
The Catskill Canister
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Ashokan Reservoir from Ashokan High Point. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

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Orchard Point View. Photo by Tim Luby #3268

Trail Spice

The President's Column by Maria Bedo-Calhoun

Since I became President, keeping the 3500 Club past and present connected has always been a goal, but also a necessity. That dance is there whenever a discussion of social media or hiking apps comes up, when reading [*Catskill Peak Experiences: Mountaineering Tales of Endurance, Survival, Exploration & Adventure from the Catskill 3500 Club*](#) or scrolling through older issues of *The Canister*. It is there when I think about what the Catskills were like when trailheads were never full, even on a beautiful fall weekend day. Balancing remembering the wonderful history of the Club but acknowledging the changing reality of hiking now and the Club's role in that reality is something the Board is more and more engaged with. These changes were front and center for all of us in this past year of such increased hiking activity.

The most visible event in this evolution was the sad loss of Doubletop and Graham, mountains that have been on the tally list since the beginning of the Club. I am sure most of you know the details and the whys, but, if not, you will find a fuller explanation later in this *Canister* issue. It was not an easy time as the Board started seeing the writing on the wall and we tried to work with the landowners to find out if there were any acceptable solutions. Unfortunately, there were none. I need to add here that when the tally list decrease decision was announced, we were moved by how many people reached out to offer support and agreed with the reasoning. Thank you for all the notes, both personally and on social media. It is much appreciated!

In reaction to the increased amount of mountain visitors, local groups are working on finding solutions to deal with the increased impact. The Club is involved in some of those efforts as well and looking at ways to enact tangible initiatives. One of those concrete solutions being planned with a great deal of thoughtfulness and energy by the Board's Stewardship Committee is a trailhead volunteer stewardship plan. You will find more details about that later in *The Canister*. It will be under the umbrella of a program the DEC is unveiling, called "Adopt a Trailhead."

For me and the hard-working Governance Committee, the biggest dive into the past has been into our legal documents. To get to a c3 status (which will allow us to raise more funds to do more good work in the Catskills), two main Club legal documents must be completely revised from the original documents, both because the Club has evolved but for compliance reasons as well.

The most important changes are in the purpose/mission section, which is a concise statement formalizing what the Club is about and what it stands for. Members in good standing will receive all the documents to approve in the spring, but here is a comparison of the original purpose statement with what the Board will be presenting for approval to give you that sense of

growth. Note, there is some legal language at the end that is required for compliance.

3500 Club Original Purpose Statement

ARTICLE II-PURPOSE

Section 1. To provide an incentive for hikers to climb those Catskill Mountain peaks in excess of 3,500 feet in height.

Section 2. To promote the interests and bringing together socially those persons who are engaged or interested in hiking in the Catskill Mountains.

Section 3. To provide such persons with opportunities for engaging in such hiking and social activities.

Section 4. To do any other act or thing incidental to or connected with the foregoing purposes or in the advancement thereof, but not for the pecuniary profit or financial gain of its members or officers, except as permitted under Article 5 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law.

Section 5. To promote conservation in the Catskill Mountains.

Revised 3500 Club Purpose Statement

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSES

Section 1. The purposes for which the Club is formed are:

- a. To serve as an organization, open to all people, that recognizes the accomplishments of those individuals who summit the designated Catskill Mountain high peaks (Appendix A).
- b. To foster appreciation and stewardship of the Catskill Mountains among both members and the general public.
- c. To encourage and enable hikers and visitors to the Catskill Mountains to be safe, well-informed, and prepared.
- d. To provide educational and safety programming to the public, including, but not limited to, guided hikes, educational activities, trail and lean-to maintenance, conservation activities, and wilderness search and rescue.
- e. To undertake activities, throughout the State of New York, and wherever else it may be necessary, and in affiliation with like-minded organizations of all kinds, wheresoever they may be located, in order to achieve the Club's purposes.
- f. To engage exclusively in educational, scientific, investigative, literary, historical, philanthropic, and charitable pursuits.
- g. To solicit, apply for and receive donations and grants from private and public sources, including individuals, public and private corporations and foundations, and agencies and instrumentalities of local, state, and federal governments, in order to accumulate sufficient funds to meet all expenses in connection with the Club's purposes.
- h. To further, by all means that are both wise and opportune, objectives included within or related to the purposes set forth above.
- i. In furtherance of its corporate purposes, the corporation shall have all general powers enumerated in Not-For-Profit Corporation Law § 202.

This comparison really exemplifies how the 3500 Club has matured over the years from the social club it was originally created for to now. The purpose statement and the other documents will need to be ratified at our annual meeting and there will be more to come on that.

But...you ask, what is happening with the annual meeting? Well, check out our "[Trail Mix](#)" section! There is hope!

Finally, history was made this past January by the Club reaching our 3500th member. Read more about the moving story of Julie McGuire later in *The Canister*, who well deserves this honor as hiking the list was truly an important healing moment in her life. And that is the wonderful thing that has stayed constant through the years and will continue through the future. We all have different reasons for hiking and our own stories, but those stories transcend time. It is a special bond that runs through the years and, despite growth and changes, always there in the background as the world and the Club move forward.



View of Panther from Giant Ledge. Photo by Tony Versandi #1488 W637



Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club



Dues News and Introducing Life Member Patch!



Dues for calendar year 2021 are overdue as of January 1st. Those of you who receive the emailed quarterly link from us also get a dues reminder. Members and Aspirants who joined after the middle of the year may renew at a half-year rate to get back to "calendar-year renewal." Contact [David White](#) or [Jake Haisley](#) to confirm your status. Forms and rates are on the [membership page](#) of the Club website.

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

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

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

And.... hot off the press, we are very excited to introduce a very special Life Member Patch, designed by our own David Bunde (Digital Content Chair, hike leader and SAR officer). Thank you David for the creative energy and all the time that went into the design. All current life members will receive the patch once the patch order is processed with the supplier. Please be patient as we wait for the patches to arrive and then to mail them out to nearly 500 members! This is just a small acknowledgement of your commitment to the Club by becoming life members.

If you are a life member and you have not kept your address current with us, now is a good time to check in to ensure your contact information is up to date (email [Dave](#) to confirm your address). If you are not a life member or a registered member (and

have finished your list), this would be the perfect time to become one! Life aspirants will receive the life member patch along with the “regular” membership patch, once they complete the required peaks and submit the tally sheet.



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



Annual Meeting News! Save the Date!



Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 31st, 2021 (rain date August 7th, 2021).

It looks like there is a potential light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel, so we are looking at an outdoor gathering this summer at [The Ashokan Center](#) for our long-delayed annual meeting. This would be a new spot for us, but a beautiful site if you have never been there!

It will be a much more relaxed event than usual, but having it outside down at the pavilion by the lake will be a nice change. Attendees can come early to walk the trails of the Center and explore the grounds before the meeting and certificate ceremony. Everyone will have to bring their own camp chairs and there will be room to be socially distanced if that will still be the protocol. Boxed lunches will be provided if a buffet-type of meal is not yet possible.

Look for a poll through an eblast in early April to members to gauge what the interest will be, but mark your calendars now!

By: Mike Doehring, Annual Dinner Chair



Important Doubletop and Graham and the New 3500 Tally Sheet News



On January 13, 2021, Doubletop and Graham were closed to the public – regardless of whether hikers may be local or not. We share this news with sadness because of all the history the Club has had with these two peaks. Since the 3500 Club began the list in the 1960s, the landowners have been very generous over the years in allowing so many hikers to experience these special mountains and we deeply thank them for their openness and access during that time.

We all have seen how the number of hikers in the Catskills has increased in the past few years and COVID-19 has just been a part of that – this was happening pre-COVID-19 as well. With more people pursuing the 35, the addition of lists like the grid, single season and some double single seasons and the proliferation of information through social media, the traffic on these mountains (and everywhere) is expanding. The impact on the natural resources is evident and the landowners have taken this step to enhance the health of the ecosystem and protect the flora and fauna. Consequently, the family has decided that the mountains they love need to make the return back to their original wilderness state. The Club asks to respect the decision by the landowners as they have thought deeply about this.

Jim Bouton, Canisters Chair, and Maria Bedo-Calhoun, President, were on Doubletop on January 10th, 2021 and removed the old canister. The 3500 Club Board met on January 31st, 2021 and decided that as of March 22nd (the first day of spring) the Club tally list will consist of 33 peaks versus the current 35. The four winter climb requirement will remain as is. With Doubletop and Graham permanently closed to public access, we concluded that we will not continue with the current substitutions of South Doubletop and Millbrook Ridge after March 21st. If a tally list is submitted with Doubletop or Graham hiked after January 10th, 2021, we will not count it and will know that it was an illegal climb. Hikers are cautioned to only access South Doubletop from

state land as the landowners will prosecute anyone who trespasses.

This information was sent in a separate eblast, but for those who did not read that, we are repeating it here. There were two main reasons for our decision:

1. **We are the 3500 Club, not the 35 Peak Club**

Prior to 1990, the tally list had 34 peaks and SW Hunter was added in that year. So there is precedence for less than 35 mountains on the list. Our thought process evolved into why add peaks just to stay at 35? If we are the 3500 club, let us stay consistent with that. And, yes, Rocky is under 3,500 feet now, but there is such history with that mountain, it really needs to be grandfathered in as has been done in the Adirondacks and the Whites. The same occurred there when mountains were discovered to be under 4,000 feet long after those lists were already well established.

2. **Impact**

With all the increased hikers and lists out there: single season, double single season, grid, etc., any bushwhack we choose will see a mountain top receive expanded traffic and no longer be the wilderness peak that it was. The amount of hikers is not going to decrease and we need to be mindful of what that means to these mountains we treasure. South Doubletop would start to see more and more herd paths and impact, as Doubletop has. Would people really respect the private property lines if they are trying to "bag" the peak quickly versus the longer and more physically challenging approaches? Would people still pop over to the summit on Doubletop hoping they won't get caught? All those were concerns that led to our decision to not keep South Doubletop as a replacement or go with another bushwhack peak.

Could we add another trailed mountain in to mitigate that?

That brings us back to reason #1. Rather, we will encourage people to explore on their own and not be focused on a list but perhaps navigate to a mountain with the skills learned while working on the (soon to be) 33. Use the tally list as a stepping stone to other explorations - climb a peak from a direction you haven't or choose your own bushwhack! Hopefully the challenge of not having a set list will be inspiring!

But, if you want another list, we want to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to check out three that will bring you to more places off the beaten path. Many of those trailheads will not be overcrowded and you will have the solitude you may not find on the more known routes.

[The Catskill Mountain Club All Trails Challenge](#)

[The Catskill Mountain Club Hiking Challenge](#)

The Scary 19 hikes in Schoharie County; the challenge only has a [Facebook page](#), but really fun hikes to explore.

Finally, why are we waiting to make that change until March 22nd?

We are mid-winter and it seems more straightforward to finish this season as it is now versus changing mid-stream. That way those who are working on their winters fulfill the same requirements this year as everyone else. We realize that does mean those finishing next year will do less peaks. If you want to wait, that is your choice, but we want to give people advance notice and make a decision on how and when they want to finish. South Doubletop and Millbrook will still count as substitutes through March 22nd and are required to get a winter number this year or regular membership before March 22nd.

The board understands well that there will be many opinions after reading this, and we want hikers to know we all gave it a great deal of thought and did not come to this decision and the timing of it lightly.

Catskill 3500 Club Board

Feel free to write directly with any questions to [Maria](#).



As reported last in the [2019 Fall issue](#) of *The Canister*, the Club, besides recognizing hiking accomplishments, also acknowledges members who give back to the Club and the Catskill Forest Preserve. The purpose of this award is to recognize leadership in the Club by its members. The award is open to any member in good standing who leads six scheduled hikes including a winter hike and (separately) a bushwhack. Also required is participation in one club trail maintenance outing.

We would like to acknowledge the following most recent Hike Leader Award recipients:

Michael Bongar, David Bunde, Al Davis, Mike Dwyer, Michele Corn Farrell, Marvin Freedman, Doug Garrity, Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago, Tom Martone, Paul Pilmanis, Laurie Rankin, Tom Rankin, Ted Shemella, Paul Swieton, Lyn Walker, Steve Welgoss, Bill Winterbottom.



Thank you everyone for your leadership, dedication, stewardship and commitment to the Club! Thinking about becoming a hike leader? Please get in touch with [Bill Winterbottom](#).

By: Bill Winterbottom, Outings Chair



2020 Club-Sponsored Hikes in Review



On behalf of the entire 3500 Club Board, I would like to express our sincere admiration for all hike leaders leading hikes during these troubling times. Not just for leading hikes but going the extra miles and scheduling more outings to accommodate the overflow of hikes with restricted capacity. With almost half of the 2020 hikes canceled, we still led 118 hikes.

Thank you for your hard work!

