

IN THIS EDITION

HELICOPTER RESCUE!

IS CATSKILLIAN A WORD?

BUGGING OUT IN THE FORESTS

HIKES GALORE

SUMMIT STEWARDS WORK



TRAIL MIX

A BLEND OF NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE CLUB

MISSING HIKER

President Heather Rolland, Canister Chair Jim Bouton, and Outings Chair Bill Winterbottom, along with aspirant Stanley (Stash) Rusin and club member Ralph Ryndak assisted NYS DEC Forest Rangers in a search for a missing hiker in early August. The Catskill 3500 Club is honored to help the rangers whenever possible, lending our knowledge of the area and hiking expertise. Thankfully Mr. Lamicela was found alive after a 4 day search.

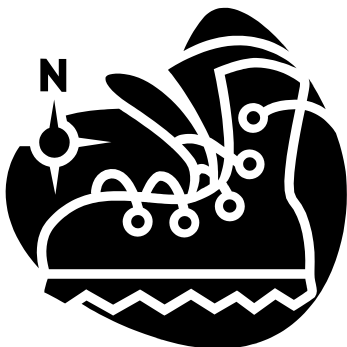
WINTER WEEKEND

—SAVE THE DATES—

Big fun in the snow and cold. Saturday and Sunday, January 20-21 Alpine Inn—Rooms/Meals available from \$145—More details to come catskill-3500-club.org/ <https://www.facebook.com/Catskill3500Club>

BLAZE ORANGE!

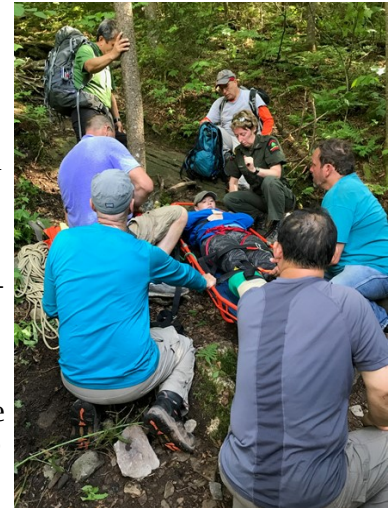
Hunting season is coming. Make sure you wear your colors, and don't forget decorating the pooch!



HELICOPTER RESCUE ON WESTKILL MOUNTAIN

— by Lanny Scott Wexler #593/219W

On Sunday June 25, 2017, I led a Catskill 3500 Club hike to Westkill Mountain. This hike began routinely but would end as no other hike I led or participated in over the past 35 years. Our group of four met at the Mink Hollow trailhead and began hiking at 10:30 am. It was a nice summer day with some humidity. At the car I hesitated about taking a light fleece sweater with me as the weather was so nice but at the last minute I threw the fleece into my pack. It turned out to be a wise decision.



Our climb up St Anne's Peak and the long traverse to the Westkill summit went uneventfully. We snapped some pictures at the wooded summit of Westkill Mountain 3,880 feet, then we walked a short distance to Buck Ridge Lookout for its magnificent 180 degree view where we ate our lunch.

At approximately 2:30 pm we began descending Westkill traversing over two wooded knobs. After descending steeply for another ten minutes we came to the top of a ledge and noticed several people standing around a young woman. As we approached we heard her quietly sobbing in pain. She had her leg propped on a log. It appeared she had fallen and probably had broken either her leg or ankle and was unable to move. The time was 3:15 pm; the elevation of the accident was 3,300 feet. The distance to the Spruceton Road trailhead was still some two miles with a nearly 1,300 foot descent ahead of us. A help call had gone out at 2:15 pm to the dispatcher stationed at the New York State DEC Region 3 office. Still, it would take some time to mobilize the rescue team. Shortly after I arrived I urged the gentleman who made the initial distress call to try again for a progress report. The dispatcher wasn't able to give us much information other than a rescue team was mobilizing and was on its way. The dispatcher couldn't say where help was or when they would arrive.

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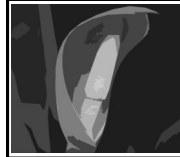
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SPATHE AND SPADIX THE PRESIDENTS COLUMN

How was your summer of '17? While I'm writing this column, summer is in full swing, but by the time you read this, the kids will be back in school and leaf peeper season will be staring us down. Did you enjoy the embarrassment of riches our Catskill summers offer - wildflowers, berries, birds and babies? This summer I found my first ever "nursery tree" where a mother porcupine parked her porcupette (yes, that's the biological term for infant porcupines) while she foraged. It was a sight I'll never forget.

