom and Dad. This was a longer hike for her, requiring spikes the whole way up and down. On February 18th, 2019 (now aged 4) Luna snowshoed for the first time in our backyard. She did very well and right from the start looked as if she had snowshoed for a long time. On March 9th, 2019 Luna snowshoed from Rider Hollow to the Lean-to. Grandpa Joe was with us this day. After grabbing this lean-to for the Lean-to challenge, I thought it would be a good test to see if she could grab her winter Balsam for the 3500 Club requirements. Luna switched to spikes while Grandpa and Dad continued to snowshoe. Luna was making very good progress up the Oliverrea-Mapleedale trail. She made it very close to reaching the junction of the Pine Hill West Branch trail when Grandpa slipped at the last water crossing. He fell into the water and we turned back for safety reasons. I know that she would have made it up to the summit.

On March 24th, 2019 Luna snowshoed to Trout Pond lean-to from Morton Hill Road, as access to Russell Brook Road isn't feasible in the winter. This was a 4 mile round trip hike and Luna handled it very well in the unbroken snow. Luna finished the Lean-to challenge on July 1st, 2019, hiking 3.2 miles into Moose Mountain Pond on the day before in some very intense mosquito-laden territory. My friend Greg joined us on Luna's finale. Besides the mosquitoes, it was a great camping trip and Luna loved every minute of her first overnight out in the wilderness.



I worked on the Catskill Hundred Highest (CHH) hikes for the rest of July while Luna took a short break from hiking. On July 30th, 2019 I asked Greg what his thoughts were about Luna hiking up to Wittenberg and Cornell from Woodland Valley campground. His response was: "Well, that's rather ambitious."

On August 4th, 2019 Luna's journey to becoming a member of the Catskill 3500 Club would begin.....



3500 Club: What was your favorite hike?

Luna: Balsam and Eagle from Rider Hollow.

3500 Club: Any cool animals observed along the way?

Luna: No, but I saw bear tracks in the snow.

3500 Club: What's next?

Luna: I want to go hiking with Mama and my little sisters, and work on my All Trails Challenge with Daddy.

3500 Club: What advice do you have for your younger sisters?

Luna: There are hikes on trails and there are bushwhacks. You need to wear protective gear like goggles and helmet on bushwhacks, and gaiters in the summer.

3500 Club: When you were at Dad's CHH finish, did you think about your own upcoming finish?

Luna: Yes, and I was excited and looking forward to my own finish.

3500 Club: What impact did Dad's CHH adventures have on your hiking and the motivation to get the 3500 patch?

Luna: I wanted to do what Daddy did and Daddy believed in me. He believed I could do it.

3500 Club: What's the best part about hiking with your Dad?

Luna: It was fun to just spend time with him and he taught me some stuff about hiking.

3500 Club: What things do you have to take with you on a hike?

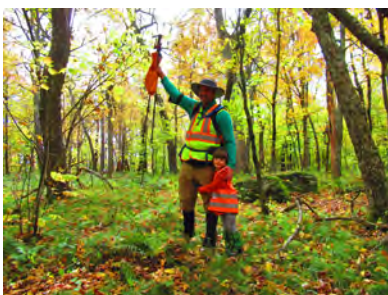
Luna: Water bottle, backpack, helmet and goggles for bushwhacks, gaiters in the summer, snacks, gloves and handwarmers in the winter.

3500 Club: If you could hike anywhere in the world, where would you want to go?

Luna: I would like to fly to Poland and hike in the Tatra Mountains. Mommy showed me pictures of them and they are beautiful.

3500 Club: What is your favorite season to be in the woods?

Luna: Winter, because I like snow and I liked wearing spikes.



3500 Club: Did you plan for Luna to become the youngest or did it just happen?

Jay: I never planned on Luna being the youngest. I knew that recently a boy had finished rather young, yet I didn't know of his age[i]. Our hike to Wittenberg and Cornell on August 4th was just the next step in progression to see what she was capable of. When she handled these two with ease, I decided that it was time to continue onto other 3500 peaks. I was trying to mix it up with her, throwing easier hikes into the schedule at key points as to not discourage her while hitting the more difficult ones as well. As we were rolling along and making great progress, Laura and I realized that Luna had a shot of finishing this as a 4-year-old. We both felt that this would be an amazing accomplishment for Luna to achieve, with very valuable things she would carry with her for her lifetime.