By: Bill Winterbottom, Outings Chair



WINTER WEEKEND WRAP-UP



The 2021 Winter Weekend took place over the weekend of January 23-24, 2021. Although our hiking portion of Winter Weekend was a rousing success with perfect winter conditions and weather, unlike last year's monsoons, our social get together and dinner was a casualty of ongoing COVID-19 pressures. With the increasing rollout of vaccines, we certainly hope that by next year we will once again be able to gather after a day of hiking for an evening of adult beverages, good food, and even better company. On a congratulatory note, four hikers finished their 3500 Club requirements over Winter Weekend. Congratulations to Judith and John Estok, Timothy Newell, and Paul Gebhard!





By: Bill Chriswell, Winter Weekend Chair

Merchandise Update

We have some new Winter and Spring items, about to be in stock for early March! There will be beanies with the Catskill 3500 Club logo in charcoal, orange (for hunting season) and lime/safety green. We will have a new performance shirt with a logo, 100% wicking polyester, in Cationic Blue. And we now also carry bandanas!

All shirts are USA-made, and most are offered in sizes S-XL — please check [the ordering form](#) for the details. Besides the new performance shirt (introduced due to popular demand), we continue to offer a mix of long and short sleeve shirts, either made with a 50-50 cotton-polyester blend or all cotton, with the 3500 Club logo in front.

Note for the recent finishers: as we are phasing out the shirts with the list of 35 mountains in the back, those finishers who want the original peak list, now is the time to get them. We have limited quantities of the vintage design!

The pricing information for the new and regularly restocked items (which includes both the taxes and the S/H) is below, and [the ordering form](#), which includes additional limited quantity items, can be found on the Club's website:

Item	Apparel Color	Cost, each
Women's short sleeve scoop neck (50% Cotton/50% Polyester)	Heather Charcoal	\$25.00
Women's short sleeve crew neck (50% Cotton/50% Polyester)	Asphalt	\$21.00
Unisex short sleeve crew neck (50% Cotton/50% Polyester)	Heather Navy	\$23.00
Unisex long sleeve crew neck shirt (100% cotton)	Navy	\$23.00
Unisex short sleeve performance shirt (100% polyester)	Cationic Blue	\$22.00
Beanies	Charcoal, Orange, Lime Green	\$22.00
Bandanas	Dark Green	\$16.00
Cap	Olive	\$26.00



If you have any questions about the merchandise or ordering in general, please contact Margaret and Terri at merchandise@catskill-3500-club.org.



Virtual Winter Prep Class Wrap-Up



On Saturday January 16th, 2021 the Club hosted our first virtual class, Winter Hiking Preparedness. This popular class had been created by Tom and Laurie Rankin, longtime winter hikers and former Club Board members, and over the past 10 years, has been offered in person. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing, Tom and Laurie graciously offered to go on camera to share their extensive winter hiking experience and lots of great tips. Over 50 hikers tuned in and got to learn about various topics such as safety, conditions, timeliness, parking, nutrition, gear, etiquette, various hacks, and so much more. Various gear demos were also presented, and the participants got to ask questions at the end of the two-hour session. We received overwhelming positive feedback on the class. Thank you, Tom and Laurie, for sharing your knowledge and time! We also want to thank aspirant Sara Chapman for volunteering to help set this up!

Check it out on [YouTube](#), as well as on the Club's site under [Safety Resources](#).

By: Maria Bedo-Calhoun, President, and Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond, The Canister Editor



Update from the Treasurer



From a financial perspective, 2020 was a very busy year. Thanks to the generosity of our members, with a combined total of approximately \$20k in member, aspirant, and life member dues, we took in over \$1000 more in donations than in 2019 (for a total of over \$3600, with an extra special recognition going to the members of the SanSaram hiking group, who collectively contributed \$1300). However, we also extended our trend for giving back to the Catskills with over \$15k towards support for organizations and programs such as the [New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's](#) Summit Steward program, the [Adirondack Mountain Club](#), and [Friends of Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center](#). While these continue our history of support, we also reached out to new organizations - the [Student Conservation Association](#) and [Team Wilderness](#). Also, in addition to places and organizations, we supported the people who live in the Catskills as well, by including donations to the Fire Departments of [Claryville](#), [Palenville](#), and [Phoenicia](#) for use in PPE for the pandemic and for SAR. We continue our support of our own [SAR](#) organization as run by Erica Winterbottom. And we continue to thank every one of you who contributes above and beyond your annual dues, as without your support, none of this would happen. We look to bigger and better things this year as well!

By: Jay Hui, Treasurer



Save the Date for Trail Maintenance and Adopt-a-Highway Events



This year, the Club marks a special occasion of being involved, as an organization, in the trail maintenance for 50 years! To mark this special anniversary, we are planning a commemorative hike to Wittenberg, on Saturday, June 19th, 2021. See the schedule listing for the registration information, as well as the announcement [below](#).

PEEKAMOOSSE-TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Join us for our club trail maintenance outing on Sunday, April 18th, 2021. Please help us keep the Peekamoosse-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! Registration information: open; to sign up, please contact [Lourdes Sonera](#)

INTRODUCTION TO TRAIL MAINTENANCE (NEW!)

This introductory hike, scheduled for May 2nd, 2021, is for members/aspirants who are new to trail work and who want to learn more about trail maintenance. Meeting at the Devils Tombstone Parking at 11 am. Registration Period: by Apr. 15, to sign up, please contact [Lourdes Sonera](#)

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Join us on Sunday, May 2nd, 2021 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 and the environment and keeps the Catskills beautiful! See the schedule listing for the registration information.

Please note: Club volunteering outings schedule is subject to change. Group sizes may be reduced to conform with the

social distancing requirements; a mask may be required for situations when social distancing is not possible. Current New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Trail Maintenance guidance recommendations will be followed.

If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer list to stay up to date with the future trail maintenance and road clean-up opportunities, please contact [Lourdes Sonera](#).

By: Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair



Update from the Trail Conference Representative



[The New York – New Jersey Trail Conference](#) (NYNJTC) is one of the largest hiking organizations in the Catskills, with over 10,000 active members and a history of over 100 years working in the region. The Conference provides funding and support for numerous programs across the Catskill Park, and are a strong and supportive voice in regional politics.

The NYNJTC holds the Volunteer Service Agreement (VSA) with the NY DEC to maintain all of the hiking trails and lean-tos in the Catskills. They also manage the Catskills Summit Stewards program, which promotes backcountry stewardship on popular peaks during the summer months (see last [issue of *The Canister*](#) for an update on this program). With more people than ever visiting the forests and mountains, this type of active involvement is critical help the DEC manage our public lands.

Many 3500 Club members are also members of the NYNJTC, and provide an active volunteer workforce for trail and lean-to maintenance. And active we are! In a recent NYNJTC drive to recruit new volunteers, almost half of the new maintainers were 3500 Club members. Club member Tim Luby (#3268), who also runs the popular [Facebook group Catskills Trail Conditions](#), was particularly helpful in recruiting new volunteers. As a Trail Supervisor with the NYNJTC, Tim knows the value of an active volunteer workforce. This is a good example of the type of hands-on stewardship that we need more of and that our Club is directly supporting with our actions.

The 3500 Club is a member organization in the Trail Conference, along with dozens of other clubs from the Catskills and Southern NY. This coalition of clubs creates a powerful force for land stewardship and political activism. Despite our small size, the 3500 Club has an equitable relationship with the Trail Conference and a strong partnership that has lasted for decades.

We provide an active volunteer workforce, deep knowledge of local ecology and trails, and funding for programs and infrastructure in the Catskills. A good example of this is the 3500 Club providing seed money and ongoing financial support for the NYNJTC Summit Steward program. In turn, the Trail Conference provides logistical support and professional training, and covers many Club volunteer efforts under their VSA. We make a good team and have plans for more collaborative projects in the future!

Consider [joining the Trail Conference](#) as a way to support the 3500 Club, and to be part of an organization that is providing strategic leadership and lobbying efforts to advance common goals of stewardship and responsible forest recreation. Membership in the NYNJTC has an additional benefit of discounted maps and merchandise from the Conference store, as well as a [discount at the participating partners and businesses](#).

By: Matt Smith, NYNJTC Representative

Winter Weekend photo credits: top row, L to R: Kaaterskill High Peak hike, Marv Freedman (#2242 W951); Balsam hike, Yanny Hecht (#1868 W751); South Doubletop, Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago (#1368 W1063); middle row, L to R: Panther hike, Paul Gebhard (#3501); Halcott hike, Harold Oakhill (#283 W1244); Panther hike, Aida Stone; bottom row, L to R: South Doubletop, Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago (#1368 W1063); Halcott hike, Harold Oakhill (#283 W1244).



Jack-in-the-pulpit (L) by Harold Oakhill #283 W1244; Nettles (C) by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222; Red Trillium (R) by Siu Samantha Yuen #2894 W1311

Introducing the 3500 Trailhead Steward Program



Text by: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075, Trail Maintenance Chair

The Catskills 3500 Club Stewardship committee has been pretty busy recently, brainstorming ways to best support the increased number of hikers visiting the Catskills region.



We are pleased to announce a collaboration with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's Adopt a Trailhead program. The program focuses on engaging with visitors to promote the [Leave No Trace \(LNT\) principles](#), share relevant regulations, and communicate other pertinent information, in order to improve the sustainability of the parks' lands and to promote safe hiking. Steward volunteers will be at the Slide Mountain trailhead (on CR-47), weekends and holidays, starting this year on the Memorial Day weekend through the Columbus Day weekend.

To make this program successful, we are calling upon our members to share their knowledge and experience by becoming trailhead stewards. We are still finalizing some details, but, to become a 3500 Club Trailhead Steward, you must be a 3500 Club member, and complete the LNT and Safety training (training program details are being finalized at the press time). Volunteers should commit to at least two days during the season. These days can be two consecutive days, or they can be single days on different weekends. And, of course, you can volunteer as many days as you like! Trailhead Steward volunteer days count towards the Club Service Award.

Ready to give back and improve the hiking experience for all?

Please email the club's Trailhead coordinator [Lourdes Sonera](#).



Ashokan High Point from Little AHP. Photo by Rob Stewart #2186 W1036

Conservation Corner



Text by: Carol White #860 W310, Conservation Chair

Breaking News:

The Right to Clean Air & Water Up to NY Voters this November

The New York State Legislature passed two bills¹ to add an Environmental Bill of Rights, amending Article 1 in the NY State Constitution with a new Section 19 recognizing the inalienable right of all to clean water, clean air, and a healthful environment: “Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment.” Having now passed the Assembly and Senate during two consecutive sessions² required by law, New York voters in November 2021 will decide whether to add this language to our constitution. Article XIV recognizes environmental protections as important public policy, but not on par with political and civil liberties such as free speech and assembly. A Green Amendment will protect environmental rights as inalienable, preventing water from becoming too polluted, air too dirty, land too contaminated, and natural landscapes too decimated to support healthy lives and a healthy economy.

¹Assembly 1368/Senate 528

² In 2019, A.2064/S.2072 received its first passage.



Eastern Devil's Path from Hurricane Ledge. Photo by Harold Oakhill #283 W1244

Celebrating 50 Years of Giving Back to the Trails



Text and Photo by: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075, Trail Maintenance Chair

In the 1971 Spring edition of *The Canister* the Club announced “an innovation to our outing activity” by introducing trail clean-up work. The Club was concerned with the amount of litter from Woodland Valley to the summit of Wittenberg as well as in the high trafficked area around Terrace lean-to and published a call to action to remove all the litter. The Club did not have a problem gathering members to volunteer and on June 19th, 1971, Spiro Kavarnos (#60 W10) led the first Club trail maintenance event hauling plenty of garbage from the trail. Later that year, volunteers met at the Devil’s Tombstone Campground to clean the Plateau and Mink Hollow areas and that was the beginning of a long-lasting Club commitment to strong stewardship! Devil’s Tombstone Campground continues to be our meeting ground till this day. Reading through the early Club newsletter has inspired me to celebrate and honor the legacy of all the volunteers who have given their time to preserve the trails we enjoy so much today.

H I K E S

An innovation to our outing activity will be reflected by the inclusion of trail clean-up work. Here is the simple way to express concern for the once-pristine CATSKILLS. As a starter this spring, the aim will be to unlitter the trail from Woodland Valley to the summit of Wittenberg, including the area around Terrace lean-to. Lots of hands will be needed. John Burroughs will beam at us from the other world as we lug out sacks of junk. For this day bags will be furnished, and a shuttle service for them will be arranged between the trail-head and a suitable deposit point. Please notify the leader in advance if you can join in on this day.

June 19 WITTENBERG CLEAN-UP

Leader: Spiro Kavarnos, 43 S. Highland Ave., Ossining (914-762-0559)
Meeting Place: Village Bake Shop, Phoenicia, at 9:00 a.m.



A 50th year celebratory hike is scheduled for June 19th, as a thank you to all who have shown gratitude to the park, especially our past Trail Maintenance Chairs:

1968-1970 John (Fish) MacPherson #27 W3

1971-1974 Peter Fish #12 W2
1975-1980 Fred Schmelzer #140 W54
1981-1985 Cyrus Whitney #266 W93
1986-1990 Timothy Watters #268 W94
1991-2000 Gerald Gervais #687
2001- 2004 Daniel Case #1238
2005- 2011 Elie Bijou #1492
2011-2014 Cathy O'Neill #1852 W752
2015-2018 David Bunde #2269 W925

Through the years our Club has established a solid volunteer base. Our volunteers have faced many different challenges, including the current pandemic, yet fresh faces continue to show up, ready to do their part to protect and maintain the trails. It is always inspiring to see the familiar faces of “the old timers” getting ready to once again carry their favorite tool to the summit and get the trail ready for another busy hiking season. The initiatives and programs we support today would ensure that these trails will be around for years to come. The Club remains committed to making it safer for people to explore the outdoors while inspiring the environmental stewards of tomorrow.