I had my camera with me and I posted a photo of this babe on Facebook. I didn't really give it much thought. So excited about my breathtaking find, I was all eagerness and enthusiasm to share it.

Since then, I have thought a lot about what we share on social media and why. While Blue Hole has become a black hole, sucking all discussion of overuse and abuse of wild places into its vortex, social media promotion of this wild place has played a role in its degradation. Blue Hole is the poster child for social media success - a trend that has impacted many wild places all over the U.S. Several areas around the Catskills have become "hot spots," and understandably so: the tallest waterfall in New York State is a truly unique and incredible sight. Giant Ledge offers more "bang for the buck" than most other trails in the region. These popular areas see heavy usage year-round, and are perennially trending on social media. I'm not the only one to wonder about the impact of social media on wild places - the Adirondack Mountain Club recently published #LeaveNoTraceWithADK: Social Media and the Backcountry on ADK.org. The article muses about how to balance that impulse to post with the understanding that such posts - especially if they identify the location - have a very real impact upon the places we value as pristine.

Some believe that efforts to promote less well known areas can help shift the intense usage away from the popular areas and disperse the crowd a bit. Formal programs to promote such alternatives have been in place for a few years here in the Catskills. Assessing the results offers a different picture. Visitation at the hottest trending areas has not decreased at all. If anything, 2017 numbers are higher than ever at places like Blue Hole or Kaaterskill Falls. But the alternative areas are receiving visitation too - and all that comes along with that visitation: garbage, vandalism, and worse. Human feces and the bloom of toilet paper on what used to be pristine trails makes me wonder - is this effort to promote these alternative areas really the best approach to take? We haven't succeeded in easing the pressure at the most popular areas, but new problem spots have been created. That wasn't what anyone had in mind.

I don't know the best route forward. Our club, and hiking in the Catskills in general, is more popular than ever.

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SPATHE AND SPADIX....CONTINUED
THE PRESIDENTS COLUMN

Facebook groups focused on Catskill hiking are a dime a dozen. Those popular Instagram destinations are still trending. Although it sounds like I am complaining, I'm not. Not exactly. I'm worrying, wondering, and discussing all those topics we've never really had to talk about before: Impact. Sustainability. Carrying capacity. How do we create a whole new cadre of conservationists, sharing our beloved trails and trail less peaks, inviting enthusiasm while protecting them from damage?

One thing I'm trying is not posting so much on social media. I take my cue from a local artist who goes by the pseudonym "Catskill Weather." His nature photos are superb, and he does not provide location information. The overall impact of looking at his spectacular images of waterfalls and mosses, fungus and flowers is a sense of place that is decidedly Catskillian, but doesn't need to be pinpointed. These treasures are everywhere in the Catskills, and could be almost anywhere. Look up, look down, take your time, look carefully - that's the take home message I get from his photos. Savor each moment in the Catskills. Don't worry about where to go - just be where you are. The magic of this place is everywhere.

STAYING PROACTIVE IN THE FACE OF FOREST PESTS

BY DAN SNIDER, FIELD PROJECTS MANAGER, CRISP

BUGGING OUT IN THE FOREST. NASTIES TO LOOK FOR ON YOUR NEXT HIKE. YOU CAN HELP! -BC

The Emerald Ash Borer has been a topic of concern for years in the Catskills. It began in Ulster County almost a decade ago and has slowly but inexorably spread through the forest landscape from there. It is currently moving West and North through the Park and while many trees in Ulster County are suffering, Sullivan, Delaware and Greene counties still show some live, healthy ash trees. It is vitally important to keep tabs on the moving front of the infestation, to help municipalities and private landowners plan and time their response to the bugs! We can keep an eye on ash tree health while we hike, and report any suspicious canopy loss, D-shaped exit holes, or bark "blonde-ing" to the DEC, CRISP, or the county CCE.