3500 Club: What snacks worked well?

Jay: We used M&M's on the first two summits and she became quite ill from the chocolate. We then switched to gummy bears and it was a hit. Gummy bears were very effective as a motivator. Count out so many trail markers and get a gummy bear, or get one for every 100' of ascent on the bushwhacks. Summit snacks consisted mainly of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruit snacks, and cereal bars.

3500 Club: Gear advice for a little girl, especially for winter?

Jay: Tough to say exactly, everyone is different. Gloves with handwarmer pockets and winter leggings worked very well for Luna, as opposed to wearing socks. Her socks would slip down into her boots creating discomfort. It happened on one trip so often that I knew we needed a change, and it has never been an issue after that. A helmet is a very good idea on certain trips. Luna has a warm weather one and one for winter. We also have kid's size racquetball glasses to protect her eyes on bushwhacks.



3500 Club: What was the most challenging day in the woods and how did you prepare her for it and kept her motivated and engaged?

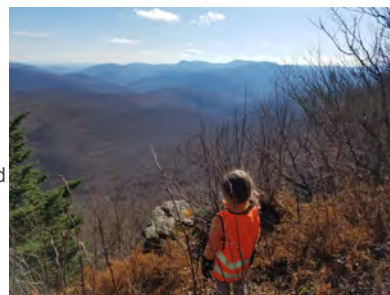
Jay: The most challenging day was the 13.1 mile trip hiking to Lone, Rocky, Peekamoose, and Table. Luna proved several times during the 3500



quest that she could handle around 10 miles, although the 8th thru 10th miles were usually difficult for her. I knew this trip would be her biggest challenge on her road to the 35. I talked with her about what to expect on this trip for over a week trying to mentally prepare her for it. One key aspect was the fact that we had less daylight to work with as the winter season was coming, so we had to start early. After our arrival at the Denning trailhead around 6 am, we quickly geared up and headed out in the semi dark as the sun was starting to give us some light. We took Fisherman's path up to Lone, then over to Rocky. Rocky was not a fan favorite in Luna's eyes. Once signing into the canister on Rocky, we headed toward Table by skirting around Lone. It was a great feeling for Luna to hit the marked trail on Table. We turned left and hiked to Peekamoose, then turned around and headed back to Table. We put our microspikes on at this point to descend off Table Mountain and stopped at the lean-to for a quick break. We were moving most of the day with very short breaks. Luna knew ahead of time what to expect by my prepping her and me reminding her during the hike, that we didn't have the ability to stop and hang out for long periods on this trip. I explained to her that some of the trips we will do during this challenge will be more relaxed hikes. The relaxed ones will be fun and usually with other folks. This trip will not be a relaxed hike, but more of a move, move, move!! We finished this day at 4 pm.

3500 Club: What creative approaches did you take to make things less strenuous?

Jay: I did, when applicable, try to choose an easier approach to summits. Some summits were difficult. I either decided this based on my knowledge, but some were difficult because we went a way that was new to us both. Hitting North Dome from Peck Hollow Road is one example of trying an easier approach to a 3500 peak. Being both new to Luna and myself, it was a very long way to summit, then over to Sherrill and down to Shoemaker Rd. Bushwhacking between Doubletop and Big Indian was very difficult. I had never tried this before. I'm surprised she made it through here. This and the 13.1 mile trip we did to grab Lone, Rocky, Peek, and Table in a day. Just shows how tough she is....



3500 Club:What has been your favorite hike with Luna?

Jay: My favorite hike with her during the Catskill Explorer Challenge was our hike near Little Pond. For the Lean-to Challenge, it was definitely Moose Mountain Pond, which was the finale and her first night camping in the woods. It's hard to pick one for the 3500 Club hikes. She was amazing on everyone of them. I will say that we had a lot of fun doing Sugarloaf and Plateau from Mink Hollow. Up the west side of Sugarloaf and down, up the east side of Plateau and down.

[i] Benjamin "Beni" Gordon #2817 W1251 became a 3500 member at age of 5. See [Fall 2019 Issue](#) of Canister for an interview with Beni and his dad, Jon (#2816 W1252).