As part of the 50th anniversary of volunteerism and as we continue to grow our membership, we are ready to keep demonstrating our commitment to promoting stewardship. With the significant increase of visitors to the Catskills Park and the need for education/information, the Club is announcing the 3500 Trailhead Stewardship Program. This will create more volunteer opportunities for our members to be able to give back to the Catskills Park as well as share their knowledge with visitors who are seeking guidance and/or information. Through this work, we hope to foster the dedication needed for volunteers to return again and again to protect the trail that we all love.

The most rewarding part of giving back to the trails is the impact on future generations. I invite you to stay engaged and consider volunteering for the future generations.



Escarpment and the Blackhead Range from Durham. Photo by Laurie Hladik #2416 W1059

50 Years Later on the Escarpment Trail

Text and Photos by: Ken Kleinberg #184 W99

Back in November 2019, I completed a long-time goal of hiking the Escarpment Trail in the Catskills in a day. Having starting hiking in earnest in 1969, and overnight back-packing that trail with some high school buddies back in the 70s, I thought it would be fun to recount the adventures and the changes over 50 years. With folks running this trail each year, as well as some taking on bigger challenges that go 50 miles or longer, I am humble with my accomplishment here — one of the great parts of hiking is we can all set our goals and enjoy the outdoors. I hope you enjoy the story.



I grew up in the town of Catskill, NY, at the foot of the Catskill Mountains, with the shape of the peaks and notches of their eastern escarpment etched into my brain. I started hiking in the Catskills as a kid, with many short hikes to the awesome ledges near North-South Lake with my parents, and hikes above Camp Tri-Mount at the foot of the Blackhead range with the scouts. I did my first overnight on Windham High Peak with my buddy, Paul, when we were 13 — our folks had to drop us off and pick us up (that was in the era where parents were not quite as protective). We slept in the open on the big rock view at the summit, with the porcupines keeping us awake all night with their crying sounds.

Later, while in high school, as one of our first major overnights, three buddies of mine and I attempted a backpacking trip on the 24-mile Escarpment Trail from south to north. Those were the days when the blue-marked trail started at the horseshoe turn on route 23A below Kaaterskill Falls — the trail climbed up the steep (and often slick) slope to the right of the falls where they now have the stone steps. We were proud to carry our green Kelty framed packs with our Sierra cups attached and flapping. We stopped and took pictures with our Instamatic cameras. It was our first time on many sections of the trail, and with our heavy boots and overnight gear, it was dark by the time we reached the halfway point, Dutcher Notch, that first day. Although exhausted, hungry and thirsty, we still had to head down the seemingly endless 0.3 miles to reach the spring. We were carrying compact but effective Gerry mini propane stoves, but I was too desperate to be bothered — I remember dropping my hotdog in the mud, picking it up, wiping it off and just eating it cold.



Ken (L) and Ken and Paul, Dave and Larry (R) in the 1970s.

After the needed food and hydration, we trudged back up to the notch, and then, willed our way up the steep trail northward to a beautiful flat section on the shoulder of Blackhead Mountain called Arizona — named for its dryness. At the time, there must have been a wildfire up there as there were little or no trees — just burnt stumps, and some tall grass that had blown over flat with the prevailing NW winds. We camped on that soft grass with a view to the east in our used (but still expensive, for us) mummy-style down sleeping bags with the wind blowing over our heads. It was, to this day, the most incredible and restful sleep of my life. We finished the final half of the Escarpment Trail that next day — tired, but with youth on our sides. A few of us went on to become 3500 Club members in the next few years, and I was the first of us to climb all the peaks in the winter (I was probably one of the youngest to do it then — I'm winter member number 99). I went on to college in Albany and spent the next years exploring the ADKs (and became a 46er), but always loved our Catskills.

Now, 50 years later, it's my goal to hike the escarpment in a day. Although I've hiked and climbed on six continents, it's hard to believe that I've actually never hiked more than 20 miles in a day. Like my swim across the Hudson River 10 years ago and riding my bike non-stop from my home in Saugerties to the top of Overlook Mountain five years ago, this is an area challenge I've wanted to accomplish for many years, and better to try it now while my body can still (hopefully) take it. Perhaps the biggest

difference with this trip from decades ago — I'm using trekking poles — the Leki pair I have are spring-loaded. Just this year I finally replaced the carbide tips, which had helped me during my countless miles over the years. I know that this trip without the poles would have simply been impossible for my knees. Same for the foam-padded orthotic insoles to help with my pronounced bunions and flat feet which have gotten worse over the years. After a few months of regular hiking, including some 10 plus mile hikes, I feel I'm ready.

I elect to begin from the same starting point as when we first did the backpacking trip in the '70s — at the hairpin turn, even though the official blue-marked escarpment has a new starting point near the top of the falls. My wife, Steph, is nice enough to get up early on this beautiful, cool (temps in the 30s and 40s) fall day in November and drop me off with our dog, Joey, who will be with me on the first few hours of the hike — she will drive around and meet us at North South Lake. Joey has been my faithful hiking companion since we got him a few years ago. My family didn't have pets when I grew up, and Joey adds a wonderful dimension for me with his sniffing and enthusiasm.

The dog and I make good progress up the new stone steps by the falls, head south past Layman's Monument (commemorative to a fallen forest fighter from 50 years before I was born), and enjoy the morning sun just starting to hit the incredible ledges facing south into Kaaterskill Clove. We pass Inspiration Point where I had written our wedding vows! After passing Boulder Rock with its famous erratic and crossing the top of South Mountain, we reach the site of the world-renowned Catskill Mountain house — I remember seeing it burn one morning in 1963 almost 10 miles away from Catskill (I was just 7 years old).

Upon reaching North South Lake, we meet my wife and I drop off the dog (although he would have loved to keep going, my wife and I feel that 24 miles would have been a bit much for him). I also resupply with water. Although it poured the last days, the trails are covered with leaves and are soggy. There is plenty of running water, but I feel it easier to carry the water and not have to worry about giardia and filtering (not an issue from 50 years ago) — nor will I later have to take the time to descend to the spring below Dutcher Notch.

Now going solo, I continue up to the wide-open views on North Point. I use my smartphone to text my wife my progress, as she'll be picking me up in Windham later that evening. Back in the day, of course, we didn't have anything like that. For some reason, I've rarely used the GPS on my hikes — I suppose I prefer the challenge of determining position by looking at the topography and using a map and compass (back in the day, we used the large paper USGS topo maps) — but nice to know the GPS is there if need be.

On top of Stoppel Point, I note the small plane wreck, which occurred in 1983, well after my first hike on this trail. I had gotten my pilot license in 1980 — it was sobering to consider the fate of the pilot — actually he was only a student pilot and never should have taken off in the bad weather that day — not to mention he was flying a similar Piper to the model that I co-own.

Then the deep descent into Dutcher Notch — I pass a hunter in full camouflage heading uphill with a pack as big as he was — he didn't look happy. I'm grateful for my modest load. Upon reaching the notch, I look at the trail signs. Still about 12 miles to go with the biggest ascent up Blackhead looming. I recall passing this junction a few years ago during the annual Escarpment Trail run, established in the late '70s, where they used this spot as one of the water re-supply stations. No one to hand me water and a banana today. Onwards and upwards.



L-R: Blackheads, Windham, Blackhead (from Arizona)

In less than an hour, I reach Arizona which now has plenty of trees and only limited views — much different from when we slept there so many years ago. Blackhead's dome is straight ahead, with some steep sections to negotiate. I arrive at the Camp Steel viewpoint (also now pretty overgrown) with its big white letters painted on the rock — I'm not sure if someone keeps illegally painting the letters or the DEC maintains it for historical reasons (there since 1936). I eat a few Milky Way bars for energy — they've been around since the 20s!

At 3:30 p.m., I'm relieved to reach the summit of Blackhead, at just over 3,900 feet, the highest point on the hike but it's not all quite downhill from there, since there are still the peaks of Acra Point and Burnt Knob before the final climb up Windham High Peak. The descent down Blackhead is one of the steepest in the Catskills and some water ice has formed on top of some of the rocks. I'm glad I have my poles.

After descending off Blackhead, the trail levels out and offers some nice pleasant walking as it curves from north to west. I pass three guys with backpacks that ask me if I'm spending the night. I say "No, I hope not," and they remark about how it's getting dark and they ask if I have a headlamp. "Actually, a couple," I respond, and in the next 30 minutes as I crest Acra Point, I take one out. That's another big difference from decades ago – these new LED lights are super reliable and bright compared to the old heavy D-battery models we used to carry and, instead of lasting a few hours if you're lucky, especially if the batteries are cold, they can last for 100 hours. I also plug earbuds into my iPod and listen to some news and interviews on NPR – yeah, we had transistor radios back in the day, but I also have my huge music library should I want some additional inspiration.

The last few dark miles up and over Burnt Knob and then up the ridge toward Windham High Peak feel like the longest on the trip. I see the silhouettes of the surrounding peaks to give myself some reference. Occasionally there is some light hail falling from a few overcast clouds. I tug the zipper higher on my expensive breathable light-weight parka to combat the chill and the zipper pull breaks off. I don't recall that ever happening with my bombproof (albeit heavy) 60/40 parka from the '70s!



Windham from Burnt Knob

I finally arrive at the summit viewpoint to the north – the stars and lights are incredibly clear and bright. I text my wife my expected descent time, click my headlamp brightness up a notch, and head down, stepping carefully to avoid twisting an ankle – I'm certainly tired and this would be the most likely time for a fall. I pass through the spooky spruce tree sections with their exposed roots – I wonder if anyone had come here a few days ago for Halloween.

Finally, the highway lights of Route 23 are in sight – 13 and a half hours and 10,000 feet of cumulative elevation change after my start – I am thankful for my wife and her warm car and thermos of hot soup. I know the potentially harder part of this trip might be dealing with soreness over the next few days, but I feel privileged, grateful and satisfied. While I've looked at the escarpment my whole life, it will have a new and deeper meaning for me now.

Ken has been hiking and backpacking in the Catskills since he was 13. He has been a member of the Club since 1974 and served as a Canister co-Chair in the 1970s. Besides hiking, Ken enjoys kayaking, rock and ice climbing, and snowboarding. Ken is ADK 46er #2457 and is a past president of the Albany State outing club. Ken can be contacted via [email](#).

Editor's note - It should be noted that camping regulations have evolved over the last 50 years; as per the DEC, "camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water except at areas designated by a "Camp Here" disk." So, if you decide to recreate the backpacking trip that Ken and his buddies enjoyed during their high school days, please plan for a different camping location! And of course, while Arizona is just over 3,400 feet, as a reminder, "except in an emergency or between December 21st and March 21st, camping is prohibited above an elevation of 3,500 feet in the Catskills."



Windham High Peak from the shoulder of Burnt Knob in early May. Photo by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222

An Uphill Climb

Text and photos by: Julie McGuire #3500

One of the hardest things in life is losing an identity that you hold dear. When something in life threatens or changes a label we've come to identify ourselves with, we are often thrown into a state of crisis.

My most recent crisis of that sort was my divorce. On April 28, 2018, I came home from work and my wife was sitting on the corner of the bed. She was just staring. I thought it was strange, but my mind was focused on getting ready to go to our house upstate.

"I can't do this," she blurted out.

"What do you mean you can't do this?" But, on an intuitive level, I did know what she meant. I knew she wasn't going to go through with our embryo transfer that Monday. And I also knew she was telling me that our marriage was over.

"I can't do this!" she snapped.

I stormed to the kitchen and she didn't follow me. She also wasn't even apologizing. In fact, it was as though she was angry at ME. Any doubt as to whether I had misinterpreted her initial, "I can't do this," was laid to rest. My marriage was over and from that moment on, she treated me like I was nobody to her--regardless of how hard I tried to get her back.

Prior to meeting my ex, I'd been passionate about skiing. People knew if it was winter, then Julie was off in the mountains. With my ex, my relationship to the outdoors deepened even further. We were hiking, skiing, or doing some sort of activity every weekend. I had always been such a loner, but finally having someone I cared enough about to share my world with was so amazing to me. I had no idea life could feel so full. Every time we went on an amazing trip, I remembered Christopher McCandless's words: "Happiness is only real when shared."

I introduced my ex to skiing and she loved maps, so she became our navigator when hiking. I tried to get her to combine the two and try backcountry skiing, which I was eager to try myself, but she was a resort person so I pushed that desire off to the side with the intent of returning to it someday.

When we first split up, weekends upstate were anguish. The weather would be beautiful, and I'd be imagining what great adventure we would be on, had we still been together. Hiking by myself intimidated me because I was afraid of getting lost. It was



also painful because it reminded me so much of the good times we had together and made me miss that companionship even more.