Responses to the emerald ash borer infestation can vary. Some may want to take their ash trees down early, some may opt to protect their ash trees with systemic insecticides, and some may decide to contribute to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank's seed collection effort, or to ongoing research into locating naturally resistant local tree populations. Whatever the management goal of a property is, there are ways to contribute to the preservation of ash species across the Catskills landscape. For more information on response and management, contact CRISP at the Catskill Center at dsnider@catskillcenter.org, your local Cornell Cooperative Extension, or the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html>

Some easy signs and symptoms that can indicate emerald ash borer are canopy loss, epicormic sprouts, and bark blonding. These can all be identified from a distance, and are good preliminary diagnostic tools. These can all also happen with stressed ash, however, so if you see one or several of these symptoms, take a closer look at the tree. Look closely for small D-shaped exit holes that the adults leave in the bark as they emerge in the spring and early summer. You can also peel the bark of the tree back to look for tight S-shaped burrowed "galleries" in the trunk. For more information and pictures, visit http://www.nyis.info/?action=eab_biology

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) is a looming threat to the Catskills. It is a voracious beetle that can happily chew its way through 12 genera of hardwood trees present in New York (although it favors maple species). However, the response to known infestations across the country has been rapid and thorough, with several quarantine zones that are vigilantly monitored. Some areas have already begun replanting trees after the host tree harvest that contained the ALB infestation.

Continued on page 7

RAMBLES AND BRAMBLES: HIKE SCHEDULE OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2017

Sun. Oct. 1 - PEEKAMOOSE, TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

It's our fall trail maintenance day! Please help us keep the Peekamoose-Table Trail clean, clear and safe for the enjoyment of all. Bring work gloves and your favorite trail maintenance tools (the Club will also have tools available). It's fun work and a great way to help the Club and the hiking community. Refreshments will be provided afterward.
Registration Period: Open
Leaders: David Bunde #2269 W925, Tom Martone #2454 W1010; david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. Oct. 7 - BALSAM LAKE MOUNTAIN (yoga)

Distance: 5.8 mi. Ascent: 1147', Elev: 3723'
A moderately paced hike with a short yoga session at peak.
Registration Period: Sept. 23 - Oct. 6
Leader: Pamela Martin #2102, pamelamartininc@gmail.com

Sun. Oct. 8 - WITTENBERG (yoga)

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400', Elev: 3780'
A moderately paced hike with a short yoga session at peak.
Registration Period: Sept. 24 - Oct. 7
Leader: Pamela Martin #2102, pamelamartininc@gmail.com

Sun. Oct. 8 - ROCKY, LONE, PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3345', Elev: 3508' 3721' 3843' 3847'
A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike. Joint with Mid-Hudson ADK.
Registration Period: Oct. 2 - 6
Leader: Joe Ferri #2223, newpaltz33@yahoo.com 914-489-1582

Sat. Oct. 14 - BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM

Distance: 9.8 mi. Ascent: 1650', Elev: 3723', 3868'
A moderately paced herd path and trail hike.
Registration Period: Oct. 9 - 13
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173, W994 michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. Oct. 14 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elev: 3540', 3610'
A slow paced bushwhack, rotating lead and navigation instruction. Limited group size.
Registration Period: Sept. 30 - Oct. 1
Leader: Michele Corn Farrell #2052; cornfarrell@gmail.com

Sat. Oct. 21 - SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG

Distance: 16 mi. Ascent: 3900', Elev: 4180', 3860', 3780'
A moderately paced, very strenuous hike and rock scrambling. Registration Period: Oct. 10 - 17
Leader: Ira Orenstein #415 W777 & Karen Bloom #1733 W776 ksbiho@aol.com (preferred) 914- 262 5816

Oct. 21 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2745' Elev: 3940', 3980', 3940'
A moderately quick-paced, sometimes steep traverse.
Registration Period: Oct 9 - 20
Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925; david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. Oct. 28 - GRAHAM

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1360', Elev: 3868'
A moderately paced bushwhack.
Registration Period: Oct.23 - 26
Leader: Suzanne Knabe#1326; suzkna@msn.com
718-435-3092 after 7:00 pm

Sat. Oct. 28 - WESTKILL

Distance: 6.4 mi. Ascent: 1,786' Elev: 3,880'
Moderately paced loop hike.
Registration period: Oct 22 - 28
Leaders: Mike Stallbohm #1826 W745
mstall0128@gmail.com