Photos are courtesy of the Pelton family.



View off Windham High Peak. Photo by Linda Kukol #2248 W1035

Reading the Trail Signs

Text by Alan Via #429 W174

Here's a little fun with trail markers. Experienced hikers know trail markers talk to us in their own language, but it's interesting to watch new hikers reacting to them. Here's a few, some illustrating the obvious, others, not so much. Enjoy.

- A lot of work went into making this. Signs combined with markers:



Photo by Alan Via

- Red and yellow really shows in any weather or season:



Photo by Alan Via

- How can you possibly miss this trail? Covered with a few inches of leaves or untracked snow, late in the afternoon, white markers don't always clearly show the way. This trail through a conifer plantation is a favorite of mine but inexperienced hikers sometimes complain about getting turned around here in winter or when covered with leaves.



Photo by Alan Via

- The one on top points in the direction the trail turns. Rainbow Falls trail Minnewaska State Park.



Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

- Better turn LEFT – Storm King



Photo by Brian Bacher #2052 W850

- Left turn on the Long Path in Harriman State Park



Photo by Tim Luby #3268

- Right turn on West Kill



Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

- Triple markers mean trail's end



Photo by Alan Via

- You better have a map



Photo by Alan Via

- Telling trail 'sweep' to inform stragglers 'witch' way to go



Photo by Alan Via

- You better stay between the yellow blazes - this narrow easement allows passage through the private property en route to Tremper



Photo by Ralph Ryndak #1186 W451

Rambles and Brambles Hike Schedule April - June 2020

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

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

The Catskill 3500 Club's hiking credo includes 3 basic principles:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wildlife alert: Spring is also the fawn season; please be alert and keep your dogs leashed.

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 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.



Eerie woods off Balsam. Photo by Moe Lemire #2921

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

Sat. Apr. 4 - HUNTER & SW HUNTER

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 4030', 3753'
Moderately quick-paced trail and bushwhack hike.
Registration Period: Mar. 23 - Apr. 3
Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925
david@gbdesign.com



Sat. Apr. 4 - FIR, SPRUCE & HEMLOCK

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 2240', Elevs: 3629', 3384', 3251'
Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack with shuttle.
Registration Period: Mar. 27 - Apr. 3
Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com
Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Sat. Apr. 4 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

Distance: 7+ mi. Ascent 3000', Elevs: 3692', 3608'
Challenging bushwhack w/ B25 Wreck at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sun. Apr. 5 - TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE (Trail Maintenance)

Join us for our club trail maintenance outing. Sunday. Please help us keep the Peekamoose-Table Trail clean, clear and safe for the enjoyment of all. Bring work gloves and your favorite trail maintenance tools (the Club will also have tools available). It's fun work and a great way to help the Club and the hiking community. Refreshments will be provided afterward. Please be sure to sign up so we know who's coming. We still need extra hands!

Period: Open
Leaders: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075

Sat. Apr. 11 - WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2230', Elevs: 3782', 3857', 4184'
Moderately quick-paced trail traverse with shuttle.
Registration Period: Mar. 30 - Apr. 10
Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925
david@dgbdesign.com



Sat. Apr. 11 - HALCOTT, VLY & BEARPEN

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elevs: 3509', 3541', 3587'
Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack with shuttle
Registration Period: Apr. 3 - 10
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997
michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. Apr. 11 - RUSK

Distance: 3.3 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3686'
Moderately paced bushwhack
Registration Period: Apr. 4 - 10
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Sat. Apr. 18 WEST KILL

Distance 6 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3898'
Relaxed to moderate pace.
Registration period: Apr. 11 - 16
Leader: Lyn W. #2865
catskill35r@gmail.com



Sun. Apr. 19 - DOUBLETOP

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3874'
Relaxed paced bushwhack hike.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net (518)947-6407

Sun. Apr. 19 - PANTHER

Distance: 6.3 mi. Ascent: 2394', Elev: 3724'
Moderately paced hike.
Registration Period: Apr. 12 - 18
Leader: Christy Belardo #2959 W1230
christy.belardo@gmail.com