Doing all those “first time without my ex” things was monumental. Something as mundane as going to the supermarket was emotionally agonizing because it was part of our routine. I was just haunted by my loss and confusion. How did I not know my marriage was in trouble? Why didn't she say anything? Why won't she work on things with me? How unlovable must I be that my spouse would leave like this? It was so much that I just did not think I could survive, and I prayed for some horrible accident to end my life. Not knowing how to cope with the unrelenting emotional agony, I would spend weekends continuously taking NyQuil so that I could just be unconscious.

Then one day in early summer, I was online and came across an advertisement for a women's backcountry camp through PowderQuest. The camp said it would teach you how to backcountry ski--no experience necessary. This was something I had always wanted to do but had put off to spend more time with my wife. I didn't think I could psychologically commit to taking a trip that August, but I booked it anyway because it just seemed like too much of a coincidence.

Buying the gear I needed and learning how to use it before the trip gave me something to focus on that summer. In addition to being the navigator, my ex was also the more mechanically inclined. Giving me the Cliffs Notes on how to use all this stuff was definitely something I would've asked her to do, but, instead, I practiced what I try to inculcate to my students, “USE YOUR RESOURCES!” YouTube turned out to be an amazing resource. I remember sitting on the floor of my apartment surrounded by tiny GoPro pieces and ski equipment watching videos. But at least now I had some sort of mission.

The camp turned out to be an amazing experience and I caught the backcountry bug right away. It emboldened me to get out there and try a hike. At first, I stayed on familiar trails like Windham High Peak. Maps still seemed intimidating. However, I went full throttle on developing my backcountry skills. I skinned up Hunter mountain at least twice a week. I took avalanche courses. I booked adventurous trips backcountry skiing through the Alps, doing another tour in South America, local tours through the Northeast, and completing a tour in Japan. I used every opportunity to get experience. I toured four continents in two years, just climbing and processing what had happened.

Prior to my Japanese tour in February of 2020, PowderQuest told me the other members of my group had canceled so it would be just me and two guides. When I got there, my guides asked me what I liked and what I wanted. I said I wanted to learn as much as I can about navigating my way through the backcountry, cutting skin tracks, and finding routes. Since I was the only person in the group, I was able to get one-on-one training the entire trip.

I came back with a wealth of knowledge that I was eager to apply. And then something happened that would allow me to do that: quarantine. When the NYC DOE closed public schools, I came to my home in the Catskills full-time.

I started researching hikes near my home so as to respect the COVID rules. There were so many zones within 10-15 minutes. I hiked every day after work. I wasn't aiming to do high peaks, just any hike that seemed close.

In mid-May, I was hiking when a thought popped into my head, “If I'm hiking every day, why don't I see if I can hike all the high peaks?” And so it began. I wouldn't count any previous peaks I had done with my ex. I would start anew from that point forward.



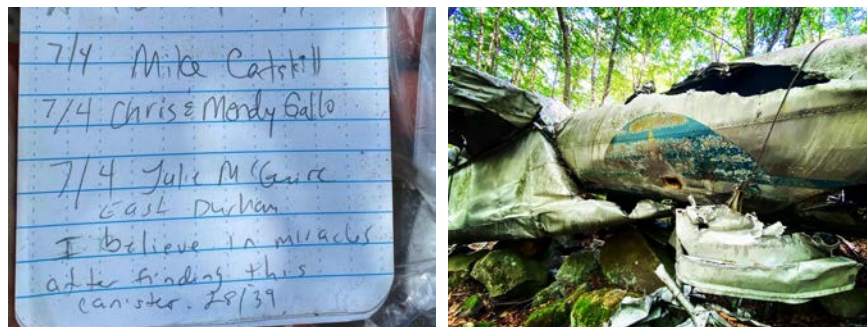
Blackhead from Black Dome - one of the earliest hikes

I began with the zones closest to me and moved outward from there. Every day I climbed and listened to audiobooks on self-help, mysticism, philosophy, and memoirs. I got my bushwhacking feet wet with Vly, which wasn't really a bushwhack. Then I did Rusk, which I thought would take less time. I remember being confused as to how to find the canister, but eventually I did. Success! Slowly but surely, all these little successes started building me up again.

I just kept going. In less than a month I ticked off 25 of the high peaks. While I was married, I remember thinking becoming a 3500 Club member would take years, now I was most of the way done in less than 30 days. I couldn't believe it! However, I got an overuse injury and had to take a hiatus for a few weeks. I literally couldn't even walk to the bathroom, it was so painful. I had done Lone and Rocky and the next morning had a severe pain in my shins. I took Advil and felt okay enough to attempt Halcott. That hike took so much longer than it should have. I was in so much pain a part of me was wondering if I'd be able to get down before dark. I realized I could not keep pushing myself.

When I picked up a few weeks later, I started with a couple trail hikes before I moved onto one that I had been fearing: Friday and Balsam Cap. I read about the plane crash and really wanted to find it. But based on my research, I figured I should just be happy if I could even find the canisters.

I did the hike on 4th of July. I think I missed every waypoint I had read about. I remember scratching my head and wondering to myself, "Do those rocks look like whales?" "Does that tree look pregnant?" There were definitely some sketchy climbs through the cliffs. Getting to the canister on Friday felt like an accomplishment. I remember writing in the sign-in book, "I believe in miracles after finding this canister."

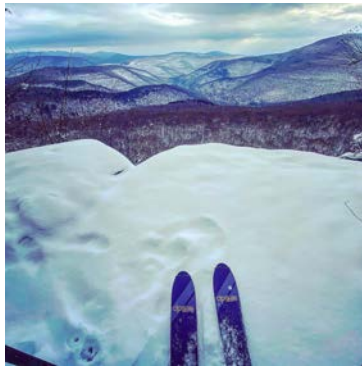


Adventures on Friday

I dropped into the drainage to attempt to find the plane. Noticing things in my physical universe has never been a strength of mine. In fact, literally every person I have dated has griped about this to me. I'm always too absorbed in my internal world to notice external things. I walked for a while but couldn't find it, so I decided I would head home. There was some blowdown ahead of me that I had to walk around. I was really annoyed because I felt it was taking me out of my way, but I walked around it and headed toward Friday thinking I was way out of range of the plane now. As I walked, I spotted something metallic.

"Wait, no. No way. I found it! I FOUND IT!!" I shouted this so loudly, I wouldn't have been surprised if someone shouted back. In fact, part of me wished someone did hear me. I needed someone to share the moment with, so I called my mom. I explored the site while drinking a celebratory Heady Topper IPA. It felt like something had guided me there--one of a million moments of good fortune that occurred along the way and sent me the message, "This is what you should be doing." I also had a small realization, "It may be possible to still have the essence of what I wanted out of life; it just might be packaged or acquired differently than expected.

I finished the remaining 35 hikes by the beginning of August, and my 39th on Panther in January. I skinned up Panther and skied most of the way down. It was kind of fitting that I took my skis with me on that final hike. Both passions (hiking and backcountry skiing) had helped to build my confidence back up and were part of that accomplishment.



Required winter peaks on skis

The undoing of my old self wasn't entirely a bad thing. As I processed things on all those journeys through the mountains, I realized maybe my old identity wasn't that great. I think I was a workaholic because, there, I was seen as capable, and maybe I didn't like the way my ex-wife saw me.

I still wish there was someone out there that I could've shared all this with. Every time I accomplished something it was definitely tinged with pain. There can be a component of emptiness when success is only for yourself and not a vehicle to connect with others. But maybe it was necessary to do it alone so that I could get used to it and see my self-worth again. Maybe I had to be in a position where the accomplishments were totally of my own doing so that I could believe in myself. And maybe, if I'm ever at a point in my life again where I start to doubt my worth, maybe that 3500 patch will remind me.

Addendum: Along the way, there were a million tiny moments of serendipity or things that could be interpreted as signs. My final sign for this part of my journey happened on Sunday January 31, 2021. I came home from ski touring Van Wyck when I received an email stating that, not only had I been officially inducted into the Catskill 3500 Club, but my membership number is #3500. It was a beautiful bookend that just seemed to befit my experiences along the way.

Julie McGuire is a native New Yorker who has spent weekends in the Catskills since the early '80s. When she isn't going up and down mountains, she is teaching high school English, weightlifting, playing guitar and piano, and chiding her dogs for eating bear scat on the lawn. You can follow Julie's adventures on [Instagram](#) and she can be reached via [email](#).

Editor's note - I was following Julie's adventures on social media for a while by the time I had read her post celebrating the ascent of the 35 back in August 2020. I reached out to Julie, wondering if she would be interested to share her journey in *The Canister* by the time she completed her winter requirements to qualify for the Club's membership. I was, of course, delighted to find out that she was enthused to submit an essay. Imagine how thrilled I was that Julie's membership number was 3500!!!! Congratulations Julie, once again! And as an extra surprise, in addition to receiving the life membership, you also get to go on a hike with the Can Man himself, Canister Chair Jim Bouton!



Slide from Cornell. Photo by Harold Oakhill #283 W1244

A Return to the Catskills

Text by: Lawrence David #703

Had it really been 16 years? My last hike in the Catskills had been a trail maintenance hike in the fall of 1992. I then relocated out of the area and never had a chance to hike there again. Whenever I would pass the trailhead on Route 23, I would cast a longing glance up Windham High Peak and wish I could stop. But there were always other commitments to keep.

So when Cynthia asked me if I wanted to rent a house for a long November weekend in Woodland Valley, I jumped at the chance. The trail up The Wittenberg and Cornell was right down the road. I dug out my old Catskill trail maps and eagerly planned my hike.



Sunday, November 9, 2008 dawned with bright sunshine and mixed clouds. I walked up the road through the clove of Woodland Valley, past the old houses of flat fieldstones and along the roaring brook. I spotted the trail sign with the familiar round NYS DEC trail marker and turned left into the woods, crossing the bridge, and began my ascent. I was back!

I could remember madly dashing down this trail 19 years before in waning November light, bagging my last two Catskill peaks. Today, I had met my goal with my first step on the trail. I savored each step up, each bare beech tree and hemlock, as my legs slowly lifted me up out of Woodland Valley and onto Terrace Mountain. I looked back at the now familiar landscape of the deep cloves, the flat mountain tops, and the bare trees of a Catskill November as I gained elevation. I made my way through the first rock outcroppings, along the top of a cliff, and ascended ever higher through the rocks.

Ahead was the first series of blowdowns. I stopped at one giant hemlock and read where the trail maintainer had marked on his chainsaw cut through the trunk: **~162 YRS.** That tree had been a sapling at the beginning of James K. Polk's term and the Mexican War! Farther along I saw more downed trees that had not yet been cleared. The trail flattened out and slabbed Terrace Mountain, crossing a series of swollen brooks. My engineer's eye noticed how the trail required some extensive building of drainage ditches, water bars, and puncheons in places where hikers were wearing a trail around the huge puddles that had formed in the middle of the path. I felt a twinge of regret at living so far away and not being able to do anything to help with the construction to relieve the damage. From my days as a Catskill trail maintainer, I certainly appreciated the effort that would be required to restore the trail properly.

I turned right at the junction of the Terrace Mountain Lean-to trail and began the ascent of the cone of The Wittenberg. Sometime during the previous 16 years the mountain had acquired **The** in its name, maybe a tribute to the affection Catskill hikers hold for it. I could see why—the cliffs, scrambles, the cracks you have to climb up and through, the flat hemlock forests that afford you rest after ascending through a rough section, then followed by another set of cliffs. The feel of a Catskill peak is so much different from one in the White Mountains. The woods, the deep cloves, the rocks of the Catskills hold you close and intimate. A White Mountain peak barely tolerates a hiker, its beauty harsh and forbidding.

I could see a peak looming to the north, according to my compass bearing. Plotting it on the map, I determined it was North Dome. As I gained elevation and sensed I was running out of ascent, the familiar flatness of a Catskill summit worked its soothing magic on me. This wayward mountain man had returned to roam the ancient peneplain.

The view from The Wittenberg's summit was a bit hazy this November day — the Ashokan Reservoir, the ridgelines of the Schawangunks, and the panorama to the south. Looking east, I could pick out on the horizon the dome of Mt. Everett in the Taconics, 47 miles away. I paused several minutes to savor the view, a luxury I could not afford 19 years ago when I was trying to reach Woodland Valley before dark.

When I set out for the summit of Cornell, I kept watching to my left for the unmarked trail that leads up from the Moon Haw Road to the col between The Wittenberg and Cornell, but failed to find anything resembling a path leading downward. When I reached the base of the Bruin's Causeway, I wondered to myself how I had managed to scramble down that cliff, exhausted, that November afternoon in 1989. I ascended the Causeway on all fours and then executed the act of faith all hikers must in order to get over the top—stick a foot into the V, wedge it in securely, then grab onto the rock above and hoist myself up. From there the summit is a bit anticlimactic, but a quiet and peaceful side trip to rest, eat lunch, and soak up the rare pleasure, for me, of a wooded Catskill peak all to myself.