Sat. Nov. 4 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance: 7.7 mi. Ascent: 2775', Elev: 3940', 3980' & 3940'
A steep & strenuous trail hike. Great for experienced hikers who are new to the Catskills.
Registration Period: Oct 26 - Nov 2
Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 w789 tshemella@yahoo.com

Sat. Nov. 4 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elev: 3540', 3610'
Moderately quick-paced, strenuous bushwhack.
Registration Period: Oct 23 - Nov 3
Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925; david@dgbdesign.com

Sun. Nov. 5 - FIR & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 10.3 mi. Ascent: 2678', Elev: 3620', 3700'
A moderately quick-paced bushwhack and trail hike.
Registration Period: Oct 23 - Nov 3
Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925; david@dgbdesign.com

Sun. Nov. 5 - BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elev: 3694', 3623'
Moderately paced hike on a very strenuous bushwhack. Map & compass instruction.
Registration Period: Oct. 31 - Nov. 3
Leader: Ed Gorczynski verticallyinclined1@live.com

Fri. Nov. 10 - SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG (week day)

Distance: 9.0mi. Ascent: 3900', Elev: 4180' 3860' 3780'
This will be a moderately paced trail hike, with great views and requires a car shuttle. Joint with Mid-Hudson ADK.
Registration Period: Nov. 2 - 8
Leaders: Joe Ferri #2223, newpaltz33@yahoo.com 914-489-1582 Shari Aber #2224 shnaber@yahoo.com 914- 489-0654

Sat. Nov 11 - PANTHER via Fox Hollow

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300', Elev: 3,720'
A moderately paced trail hike.
Registration Period: After Oct 30
Leader: Paul Swieton #1824, W729; swietp@gmail.com

Sat. Nov. 11 - ROCKY & LONE

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2225', Elev: 3508', 3721'
A strenuous bushwhack. Limited group size.
Registration Period: Nov 2 - 9
Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 w789 tshemella@yahoo.com

Sun. Nov. 12 - RUSK

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3680'
 Relaxed pace, steep bushwhack.
 Map & compass instruction.
 Registration Period: Nov. 4 - 11.
 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sat. Nov. 18 - INDIAN HEAD & TWIN & SUGARLOAF

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elev: 3573', 3640', 3800'
 A comfortable paced trail hike. Limited group size.
 Registration Period: Nov 3 - 4
 Leader: Michele Corn Farrell #2052; cornfarrell@gmail.com

Sat. Nov. 25 - PLATEAU

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3840'
 Relaxed pace trail hike, steep, traverse with shuttle.
 Registration Period: Nov. 18 - 24
 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sat. Dec. 2 - DOUBLETOP, GRAHAM, BALSAM LAKE

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 3300', Elev: 3860', 3868', 3720'
 Strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Car shuttle.
 Registration Period: Nov. 24 - 30
 Leader: Tom Martone #2454 W1010
tom.martone.cmc@gmail.com

Sat. Dec 2 - Winter Preparedness Class - Livingston Manor, NY

While the Catskills are sometimes seen as 'easy' peaks, they can present formidable challenges to the winter hiker. Tom and Laurie Rankin will share their winter mountaineering skills, learned over many years, during an early evening indoor presentation. Bring your gear!
 Registration Period: Nov. 26 - Dec 1
 Time: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM MUST PREREGISTER (minimum 6 participants or class will be canceled).
 Leaders: Tom & Laurie Rankin #1503, 1337
lauriejrankin@gmail.com (preferred) 845--926-2182

Sat. Dec 9 - PEEKAMOOSSE & TABLE

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2950', Elev: 3843' & 3847'
 Steep, strenuous trail hike.
 Registration Period: Nov 30 - Dec 7
 Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 w789 tshemella@yahoo.com

Sat. Dec 9 - HUNTER & S.W HUNTER

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elev: 4045' 3720'
 Moderately paced loop hike.
 Registration period: Dec. 3 - 8
 Leaders: Mike Stallbohm #1826 mstall0128@gmail.com

Sat. Dec. 16 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

Distance: 7.1 mi. Ascent: 3090', Elev: 3694', 3623'
 Strenuous bushwhack with rocky scrambles.
 Snowshoes and crampons required.
 Limited group size
 Registration Period: Dec. 7 - 14
 Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 w789 tshemella@yahoo.com