Sun. Apr. 19 - FIR

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev: 3629'
A slow to moderately paced trail and bushwhack hike.
Heavy rain or snow cancels.
Registration Period: Apr. 13 - 17
Leader: Michael L. "Mick" Dunn, Jr. #1272
mickfords@gmail.com, (603) 809-0348

Sat. Apr. 25 - VAN WYCK, TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE

Distance: 12+ mi. Ascent: 3835', Elevs: 3206', 3825', 3819'
Long, challenging bushwhack & trail hike at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. Apr. 25 - GRAHAM & BALSAM LAKE

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elevs: 3868', 3729'
Moderately paced hike.
Registration Period: by Apr. 18 - 24
Leader: Christy Belardo #2959 W1230
christy.belardo@gmail.com



Sat. Apr. 25 - BEARPEN & VLY

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevs: 3587', 3541'
Moderately relaxed paced trail hike with stops for
Compass & map instruction. Beginners welcomed.
Registration Period: Apr. 14 - 22
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com, 518-370-3600

Sun. Apr. 26 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 15 mi. Ascent: 4072', Elev: 3652'
Moderately paced trail hike via Long Path and Poet's Ledge.
Registration Period: by Apr. 24
Leader: Jake Haisley #2488 W1065
jacobhaisley@gmail.com

Sun. Apr. 26 - PLATEAU & OLDERBARK (Bushwhack)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elevs: 3835', 3463'

Challenging bushwhack from Mink Hollow.

Registration Period: by Apr. 24

Leader: Stefan Lisowski #2305 W1243

stefan@warui.com



Sat. May 2 - HALCOTT & SLEEPING LION

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2060', Elevs: 3509', 3391'

Moderately bushwhack with shuttle.

Registration Period: Apr. 23 - 30

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

Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Sun. May 3 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3525'

Map and compass lessons. Relaxed paced bushwhack

Registration Period: open

Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net (518)947-6407



Sun. May 3 - EAGLE & BALSAM

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2600', Elevs: 3583', 3607'

Moderately quick-paced trail traverse with shuttle.

Registration Period: Apr. 20 - May 1

Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. May 9 - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN & SUGARLOAF (Sunrise Hike)

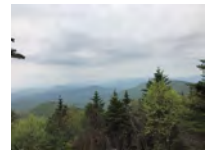
Distance: 9.9 mi. Ascent: 2800', Elevs: 3575', 3650', 3783'

Moderately paced trail hike with stops. This is not a beginner's hike.

Registration Period: Apr. 28 - May 6

Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262

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



Sun. May 10 - BALSAM LAKE MOUNTAIN (Yoga)

Distance: 5.8 mi. Ascent: 1150', Elev: 3729'

Moderately paced hike with a short yoga session at peak.

Registration Period: May 1 - 9

Leader: Pamela Martin #2102

pamelamartininc@gmail.com

Sun. May 10 - BIG INDIAN & FIR

Distance: 10.0 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elevs: 3699', 3629'

Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.

Registration Period: by May 8

Leader: Jake Haisley #2488 W1065

jacobhaisley@gmail.com



Sun. May 10 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME, THOMAS COLE

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'

Moderate-to-sprightly paced trail hike with car shuttle. Views galore!

Registration Period: by May 9

Leader: Jess Prekel #3106

jessikraut@gmail.com

Sat. May 16 - TABLE, PEEKAMOOSSE, LONE, ROCKY, BALSAM CAP, FRIDAY, CORNELL, WITTENBERG & SLIDE

Distance: 20+ mi. Ascent: 6300', Elevs: 3825', 3819', 3700', 3487', 3608', 3692', 3857', 3782', 4184'

Extreme bushwhack & trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. May 16 - RUSK, HUNTER & SW HUNTER

Distance: 10.6 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elev: 3686', 4030', 3753'

Moderately paced loop, bushwhack and trail hike

Registration Period: May 7 - 15

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

michael@bongarbiz.com



Sun. May 17 - HALCOTT via Elk Creek

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1400', Elev: 3509'

Relaxed paced bushwhack with map & compass practice.

A true bushwhack from a different direction.

Registration Period: open

Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net (518)947-6407

Sat. May 23 - DOUBLETOP, GRAHAM & BALSAM LAKE

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elevs: 3874', 3868', 3729'

Long, challenging bushwhack and trail hike from the south.