I eased my way back down the Causeway. While crossing back over the col to The Wittenberg, I spotted on my right a tree

across a herd path intersecting the trail. This must have been the unmarked trail I had been looking for 19 years ago, I thought. By the time I reached the Wittenberg outlook again, the sky had clouded over, but Mt. Everett was still visible to the east.

About halfway down I encountered a lady, using two hiking poles, ascending the trail. I estimated she must have been at least 80, probably a Catskill legend, but I did not presume to stop and ask her name. A few hundred yards further down I also encountered a man, also about 80, ascending using two hiking poles. There are so many examples of Catskill hikers like these who, over the decades since the 3500 Club was formed, continued to hike well into their 80s. I even remember Bill Riemvis ascending Slide on a winter hike, carrying his ice axe, when he was about 90. Such people inspired me and I continue to draw inspiration from them as I proceed through my seventh decade.

Perhaps I was enjoying myself a little too much on the way down because I missed the left turn on the steep final descent to Woodland Creek, missing the sign-out kiosk, and had to slab the hillside to get back to the trail, over the bridge, and out through the Woodland Valley Campground, which was closed for the season. I noticed that the pay phone at the headquarters building was long gone. If there was no cell phone reception in this deep valley, there was no way to call a friend for help if I were marooned here on the wrong side of the ridge at sundown, as I had been 19 years before.

I realize that, at my age, I probably have more hikes behind me than I do in front of me. I have since returned a few more times to the Catskills, not to pursue another patch, but to recapture that same, warm energy I felt on this day. When I do I cannot help but sing a familiar hymn to myself: *Lift me up and let me stand, by faith on heaven's tableland, a greater joy I've never found, Lord, plant my feet on higher ground!*

Photo by Cynthia L. M. David.

Lawrence D. (Larry) David, #703, life member #48, is a retired research chemist living in Amherst, NH. He is a member of the NE 4000 Footer Club and a trail maintainer with the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway Trail Club and the Amherst Conservation Commission. Larry used to be the trail maintainer for the Escarpment Trail section from Route 23 to the Windham summit from 1990 to 1992. Larry can be reached via [email](#).

Editor's note: Larry had previously written a beautiful tribute to Windham High Peak for *The Canister*, with the essay being included in the [Catskill Peak Experiences: Mountaineering Tales of Endurance, Survival, Exploration & Adventure from the Catskill 3500 Club](#). The book was edited by our Conservation Chair, Carol White, and besides the many captivating stories of Catskill mountaineering, it also includes a wonderful chapter on the history of the Club.



Bruin's Causeway in early spring. Photo by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222

Imagine

Text by: Ralph Ferrusi #122 W34

Imagine seeing Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse, and Ama Dablam by *moonlight*—yes, *moonlight*—from a non-electricity, non-running-water Sherpa teahouse in Pangboche, Nepal. Imagine being on Kilimanjaro. The Matterhorn. On the summits of Friday and Balsam Cap, on a frigid winter's day. I've experienced all of the above.



I don't think I imagined, while standing in the deep snow atop Friday and Balsam Cap, that pretty much due to the sense of adventure, and achievement, at becoming member number 122 of the Catskill 3500 Club, that I would someday be inspired to visit Nepal, Tanzania, or Zermatt. Or, walked the Georgia to Maine Appalachian Trail *twice*: 4,217 miles; but, then again, maybe I did.

I'm sure I *never* imagined that I would, sometime in the future, have visited 65 countries and stood on the soil of every continent except Antarctica. But, I'm getting ahead of my story.

Let's venture back a bit, to a more innocent time, back when only 121 adventurous souls had preceded me to the summits of the then-34—Southwest Hunter was at the time considered a shoulder of Hunter—Catskill 3500 footers, and a mere 33 had had the wherewithal—and the perseverance and guts—to bag them all in the winter.

Back when you could clamber up the northern summit of Doubletop, and Graham, any time you wanted to (and when my wife Kathy and I once cross-country skied up—and, EEKS, back down—Graham, and Balsam and Balsam Lake...).

Back when herd paths were lightly trodden and barely distinguishable. Cell phones and GPSs were nonexistent. Ditto for the internet, personal computers and social media.

Back when you *telephoned* family, friends and acquaintances that, for example, you had summited Kaaterskill High Peak and, when your film was developed, showed them photos of the spectacular view from Hurricane Ledge. Now, you can instantaneously, electronically send them — and the entire planet — a photo of the view, and, perhaps, of your smiling face alongside the used-to-be-very-difficult-to find canister on Southwest Hunter. Thinking out loud, this instantly transmittable look-at-this wow-factor just might be an influence to the current huge influx/increase in the popularity of hiking in general and specifically the overcrowding of easily accessible popular areas like Kaaterskill Falls, and Cascade and Porter in the 'Daks.

A final back when: an eager young Aspirant could actually climb with 3500 Club charter members **#1** and **#2**: Elinore and Bill Leavitt: "learning the ropes" with legends.

“(Mostly) Winter Tales...”

Following will be some of the adventures, and mis-adventures, that I experienced, mostly in the winter, while learning those ropes. Looking back, some of the things I did—and somehow survived—now seem not only stupid, but downright insane: ahhhh, youth... Let's start off with a really nice, ordinary winter hike with, ahem, numbers 1 and 2.

Bill (#1), Elinore (#2) and I, and, most likely the Reverend Ray Donahue (#23 W1), set out in the winter to climb Blackhead and Black Dome from Big Hollow Road. At the col, Elinore elected not to climb to the summits—she had been there done that many times before—and instead set up a “base camp,” and would have hot chocolate awaiting us after our heroics. We tagged the summits—I don't recall in which order—but did not go all the way over to Thomas Cole and back. To me, it was amazing to be sipping hot chocolate up there in the col, with three 3500 Club legends.

Bill Leavitt and Ray Donahue, Round Two: We three set out from Moon Haw Road in deep snow on snowshoes to tackle Friday and Balsam Cap. This was the very first time I had ever used snowshoes: a borrowed pair of big, heavy, antiquated monsters, aptly called “bear paws.” They were decidedly not “teardrop” shaped as are my current-day, beloved aluminum Red Feathers. Bill Leavitt, lean and wiry, was one of the absolutely strongest hikers/climbers that I have ever encountered. Ray Donahue was no slouch, either.



Off they went, scampering up the sometimes ridiculously steep northeast slopes. Right away, I began stepping on the backs of the big, wide bear paws, and tumbling face first in the deep snow. I somehow—to me, now, miraculously—hung in there, and we tagged both (then-orange) canisters and headed down. But, going downhill greatly exacerbated my tripping and lunging forward, turning them into plunges into the cold, deep snow. By the time we reached Moon Haw, I was quite honestly, on the verge—perhaps beyond the verge—of tears. I really enjoy my Red Feathers, but I think back then it was a *longgg* time before I snowshoed again.

Back to Friday and Balsam Cap: One day, for God only knows what reasons, I decided to drive to Peekamoose Road and leave my car—probably my butterscotch-colored 1972 Pinto Hatchback—and climb Peekamoose, Table, Lone, Rocky, Friday, and Balsam Cap, then return over them, bumpety-bumpety-bump, all the way back to the Pinto. Ah, youth: are you nuts!!!!???

I was pretty, ahem, bedraggled, when I finally reached Friday and/or Balsam Cap. I was a *longgg* way from the Pinto, with four 3500-footers between us. I began to realize what a bad idea it had been to think I could pull off something as ambitious as this. And then, miraculously, along came Roy Messaros (#97 W25) and Carl Zwingli (#118 W26) that had, praise the Lord, decided to do (only...) Friday and Balsam Cap. They very kindly offered to drive me back to my car, if I accompanied them down to their vehicle on Moon Haw Road. “Yes, Thank You!!!”

Winter on West Kill: One fine winter's day I decided to bag West Kill, solo, in deep snow (Are You Nuts!!!!??). West Kill was trailless then, with a canister and all. I recall being on the summit ridge, doggedly post-holing in knee-deep snow, with my then top-of-the-line winter gear: jeans, no gaiters, a grey sweatshirt, and a denim jacket... I did find the canister and got back down alive, to hike another day.

Winter on Sherrill: I led a group up Sherrill back in my “I don't need no stinkin' compass” days. They faithfully followed me, trudging through fairly deep snow and were probably becoming a bit concerned at how long it was taking to find the canister. Finally, I exclaimed, “Hey, there's another group up here!!!” It was us: compass-less, I had led them in a circle *around the summit*... BIG lesson learned that day.

I'm not even going to get into the winter's day that Freddie, Dick, and I decided to do, yes, Friday and Balsam Cap when it was 33F below zero, in the valleys. Or, the winter's day when five of us bumbled all over Southwest Hunter's false summit, until Kathy exclaimed: Let's Get Outta Here. Pete and Ralph can't even agree on *which end of the compass points north!!!*”

Some of the above may sound a bit negative. But, they all (except for good old Southwest Hunter) had positive—happy?—endings: summits were reached, canisters were found, I survived... A huge amount of my—perhaps 300-400—Catskill climbs were wonderful, positive experiences. I can't recall any “disasters.”

Whether you are #122, or, #3,122, you will have started near the bottom, climbed, and stood at the top of all 3500 foot—to me, beloved—Catskill peaks. Even, hmmm, maybe, Eagle...



May your Catskill accomplishments/achievements be as gratifying as mine were, and inspire and, motivate you, as much as mine did.

Good Hiking,

#122 (and W34)

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



Photo credits: Ralph's photo, as well as the photo of Ralph and his son, Ralph III (#1122 W509) are by Kathy Ferrusi (#1102 W413); Bill Leavitt's photo (left) is a courtesy of his daughter, Ann L. Clapper (#13 W21); Reverend Ray Donahue is 2nd from the left in the Club's 50th Anniversary photo (courtesy of Jeff Glans, Archivist and Prior President (#793 W655); Roy Messaros (right) is pictured with Cy Whitney (#266 W93) in the right photo, courtesy of Ellen Whitney.

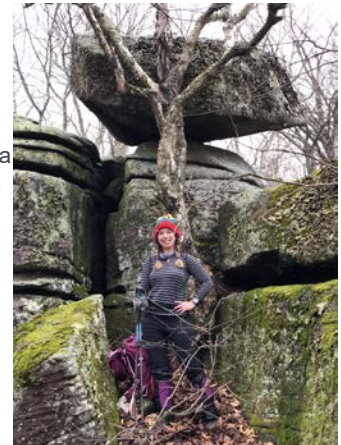


Kaaterskill High Peak from Story's Farm in Kiskatom after April 2020 storm. Photo by Dick Vincent #3055

Hiking During Shoulder Season

Text by: Sarah Bacon #3052 W1306

It comes as no surprise to anyone who has spent a little time in the woods, that 2020 has brought a whole new wave of outdoor enthusiasts, many of whom are still trying to “learn the ropes.” Perhaps you’ve done extensive research on winter hiking not realizing that hiking in the spring has its own set of considerations. If you’re new to hiking and you feel like you just figured out the ins and outs of winter hiking, don’t worry! With any luck, this article will provide you with a few tips that can help you continue your adventures safely into the next hiking season: shoulder season! If you have not considered joining a Club hike, take a look at the upcoming schedule in this issue of *The Canister*. You’ll also find a helpful list of [precautions](#) to consider while hiking with the Club in the spring, along with all the hikes they have on the calendar.



So, what’s the difference between a good day and a bad day in the woods in any season? Preparation! It may not be the only factor that determines how much you enjoy your adventure, but it’s definitely an important one. For example, a change of dry clothes can mean the difference between cutting your day short — or worse — getting hypothermia or finishing out your day in comfort.

When many hikers hear the term “shoulder season” or a “mud season,” their minds immediately travel to the Adirondacks or the Whites, but many of the special considerations that apply to those regions hold true for our beloved Catskills as well.

So, what is “shoulder season?” It’s a term you may see thrown around Facebook pages devoted to hiking every fall and every spring. Traditionally, it’s thought to have been coined by the tourism industry during the 1960s to describe travel periods in between peak seasons when one might start out wearing a warm coat or a jacket in the morning, which winds up slung over the shoulder later that day due to rising temperatures.

In the hiking world, it’s used to describe the often unstable or changeable weather conditions encountered in the outdoors. Even on the mildest of April days, it’s not uncommon to find snow on the ground in higher elevations, or encounter snow flurries. During spring you’ll even get to experience “mashed potato” snow, which may sound appetizing, but is anything but. Often

referred to as “rotten snow,” it describes what happens to snow during the warmer, wetter conditions associated with spring. It’s generally a little tougher to hike in because it gets mushy. Even in snowshoes, you’re likely to find yourself sliding around or postholing. With the amount of snow we’ve seen in the Catskills this winter, it’s safe to say the snow will be sticking around well into spring, and conditions will be muddy for at least a while.

A hike I went on with my good friend and client Karen was the perfect example of a hike during a shoulder season. We happened to be in the Adirondacks for this one, but this could easily happen in the Catskills!