Sat. Dec 16 - ROCKY & LONE

Distance: 10.3 mi. Ascent: 2678', Elev: 3508', 3721'
 A moderately quick-paced, strenuous bushwhack
 Registration Period: Dec. 4 - 15
 Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925; david@dgbdesign.com

Sun. Dec. 17 - DOUBLETOP

Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3860'
 A moderately quick-paced bushwhack.
 Registration Period: Dec. 4 - 15
 Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925 david@dgbdesign.com

Sun. Dec. 17 - BIG INDIAN & FIR

Distance: 10.2 mi. Ascent: 2884', Elev: 3700', 3620'
 A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike. Joint with Mid-Hudson ADK.
 Registration Period: Dec. 8 - 14
 Leaders: Joe Ferri #2223, newpaltz33@yahoo.com 914-489-1582 Shari Aber #2224 shnaber@yahoo.com 914- 489-0654

Tue. Dec. 26 - ROUND TOP & KAATERSKILL HP (week day)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1330', Elev: 3440', 3655'
 A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike.
 Registration Period: Dec. 18 - 23
 Leader: Michael Bongar #2173, W994 michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. Dec. 30 - HALCOTT

Distance: 2.8 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3520'
 A moderately paced bushwhack.
 Registration Period: Dec. 26 - 29
 Leader: Michael L. "Mick" Dunn, Jr.
 #1272, mickfords@gmail.com 603-809-0348

Sun. Dec. 31 - BALSAM

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1795', Elev: 3600'
 Relaxed pace trail hike.
 Registration Period: Dec. 23 - 30
 Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sun. Dec. 31 - TABLE & PEEKAMOOSSE

Distance: 10 miles Ascent: 2950', Elev: 3843', 3847'
 A moderately paced trail hike.
 Registration period: Dec. 26 - 30
 Leaders: Tom and Laurie Rankin #s 1502, W627; 1337, W531 lauriejrankin@gmail.com 845-926-2182

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE SEVEN
 LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES FOR ALL
 YOUR HIKES:

- ◆ PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE;
- ◆ TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES;
- ◆ DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY;
 - ◆ LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND;
 - ◆ MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS;
 - ◆ RESPECT WILDLIFE; AND
- ◆ BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

Helicopter Rescue...from page 1

In the meanwhile, we felt rather helpless watching the young woman suffer in pain. I looked through my first aid kit for a pain reliever. Fortunately, I found a small tube of Tylenol tablets. I went over to the woman and asked her if she wanted to take the Tylenol. She nodded yes so, I gave her two Tylenol tablets with some water. Another woman at the scene, Jeanne Cimorelli noticed the woman was shivering and asked her if she was cold. She again nodded yes. Hearing that, I took out my blue fleece sweater and gave it to the injured woman. We waited without knowing how long it would be until the first forest rangers arrived. Michael Prestia of my group took off his pack and asked for my pack which he gave to the woman to try to comfort her some more. After about a half hour the young woman seemed more responsive and the pain had diminished. We learned the woman's name was Katie from Oneonta. Katie was hiking on her own in pursuit of the Catskill 3500. Katie was in her late twenties. At about 4:15 pm we called the DEC phone number again for an update. We learned help was on the way and a helicopter was en route to evacuate Katie by air. At about 4:30 pm Forest Ranger Christine Nelson and Forest Ranger Chris Di Cintio ascended the trail to render assistance to Katie and prepare a clearing zone for the helicopter. Ranger Nelson was carrying medical supplies and stayed with Katie to comfort her. Ranger DiCintio continued about another 100 feet up the trail and took out a chainsaw from his pack to begin cutting down trees to make a small clearing where a helicopter could drop a line to hoist Katie off the mountain.

About ten minutes later Emmett Turk from the Lexington Fire Department and Wade Spanhake from the Jewett Fire Department came up the trail with a stretcher they were carrying. We heard the whir of helicopter blades and before we knew it a helicopter was hovering overhead with its causing the trees to sway violently and kicking up debris. A cable was lowered from the helicopter with New York State Troopers Eric Abruzese and Chris Sierra dressed in camouflage gear separately descending the cable from the helicopter. It was like a scene straight out of the movies. So surreal!