Plane crashes. Moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com



Sat. May 23 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance 6.5 mi. Ascent: 1500', Elev: 3525'

Relaxed to moderate pace

Registration Period: May 17 - 23

Leader: Michael Stallbohm

mstall0128@gmail.com

Sat. May 30 - ROCKY & LONE

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2385', Elevs: 3487', 3700'

Moderately paced, strenuous bushwhack to two remote peaks, w/optional primitive camping.

Registration Period: by May 29

Leader: Jess Prekel #3106

jessikraut@gmail.com

Sun. May 31 - WEST KILL

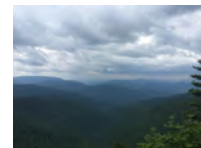
Distance: 6.8 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3898'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: May 24 - 30

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922



Sun. May 31 - SUGARLOAF (Bushwhack)

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2300', Elev: 3783'

Bushwhack from Mink Hollow.

Registration Period: by May 29

Leaders: Stefan Lisowski #2305 W1243

stefan@warui.com

Mon. June 1 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL (Weekday)

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2600', Elevs: 3605', 3558'

Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack with shuttle.

Registration Period: May 23 - 30

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

Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com



Sat. June 6 - TWIN & INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 6.8 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elevs: 3650', 3575'

Moderately relaxed paced trail hike with stops for

Compass & map instruction. Beginners welcomed.

Registration Period: May 27 - June 3

Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262

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

Sat. June 6 - BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY

Distance: 7.8 mi. Ascent: 2813', Elevs: 3608', 3692'

Moderately paced bushwhack

Registration Period: May 28 - June 5

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. June 6 - Escarpment Trail - WINDHAM & BLACKHEAD

Distance: 24 mi. Ascent: 4800', Elevs: 3525', 3940'

Extreme trail hike. Moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com



Sun. June 7 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elevs: 3605', 3558'

Moderately quick-paced, strenuous bushwhack.

Registration Period: May 25 - June 5

Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. June 13 - HUNTER & SW HUNTER

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 4030', 3753'

Moderate-to-sprightly paced hike w/ short bushwhack.

Registration Period: by June 12

Leader: Jess Prekel #3106

jessikraut@gmail.com



Sat. June 13 - VLY & BEARPEN

Distance 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevs: 3541', 3587'

Relaxed to moderate pace.

Registration period: June 6 - 11

Leader: Lyn W. #2865
catskill35r@gmail.com

Sun. June 14 - BALSAM LAKE MOUNTAIN & GRAHAM

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1650', Elevs: 3729', 3868'
Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack
Registration Period: June 7 - 13
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922



Sun. June 21 - SLIDE

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 4184'
Moderately paced trail hike. Rain, Inclement weather will cancel.
Registration Period: June 15 - 19
Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326
suzkna@msn.com 718-435-3092 (after 7:00 pm)

Sat. June 27 - Devil's Path East - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent 4800', Elevs: 3575', 3650', 3783', 3835'
Challenging trail hike. Moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com



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



View off Narrow Notch Mountain towards Plattekill. Photo by Rob Stewart #2186 W1036

NEW MEMBERS

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

New Lifetime Members:

Number	Name
2000	Wae D Davis
3068	Margaret Casagrande
3133	Michael Reiss
3214	Gopal Subramaniam
2247	Diane Linenbroker
2948	Mel Cooksey

3222	Steven Yu Jr.
3236	Lucinda Kaiser
3245	Thomas Campbell
3248	Kyunghee Kim
3258	Sharon Cahill
3272	Katy Leidel
Asp	Russell Hanford
Asp	Jean Mammoto
Asp	Tom Campbell
Asp	James Jansen