The day started out mildly enough. Our group left the trailhead dressed for moderate temperatures and felt quite comfortable. In fact, some of us shed some layers after about an hour. The trail itself was a wet, sloppy mess. Conditions alternated between wet rocks, areas that might as well have been streams, and bog-like mud pits. At one point or another, we each wound up going into the mud up to our knees. It is difficult, if not impossible to keep your feet dry during shoulder season. When encountering mud on the trails it can be very tempting to skirt around the area in order to save your boots from getting wet, but it’s important to remember [The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace](#) and walk through the mud, right down the center of the trail, not around it, and doing the rock hop whenever possible. Walking around the edges of the mud loosens the soil and hastens trail erosion which is not only harmful to vegetation, but also widens the trail. Those of you who have spent time on the Devil’s Path may be picturing the notoriously muddy area near Geiger Point.

The highlight of the day — and I use the word sarcastically — was when poor Karen fell into a rather sizable puddle. She was soaked and the temperatures were low enough at the summit that the sky was spitting some snow. My heart sank momentarily because I knew that the low temperatures, combined with the two of us being completely soaked, could lead to hypothermia very quickly.

My concern was short-lived because (fortunately) she came prepared! In her pack, she had a change of clothes in a waterproof sack in addition to her rain shell. She quickly changed, and even after a slow, saturated hike down in the rain, she was able to say that it was a great day in the woods — proving that a little preparation can make the difference between a fun day and a potentially dangerous one.

My fellow hiking partners and I have compiled what we hope is a helpful list of some of the things you may need to consider while hiking during shoulder season. Please keep in mind that regardless of the temperatures or season, a well-prepared hiker never hits the trail without the [10 Essentials](#) with, of course, two light sources with extra batteries!

A. Check the forecast

I check the weather using a variety of sources, starting about a week before my trip, as well as the night before and the morning of. I’m sure you’ve heard the old adage “If you don’t like the weather in New York, just wait a couple of minutes.” My go-to sites for weather are [weather.gov](#) and [Mountain Weather Forecast](#). I also like to check [Hudson Valley Weather](#) (my go-to in winter). I find Mountain Forecast to be a little more optimistic than [weather.gov](#), but between the three of them, I usually get a pretty accurate idea of what to expect. It’s important to check out the summit forecast and not just the forecast of the town. Conditions at elevation can be drastically different. The forecast in town may call for 60F degrees and sunny, but once you’re in the shade of the woods or at the windy summit, you’ll find it may be much colder.

B. Dress (and pack!) for success!

We all know that in addition to protecting you from the elements like cold temps, rain and snow, it also helps to maintain your core temperature. A proper layering system allows you to regulate your core temperature by adding or removing layers as needed. Believe it or not, this takes a lot of hikers time to get it right. I feel like I tweak my layering system every season. Part of that could be my unfortunate gear obsession and my need to spend money on that “new piece of whatever it is I see on REI that I didn’t know I couldn’t live without.” Shoulder season makes “dressing for success” a real challenge, since mild, spring-like conditions at the base of the mountain can rapidly turn into winter conditions by the summit. In addition to encountering snow and ice at higher elevations, temperatures can take a severe plunge as you ascend and after the sun goes down. Checking the forecast becomes even more important during this time and, as tempting as it may be to try to keep that pack weight down, packing for success can make a world of difference. Make sure you have packed appropriate traction (as discussed below), extra layers and socks, hat/gloves and rain gear, which may all be necessary. I keep the puffy packed year-round in case of an emergency, but it’s definitely served me well late into spring some years, as the temperatures plummeted as I neared the summit.

Most hikers will tell you that their layering system is the key to a happy hike and even more so while hiking in shoulder season when temperatures can change dramatically over the course of the day. Layers work the best, because you can constantly monitor your core temperature, while adding and removing layers accordingly. After a while, you’ll start to know what works best under any given circumstance.

C. Traction

If you have to ask, the answer is yes — you need it. The ice and snow tend to arrive earlier in the mountains and stay longer than in town. It's not unusual to still see patches of ice at higher elevations in May and if it's been a particularly snowy winter like this year, even June in some places. Making it within a few hundred yards of the summit to find ice that is too slippery to navigate without microspikes or crampons is a very disappointing way to end a hike. Too many people try to navigate those patches and wind up injured, or they try to skirt the ice patches, which winds up widening the trails. You should be prepared for any conditions that could require spikes, crampons and snowshoes. You will notice as the snow melts, the patches of ice will become fewer and farther between. Please be sure to remove your spikes in areas without ice in order to reduce damage to the trail. It will also protect your gear from becoming dull too quickly. (Again, more information on being a good steward of the mountains and The Principles of Leave No Trace, take a look at [Int.org](#)).

D. Food/Hydration

When hiking in cooler temps, you may find yourself stopping less frequently to rest or take snack and water breaks. The colder temperatures may also mean switching from your water bladder with potentially frozen hoses to your Nalgene stuffed in a thick wool sock, and stored upside down in your backpack to ward off a layer of ice freezing at the top. Keep snacks in easily accessible areas so you can grab and go.

Cooler temps also mean an increase in calorie burn. According to a study performed by the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), people who hiked in temperatures ranging from 15-23 F burn 34 percent more calories than people who hiked in temperatures that were in the mid-50s F.

While increased calorie burn may sound appealing to some, the backcountry is no place to work on trimming your figure. In addition to fueling your body in order to have the strength to get you out of the woods safely, eating generates heat. This process is called thermogenesis. Thirty to 60 minutes after you eat, your body produces up to 10 percent more heat than an empty stomach, so it's an excellent way to help keep yourself warm on chilly days! Additionally, dehydration can lower your core body temperature and increase your risk of becoming hypothermic — so don't forget to take frequent drink breaks. I take a lot of flack from my friends for this, but I love to pack a thermos of beef broth on extra cold days. It's hydration, calories, salt and warmth all rolled into one! If you're feeling really adventurous, add a couple of hotdogs. Keep an eye out for my next [blog](#) on gourmet hiking meals, titled *Olive Loaf and Muenster Cheese Sandwiches: They're Not Just For Grandpa Anymore!*

E. Hunting Season

Don't forget that during shoulder hiking seasons, our fellow outdoor enthusiasts take to the woods for hunting season (check out hunting season schedule [here](#)). The 2019 hunting season had the fewest hunting-related accidents, making it the safest year on record, but it still pays to be aware. Hunting season also means that some trails and fire towers will be closed for a few weeks, particularly in fall. Wherever you hike, it's always a good idea to wear blaze orange and, if you hike with your dog, it's important to make sure they are sporting their fancy orange vest and on leash. Spring also means it is a fawn season, so even more reasons to keep your four-legged friend on a leash.

Whatever the season — but especially during unstable weather conditions associated with shoulder season — proper preparation can be the difference between a good day and a bad day in the woods. You won't regret not having it. So, before every trip, double check your pack for the items you'll need for a successful outing.

Sarah is the owner of [The Scenic Route Guiding & Gear Rentals](#). You can view her blog at [What duFAQ: A Newbies Guide to Frequently Asked Questions](#) and she can be reached via [email](#) or [Instagram](#).

Sarah's photo is by Paul Gebhard #3501.



View from the Roundtop ledge. Photo by Jim Hopson #1813 W782

Trail Conditions

Text and photos by: Tim Luby #3268

If you saw a forecast for rain you'd be sure to bring your umbrella, right? Borne of the same premise is the rationale for trail condition reports. They are forecasts for the trails. Whereas a weather forecast for rain makes you think to bring an umbrella, a trail condition report for snow may urge you to bring snowshoes. In both cases, critical information is used to inform gear choices.



When preparing for a hike, it's essential not only to see what the weather will be, but to also see what the trail conditions are, because the weather never really tells the whole story of what's happening out on the trails. Trail conditions are tricky because they're often not the result of one weather event, but of many over time. For instance, a big dump of snow comes, then melts, then freezes. To the experienced hiker, these three events could equal lots of ice. But they may also equal hard, crusty snow! This is why we need boots on the ground telling us what they saw out on the trail, instead of trying to extrapolate based on the weather. First-hand knowledge trumps all.

That's why I came up with the Facebook [Catskills Trail Conditions](#) group. I had seen a weekly trail condition report that made one broad statement about conditions for the entire Catskill Park. I thought that these reports were way too general, especially considering the diversity of weather throughout the region. I learned the hard way just how varied the weather can be. One time I left snow-less Phoenicia for Balsam Lake Mountain only to be faced with a mini-blizzard. I did my trail run anyway, super underprepared, but it was a miserable experience and I learned some valuable lessons that day. It also gave me the impetus to give the hiking community something better.

The very general weekly trail condition report was presumably the work of one individual who checked the weather forecast and made some assumptions about what the trail conditions would be. The Catskills have hundreds of trails over tens of thousands of acres. How could this be sufficient? My next thought was that it's the people who are actually out there hiking the trails that should be reporting back what they see so everyone else knows what to expect.

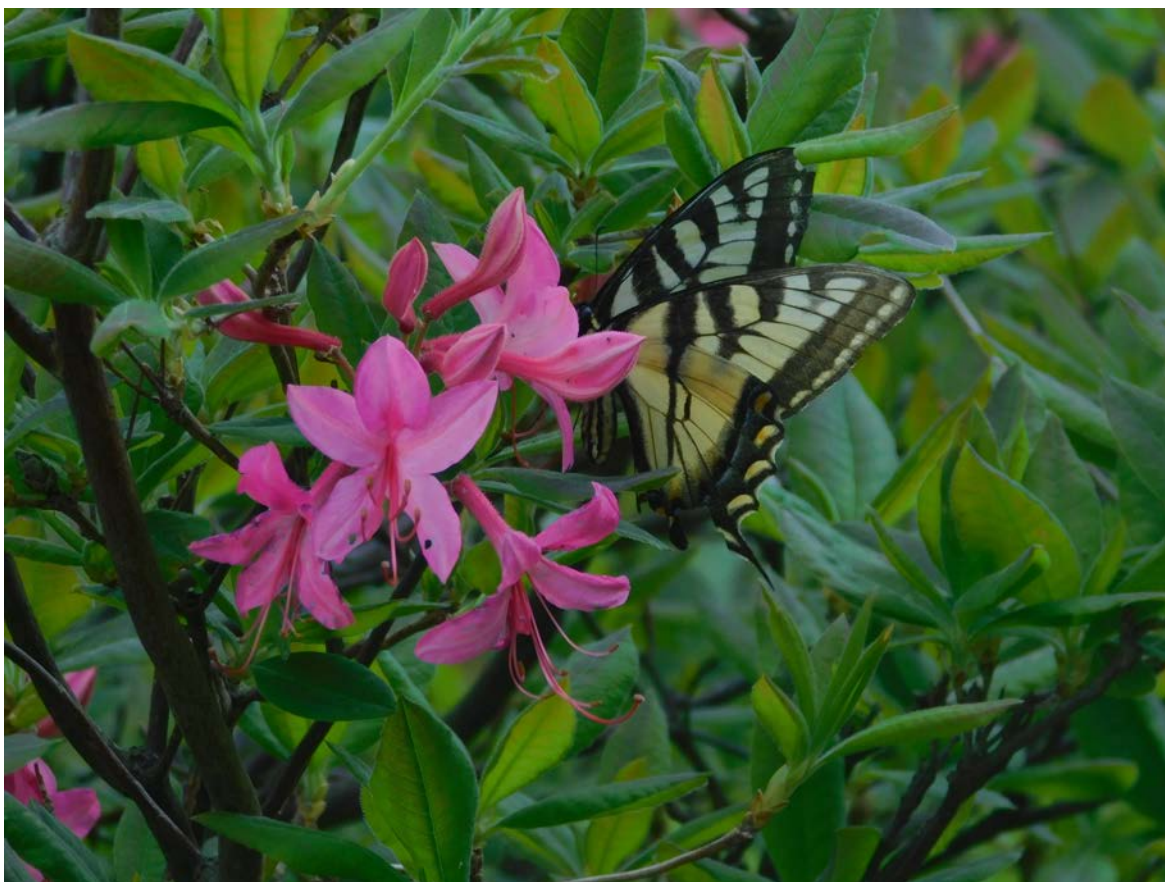
Trail conditions are essential information all year long, but at no time are they more crucial than in winter when the margin for error can be razor thin and ice and snow present us with many potential dangers. The other time they are super-important are during those "shoulder seasons," when conditions can be one part winter, one part summer, and nobody knows quite what to expect. Summertime is when planning gets a little simpler, but there are still dry springs and bugs to worry about. Fall can trip you up with leaves that are more slippery than ice. And spring — don't even get me started on spring! What a miserably erratic, unpredictable season! Wet, muddy, warm, cold, lingering ice and snow...and flowers.

It's truly been an honor for me to build a community that provides a reliable venue for hikers to report and view trail conditions for the Catskills I love so much. My hope is that the group has helped to make people's hikes safer and more enjoyable and that less

experienced hikers have learned how to handle the elements better. After all, there's much more to prepping for a hike than grabbing an umbrella!

Tim is the founder of the Facebook [Catskills Trail Conditions](#) group and a new trail conditions app called Hike Intel. When not hanging out with his family he can be found bushwhacking, trail running, or mountain biking the Catskills.

Editor's note: I think that most people who know me, know what a huge fan I am of Tim's Facebook group. It has been and continues to be a great resource. I am pretty excited about the new app and have been using it since it was launched, and I hope to have a review article in the next issue of *The Canister*. I encourage anyone with an iOS device to give it a try!