Meanwhile, Firefighters Emmet Turk and Wade Spanhake with the assistance of Ranger Nelson along with other hikers on the scene moved Katie carefully on to the stretcher. Katie was tied securely in the stretcher that would soon airlift her off the wooded mountainside. The group slowly carried Katie approximately 100 feet up the trail to the clearing. The cable from the helicopter was secured to the stretcher. We all waited with baited breath as Katie was lifted to the hovering helicopter that would carry her off the mountain and fly her to the hospital to begin her lengthy recovery.

My hiking group and the first responders began hiking down the mountain. We even had time to stop at pretty Diamond Notch falls before reaching our cars shortly after 7:00 pm, two hours after our intended finish time. The time out was time well spent. Everyone in my group was happy to assist her as each of us knew it could have been one of us who could have fallen and we would want the same treatment for ourselves. She showed great inner strength considering the injury she sustained. Katie greatly appreciated our help and called us awesome for the kindness we showed her. I received an e mail from her several days later. She was already home from the hospital and had contacted me to return my fleece jacket. It was good to hear from her and it made me doubly glad to assist in her rescue.



The First Responders – DEC Forest Rangers Chris DiCintio, Christine Nelson, Volunteer Firefighters Emmet Turk, Lexington FD; Wade Spanhake, Jewett FD and NYS Trooper Eric Abruzese and NYS Trooper Christopher Sierra – Photo Credits Jeanne Cimorelli

Continued from page 3...BUGS!

Early detection of ALB is an incredibly important aspect to its management – the earlier it is found, the faster the response and recovery will be. To identify symptoms of ALB, look for oviposition pits that the adult beetles scratch in the bark of host trees in mid-summer, roughly the size of a dime. You can also look for large dime-sized, perfectly round exit holes in the bark of the tree, which often emit sap. Canopy damage appears as feeding along the veins of the leaves, and as early fall color change. Frass, a mix of saw dust and wood refuse created by the chewing larvae, will often accumulate at the base of the tree or at branch crotches. Finally, look for bark splits and chewing galleries underneath the bark in late infestations. For more information on ALB infestation symptoms, see the excellent presentation by the USDA Forest Service at <https://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/alb/alb-and-host-trees-09-12-2012-screen.pdf>

Finally, make sure you have the right bug! Asian Longhorned Beetle has a very close lookalike in the white-spotted pine sawyer. An easy way to tell the two apart, if you can catch the bug, is to look for the presence or absence of a white spot at the base of the wing covers. White-spotted pine sawyers will have a white spot at this location, while the Asian Longhorned Beetles will not. Report any suspicious signs or symptoms to your local CCE, CRISP, the DEC hotline at foresthealth@dec.ny.gov, or the USDA at 518-218-7540.

Many thanks to Dan for this information! Take a moment on your next hike to be observant. The damage is happening all around us. BC-



For more information, or if you have any questions about other forest pests, please contact Dan at dsnider@catskillcenter.org



TRAIL MAINTENANCE—DAVID BUNDE

We had an amazing turnout for our spring trail maintenance outing. Huge thanks to Tatiana Brodsky, Mel Cooksey, Steve Emanuel, Tim Hale, Tom Martone, Yong Ae Moehs, Dennis Ng, Wayne Ouderkirk, Benno Rawlinson, and Bill Winterbottom. Remember, you can use service on these trips towards earning the club Service Award patch. We can't do it without you. Thanks!



CATSKILLS SUMMIT STEWARDS
2017 MID-SEASON REPORT-EDIT FROM ORIGINAL-BC
RICHARD BARR

Introduction

Every weekend and holiday from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day, Trail Conference Summit Stewards are stationed on the peaks of Slide Mountain, Giant Ledge, and alternate between North Point and Blackhead. Stewards arrive on the summits by 10 am each morning and remain until late afternoon—generally 4 or 5 pm. Stewards are directed to make contact with as many visitors as possible in an effort to inform them of park regulations and to introduce the Leave No Trace principles. They are a resource for hikers. Additionally, Stewards are to attempt to eliminate unofficial herd paths that have been created, clear illegal fire rings/campsites, and assist DEC on emergency situations to the best of their training and ability.

The visitors they have engaged this season appear quite interested in learning more about the Summit Stewards program and the principals they are teaching. Hikers are engaged and appear open to the suggestions and information provided.