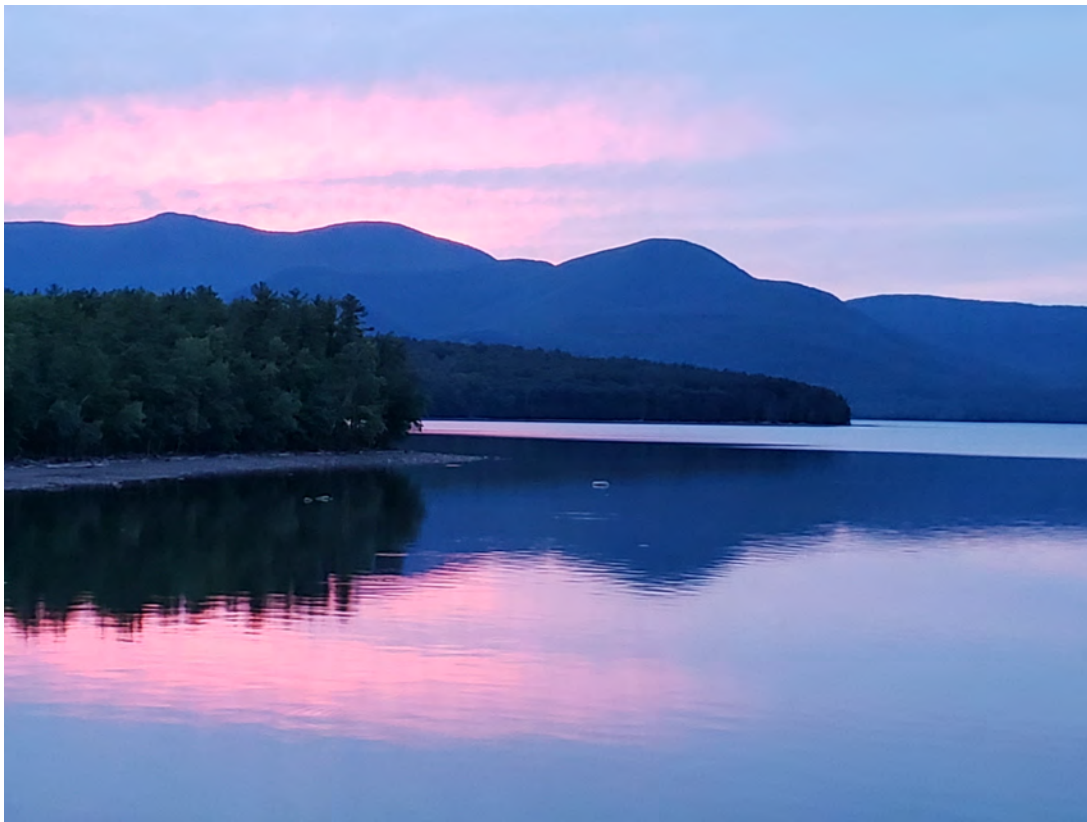
New Members:

Number	Name	Date of Finish	Final Peak
3205	Brian Heh	11/16/2019	Balsam
3206	Sean Heaney	10/26/2019	Kaaterskill
3207	David Tolman	11/3/2019	Panther
3208	Matt Helffrich	11/29/2013	Panther
3209	Jeff Hicks	11/30/2019	Fir
3210	Michael Kucinski	11/29/2019	Balsam Cap
3211	Laura Fitzgerald Lane	11/30/2019	Cornell
3212	Susan Vidal	12/22/2019	Balsam
3213	Steven Lercari	12/26/2019	Blackhead
3214	Gopal Subramaniam	12/28/2019	Rocky
3215	Jennifer Franks	12/27/2019	Slide
3216	Finnegan Manning	8/11/2019	Balsam Cap
3217	George Constable	12/27/2019	Slide
3218	Nik Orlando	12/29/2019	Graham
3219	Tracy Baglivio	12/28/2019	Panther
3220	Wayne Gage	12/31/2019	Blackhead
3221	Megan Bailey Smith	1/2/2020	West Kill
3222	Steven Yu	1/5/2020	Kaaterskill
3223	J Aaron Heintz	1/5/2020	Blackhead
3224	Luna Pelton	1/5/2020	Windham
3225	Kathryn (Katie) Whittaker	1/5/2020	Rocky
3226	Daniel Blenis	1/6/2020	Blackhead
3227	Diane Mabb	10/2/2019	Rocky
3228	Amanda Gomez	12/28/2019	Wittenberg
3229	Timothy Johnson	1/1/2020	Balsam
3230	Kathy Pacuk	1/11/2020	Slide
3231	Désirée Pacuk	1/11/2020	Slide
3232	John Dalton	12/28/2019	Blackhead
3233	Ashley Foster	1/2/2020	Balsam
3234	Andria Hutter	6/1/2019	Graham
3235	Tom Filocco	1/16/2020	Balsam
3236	Lucinda Kaiser	1/17/2020	Blackhead
3237	John Stubecki	1/22/2020	Blackhead
3238	Keith Beckham	1/26/2020	North Dome
3239	Christine "Chrissy" Hart	12/29/2019	Balsam
3240	Jonathan Wheatley	1/12/2020	Blackhead
3241	Gregory Tice	10/12/2019	Cornell
3242	Shanon Levin	2/1/2020	Blackhead
3243	Eva M Cleveland	2/2/2020	Slide
3244	John Costello	2/2/2020	Slide
3245	Tom Campbell	2/1/2020	Plateau
3246	Joan Hans	2/2/2020	Rusk
3247	Rick Stine	2/1/2020	Slide
3248	Kyunghee Kim	1/19/2020	Halcott
3249	Charlie Burnor	2/8/2020	Blackhead
3250	Bill Hirschfeld	2/8/2020	Doubletop
3251	Russ Heidrich	10/26/2019	Kaaterskill
3252	Lisa Heidrich	10/26/2019	Kaaterskill
3253	Alfred A Smith IV	2/17/2020	Kaaterskill
3254	Alfred A Smith V	2/17/2020	Kaaterskill
3255	Pravir Khandelwal	2/15/2020	Balsam Cap
3256	Mark V Celijewski II	1/14/2020	Balsam