Tiger Swallowtail butterfly on pinkster. Photo by Peter Spielvogel #1708

Rambles and Brambles [Hike Schedule](#) April - June 2021

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

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

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

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

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

- with knowledge and gear

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

Assumed Risk: Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In cool weather, hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia, **which can lead to death.** 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.

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: Please note that the Club has reduced group size to conform with the social distancing requirements; a mask may be required for situations when social distancing is not possible. Refer to the current group size guidance as posted on the Club's [schedule](#) page.

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

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

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.



View from Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower, looking towards the Devil's Path. Photo by Tom Rankin #1503 W627

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

Club hiking schedule is subject to change. The Club has reduced group size to conform with the social distancing requirements; a mask may be required for situations when social distancing is not possible.

Thu. Apr. 1 - PANTHER via GIANT LEDGE (Weekday)

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1775', Elev: 3724'
Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: March 18 - 30
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922



Sat. Apr. 3 - CORNELL

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2760', Elev: 3857'
Slow pace bushwhack with a focus on navigation using map and compass.
Will follow historic VanBenschoten trail from Moon Haw Rd.
Registration Period: Mar. 21 - 26
Leader: Michele Corn Farrell #2055 W848
cornfarrell@gmail.com

Sat. Apr. 3 - FIR & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 10.5 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elevs: 3629', 3699'
Out and back trail hike and bushwhack from Biscuit Brook at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: Mar. 27 - Apr. 1
Leader: Harold Oakhill #283 W1244
hoakhill@gmail.com

Mon. Apr. 5 - FIR, BIG INDIAN, EAGLE & BALSAM (Weekday)

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 4180', Elevs: 3629', 3699', 3583', 3607'
Long, challenging bushwhack and trail traverse hike from Rt. 47 to Rider Hollow at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Thu. Apr. 8 - WEST KILL (Weekday)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev: 3898'
Moderate pace.
Registration Period: by Apr. 6
Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950
edmoran@gmail.com 631-741-3765



Fri. Apr. 9 - BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY (Weekday)

Distance: 7.7 mi. Ascent: 2813', Elevs: 3608', 3692'
Moderate pace bushwhack.
Registration Period: Apr. 1 - 7
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997
michael@bongarbiz.com

Fri. Apr. 9 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK (Weekday)

Distance: 7.3 mi. Ascent: 1525', Elev: 3525'
From Rt. 23. Relaxed pace. Beginners welcome.
Register by Apr. 4
Leader: Sharon Klein #3364
MusicWithoutWalls@gmail.com

Sat. Apr. 10 - BEARPEN & VLY

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent 2078', Elevs: 3587', 3541'
Easy bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: Apr. 3 - 8
Leader: Harold Oakhill #283 W1244
hoakhill@gmail.com



Sat. Apr. 10 - PANTHER via GIANT LEDGE

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1775', Elev: 3724'
Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Mar. 24 - Apr. 5
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600

Wed. Apr. 14 - SOUTHWEST HUNTER & possibly HUNTER (Weekday)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1740', Elev: 3753'
(With Hunter 10 mi. Ascent: 2286', Elevs: 3753', 4030')
Relaxed-Moderate pace trail hike & bushwhack.
Registration Period: Apr. 7 - 12
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857
thighley1944@gmail.com

Wed. Apr. 14 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK, BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE (Weekday)

Distance: 14.5 mi. Ascent: 4500', Elevs: 3525', 3940', 3994', 3953'

From Peck Rd. to Barnum Rd. at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. Apr. 17 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elevs: 3605', 3558'

Slow pace shuttle bushwhack with a focus on navigation using map and compass.

Registration Period: Apr. 1-9

Leader: Michele Corn Farrell #2055 W848

cornfarrell@gmail.com

Sun. Apr. 18 - PEEKAMOOSE-TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Join us for our club trail maintenance outing. 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.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075

L_Sonera@outlook.com

Wed. Apr. 21 - SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG (Weekday)

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent 3000', Elevs: 4184', 3857', 3782'

Moderate pace thru hike with shuttle.

Registration Period: Apr. 12 - 19

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

Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com



Thu. Apr. 22 - EAGLE & BALSAM (Weekday)

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2800', Elevs: 3583', 3607'

Relaxed pace partial bushwhack & trail hike.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sat. Apr. 24 - BALSAM LAKE

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1290', Elev: 3729'

Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.

Registration Period: Apr. 10 - Apr. 22

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Sat. Apr. 24 - RUSK

Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3686'

Relaxed pace bushwhack with map and compass instruction.

Beginners welcome.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407



Sat. Apr. 24 - TWIN & INDIAN HEAD

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3650', 3575'

Beginners welcomed.

Registration Period: March 19 - April 5

Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262

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

Sat. Apr. 24 - WEST KILL

Distance 8 mi. Ascent: 1980', Elev: 3898'

Relaxed-moderate pace thru hike with shuttle.

Registration period: Apr. 17-23

Leader: Sue Hall #2460 W1091

shall@catskill.net

Sun. Apr. 25 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE

Distance 8 mi. Ascent 2550', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'

Relaxed-moderate pace, car shuttle

Registration period: Apr. 18 - 23

Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312

catskill35r@gmail.com

Sat. May 1 - BALSAM & EAGLE

Distance: 9.4 mi. Ascent 2580', Elevs: 3607', 3583'

Trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Apr. 24 - 29
Leader: Harold Oakhill #283 W1244
hoakhill@gmail.com



Sat. May 1 – WEST KILL

Distance 6.8 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3898'
Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Apr. 17 - 29
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Sun. May 2 - ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

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!
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075
L_Sonera@outlook.com

Sun. May 2 - INTRODUCTION TO TRAIL MAINTENANCE

This introductory hike is for members/aspirants who are new to trail work and who want to learn more about trail maintenance. Meeting at the Devils Tombstone Parking at 11 am.
Registration Period: by Apr. 15
Leader: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075
L_Sonera@outlook.com

Wed. May 5 - BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY (Weekday)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2800', Elevs: 3608', 3692'
Moderate pace, strenuous bushwhack
Registration Period: Apr. 26 - May 3
Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com
Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Thu. May 6 - BEARPEN & VLY (Weekday)

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent 2078', Elevs: 3587', 3541'
Easy bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Thu. May 6 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE (Weekday)

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2800', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'
Moderate pace.
Registration Period: by May 3
Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950
edmoran@gmail.com 631-741-3765



Fri. May 7 – HALCOTT (Weekday)

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev: 3509'
Moderate pace bushwhack.
Registration Period: May 1 - 5
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997
michael@bongarbiz.com

Sat. May 8 – HALCOTT & RUSK

Distance: 3.2 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev: 3509 (Halcott)
Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3686 (Rusk)
Moderate pace. Hike one or both. Beginners welcomed.
Registration Period: Apr. 20 - May 3
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600

Wed. May 12 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL (Weekday)

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent 2600', Elevs: 3605', 3558'
Bushwhack & trail hike at a moderate pace with a shuttle.
Registration Period: May 3-10
Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com
Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com



Fri. May 14 - PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE (Weekday)

Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 2950', Elevs: 3819', 3825'
Moderate pace from Peekamoose Road.
Registration Period: May 6-12
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857
thighley1944@gmail.com

Sat. May 15 - PANTHER via GIANT LEDGE

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1775', Elev: 3724'
Moderate pace. Will cancel for inclement weather.
Registration Period: May 10 -13
Leader: Suzanne Knabe # 1326 W498
suzkna@msn.com

Sat. May 15 - RUSK, HUNTER & SW HUNTER

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent 3075', Elevs: 3686', 4030', 3753'
Long bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace.
Registration Period: May 8 -13
Leader: Harold Oakhill #283 W1244
hoakhill@gmail.com



Sun. May 16 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 4.5 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3525'
Map and compass instruction with relaxed pace bushwhack.
Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sun. May 16 - RUSK, HUNTER, SW HUNTER

Distance 12.3 mi. Ascent: 3050', Elevs: 3686', 4030', 3753'
Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.
Registration period: May 2 - May 14
Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063
lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Thu. May 20 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL (Weekday)

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3200', Elevs: 3605', 3558'
Relaxed pace bushwhack to two remote peaks as an out and back from Shaft Rd.
Registration Period:
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sat. May 22 - BEARPEN & VLY

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2078', Elevs: 3587', 3541'
Beginners welcomed.
Registration Period: Apr.19 - May 3
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600

Sat. May 22 - HALCOTT via Elk Creek

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1400', Elev: 3509'
Relaxed-pace bushwhack with map and compass instruction.
A true bushwhack from an infrequently used starting point.
Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407



Sat. May 22 - BALSAM LAKE via MILL BROOK RIDGE from ALDER LAKE

Distance 9 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3729', 3465'
Moderate pace thru hike with a shuttle. Beginners welcome.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951
marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. May 22 - SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG

Distance 9.2 mi. Ascent: 2390', Elevs: 4184', 3857', 3782'
Relaxed-moderate pace thru hike with shuttle
Registration Period: May 15 - 21
Leader: Sue Hall #2460 W1091
shall@catskill.net

Sat. May 29 - FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY, LONE, TABLE, PEEKAMOOSE

Distance: 16 mi. Ascent 3644', Elevs: 3692', 3608', 3487', 3700', 3825', 3819'
Long, challenging bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace from Denning up the Neversink River.
Registration Period: May 22 - 27
Leader: Harold Oakhill #283 W1244
hoakhill@gmail.com

Mon. May 31 - RUSK, HUNTER & SW HUNTER (Weekday)

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

Long bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. June 5 - BALSAM CAP & FRIDAY

Distance: 7.7 mi. Ascent: 2813', Elevs: 3608', 3692'

Slow pace bushwhack with a focus on navigation using map and compass.

Registration Period: May 24 - 28

Leader: Michele Corn Farrell #2055 W848

cornfarrell@gmail.com



Sat. June 5 - SLIDE

Distance: 6.9 mi. Ascent: 1749', Elev: 4184'

Moderate pace. Will cancel for inclement weather.

Registration Period: May 31 - June 4.

Leader: Jim Malumphy #890 W337

lump63@hotmail.com 203-206-0586

Wed. June 9 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE (Weekday)

Distance: 7.2 mi. Ascent 2600', Elevs: 3940', 3994', 3953'

Moderately paced.

Registration Period: May 31 - June 7

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

Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

Thu. June 10 - PANTHER via GIANT LEDGE (Weekday)

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

Relaxed pace.

Registration Period: by June 7

Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950

edmoran@gmail.com 631-741-3765

Fri. June 11 - ROCKY & LONE (Weekday)

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elevs: 3487', 3700'

Moderate pace bushwhack and trail hike.

Registration Period: June 4 - 9

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W997

michael@bongarbiz.com



Fri. June 18 - TWIN & INDIAN HEAD (Weekday)

Distance: 6.8 Ascent: 1963', Elevs: 3650', 3575'

Relaxed pace.

Registration Period: by June 13

Leader: Sharon Klein #3364

MusicWithoutWalls@gmail.com

Sat. June 19 - TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE

Distance 9.2 mi. Ascent: 2481', Elevs: 3825', 3819'

Moderate pace. Beginners welcome.

Registration period: June 5 - June 17

Leader: Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago #1368 W1063

lgizz@hotmail.com 845-532-3922

Sat. June 19 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

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

Moderate pace. Beginners welcomed.

Registration Period: May 31 - June 14

Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W1262

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

Sat. June 19 - HALCOTT

Distance: 3.2 mi. Ascent: 1690', Elev: 3509'

Moderate pace, short but steep bushwhack. Beginners welcome.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

marvfreedman@gmail.com

Sat. June 19 - WITTENBERG

50th Anniversary of 1st Trail Maintenance event.

Let's honor Club's Trail Maintenance pioneers by hiking the same route they hiked 50 years ago.