The Summit Steward program is now becoming well-known and the public seems to be appreciating the idea of having someone in the “middle of nowhere” to answer questions and help with making hiking decisions. Although not every hiker heeds their advice, hopefully, at the very least, they take what the Stewards say into consideration.

Number of Hikers Counted

Giant Ledge - 2,387 people observed and engaged; 7 illegal camp/campfires removed; 17.5 bags of garbage removed along with a 6 person car camping tent.

Group sizes: (1) of 48 (1) of 34 (1) of 18 (2) of 13-10; (7) of 9-7

Slide Mountain - 1,182 people observed and engaged; 24 illegal camp/campfires removed; 14 bags of garbage removed. Group sizes: (1) of 16 (2) of 15-13 (5) of 12-10; (2) of 9-7

North Point - 1,127 people observed and engaged; 18 illegal camp/campfires removed; 9 bags of garbage removed. Group Sizes: (1) of 40; (7) groups of 12-10.

Black Head Mountain- 171 people observed and engaged; 2 illegal camp/campfires removed; 4 bags of garbage removed

TRAIL CONFERENCE SUMMIT STEWARD ASSISTS HELICOPTER RESCUE

At approximately 3:00 pm Monday July 3, 2017, a hiker approached our Summit Steward stationed on Slide Mountain. She was informed that there was an injured hiker between the summits of Slide and Cornell, about 1 mile from the Slide summit. The hiker said that the subject had what he thought was a dislocated knee and had been there for two hours before the hiker found him. It took the hiker an additional 40 minutes to reach the summit of Slide and tell the steward about the incident.

The Summit Steward attempted to telephone Ranger Kenneth Gierloff, but did successfully reach Ranger Slade. Ranger Slade was able to contact Ranger Gierloff and he was able to then telephone the Summit Steward directly. The steward explained the incident and confirmed that she would go down into the col to make sure the hiker was all right and get coordinates and information of his location. It took the steward only about 25 minutes to reach the subject in the col. When she arrived, another hiker had already stabilized the subject's knee. The subject appeared to be in good spirits, had no other serious injuries, had food water, and a sweater. The steward issued him a rain poncho in case of a thunderstorm. She took GPS coordinates, basic information and contact info of the subject and hiked back up out of the saddle and waited on the summit for Ranger Slade.

The steward did not encounter any other Rangers until she left the summit around 5:50 pm. At the intersection of the red and yellow trails she met the standby evacuation crew, and once down at the parking lot she was met by the rest of the Rangers and Evac crew there on the scene. The helicopter had dropped multiple Rangers in to do patient assessment because Ranger Slade and Ranger Martin were not able to reach the scene before the helicopter. The helicopter left to refuel and came back to airlift the subject out along with the evacuation crew.

KICK WINTER UP A NOTCH

Catskill 3500 Club Leader Michele Corn Farrell

Want to work on being prepared for the upcoming winter season or take your skills to the next level? The ADK Winter Mountaineering School is a non-profit group that has been sponsored for 64 years by the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK). The purpose of the program is to promote safe and enjoyable winter mountaineering and camping through a learn by doing approach. Our program is based out of the ADK Loj at Heart Lake in the Adirondacks and will begin January 25th, with a choice of 4 to 7 day itineraries. We generally have about 30-40 students each year that take part in a variety of small group trips. Day hikers are based out of the ADK Loj (which includes lodging and meals) and several backpacking groups head out on trips throughout the high peaks.

Participants undergo a comprehensive gear check, ice axe and crampon training at the Olympic Ski Jumping training facility in Lake Placid, along with evening seminars. Topics covered during the program include:

- Winter backpacking skills
- Snowshoe, crampon, and ice axe techniques
- Safe travel on steep snow and ice
- Avalanche awareness
- Traveling safely above-tree- line in winter conditions
- On and off-trail navigation
- Map and compass review
- Proper clothing and temperature management
- Hydration and nutrition
- Constructing snow shelters and a winter kitchen
- Winter "Leave No Trace" principles
- Decision making and risk management

For more details about the program, please visit our website at www.winterschool.org

or more questions contact Michele Corn Farrell (917-685-6831) cornfarrell@gmail.com



DID YOU KNOW?