3257	Nancy Swete	2/16/2020	Big Indian
3258	Sharon Mahoney Cahill	11/16/2019	Hunter
3259	Matthew Swart	2/1/2020	Panther
3260	Solange Van Loo	2/17/2020	Blackhead
3261	Scott Baltazar	2/16/2020	Fir
3262	Benjamin Mastaitis	2/22/2020	Sugarloaf
3263	Emma Langdon	2/22/2020	Hunter
3264	David Lemmo	2/22/2020	Balsam Cap
3265	Zisis Soulantzios	2/25/2020	Panther
3266	Chrisoula Kalloudis	2/25/2020	Panther
3267	Adam Moorad	2/2/2020	Balsam
3268	Tim Luby	1/30/2020	Blackhead
3269	Rosa Tolentino	2/8/2020	Halcott
3270	Chet King	2/16/2020	Rocky
3271	Teri King	2/16/2020	Rocky
3272	Katy Leidel	3/1/2020	Lone
3273	Meagan Haniffee	2/29/2020	Doubletop
3274	Alexander Chicoine	2/29/2020	Plateau
3275	Colleen Dolezsar Aanensen	3/1/2020	Kaaterskill
3276	Phil Burch	2/29/2020	Lone
3277	Steven Clausen	3/7/2020	SW Hunter
3278	Mark Roth	3/4/2020	Slide
3279	William J Bohan	3/4/2020	Lone

New Winter Members:

Winter Number	Name	Number	Date of Finish	Final Peak
1259	Alicia Devero	2646	3/16/2019	Panther
1260	David Tolman	3207	3/16/2019	Panther
1261	George Bailie	2890	12/28/2019	Indian Head
1262	Russell Ley	2927	1/1/2020	Wittenberg
1263	Roy Wooters	2729	1/10/2020	Rocky
1264	Tim Hale	2874	1/19/2020	Sugarloaf
1265	Andrew Converse	2955	1/19/2020	Doubletop
1266	Keith Bott	3062	2/3/2020	Big Indian
1267	Nick Taegtmeier	2725	1/24/2020	Southwest Hunter
1268	Timothy Owney	1029	2/5/2020	Twin
1269	James E Graham	2957	2/8/2020	West Kill
1270	Scott Gregor	2882	2/9/2020	Kaaterskill
1271	Miyon "Mimi" Sung	3047	2/17/2020	Sugarloaf
1272	Justin DiCesare	2922	2/16/2020	West Kill
1273	Kevin Kumerle	2493	2/16/2020	Eagle
1274	Gina Feliciano	2861	2/17/2020	Cornell
1275	Alex Mueck	2851	2/17/2020	Cornell
1276	John Barbarite	3111	2/17/2020	Kaaterskill
1277	Pravir Khandelwal	3255	2/16/2020	Balsam Cap
1278	David (Wei) Zhu	3080	2/16/2020	Cornell
1279	Lawrence Wakin	3122	2/10/2020	Graham
1280	Susan Vidal	3212	2/20/2020	Sherrill
1281	David Moore	2878	2/21/2020	Sugarloaf
1282	John Murphy	2901	2/22/2020	Sugarloaf
1283	Raina Monahan	3166	2/23/2020	Wittenberg
1284	Philip Vondra	3088	2/17/2020	Graham
1285	Gary Gundlach	1336	2/21/2020	Lone
1286	John Costello	3244	2/25/2020	West Kill
1287	Mary Jockel	3189	2/27/2020	Indian Head
1288	Kyunghee Kim	3248	2/9/2020	Hunter
1289	Kristen Pratt	2950	2/29/2020	Big Indian
1290	David Booth	3057	2/29/2020	Thomas Cole
1291	Chris Reyling	3056	2/29/2020	Thomas Cole
1292	Richard Maggi	925	3/2/2020	Indian Head