Distance: 8+ mi. Ascent: 2230', Elev: 3782'
Registration Period: by June 1
Leader: Lourdes Sonera #2525 W1075
L_Sonera@outlook.com

Sun. June 20 - PLATEAU

Distance 7.5 mi. Ascent 2350', Elev: 3835'
Relaxed-moderate pace.
Registration Period: June 13 - 18
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312
catskill35r@gmail.com

Thu. June 24 - ROCKY & LONE (Weekday)

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elevs: 3487', 3700'
Long and sometimes thick bushwhack. Relaxed pace.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407

Sat. June 26 - BEARPEN & VLY

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2078', Elevs: 3587', 3541'.
Beginners welcomed.
Registration Period: May 24 - June 7
Leader: Russell Ley #2927 W 1262
russell.buildingscience@gmail.com 518-370-3600



Sat. June 26 - BLACK DOME & BLACKHEAD

Distance: 6.4 mi. Ascent: 2300', Elevs: 3994', 3940'
Relaxed pace to enjoy the views.
Registration Period: June 17- 24
Leader: Tonda Highley #1944 W857
Thighley1944@gmail.com

Sat. June 26 - KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3652'
Relaxed pace bushwhack and trail hike with steep scrambles.
Map and compass instruction.
Registration Period: Open
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082
ad322@freeelectron.net 518-947-6407



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



Eastern (Red Spotted) Newt, Eft stage. Photo by Siu Samantha Yuen #2894 W1311

NEW MEMBERS

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

New Lifetime Members:

Number	Name
780	Candace V Voda
889	Matt Smith
1784	Gordon Hoekstra
1851	Maria Bedo-Calhoun
2173	Michael Bongar
2186	Rob Stewart
2192	Al Davis
2316	Kevin Komeshek
2605	Michael Funari
2750	Scott MacQuarrie
2865	Lyn Walker
2892	Brandon Weber
2955	Andrew Converse
3088	Philip Vondra
3104	Jonathan M Koop
3144	Paul Krempa
3170	Matt Backus
3315	Alan Wylan Clark
3382	Colin DeVries
3403	Judy MacNaught
3412	Patrick Teora
3413	Amanda Carpenter
3415	Ja Hee Heo
3436	Patrick Linsey
3437	Andre Pletch Kanashiro
3471	Jason Gerber
3485	Christopher "Kip" Wilson
3519	Rami Haxhi
3523	Michael MacNaught
3535	Carl Peters
Asp	Thomas Hedrick
Asp	Roberta Mulder
Asp	Chris Nadovich
Asp	Teresa High

New Winter Members:

Winter Number	Name	Number	Date of Finish	Final Peak
1339	Wojciech Kopczuk	2536	12/29/2019	Halcott
1340	Frank Greenagel	2998	1/3/2021	Halcott
1341	Helen Castle	2017	3/2/2020	Table
1342	David Black	3280	1/9/2021	Sugarloaf
1343	Jeannette Donlon	3490	3/9/2008	Balsam Lake
1344	Bill Winter	3493	1/30/2020	Panther
1345	Luna Pelton	3224	1/31/2021	West Kill
1346	Donna Blondell	3043	1/29/2021	Vly
1347	Ezra Kralick	3350	1/31/2021	Cornell
1348	Daniel Kralick	3349	1/31/2021	Cornell
1349	Jonathan Kralick	3348	1/31/2021	Cornell
1350	Anthony Vlasica	3474	2/6/2021	Peekamoose

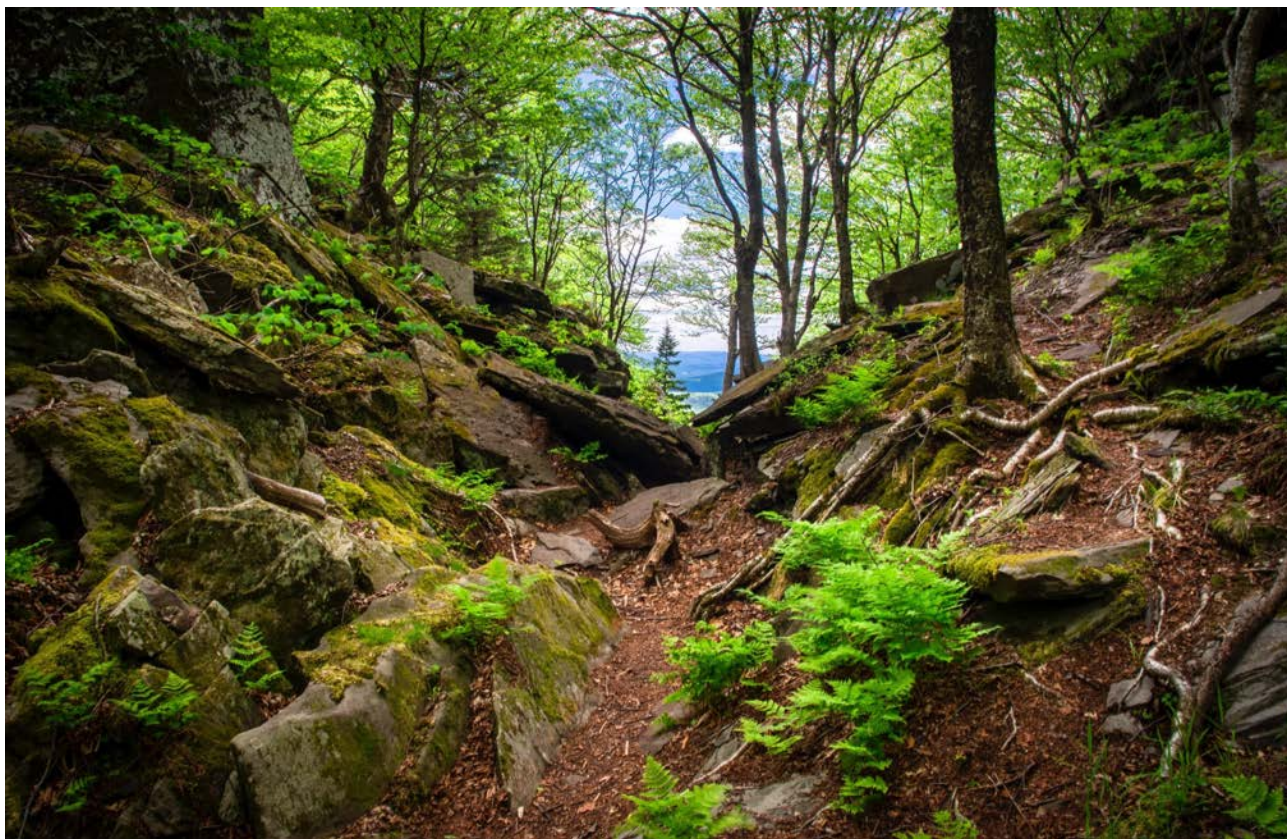
1351	Lindsay Hill	3411	1/31/2021	South Doubletop
1352	Greg Govan	3435	2/13/2021	Fir
1353	Evan Taylor	3530	2/15/2021	Balsam
1354	Roberta Clements	2936	2/13/2021	West Kill
1355	Rachid Hamid	3531	3/15/2020	Rusk
1356	Anthony Olivari	1950	2/21/2021	Millbrook Ridge
1357	Alison M Kralick	3347	2/21/2021	Indian Head
1358	Barbara Nussbaum	3035	2/21/2021	Rocky
1359	Cynthia Volkert	3529	2/20/2021	Big Indian
1360	Gregory Markowicz	2394	2/14/2021	Cornell
1361	Jeanette Christian	3194	2/15/2021	Kaaterskill
1362	Nicholas Topple	2538	2/20/2021	West Kill
1363	Simon Dudar	2227	2/21/2021	Big Indian
1364	Gopal Subramaniam	3214	2/28/2021	Twin

New Members:

Number	Name	Date of Finish	Final Peak
3436	Patrick Linsey	5/17/2020	Fir
3437	Andre Pletch Kanashiro	6/13/2020	Sugarloaf
3438	Jeanette Bennetti	11/14/2020	South Doubletop
3439	Christa Ten Cate	12/4/2020	Balsam
3440	Samantha Cash	12/4/2020	Lone
3441	John Coleman	10/10/2020	Fir
3442	Ryann Mickens	3/17/2019	Slide
3443	Philipp Adams	3/17/1999	Slide
3444	Samarth Motaganahalli	11/29/2020	Windham
3445	Eunyoung Cho	12/10/2020	South Doubletop
3446	Valerie Nordquist	2/9/2019	Balsam
3447	Narasimhan Motaganahalli	11/29/2020	Windham
3448	Robert Kiely	12/10/2020	South Doubletop
3449	Dennis Babin	12/13/2020	Rusk
3450	Vaibhav Lohiya	12/23/2020	Slide
3451	Eileen Kline	10/22/2020	Slide
3452	Ravindra Kudur	12/23/2020	Slide
3453	Darren Davidowich	12/22/2020	Panther
3454	Katelyn Arket	12/22/2020	Panther
3455	Bryan Burnham	12/22/2020	Slide
3456	Janet Rivera	10/31/2020	Balsam Lake
3457	Jake Marlow	12/23/2020	Balsam
3458	Johanna Guilfoyle	12/27/2020	Blackhead
3459	Shawn Innes	12/27/2020	Blackhead
3460	Sangtae Moon	12/28/2020	Blackhead
3461	Mina Brenneman	12/30/2020	Blackhead
3462	Donna Monroe	12/31/2020	Slide
3463	Erica Webber Pellegrino	12/30/2020	Blackhead
3464	Dianna M Morris	12/23/2020	Slide
3465	Meg Lachmann	1/1/2021	Blackhead
3466	Robert Lachmann	1/1/2021	Blackhead
3467	Garrett Cole	9/20/2019	Kaaterskill
3468	Michael Flannery	12/30/2020	Balsam
3469	Sandra Ermo	12/30/2020	Balsam
3470	Linda Steubesand	1/3/2021	Blackhead
3471	Jason S Gerber	7/21/2020	Doubletop
3472	Jill Dolatowski	1/1/2021	Blackhead
3473	Jared M Dolatowski	1/1/2021	Blackhead
3474	Anthony Vlasica	12/30/2020	Panther

3475	Mark Perrin	1/3/2021	Blackhead
3476	James Weeks	1/3/2021	Blackhead
3477	John Tartaglia	1/5/2021	Slide
3478	David Hellenga	1/6/2021	Slide
3479	Marvin Warren	11/26/2019	Panther
3480	Matt Baker	1/10/2021	Blackhead
3481	David O'Brien	1/10/2021	South Doubletop
3482	Hemalatha Sudanthiran	10/31/2020	Millbrook Ridge
3483	Hareesh Kadlabalu	12/30/2020	Balsam
3484	Max DuBane	12/31/2020	Panther
3485	Christopher "Kip" Wilson	1/9/2021	Slide
3486	Elizabeth Olivere	6/13/2020	Graham
3487	Tim Mohler	9/4/2020	Sherrill
3488	Owen Mendelaar	10/10/2020	Sugarloaf
3489	David Riccomini	1/3/2021	Slide
3490	Jeannette Donlon	3/9/2008	Balsam Lake
3491	Corrine Ryan	1/17/2021	Table
3492	Marcelline Felter	1/18/2021	South Doubletop
3493	William Winter	3/19/2016	Kaaterskill
3494	Matthew L DeCavallas	12/31/2020	Panther
3495	Barbara Dyer	1/13/2021	Slide
3496	Jeff Crump	1/17/2021	Balsam
3497	Ragini Rahalkar	1/18/2021	Blackhead
3498	Gautam Nemlekar	1/18/2021	Blackhead
3499	Christina Nicole Hoyos	1/18/2021	Kaaterskill
3500	Julie McGuire	1/21/2021	Panther
3501	Paul Gebhard	1/24/2021	Panther
3502	E Annette Nash Govan	1/7/2021	Blackhead
3503	Hireni Patel	1/18/2021	Blackhead
3504	Toni Reilly	1/22/2021	Slide
3505	John Estok	1/24/2021	South Doubletop
3506	Judith Estok	1/24/2021	South Doubletop
3507	Asher J Anaya	1/2/2021	Slide
3508	Emily Critzman	1/10/2021	Slide
3509	Micah Yannatos	1/24/2021	Panther
3510	Lenore Modugno	1/24/2021	Sherrill
3511	Vikram Gokhale	1/18/2021	Blackhead
3512	Jaspreet Kaur	1/18/2021	Blackhead
3513	Geeta Krishnan	1/18/2021	Blackhead
3514	Ed Kwityn	1/9/2021	Kaaterskill
3515	Jasmine Kwityn	1/9/2021	Kaaterskill
3516	Karen J Bryant	1/22/2021	Slide
3517	John T Krzeminski	1/23/2021	South Doubletop
3518	Karen Harding	1/24/2021	Blackhead
3519	Rami Haxhi	1/31/2021	Panther
3520	Mark Kalafut	1/17/2021	Balsam
3521	Iris Yang	1/30/2021	Blackhead
3522	Frank Maccreery	1/17/2021	Blackhead
3523	Michael MacNaught	1/31/2021	Millbrook Ridge
3524	Inna Katkov	1/31/2021	Windham
3525	Amy Kruse	1/17/2021	Kaaterskill
3526	Ryan Nerp	1/1/2021	Blackhead
3527	Brad Gibson	2/8/2021	Panther
3528	Brooke Schepetin	1/25/2021	Panther
3529	Cynthia Volkert	2/6/2021	South Doubletop
3530	Evan Taylor	2/15/2009	Balsam
3531	Rachid Hamid	6/14/2020	Balsam

3532	Patrick Shortle	2/12/2021	Panther
3533	Alison Lacivita	2/18/2021	Slide
3534	D. Catherine Walker	2/21/2021	Slide
3535	Carl Peters	2/21/2021	Panther
3536	David Harris	10/19/2019	Graham
3537	Jonathan Visnosky	2/11/2021	Balsam
3538	Ginger Rouse	2/21/2021	Blackhead
3539	Charles Rouse	2/21/2021	Blackhead
3540	Elizabeth W Ristow	2/20/2021	Rocky
3541	Joshua Massicot	2/20/2021	Rocky
3542	Susan Shortle	2/12/2021	Slide



Jimmy Dolan Notch. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

Editor's Notes

By Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond



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

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

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View from Bramley looking south. Photo by Tom Rankin #1503 W627

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