We've all seen these little guys as we stumble through the woods. They are Eastern Spotted Newts, native to New York and can live for 12-15 years. In their juvenile state, which most hikers witness, they are called Red Efts. They remain totally terrestrial for 3-7 years before migrating to a nearby body of water where they metamorphose into their adult state of aquatic life. So the next time you happen upon these colorful crawlers along the trail, gently help them find a nice place to hide amongst the damp leaf litter.

BC



NEW MEMBERS

2781 Thomas McCormack 04/09/17
 2782 Byoung Il Son 3/19/17
 2783 Miae Son 03/19/17
 2784 Gil Jun Lee 04/09/17
 2785 Jae In Cho 02/05/17
 2786 Thomas Devrens 04/14/17
 2787 Jesse Pena 04/14/17
 2788 Nathan Stone 07/08/16
 2789 Josh Orlinsky 04/18/17
 2790 Peter Caigan 04/18/17
 2791 Norbert Ivanyi 04/23/17
 2792 Amy Hanlon 04/30/17
 2793 Meyoung Lim 05/03/17
 2794 Julia Schafhauser 05/14/17
 2795 Kevin Gough 05/14/17
 2796 Matt Harris 04/15/17
 2797 Joe Brown 05/11/17
 2798 Tom DeSimone 05/21/17
 2799 Marc S Greenberg 05/21/17
 2800 Jennifer Mott 05/20/17
 2801 Daniel Langstaff 05/20/17
 2802 Sarah Zima 05/21/17
 2803 Tom Perry 05/21/17
 2804 Michele Kaminsky 06/11/17
 2805 Eve Proper 06/13/17
 2806 Louis Berrios 06/12/17
 2807 Debra Berrios 06/12/17
 2808 David Terry 06/17/17
 2809 Mary S Terry 06/17/17
 2810 Wendy Ferrer 05/07/17
 2811 Sang Weon Kim 04/22/17
 2812 Cecillia Lim 04/22/17
 2813 Marina L Jacqueway 07/09/17
 2814YanaLevchinsky-Grimmond 07/09/17
 2815 Jim Keyes 07/16/17
 2816 Jonathan Gordon 07/15/17
 2817 Benjamin Gordon 07/15/17
 2818 Emily Lodato 07/22/17
 2819 Glenn A. Friedman Jr. 08/08/17
 2820 Andrea M Barracca 08/27/17
 2821 Stefan Rosen 08/27/17
 2822 Alex Abbott Boyd 08/06/17
 2823 Gietha Murugiah 08/06/17
 2824 Josh Orenstein 08/26/17

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

0331 J. Rudd Hubbell
 0827 Lawrence Armstrong
 1174 Dean Macgeorge
 2591 Marty Joelle Baker
 Asp. Mary Claire Magruder
 Asp. James Quinlivan

THANK YOU ALLNEW WINTER MEMBERS

1148 Miae Son 2783 03/19/17
 1149 Byoung Il Son 2782 3/19/17
 1150 Brian A Ibbs 2681 03/11/17

CONGRATULATIONS!

**CONSERVATION CORNER BY CONSERVATION CHAIR,
 CAROL WHITE**

Leave No Trace (LNT) education week at the Blue Hole and the Summit Steward program completes a successful summer of environmental improvement in the Catskill Forest Preserve. One of our 3500 Club founders in 1962 was Nancy Locke of the Vassar College Outing Club in Poughkeepsie; the Student Conservation Association (SCA) was also founded at Vassar in 1953 by Elizabeth Putnam. She was concerned that the popularity of national parks was overwhelming our nation's ability to maintain their pristine condition; likewise, our club's increasing popularity, plus social media and other draws to the Catskill Park, can outpace the ability to conserve our wilderness. To clean up the Blue Hole, the 3500 Club partnered with the Catskill Conservation Corps, the NYNJ Trail Conference, the Adirondack Mountain Club, and other groups; a Leave No Trace educator remained there. SCA students do back-country trail work partnering with the DEC in the Catskills, Hudson Valley, and Adirondacks. The SCA works with inner-city youth and throughout U.S. national parks, forests and monuments; it is a model for other service-based organizations like the Youth Conservation Corps and the National Park Services Volunteer in Parks Program. It has expanded to the International Conservation Leadership Initiative, providing college students with hands-on environmental education, outdoor service, and leadership training here and in participants' countries.