Ashokan at Sunset. Photo by Dick Vincent #3055

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 and suggestions. Feedback, as well as submissions 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 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! For photo submissions, please ensure the photos are high resolution (several MB at a min) and the 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](#).

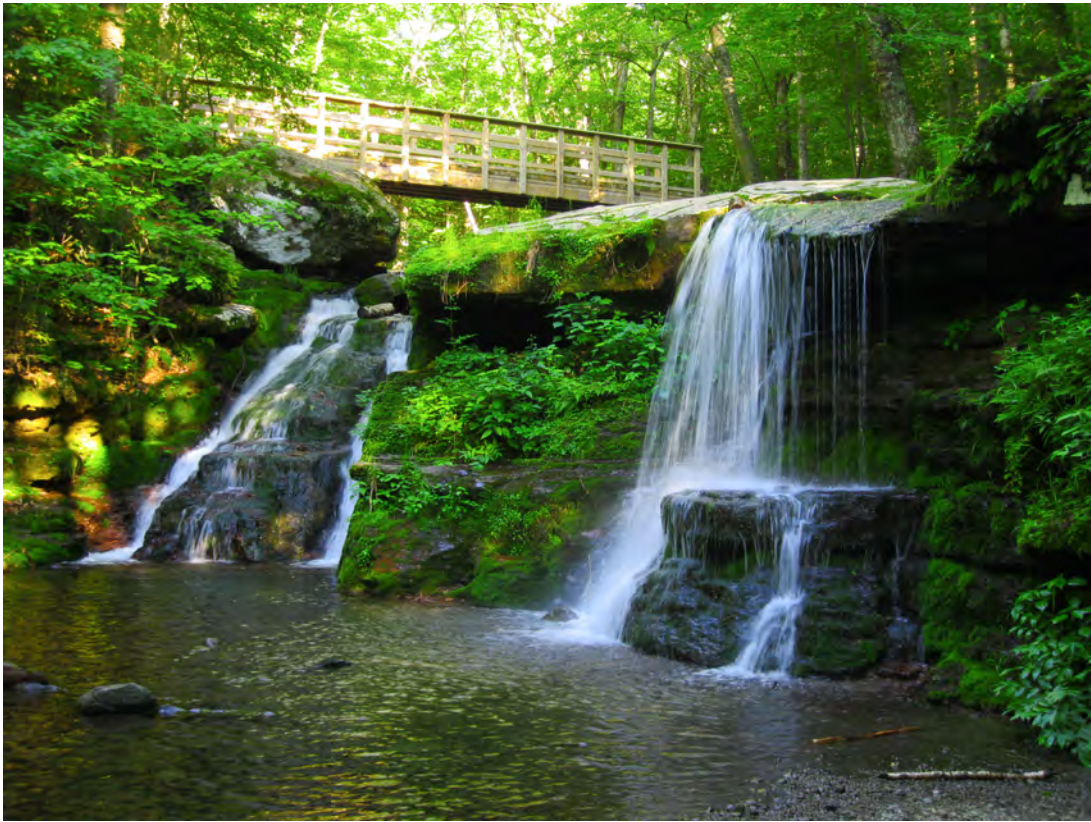
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Diamond Notch Falls. Photo by Siu Samantha Yuen #2894

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